

August 2009

2009-2010

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We've completed our first week of school in Rock Island and I know many of our surrounding districts are preparing for their first day of school in the next few weeks, I wonder if anyone is asking the question that keeps circling around in my mind. "Where did the summer go?" I hope that everyone had some time to refresh and spend precious moments with favorite activities and people.

Our Executive Board of the Black Hawk Reading Council spent several days in the lovely setting of Grand Bear Lodge in Utica, Illinois. It was a productive time for us to learn about our positions and to plan for the coming year. You may have noticed that one of the first actions the board took was to change the spelling of Blackhawk to honor Chief Black Hawk. We will maintain the abbreviation of BRC when referring to our council. During these days we learned of many intriguing and exciting opportunities and asked ourselves, "Can we achieve these honors? Can we increase the membership of our organization?" Your Executive board answered with a resounding "yes" and immediately set to work.

While we celebrate the 35th year of BRC, we want to accomplish the purposes stated in our bylaws and also achieve the theme, "Lighting the Way to Literacy", for this year's Illinois Reading Council Conference. So on opening day for our district, we promoted membership in the council with a display of 35 reasons to join IRC and offered tempting incentives. We enrolled ten new members and three returning

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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

members. Of these new members, three were building administrators and one a district administrator. We're creating opportunities for other districts to increase their memberships as well.

This year we have planned three outstanding programs. The first is Phyllis Hostmeyer, presenting a new twist on reading strategies, September 17th at Geneseo Middle School. We'll have birthday cake to celebrate our 35 years of promoting reading at all educational levels. Our second meeting will be an Education Expo with presentations from outstanding educators from our BRC area. This will be held on November 14th from 9:30-12:00 at Bicentennial Elementary, Moline. Our final meeting for this school year will be on January 30, 2010 at the Rock Island Public Library. Featured author and TV personality Gary Metivier will be our presenter.

Please share this information with all of your colleagues and mark your calendars. You can help us achieve our goal of Honor Council for Black Hawk Reading Council. I look forward to meeting each and every member at one or all of our events.

Connie Snell



Our First \$35 Certificate Drawing Winner
Meg Barry teaches HeadStart at Denkmann
School in Rock Island. Congratulations!

At left, our display, and below, new administrative members: Lucille McCorkle, RI Academy; Ruth Tobey-Brown, RI Math & Science Center; and Bill Osborne, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, RI District #41.

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

Become a **BRC** member today!
Your name will be entered in our next drawing for a \$35 gift certificate.

As a BRC member, you are eligible to enter your name in our drawing for a \$35 gift certificate each time you attend a meeting.

of meetings attended = chances to win!

Thank You, Teacher

Thank you, teacher,
for planting the seed
That helped me bloom
and learn to read.

Thank you, teacher,
for paving a path
And teaching me
letters and numbers and math.

Thank you, teacher,
for rhyme and for reason
and teaching me the
colors that change with the season.

Thank you, teacher,
for your inspiration
your time and energy
and dedication.

Thank you, teacher.
I just wanted to say
those three words
you should hear every day.

-Shelly Bucci, Title teacher
Newcastle, Pennsylvania

A Cool Website for the Start of the Year

www.wordsift.com

This site allows you to “visualize” text for your students. Paste your text (or type it) into the box and WordSift will “sort” the words into a graphic design (academic words show in orange print). Click on a word to get a Visual Thesaurus. It produces a word map with layers of definitions for the word. There’s text provided if you want to check it out—a speech by President Obama. Try concepts you’re studying in content areas or the subject of a poem you’d like to write. It’s a cool way to get kids interested in words. See how long you play with it!



Happy Birthday!



**Thursday, September 17, 2009
Geneseo Middle School
4:30 p.m.**

Phyllis Hostmeyer



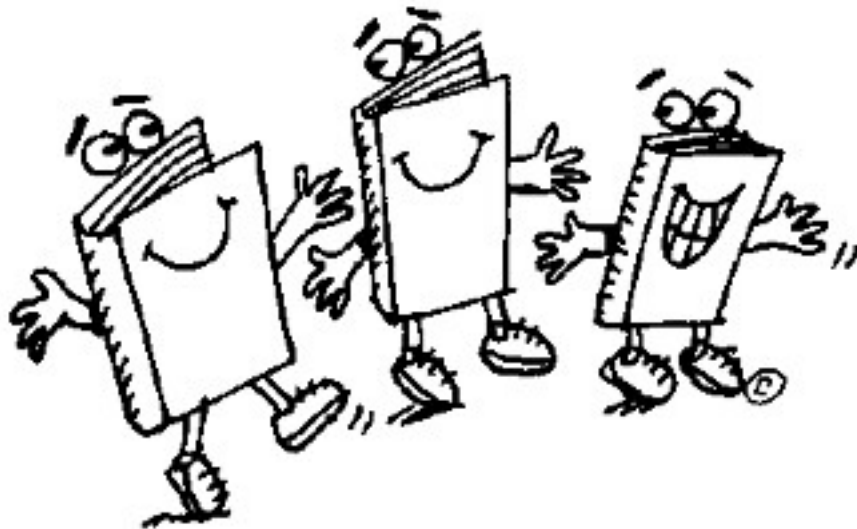
**Presenter of
Reading & Writing Educational
Workshops/Storyteller**

You're invited to our birthday celebration!



Saturday, November 14, 2009
Bicentennial School, Moline
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Education Expo



Mini-Workshop Topics To Include:
Writer's Workshop * Reading Strategies
Literacy Websites * RtI
Math Literacy * Vocabulary
Make-it /Take-it Activities * Storytelling

Teacher's Aid will be there to make shopping easy!

Saturday, January 30th, 2010
R.I. Public Library
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Gary Metivier



Local Author & T.V. Personality
Books Written:

Willie's Wagon

A Dog Ate My Homework