

NEWSLETTER

Fox Valley Reading Council
Spring/Summer Issue

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Illinois Reading Council and Fox Valley Reading Council Membership

Join as a new member or new student member. The annual membership fee includes membership in the Illinois Reading Council and a local or special interest council which is the Fox Valley Reading Council. Regular (non-student) Membership is \$40.00 for one year, while Pre-service teacher (student) membership is \$25.00 for one year.

2010-2011 A Year-in-Review

The Fox Valley Reading Council hosted three successful events this year. We were pleased to bring Professor Ronda Brown from Millikin University for our fall event held at Portillo's on November 2. Participants enjoyed a delicious dinner (and of course Portillo's famous chocolate cake) while learning about Foldables- an engaging way to incorporate student-created organizers to enhance, reinforce, assess and extend learning.

On February 26, our council teamed up with the Wheaton Public Library for an event just for the guys- 4th grades through 6th grades. We featured local illustrator, David Opie, who mesmerized his audience with his magnificent cartooning talents. This was a hands-on workshop, where the guys created a three-panel comic.



For more information, contact us: info@foxvalleyreadingcouncil.org

Meet Your Executive Board 2011-2012

Dr. Sunday Cummins finished our year with “got assessment fatigue?” held at National-Louis University on April 27. Participants participated in a conversation about their beliefs and concerns regarding assessment. Teachers left feeling empowered, affirmed and energized about an issue that seems too large for any one teacher to conquer alone. Follow-up conversations are already in progress.

Meet Your Executive Board 2011-2012

Meet Your President: Andrea Schaal

My involvement with the Fox Valley Reading Council happened by accident. I had just started my Reading Specialist program at National-Louis University in the summer of 2008 when a professor



told me about an opportunity to get involved. I jumped in with both feet, and I'm still here. My experience with FVRC has given me the opportunity to surround myself with literacy leaders, professionals and scholars who are as passionate about the field as I am. Currently, I teach a 4/5 split classroom in Plainfield District 202. I have many hobbies- some of which are hanging out with my dog Annie, running, cooking and of course reading.



Meet Your President-Elect: Katina Kastrantas

This is my first year joining the Fox Valley Reading Council. My first position was in Newspapers in Education. This is also my first year as an ELL teacher in Wheaton-Warrenville District 200. I am currently completing my Reading Specialist program through National-Louis University. I have enjoyed meeting professionals who share a common interest: teaching students to read and love the pure joy of reading.

Look forward to many new changes with Fox Valley Reading Council. We will be soon creating a Facebook page as well as a blog for online book clubs about current reading resources for professionals. I look forward to another great year with Fox Valley Reading Council and of course spend my summer catching up on some good books!

Meet Your Vice President: Gina Lofgren

I like to read. I suppose that should be a prerequisite for being on the FVRC Board.

However, I enjoy collaborating with colleagues even more, and that is why I am becoming involved with FVRC. I learned about the council while getting Reading Specialist certification at National-Louis University, but stated, "I don't want to jump in until I've finished the program."

I received all my formal post-high school education from National-Louis, including a BA with majors in Education and English, and MEd with a concentration in teaching writing and CAS with Reading Specialist certification.

In my professional life, I currently teach 6th grade Literacy in Glen Ellyn at Glen Crest Middle School. I am a wife and mother of 3 girls. I hope to see you all at upcoming events!

Meet Your Treasurer: Kim Oliver

As this is my ninth year on the Fox Valley Reading Council, I can now consider myself a seasoned veteran. I began as the Secretary of FVRC before I was promoted to Treasurer.



This is my seventh year in the Treasurer's position. I LOVE attending the events our council hosts. I have learned so much over the past few years that I have used in my classroom. I am in my eleventh year of being a classroom teacher. I taught Third Grade for nine years and First Grade for two years. Being a member of the Fox Valley Reading Council has helped me become a better classroom teacher.



The guys try their hand at cartooning.

Meet Your Secretary: Beth Herrig

I am about to complete my 19th year in education. I started my career as a special education teacher followed by a move into the administrative role of Student Services. Now I am currently a Reading Specialist in Indian Prairie School District #204, at Georgetown Elementary School. I have been the Fox Valley Reading Council's secretary for the past three years.

I enjoy being a part of the council as well as the IRA. It keeps me connected to others in other schools, communities, and colleges. I just recently presented this year at both the Illinois Reading Conference and the International Reading Conference with my colleagues from Georgetown on how to implement peer tutoring. I live in Aurora with my husband Doug, my two sons, Nicholas and Justin, and my two dogs and one cat.

Rally and March for Justice in Education

Washington DC, July 30, 2011 with notable speakers like Diane Ravitch, author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, and Jonathon Kozol, author of *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*.

Visit www.saveourschoolsmarch.org to read about this event calling educators to take action and march for the future of children and changes to education including:

- Equitable funding for all public school communities
- End to high stakes testing for student, teacher, and school evaluation
- Curriculum developed for and by local school communities
- Teacher, family and community leadership in forming public education policies.

If you can't make it to D.C., please touch base with Sunday about getting involved in local events – Sunday.cummins@nl.edu.

Post a comment to Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

You can access *A Blueprint for Reform: The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act* at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html>. This is Obama

administration's vision of what education should look like in our schools; the ESEA is the main federal law affecting education. There's also a short, six slide PPT at this site comparing the Blueprint to NCLB. Even if you do not have time to read the blueprint, you can still post a comment at

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/topic/esea-reauthorization/>. Click on the most recent blog entry and then scroll down to the bottom; there should be a place for you to post a comment (confidentially). Let Arne Duncan and his team know what you are thinking. I stopped by the Department of Education booth at IRA's Annual Conference in Orlando and the DOE representative was insistent that Duncan wants to hear teachers' voices on issues like too much testing. Let's see.

From Sunday Cummins,
Your Legislative Liaison

May/June 2011

Fox Valley Reading Council Board of Directors

President: Andrea Schaal - andrea-schaal@att.net
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Secretary: Beth Herrig- beth_herrig@ipsd.org
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**"Read, Read, Read."
~William Faulkner**

Fox Valley Reading Council Committee Chairs

Newspaper in Education: Katina Kastrantas
Legislative Representative: Sunday Cummins
Parents and Reading: Jackie Giordano
Adult and Family Literacy: Amy Stuckey