



Media Alert

For Immediate Release
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WINNERS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL “ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A PRESCHOOLER?” ADULTS ONLY SPELLING BEE ANNOUNCED

Twelve (12) teams of four (4) competed during three (3) spelling rounds.

The **Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.** found out who was “Smarter than a Preschooler” during its first **Adults Only Spelling Bee** held on **Thursday, August 1, 2013** at the **Suncoast Dance Party Center** (formerly SNPJ Suncoast Lodge), 13383 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL 34609.

Twelve (12) teams of four (4) spellers went head-to-head in the competition with three (3) rounds of increasingly difficult words. The winning team, **Kierzynski and Associates, CPA, P.A.** received the “Ultimate Speller Trophy,” by correctly spelling the word “ulation” (a long, high pitched sound). This trophy will be passed on to future Spelling Bee winners year after year.

Master of Ceremonies, Royce Decker awarded The Farrelly Family, aka “The Hawaiian Hooligans” the team with the most enthusiasm and team spirit, earning them the “Spirit Award.” The Hawaiian Hooligans finished over in third place.

Ballpark Auctioneers coordinated a live auction with over twenty (20) items that generated \$2,395 in proceeds. This event which benefits the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties’ mission to prepare children to enter and succeed in school by enrolling them in early learning programs, generated over \$7,000 in total proceeds. This money will be used to fund the School Readiness program, subsidized child care for income-eligible families who are working or are in school.

A big thank you to Coalition Board Member Dr. Bonnie Clark and former Board Member Ms. Ann-Gayl Ellis who orchestrated this highly successful event.

For more information on this or future Coalition events, visit www.phelc.org or call (727) 233-8291.

About the Coalition

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 30 Early Learning Coalitions in Florida. It works to ensure that programs and services are available to assist families with young children during their formative years. Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is for all children who are four-years old on or before September 1st. School Readiness provides subsidized child care for low-to-moderate income working families. Starting as separate organizations in 2000, Pasco and Hernando counties joined forces to form the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties in 2005. The non-profit serves over 9,000 children between infancy and eight years old, working with more than 300 providers in the counties.

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