

new worlds reading }

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CELEBRATE THREE YEARS OF ADVANCING CHILDHOOD LITERACY WITH THE NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE DURING ITS FREE 'BOOK BASH' IN MIAMI ON NOVEMBER 4

Miami families of VPK students and K – 5th grade public and charter school students are invited to attend the “Splash Into New Worlds” Book Bash to receive free books and reading activities, as well as participate in a read aloud and book signing with Malcolm Mitchell, Super Bowl champion and author of “My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World.” Hosted at the Phillip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science, families will be able to explore the Aquarium at the museum for free!

Created to help the more than 861,000 eligible VPK – 5th grade students in Florida not yet meeting age-appropriate standards or not yet reading on grade level, New Worlds Reading delivers nine FREE books and reading activities each school year directly to the doorsteps of eligible VPK through 5th grade students. Administered by the UF Lastinger Center for Learning, the New Worlds Reading Initiative has shipped more than 3.9 million books to the homes of Florida children to date—in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and braille.

“Since 2021, children and families have been at the center of our focus. We’ve enrolled more than 269,000 students across Florida school districts —and counting!” said Dr. Shaunté Duggins, Associate Director of New Worlds Reading. “We're honored to partner with Florida families to help ignite their children’s reading journey, building foundational literacy skills today that will help set them up for reading success tomorrow.”

To increase awareness and support for the program, this year the team is also launching the New Worlds Reading Regional Partners Program, partnering with organizations to host literacy workshops, community literacy events, teacher professional development sessions and more. Partners local to the

Southeast Florida region include Children’s Literacy Initiative, Hands Together for Haitians, Inc, Principle Life Family Resource Center, Inc, The Lucy Project, and Uplift Literacy.

Families with a VPK student who is not yet meeting age-appropriate standards according to FAST Star Early Literacy or K-5th grader not yet reading on grade level in a public or charter school, are eligible to [apply today](#).

The New Worlds Reading team will host the “Splash Into New Worlds” Book Bash at the Phillip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET on Nov 4, 2023, in Miami. Families are encouraged to RSVP [here](#) for free.

WHAT:

To celebrate Year 3 of the program, the New Worlds Reading Initiative is hosting the **“Splash Into New Worlds” Book Bash** where children in Miami eligible for the program will receive free books and reading activities during an evening full of family-friendly fun, including an exciting story read aloud and book signing with Super Bowl Champion and author Malcom Mitchell, reading activity stations, delicious food, and more! During the free event, families will have access to the Aquarium at the Frost Museum of Science free of charge.

WHO:

Event guests will include community members and local leaders like former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Chris Sprowls and feature a special appearance by Clifford the Big Red Dog. Notable attendees include:

- Dr. Shaunté Duggins, Associate Director, New Worlds Reading Initiative
- Dr. Phil Poekert, Director, UF Lastinger Center for Learning
- Chris Sprowls, UF Lastinger Center for Learning Advisory Board Chair and Former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
- Lourdes Salgado, Family and Community Engagement Specialist, New Worlds Reading Initiative (and fluent Spanish speaker)
- Nasseeka Denis, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, New Worlds Reading Initiative (and fluent Haitian Creole speaker)

WHEN/ WHERE:

Saturday, November 4, 2023
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. ET
Phillip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science
1101 Biscayne Blvd
Miami, FL 33132
Attendees are encouraged to RSVP [here](#)

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About the New Worlds Reading Initiative

The New Worlds Reading Initiative is Florida's free at-home literacy program to help eligible VPK through 5th grade students in Florida to bolster literacy skills, build reading confidence, and foster a lifelong love of reading. Each month, eligible kids receive a free book tailored to their interests with resources and activities for caregivers and children to engage with books together. The UF Lastinger Center for Learning designs equitable education innovations for children and educators, and administers New Worlds Reading. The UF Lastinger Center has partnered with Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company. Books are selected in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education, and are available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and braille. For more information, visit newworldsreading.com.

About the UF Lastinger Center for Learning

The UF Lastinger Center for Learning researches, develops, and scales equitable educational innovations for adults and children that put all learners on trajectories for lifelong success. With a portfolio ranging from early learning and literacy to mathematics and technology, the center supports transformative, sustainable change in collaboration with educators and other stakeholders in Florida, across the country, and around the world. Three strategic goals guide the center's work: optimizing impact on teaching and learning, enhancing the scale of the center's work and achieving long-term sustainability. To learn more visit <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/>.

About Scholastic: For more than 100 years, Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL) has been encouraging the personal and intellectual growth of all children, beginning with literacy. Having earned a reputation as a trusted partner to educators and families, Scholastic is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, a leading provider of literacy curriculum, professional services, and classroom magazines, and a producer of educational and entertaining children's media. The Company creates and distributes bestselling books and e-books, print and technology-based learning programs for pre-K to grade 12, and other products and services that support children's learning and literacy, both in school and at home. With international operations and exports in more than 135 countries, Scholastic makes quality, affordable books available to all children around the world through school-based book

clubs and book fairs, classroom libraries, school and public libraries, retail, and online. Learn more at www.scholastic.com.