



Fox Valley Reading Council
Newsletter
An Affiliate of the Illinois Reading
Council

Spring 2008



A Message from Your Presidents...

As we write this people are relieved that ISAT has come and gone. With that our thoughts turn to warmer weather, spring break and ultimately summer vacation. The remaining months of this school year bring opportunities for us to get back to sharing our passion for **READING!** April is *National Poetry Month*. What a great time to share inspiring, beautiful or just plain silly poets like Robert Frost, Shel Silverstein, and Jack Prelutsky, just to name a few.

Spring is the perfect time to inspire our students to reconnect with a great book and get them hooked on reading. Join us on April 21st for our last 2007-2008 Fox Valley Reading Council event at Le Chocolat Lounge in Naperville, IL. We will enjoy hearing Roxanne Owens share ideas for Keeping our Kids Reading and Writing over the summer.

This will be our last newsletter as co-presidents for this council. We have immensely enjoyed our experiences at the local and state level. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with so many dedicated and passionate educators in the state of Illinois. Our wish for the upcoming year is to have greater participation from our local council members. If you make the commitment to be involved you will find it is a rewarding experience! Thank you to everyone on our board for their hard work and we know that the new co-presidents Karen Ringas and Kim Dillon will do an outstanding job next year!

Sincerely,

Amy Stuckey and Amy Kappel

Selecting Informational Books for Young Children

Parents want to promote reading in their homes; however they are often unsure about which books best support their child's reading development. Many parents ask their children's teachers for book lists. Typically, teachers suggest fiction titles; however we know that children benefit from a wide variety of reading experiences with multiple genres. Research shows that young children are interested in the real topics and events portrayed in informational books. Unfortunately, young children do not have regular opportunities to interact with informational books outside of the school setting.

Now would be an ideal time to encourage parents to read informational books with their children. The following checklist can be used as a guide to assist parents when choosing informational books for their children.

1. Cover

- Is the cover attractive? Is it colorful but not too busy?
- Is the title short enough to entice interest?
- Are the words understandable and in a large enough font?

2. Content/Topic

- Does the writer share intriguing facts?
- Is the topic interesting to young students?
- Is the content current and age appropriate?
- Is the content accurate and reliable? Does the writer provide references or evidence of reputable research sources?

3. Illustrations

- Are the illustrations large, clear, and bright but not overly crowded or busy?
- Do the photographs invite the reader to explore the text?
- Do the illustrations explain and enhance the content?
- Are the labels and captions simple yet sufficient?

4. Organization

- When appropriate, does the book include a table of contents, index and glossary?
- Are clearly divided sections, headings and subheadings provided?

5. Font size and type

- Do the spacing and placement of the words make the passages easy to read?
- Can a young reader follow the text along each page easily?

Stephens, K.E. (2008). Teaching Tips A Quick Guide to Selecting Great Informational Books for Young Children. *The Reading Teacher*, 61, .

Use this form to register today for...

Roxanne Owens

Keeping our Kids Reading and Writing Over the Summer

April 21, 2008
5:30-6:00pm Chocolate Bar
6:00-7:30pm Presentation

Le Chocolat Lounge
129 S. Washington Street
Naperville, IL

**** We will be raffling off MaryAnn Hoberman books throughout the evening****

Cost includes Chocolate Bar and Presentation.
CPDUs will be available.

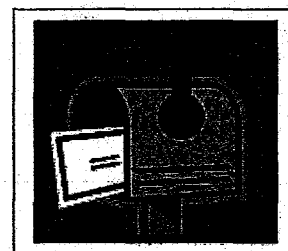
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Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____



Members and Students \$5.00 -

Non-member \$10.00 -

Register Early: Limited to the first **50** Participants

Please make checks payable to **Fox Valley Reading Council**

Mail this form to : Amy Stuckey 506 Mallard Point Drive, North Aurora, IL 60542

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2008

Victory Adult and Family Literacy Center is a program that promotes the literacy development of refugee families from a wide variety of countries including; Afghanistan, Turkey, Bosnia, Vietnam, Burma, Iraq, and Mexico. The center is located in a West Aurora apartment complex where the families reside.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of positions to work with children and adults on a regular, semi-regular, or as needed basis. Donations of food, clothing, books, and other literacy items are always needed. Please call Sue Sokolinski if you would like to volunteer or donate.

sokomom@comcast.net

(630) 881-7299

Positions Needed for 2008/2009

Vice-President

Secretary

Membership

If interested or would like more information about any of the above positions please contact
karen_ringas@ipsd.org

Summer Leadership Retreat will be held at Great Bear Lodge @ Starved Rock June 18-20. All expenses paid for active FVRC board members. This is an incredible team building/leadership opportunity. We encourage all board members to attend!



Dates to Remember:

- ❖ **April 21 Keeping Our Kids Reading and writing Over the Summer**
- ❖ **May 4- 8 IRA 53rd Annual Convention
“Engaging Learners in Literacy”
Atlanta, Georgia**
- ❖ **June 18,19,20 Leadership Retreat
Grand Bear Lodge & Resort
Starved Rock, IL**