

SRQ 20 ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Celebrate Embracing Our Differences Reading Day March 2

The Giving Coast

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Nearly 8,000 elementary school students in 449 pre-K through third grade classrooms in 77 early learning centers and elementary schools in Sarasota and Manatee counties will celebrate reading and diversity during Reading Day on March 2, by reading books by BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) authors and illustrators. Each participating classroom, as well as each student, will be gifted with a copy of the book selected for their grade. “Children begin to internalize messages about power, privilege, cultural and societal norms from a very young age,” says Jewell-Plocher. “Research on prejudice shows that encountering people who are different helps reduce stereotypes. For some children, a book can serve as a first introduction to a world centered on embracing diversity.”