

April 2011

2010-2011

BRC OFFICERS

President

Berni Carmack

309-786-1595

berni.carmack@risd41.org

President Elect

Christine MacDonald

309-787-6444

christine.macdonald@risd41.org

Treasurer

Laura Erikson

309-269-1545

laura.erikson@risd41.org

Past President

Connie Snell

309-793-5900 ext. 256

connie.snell@risd41.org

Secretary/Membership/
Newsletter

Lynn Keck

563-650-1082

lynn.keck@risd41.org

A Message From The President

As I compose my third and final “president’s message”, I first want to say how much I’ve appreciated the support of our BRC board members, and encourage all of you to consider “stepping up” in our local council in a way that is most comfortable for you... You may want to become a more active member by committing to attend at least one more local meeting this next year. Then, your next step might be to consider an officer’s position for the following year. Please feel free to ask any current board member about the commitment involved, and more importantly, about the support system already in place to help you along the entire way (as they did for me.) On that same note, please review the slate of officers with this newsletter before our next meeting so that we can vote on it at April’s meeting.

I’m excited to say that our first attempt at sponsoring council-wide book studies was fairly successful... We conducted four book studies with 11-12 participants and tried using a combination of face-to-face and online book discussions. (Thank you Rock Island/Milan School District for hosting this online forum for us.) Several of the book group members then met in February at the Lavender Crest Winery in Colona to “Wine, Dine, and Share a Line.” It was a fun and unique way (and setting) in which to network with others and to



Our mission is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.



International Reading Association

The World's Leading Organization of Literacy Professionals

discuss how best to implement some of what we learned by reading the books and in our study groups. As you know, our council also promoted the purchase of one or more of these four books by paying your shipping costs for you. Nine members took advantage of our offer, and we were happy to provide that service to them.

I was able to attend the 43rd Annual Illinois Reading Conference this year and one of the sessions I attended provided me with assistance in setting up a Black Hawk Reading Council “blog” as just one more way to network with our membership. It’s still in the beginning stages... and I’ll keep working on it and will then post the address as soon as it’s up and running. (Any volunteers to help expedite the process? Please contact me!)

See the flyer insert and details about our final meeting on Saturday, April 30, for an exciting presentation from Illinois author, Bob Raczka. (For more information about Mr. Raczka and his books, view his website at <http://www.bobraczka.com/index.html>) Bob writes picture books about art, and will share ways to incorporate art topics into many of your language arts lessons. We will also have extra incentives (that is, prizes!) to increase attendance that morning and to encourage you to bring your “boss”, friends, and colleagues to the meeting.

Lastly, our annual Illinois Reading Council Leadership Retreat is this July 7-9. We are given time during this retreat to plan our council events for the upcoming year. Please feel free to contact any board member before then with your suggestions for speakers, meeting topics, community events, or projects. We’d truly appreciate your input.

Berni

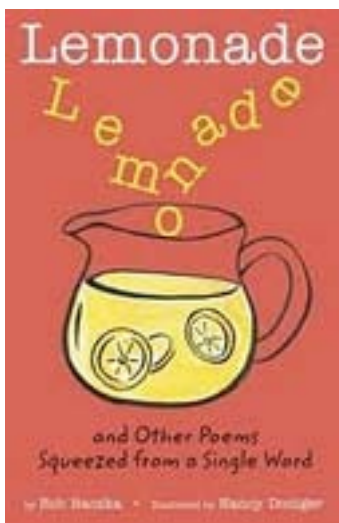
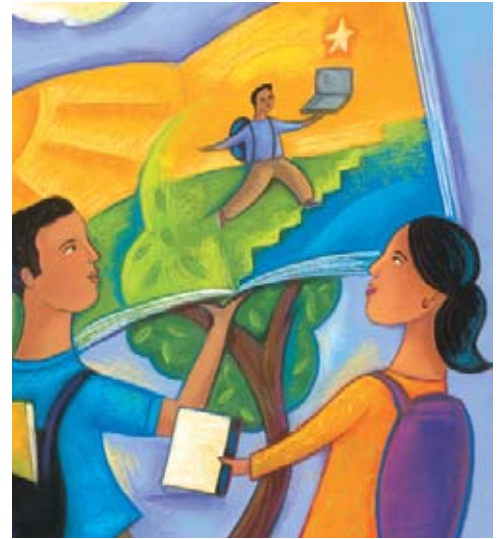


Please welcome these new members to Black Hawk Reading Council who share our goal of bringing quality literacy opportunities to all:

Jeanne Anderson	Shelley Atkinson	Jane Bagby	Corrie Ball	Samantha Beresid
Michael Carton	Heather Crouch	Rino Della Vedova	Kelly Dorman	
Josh Fahs	Gloria Funai	Lorie Gibson	Melanie Hergert	Maggie Hyde
Kristine Jacobs	Amy Kreiser	Susan Long	Nicole Melody	Amy Moon
Toni Moore	Randy Musser	Diane Olson	Dee Robb	Shelley Newcomb
Dee Robb	Marilyn Sieben	Staci Sipp	Amber Soike	Ann Spence
Amanda Stablein	Ashley Stern	Janine Strickler	Jenna Thompson	
Valerie Vincent	Kathy Weirsema	Anne Wood	Monica Young	

Black Hawk Reading Council Service Projects

- We donated books and a very nice bookcase to a family living in a new Habitat for Humanity home in our area. We want to thank Dave Bloom, principal at Francis Willard School in Rock Island, for facilitating this process.
- We sponsored a teacher from Guatemala to attend the Guatemalan Reading Conference. This is the only way they can afford to attend. Because teachers in Guatemala earn an average of only \$200 per month, the cost of this conference--300 Quetzales or the equivalent of \$50 --is too high. Their living expenses must take precedence over attendance at this event.
- As an ongoing project, please consider donating new or gently used books for adults and children of any age. We will give these books away at a local meal site and food pantry. Send or give all book donations to any BRC board member or bring to the April 30th meeting.
- We will be co-sponsoring a service project with Alpha Delta Kappa by providing the IRC brochure, "The ABC's of Raising a Reader," that ADK will insert in books. These books will then be given to new mothers at Trinity on Mother's Day.



Looking for a Good Book?

Lemonade and other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word by Bob Raczka

Illustrated. by Nancy Doniger.

Roaring Brook. ISBN: 978-1-59643-541-4

Recommended by Scholastic author and 1st grade teacher, Dr. Maria Walther at the IRC Conference this year! It's a thinking book that's filled with

puzzles that turn into poems. A smile appears on your face when you find you've solved the riddled pattern or you're relating to the simple theme. It's one of Bob's many books that we hope to have available for purchase at our next meeting when he visits.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2011-2012

President	Christine MacDonald
President Elect	Cindy Arkebauer
Treasurer	Laura Erikson
Secretary	(Now open for nominations)

A vote will be taken at the April 30th meeting.



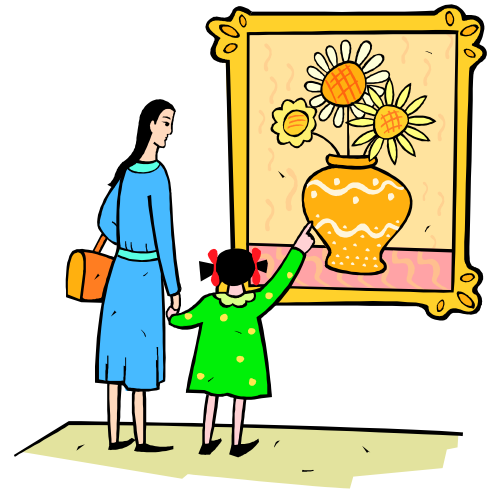
For the first time ever, BRC has its own graphic tee in two color combinations- black with bright lime or turquoise with bright lime. The shirts will be available at each meeting for \$10 in sizes M-2X.

E-mail Berni if you'd like one in each color :)
Pick it up at our next mtg.

Twenty Reasons Art is Good for Kids

www.first5kids.org

1. Art stimulates both sides of the brain.
2. 33% of children are visual learners.
3. Studies show that children who do art **read** better and do better in **math and science**.
4. Art enhances self-esteem.
5. Art develops hand-eye coordination.
6. Children need to learn through their senses and art is an excellent way of doing this.
7. Children must have a place in school to express themselves.
8. Art develops awareness of the physical environment.
9. Art enhances perceptual development.
10. Art teaches open-ended thinking. It presents a culture of questions rather than a culture of answers.
11. Art teaches children that there can be more than one solution to the same problem.
12. Art teaches children how to engage in creative problem solving.
13. Children can share and reflect on their art to learn about themselves, each other, and the world in which they live.
14. When art is integrated with other curriculum areas children become more engaged in the learning process.
15. In the process of art making, a child is presented with possibility, discovery, and freedom, thereby disrupting the control and predictability of conventional education found in the U.S. today.
16. Art nurtures the human soul! (It feels good to do it.)
17. Art brings the community's cultural resources to the classroom.
18. Art involves parents and guardians in school governance and volunteer activities.
19. Art provides a means, a common ground, to reach across racial stereotypes, barriers, and prejudices.
20. Art is valuable for its own sake!



Come see how you can use these ideas with Bob's books-April 30th.

“Bring Your Boss to Breakfast”

(*And your BFF too!)

Bob Raczka Artist/Author

April 30, 2011 9:00 am

Eugene Field School Library

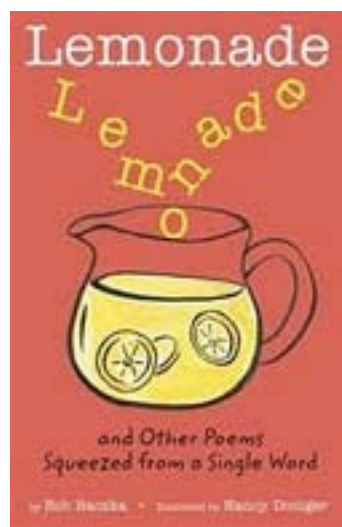
2900 31st Avenue, Rock Island



****Complimentary Continental Breakfast****

Principals/Bosses, Non-members, Pre-service Teachers,
and Members will all receive chances to win!

*The more guests you bring, the more opportunity for
prizes.



Books will be available for purchase and autographs.