

# South Callaway Parents as Teachers to host "roll and read" event Saturday

September 17th, 2014 | in News | Read Time: 1 min. |

Parents as Teachers is hosting a roll and read event this Saturday. The event is open to all families in the South Callaway R-II School District, not just those involved with the Parents as Teachers program.

During the event, families will walk, run, push a stroller and bike one mile on the Kathy Trail, which will have reading stations. Families will stop at the readings stations on the trail for story time. One reading station will have the book, "Going on a bear hunt."

Pam Norris with the South Callaway School District and parent educator with Parents as Teachers, said they wanted to have an event that combined literacy with physical activity for kids.

"We'll get a little physical activity and a little bit of reading," Norris said.

The event is in part to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Parents as Teachers programs worldwide. The South Callaway School District's Parents as Teachers program started 25 years ago. Norris started doing the PAT program at South Callaway eight years ago. Programs across the country will be holding events this month to celebrate the program and to make others more aware of the program.

"The focus for Parents as Teachers is usually on children from prenatal up until they enter kindergarten," Norris said.

Children of all ages are welcome to attend the event on Saturday, Norris said. She will have more information about the PAT program on Saturday. She said the program offers resources and encouragement to parents of young children.

"Especially for first-time parents, a lot of us don't know very much about child development - I know I didn't when my kids were little," Norris said. "It's helpful to know if the things your child is doing is typical for babies or toddlers that age."

The roll and read event open for families in the district with children of all ages. It starts at 9 a.m. Saturday. Families will walk, bike, etc. from the pavilion in the parking lot and they will travel west toward Sate Route PP. They will go about one half of a mile then turn around and travel the half a mile back to the parking lot.

Megan Favignano can be reached at (573) 826-2417 or [megan@fultonsun.com](mailto:megan@fultonsun.com).

[Click Here To Print](#)

 URL: <http://www.tbo.com/Newsletters/northeast/upcoming-roll-and-read-event-promotes-literacy-20140910/>

# Upcoming 'Roll and Read' event promotes literacy

By LAURA CONE

The South Tampa News

Published: September 10, 2014

YBOR CITY — Parents can decorate strollers and wagons for a 1-mile walk down “reading lane” for the first-ever “Roll and Read — Powered by Parents as Teachers,” an international event promoting early literacy and healthy families.

Corinne Gaertner, of South Tampa, a certified parent educator with Parents as Teachers, said the walk will take place locally Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon in Ybor City.

The event, which features celebrity readers at different stations, snacks, giveaways and family activities, starts at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department Operations Center, 2008 E. Eighth Ave. It finishes at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, 1002 Palm Ave., Tampa.

“We hope to have 300 parents and children,” said Gaertner, who works at Champions for Children, a nonprofit agency serving families in Hillsborough County. “Champions for Children is doing consecutive events at our Layla's House site in Sulphur Springs, and DACCO is also doing an event. Research has proven that children who are read to from infancy do better in school. Reading stimulates children and helps with language development, literacy and school readiness. In addition, reading strengthens the parent-child relationship.”

The local event, intended to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Parents as Teachers, is being sponsored by Champions for Children and the Alpha House. Both have Parents as Teachers programs, which are funded through the Children's Board and the United Way. The Alpha House of Tampa offers homeless pregnant women and mothers with young children safe housing and the tools they need to become self-sufficient.

“In the first few years, children learn more and at a faster pace than at any other time in life,” she said. “Parents as Teachers provides home visits to help families understand child development and connects them to the resources they need to make the best choices for themselves.”

So far, the list of “celebrity readers” includes Doretha Edgecomb, a Hillsborough County school board member and a member of the board of directors at the Children's Board, and U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Tampa.

“The route begins at the sheriff's office on Eighth Avenue and then will proceed to the courtyard at the HCC campus in Ybor ending at the Children's Board Building,” Gaertner said.

For more information, email [cgaertner@cfctb.org](mailto:cgaertner@cfctb.org).