

Preventing Summer Learning Loss and Fostering Reading Engagement

Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County

AT A GLANCE

Program directors at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County were looking for programming to support literacy growth over the summer months. They implemented The Juice across 12 of their sites to prevent summer learning loss and engage students in reading.

PROGRAM STATS

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County serve more than 13,000 children between the ages of 6-18 at 20 sites across Palm Beach County.



6
Week Program



12
Boys & Girls Club Sites



90
Participating Teachers



1091
Participating Members

CHALLENGES

- Preventing summer learning loss
- Getting students to read over the summer months

SOLUTION

- Having teachers use The Juice in their classes over the summer



The Juice
Current Events

RESULTS

1

Increased Awareness of Current Events

Students developed an increased awareness of current events.

2

Engagement with Reading

Students were more engaged in reading and reported more enjoyment in reading at the end of the program.

3

Increased Participation in Discussion

Students participated in discussions with their club members after reading The Juice. More students reported participating in family discussion at home.

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PREVENTING SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

Directors at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County recognized the significance of preventing summer learning loss and fostering literacy growth during the summer.

"When I speak with principals, they express the desire for kids to read and for students to be actively engaged in reading throughout the summer," shared Lotus Holem, Vice President of Programs.

To achieve this goal, program organizers implemented The Juice across 12 sites, involving over 1000 students. Certified teachers at these sites were instructed to allocate 15-20 minutes of daily reading time within their one-hour academic block over the 6-week program. Most sites had students engage with The Juice 3-4 times per week.

Teachers employed a variety of instructional strategies to captivate students with the articles, address the needs of the diverse learners, and support English language learners. Some teachers encouraged independent reading, while others had groups read as a class or in smaller groups.

The program organizers fostered youth voice and choice, encouraging teachers to enable students to pick articles aligned with their interests and make decisions about the articles they wished to discuss.

BUILDING ENTHUSIASM WITH PROGRAM TEACHERS

The organizers noticed the value of implementing the same program across all sites, which ignited excitement among teachers.

"This was the first time we delivered a program across all the sites. It was valuable having everyone do the same thing and use the same language across all the sites," noted Holem.

According to Amy Pages, Program Director, three of the sites even convened to celebrate the program's conclusion together.

"There was so much excitement" said Pages. "Teachers were really engaged and looked forward to prepping for lessons with The Juice."

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Amy Pages

Program Director
Boys & Girls Clubs of
Palm Beach



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Throughout the program, Lotus monitored engagement and usage across all clubs through her administrator dashboard.

"Having access to the data and observing the kids' usage and engagement across all sites was tremendously helpful," Holem stated.

POSITIVE EFFECTS ON KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT EVENTS & READING ENGAGEMENT

The enthusiasm for The Juice extended not only to the teachers but also to the club members. "During my visits to the sites, as I witnessed the students engaging with the platform, some of them shared that they were continuing to read The Juice at home with their parents," Pages recounted.

Over the course of the program, students read over 100,000 articles in The Juice. To gather insights into their attitudes toward reading and knowledge of current events, students were also administered a pre and post survey

At the conclusion of the program, club members demonstrated increased enjoyment in reading, and reported that they were more engaged in conversations about current events with family member. The number of students who reported that they disliked reading at the start of the program nearly cut in half from 12% of students to 7% in the post survey. Additionally, 32% of students who initially had limited awareness of current events decreased to 16% by the program's end. Moreover, 22% of students reported a high level of current events knowledge at the conclusion, as opposed to 11% at the beginning.

"Having the news come to the kids daily was really extraordinary." said Holem. "The goal of the program was to engage kids in reading and we were successful with that goal."

Over the course of the program The Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County successfully promoted literacy engagement among a diverse student population. By combining engaging reading materials, teacher support, and student choice, they achieved increased knowledge of current events, improved enjoyment in reading, and enhanced family engagement.

ABOUT THE JUICE

Designed for grades 5+, each academic day, The Juice delivers five timely current events articles at four reading levels to help students build literacy. Educators and students receive daily rigorous short-form content, vocabulary, infographics, videos, embedded scaffolds, formative assessment, progress monitoring, data-informed instruction, and more! Standards-aligned, The Juice provides educators with flexibility and can be used with core instruction, intervention, enrichment, credit recovery, and extended day/year programs.