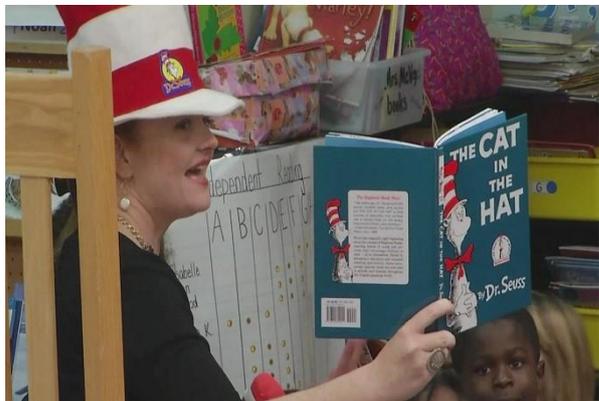
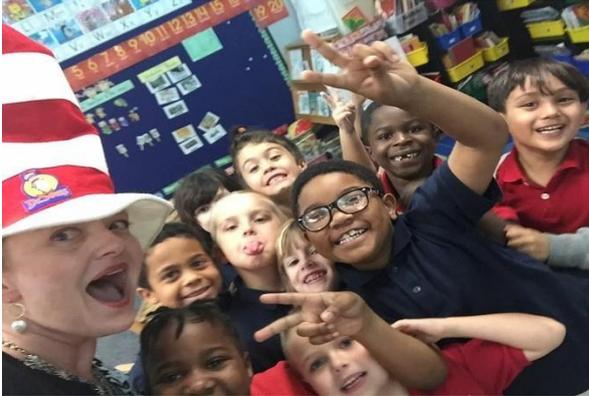


Students, volunteers celebrate 'Dr. Seuss's Differences Day'



By Lauren Verno, Reporter
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MANATEE COUNTY –

March 2 was 'Dr. Seuss's Differences Day' and volunteers from Manatee and Sarasota counties joined together in an effort to get students to read.

Volunteers from around the community dressed up and read Dr. Seuss books to more than 11,000 students in 65 schools to promote reading and diversity.

"We have guest readers reading Dr. Seuss books in classrooms, and every student at Seabreeze Elementary gets a free book through the Kiwanis book mobile," said Seabreeze Elementary Principal Greg Sander.

Each grade level gets a different book. For Kindergarteners it's *The Cat in the Hat*, and for 5th graders it's a book that makes them think a little deeper.

Susie Bowie with the Manatee Community Foundation said, "I would love for them to notice some of the finer points about how the characters in the story might be different and how they learn to accept each other by the end of the story."

The lesson 5th grader Matthew Fulton learned is one most adults could probably use -- not to be stubborn.

"They're stubborn and they don't want to move from their cars," Matthew said. What did it teach you? "Not to be stubborn," he answered.

Principal Sander said 75 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch and thanks to the program, students are getting extra resources they might not get at home.

"Seeing students walk off the bus with a brand new book, it means the world, because many of our students don't have books at home. They don't have books to choose from so this is a very, very big deal," said Sander.

More than 4,000 Dr. Seuss books were distributed this year for the 4th annual event.