



## School Readiness Coalition Of Sarasota County, Inc. Newsletter – December 2003

*Hello to all Early Childhood Educators!*

**The Coalition Wishes all of you a Happy and Joyous Holiday Season**

**DIRECTORS: PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR TEACHERS!**

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### **“READY, SET GROW” ANNUAL PROVIDER CONFERENCE SET FOR JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

The third annual “Ready, Set Grow Provider Conference” sponsored by the School Readiness Coalition is set for January 24, 2004. The theme this year is “Character Development: What is it, How to teach it, and How to promote it in our children.” This theme fits nicely with the Coalition’s emphasis this year, in its pre/post test pilot project, of a focus on the social and emotional health of our children, and promoting protective factors and resilience in young children.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Sharron Krull. She will provide both a morning keynote entitled “Celebrate Children” and an afternoon group workshop for all participants after lunch on “Building Children’s Self Esteem”. There will be four break-out sessions before lunch. These are: “How Teachers and Parents can Work Together to Develop Character,” offered by Marlene Resnick, “Promoting Character in Infants and Toddlers,” by Dr. Kathy Kourapis, “Teaching Character Development to Preschool Children,” by Nancy Lindsley, and “Mind your Manners”, by Dr. Ginny Myers. A box lunch will be provided and is included in your registration fee.

We look forward to seeing all of you there! Included with this newsletter is a registration form that has all the details. Please feel free to make as many copies as you need. For those sites participating in the DECA project, please remember that you get one free registration per site for this conference. The first 50 people to register will receive a special door prize!

### **COMMUNITY READING CHALLENGE!**



The School Readiness Coalition and the Sarasota Family YMCA have received a “Reading is Fundamental” grant, (from Reading is Fundamental, Inc, with matching funds from the Women’s Initiative of the United Way). One of the activities of this project is a Community Reading Challenge that will take place during the last two weeks in February. This involves having as many people and organizations in the community participating in this challenge to get young children interested and motivated to read. We encourage you to participate and to get involved. Try to plan a number of activities during those two weeks to promote a love of books and reading. We will be sending you more information on this event in our January newsletter

Newsletter continued on the next page...Keep reading!

