

Regions LifeGreen Checking and Savings.



LEARN M

REGIO

The Miami Herald > News > Miami-Dade > Communities > Northwest Miami-Dade

Northwest Miami-Dade



Friday, 09.11.09 Welcome Guest Login Register

HOME | NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | BUSINESS | LIVING | OPINION | JOBS | CAR | CLASSIFIEDS | Miami-Dade | Broward | Florida | Legislature | Americas | Cuba | Nation | World | Po

Posted on Saturday, 09.05.09



Recommend (0)

share

email

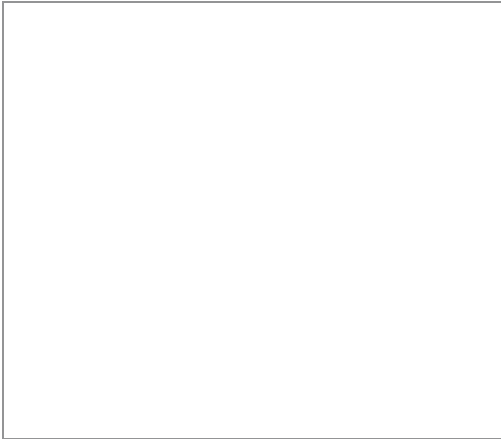
print

comment

reprint

MIAMI-DADE

Early Learning Coalition launches book giveaway



BY NADEGE CHARLES
NCHARLES@MIAMIHERALD.COM

Sitting cross-legged on a colorful reading mat, wide-eyed students at Kidworks USA in Hialeah listened intently as children's author María Celeste Arrarás read a story filled with magic and mystery.

The reading -- sponsored by the nonprofit Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe -- kicked off a countywide book giveaway.

As part of a \$125,000 grant from Reading is Fundamental, the nation's largest literacy organization, 385 centers like the one in Hialeah will receive a total of 28,000 books.

"A lot of people think early child care is baby-sitting," said ELC President Evelio Torres. "We want to stress the importance of building a love for education at an early age and reading is a fundamental part of that."

As part of the giveaways, a list of well-known readers including Ron Magill, Miami Metrozoo's media director, and Miami-Dade County firefighters will volunteer to read at local centers.

Arrarás, an Emmy award winning journalist, *Telemundo* host and single mother of three, read

Similar Stories:

- Center in The Roads turns reading into an adventure
- Author's mission is child's play
- Ania Fernandez draws on her life experiences to become a South Central Region Teacher of the Year nominee
- Ania Fernandez draws on her life experiences grab nomination
- Ania Fernandez draws on her life experiences to become a South Central Region Teacher of the Year nominee

her book, *The Magical Cane*, on Wednesday morning.

Arrarás said she was inspired by story time with her kids and was forced to write the book out of necessity.

"They never wanted to hear the same story," she said. "My girl wanted mermaids. The boys wanted action and Pokémon, so I combined all these elements to create one story."

Miranda Cabarga, 4, was impressed.

"She did a very good job and I really like the girl in the story because she's like a mermaid."

The books will be used to bolster the education centers' libraries and each child will also be given one to take home.

"We want to encourage parents to read to their kids at home," Torres said. "It reinforces what they're learning at school and it also helps to form a deeper bond with your child."





- Save 50% off regular home delivery subscription! [Click here.](#)

[recommend](#)[email](#)[print](#)[share](#)[buzz up!](#)[Digg](#)

Join the discussion

The Miami Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. In order to post comments, you must be a registered user of MiamiHerald.com. Your username will show along with the comments you post. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

Comments (0)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

POWERED BY Pluck

Comments: 0 Showing:

More comments on this story:

Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance
\$90,000 Refinance \$499/mo. See Rates- No Credit Check Req. [SeeRefinanceRates](#)

Obama Backs Insurance Regulation
Think You Pay Too Much for Auto Insurance? Find out Now. [Auto-Insurance](#)

Miami Jobs
Miami Jobs Paying \$14-78 Per Hour That You Can Train For Now [officialjobmatches](#)

ADS BY YAHOO!

QUICK JOB SEARCH

Enter Keyword(s)**Enter City****Select a State****Select a Category****Advanced Job Search**
Search by Category

powered by careerbuilder.com

[NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [LIVING](#) | [OPINION](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [SERVICES](#) | [Site Map](#)
[RSS](#) | [MY Y!](#) | [My Yahoo](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Widgets](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Twitter](#)
[About The Miami Herald](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#)
Partners: [El Nuevo Herald](#) | [Newspaper in Education](#) | [WLRN](#) | [Miami Herald News](#) | [CBS4 WFOR-TV](#) | [More](#)

Copyright 2009 Miami Herald Media Co. All rights reserved