

Community news

# Kindergarten Round-Up scores big with families

JANIE HOOVER

YOUR NEWSWEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

**VERO BEACH** — Hundreds of families came out to the Pre-K Party and Kindergarten Round-Up hosted by the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative and School District of Indian River County on Feb. 25 at the Indian River Mall.

The goal of the event was to educate parents and connect them with resources to prepare their children for kindergarten. The School District of Indian River County had staff on site from all 13 elementary schools in the county.

Here is the event report card:

- » 227 kindergarten registrations were completed with the school district.
- » 65 STEP into K (Summer Transitions Enrichment Program) registrations were completed.
- » 90 VPK certificates were issued.
- » 145 children participated in age-appropriate educational activities at the Kids Corral.
- » 30 vision screenings were completed with the Department of Health.
- » 24 Immunization records (form 680) printed by the Department of Health.
- » Over 1,000 books distributed by Literacy Services of Indian River County.
- » 135 agency staff and volunteers helped make this event possible.
- Buses on site at the event included One Blood Red Bus, VNA Mobile Health Unit and The Moonshot Rocket. Student performances from six local preschools and live story times took place on stage



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Preschool students perform during the Pre-K Party and Kindergarten Round-Up at the Indian River Mall.

near the Food Court and attracted a crowd of parents and friends. The Vero Beach Museum of Art invited children to create a live art mural that will be displayed locally. Free health screenings were provided by Treasure Coast Community Health (dental), Florida Department of Health (vision), and 211/Help Me Grow (developmental milestone "learning check-ups").

Additional partners at the Kindergarten Round-Up were 211 Helpline, 211 Help Me Grow, AmeriCorps, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Camelot Community Care, Childcare Resources of Indian River, Dasie Hope Center, Department of Health Indian River County, Early Learning Coalition of IRMO, EOC of Indian River County (HEAD START), Gift-

ford Youth Achievement Center, 19 Sports, Indian River County Healthy Start, Indian River County Library System, Indian River County Recreation Department, JC Penney Optical, Learning Nest/Iny Treasures, Literacy Services of Indian River County, Little Rising Stars, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Preschool, Master's Academy Of Vero Beach, One Healthier Way, RCMA, Treasure Coast Community Health, The Children's Movement of Florida, Usborne Books, Vero Beach Preschool and the Visiting Nurse Association of Indian River County. In addition to the 13 elementary schools, the school district had its VPK Program, STEP into K Summer Program with the Education Foundation and Transportation depart-

ments represented.

Families who still need to sign up for kindergarten can sign up at their zoned school. Families can find which school they are zoned for and find the paperwork necessary to complete school registration at [www.indianriverschools.org](http://www.indianriverschools.org). They are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. For kindergarten registration and school assignment questions, call Melissa at 772-564-3046.

The goal of the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative is to engage all organizations and programs serving children, ages 0-5, as partners to strengthen the early childhood system in Indian River County. The next event is the 2017 KRC Community Summit: Align and Amplify on March 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate should RSVP on the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative's website ([www.krcirc.org](http://www.krcirc.org)). Following the Community Summit is the Touch a Truck Family Festival on Saturday, May 6, at the Indian River County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages are welcome to attend this day of family fun, participate in a scavenger hunt, check out cool trucks, do arts and crafts, and even explore a school bus. The 2018 Pre-K Party and Kindergarten Round-Up will be held on Feb 24 at the Indian River Mall.

For up to date information on the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative, visit [www.krcirc.org](http://www.krcirc.org) and follow the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative on Facebook.

# Group educates and celebrates to help Haiti

LISA EISELE

YOUR NEWSWEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

VERO BEACH — Over 120 people

such as International Diamond Center, Man-o-War Fishing Co., Vero Beach Theatre Guild, Salt Therapy, Indian River by Air, Calvetti and Co., Jungle Club

Joining her in these good works were Vero Beach residents Kay Hammond, Leslie Tilley, Betty Sammartino, Carol Martin, Cathy LaCroix, Charlotte Terry.

