



Spreading Kindness and Respect through Literacy

SRQ DAILY THURSDAY FAMILY AND RECREATION EDITION

THURSDAY DEC 4, 2025 |

Thousands of young students across Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota counties experienced the power of kindness and respect November 13 and 18 through Embracing Our Differences' annual Bucket Fillers Reading Days, a literacy initiative inspired by the acclaimed "Bucket Fillers" series of children's books by Venice author Carol McCloud. The series teaches children that everyone carries an "invisible bucket" that is filled through simple acts of kindness, empathy, and appreciation—and emptied by unkind words or actions. This year marked a milestone as the initiative expanded to Pinellas County on November 13 and continued in Sarasota and Manatee counties on November 18, creating a region-wide celebration of compassion and inclusion.