



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, the average student learns about 3,000 words per year in the early school years; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 2 billion dollars is spent each year on students who repeat a grade because they have reading problems; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the cost of illiteracy to business and the taxpayer is 20 billion dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth-grade level, far below the level needed to earn a living wage; and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of America's prison inmates are illiterate, and 85 percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems; and

WHEREAS, 21 million Americans can't read at all; and

WHEREAS, one fifth of high school graduates cannot read their diplomas; and

WHEREAS, 15 minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than one million words in a year; and

WHEREAS, Bradenton Kiwanis stands firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for success; and

WHEREAS, Bradenton Kiwanis has partnered with the Early Learning Coalition and the Rays Baseball Foundation to give over 3,000 books to Manatee County preschool children which will be read in 174 classrooms at 56 early education facilities by a Kiwanis Club member or other community leader.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that April 7-11, 2014, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

EVERY CHILD A READER WEEK

in Manatee County, Florida, and the Board calls on all citizens to assure that every child has a reading experience on that week.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 25th day of March 2014.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST: ***R. B. "Chips" Shore***
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk