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THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS GIVES THE GIFT OF READING SKILLS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Reading Readiness Through the Theater Program donates books

FORT LAUDERDALE – Students at the Jack and Jill Early Learning Center received a royal visit from Princess Reads-A-Lot from the Broward Center for the Performing Arts as part of an 11-year-old holiday book drive tradition.

Marin Sori, portraying the royal ambassador of the Broward Center’s educational programs, visited two classes and, after reading *The Class Trip with Peppa the Pig* and *Guide to Being a Friend*, she gave each child copies of the books as a holiday gift to take home and read with their parents or guardians.

The Broward Center donated 1,000 books this year to four-year old Head Start and VPK students who participate in the Broward Center’s Reading Readiness Through the Theater Program throughout the school year.

Reading Readiness Through the Theater, created by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Broward County Public Schools, is a multi-disciplinary program using live theater performance in combination with literature and reading strategies to address literacy in the classroom, the home and the theater as students and their families participate in activities specifically designed to reinforce reading readiness skills.

These multi-sensory experiences profoundly impact the child’s desire to read, to interpret, to articulate understanding and to build self-esteem. The focus of the program is on children four years of age who need help to develop solid learning skills before entering kindergarten. It also concentrates on the families and caregivers of the children and their own literacy and family communication.

Students in the program receive books to begin a home library, free admission to stage adaptations of children’s books for themselves and their parents or caregivers, free transportation to performances and activity sheets. Parents and caregivers also attend reading workshops in English and Spanish to learn about the importance of reading aloud and communicating with children.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

The Broward Center 2016-2017 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation with generous support from the Salah Foundation. AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, LATAM AIRLINES, MasterCard, Paramount Refreshment Solutions and *Sun Sentinel* are proud sponsors of the Broward Center.

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About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

One of America's premier performing arts venues, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts presents more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, showcasing a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events. Guest experiences at the Broward Center include the all-inclusive LATAM AIRLINES CLUB LEVEL, spectacular riverfront views for special events in the Huizenga Pavilion, waterfront dining at Marti's New River Bistro and innovative classes and workshops for all ages at the Rose Miniaci Arts Education Center. With one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, the Broward Center serves more than 150,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.