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## Reading is taking flight at Sabal Palm

The Write Stuff

By Joe Landon

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So all third graders at Sabal Palm Elementary School in Golden Gate Estates get to go on a really cool field trip to tour the Naples Municipal Airport. What a great way to spend the day, right?

But it gets better -- much better. Some of the third graders will even get the chance to become airborne, getting a free airplane ride. Now that's WAY COOL!

The outing culminates the students' participation in the "100 Book Challenge" reading program. The theme, "Take off to Reading," gave teacher Jayme Dush, Sabal Palm's third grade team leader, a good idea. She hails the field trip as "a great educational opportunity for students to tour an airport and learn about aviation." The airport field trip was sponsored by the Sabal Palm Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Young Eagles organization of Naples. The local chapter of this nationwide organization provides aviation-related opportunities for children and young adults. The trips are scheduled for 9:45-11:45 a.m., Apr. 10, 11, 17, and Apr. 20.

By then, students who have met or exceeded the required number of points for the 100 Book Challenge, will have earned a free airplane ride set for 9 a.m., Apr. 22. They'll go up with a licensed and experienced volunteer pilot in an FAA registered airplane.

Whether these "Young Eagles" from Sabal Palm get to go up in a plane or just tour the airport, the most important thing is that their knowledge is soaring thanks to their voracious appetite for reading -- inspired by their wonderful Sabal Palm teachers.

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