



ILLINOIS TITLE I ASSOCIATION

ITA Email address:

ita@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

**Important Dates
To Remember**

March 15-17, 2012

Literacy In The Land of Lincoln
State Reading Conference
Prairie Capital Convention Center
Springfield, IL

**ITA Strand on Friday in
Vista Rooms in Hilton Hotel**

March 16, 2012

ITA Annual Meeting

Meeting—3—3:45 pm
Governor's Cabinet Room
2nd Floor A. Lincoln Hotel
Springfield, IL

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**Come to the
2012 IRC Conference
in Springfield
Featuring the
Title I Strand I
in the Vista Rooms
at the top of the
Hilton Hotel and enjoy
our outstanding
sessions.**

Technology for Classrooms



President's Message

Dear ITA members

Fall is one of my favorite times of year – maybe because it brings cooler weather, maybe because I enjoy watching football, or maybe because a new school year starts. I realized this fall that I have completed 40 years of teaching so beginning a new school year has been a strong element all of my life. Doesn't it bring a warm feeling to see the students come into the classroom with clean, new backpacks, new notebooks and long pencils and a smile of anticipation? Even college students begin each semester with a positive attitude and hopes of being the best student in the class. I truly hope your year is off to a great start and you can find many reasons to be positive as you work with students every day.

The Illinois Title I Association is a statewide organization of professionals that enjoy networking with other individuals who are interested in keeping up with the latest trends in education and sharing ideas to further literacy. This newsletter is one way we make connections with each other over the long distances that separate us. If you have an idea that would help others in their classrooms, send it to one of the board members (contact information is listed on another page of this newsletter) and it will be shared with the ITA membership in a newsletter. Our next issue of the newsletter will have a theme of "Literacy and A. Lincoln" and the deadline is November 19th so if you have some strategies that are tried and true, please share.

Finally, one of my biggest concerns is "aliteracy". I find many of my students do not want to read anything on paper – as one student told me – "it takes too long." Motivating young people to read is one of our biggest challenges and I hope you will help me keep up the fight to help young people realize the benefits of reading. To help you, I recommend a website that is "Dedicated to making kids readers for life." – that's according to their promotional material. The website address is: <readkiddoread.com> The site contains lists of books, reviews of books and interviews with authors. We've come a long way in the last 100 years to stomp out illiteracy – now we need to work on eliminating aliteracy. Join in this fight.

Until next time,
Melinda Grimm, ITA President

*The man who does not read good books
has no advantage over the man who can't
read them." – attributed to Mark Twain*

ITA Leadership and Business Meeting Highlights



Learn more about
Technology by
joining Illinois Title I
Association (ITA) & the
Illinois Reading
Council (IRC)
Today.

Board Meeting Minutes

- ◆ ITA Board met in September following the Board of Directors Meeting.
- ◆ Officers and their contact information appear in the list on this page.
- ◆ We look forward to the IRC Conference and hope you attend one or more of the sessions in the Title I Strand. We had a fine turn out last year and hope to repeat the fun and learning in 2012 in the Vista Rooms atop the Hilton Hotel.
- ◆ Next newsletter deadline is in November 10, 2011 - send in articles

ITA continues to seek members interested in becoming chairs for standing committees. Your ideas and leadership are what keeps ITA a growing organization. Contact board members if you wish to join the ITA board. Questions about reading? —the ITA board is always ready to help. The board members' contact infor-

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Extra Edition

Ann Peters

Sign up for NIE print copies of the Chicago Sun-Times. This year the Chicago Sun-Times is offering complimentary E-paper subscriptions to all schools in Illinois for the entire school year. The E-paper subscription would be for all 7 days of the week (Monday- Sunday).

As part of your subscription, the Chicago Sun-Times will email weekly newspaper activities to use with your E-paper edition of the Sun-Times throughout the school year. Activities will be geared toward a wide range of grade levels and topics. Through the month of October, every Monday there will be a special NIE Fire Safety page in the E-paper. This page will also be attached to your weekly activities during the program. Attached is an example of the first Fire Safety page that recently ran in the E-paper as well as the activities that go along with it.

Features to note:

The ability to print articles for easy distribution to an entire classroom

Weekly activities to use with your E-paper

The ability to search for specific words or phrases

Translation of articles into 11 languages such as Spanish, Japanese, French, etc.

30 days of archives of the paper, including Saturday and Sunday editions

Listen to our stories via text to speech function

Search articles by topic, date, author and more

Please share this complimentary offer with other teachers you think may be interested! NIE E-paper subscribers must teach in a classroom setting and have an email address to receive their E-paper edition. Participants will receive their daily Chicago Sun-Times email alert 7 days a week, giving them the opportunity to review weekend news events in the classroom.

If multiple teachers at a school would like to register to receive an E-paper subscription, each teacher must complete and return an order form for our files. (attached)

NIE E-paper orders can be submitted via email or fax to: ssurch@suntimes.com or fax to 312.321.1136.

Interested educators are encouraged to sign up early as registration is limited to first come – first served.

Interested educators should contact:

Sarah Surch

Sales Coordinator, Audience Development

Sun-Times Media

Ph: 312-321-2811 || F: 312-321-1136 || C: 312-363-7962

Adults Need Reading Support!

Mary Kay Beedle

Just as the kids go back to school, adults are also finding themselves going back to school. In 2009, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) started a five-year strategic vision for the needs of adult education learners. Illinois' on-line GED preparation course has helped other states develop an online GED prep class. Illinois leads and exceeds in several areas of adult education including benchmark gains, learner attendance hours, and assisting and/or retaining employment. The strategic plan *Creating Pathways for Adult Learners* can be viewed at : http://www.iccb.org/pdf/adulted/Adult_Education_Strategic_Plan_11-12-09_Final.pdf

There is an Illinois Adult Learner Hotline. The hotline number is 1-800-321-9511. There are bilingual operators to assist. Service referrals are in the areas of GED test preparation, in English and Spanish, along with testing sites. The referral services are for more than just students.

Also included are referral services for volunteers and employers for Adult Literacy Education Programs in Illinois. There is a website for provider referral services at:

<http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/hotline> .



It

Legislative Update

Legislation Update by Cara Schuster

As you can imagine interpreting the outcome of the federal government's legislation on budgetary matters concerning literacy education is a bit like reading a technical document for an electronic gadget. I will do my best to interpret the outcome of the recent information presented in the International Reading Association's advocacy website as well as the Illinois State Board of Education governmental relations website.

Striving Readers Grants have been awarded to six states for a total of \$180 million. Thirty-five states applied, but the following states received the grant: Georgia, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Texas. This grant is the discretionary grant, while all states will receive money from a formula grant not less than \$150,000. According to the IRA website, "Many of those states have made important progress in establishing literacy teams and developing draft plans that serve the literacy needs of children from birth through grade 12." Fifteen percent of the money should go towards literacy activities for children from birth to age 5, 40% for students in grades K-5, and 40% for students in grades 6-12. The remaining five percent is for the use of the state for the cost of distributing the funds (personnel, etc.). The six states will then hold competitions of their own for their districts within the state to distribute the money. To determine which districts receive the funding, the criteria has been established as, "Funds will support programs that advance literacy skills through professional development, screening and assessment, targeted interventions for students reading below grade level and other research-based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice." The department is planning on further support of the success of these grants through cross-state collaboration, literacy seminars, etc.

Now, to confuse you a little more, "Under the administration's FY 2012 budget proposal, reading and literacy programs would be administered under a new effort to be known as the Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy program." This program also has a competitive grant which goals are very similar to the Striving Readers grants, but it appears that the grant money will be supplemented by higher education institutes and other fundraising entities. This link was provided at the International Reading Association's website and provides more formal language and information <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders-literacy/index.html>. An example of this information is below.

"The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) program is authorized as part of the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 111-117) under the Title I demonstration authority (Part E, Section 1502 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Through the Act, Congress provided \$200 million for a comprehensive literacy development and education program to advance literacy skills for students from birth through grade 12."

This past summer I had the opportunity to meet with the Illinois Reading Council Legislative Committee and they had a rough draft of the Illinois State Board of Education's intentions of eligibility for competitive grants throughout the state. It was massive. But, it did bring to my mind the question of how the state is choosing the literacy committee who in turn are determining which districts will be the recipients of money. So, I went to the ISBE website and I think I have just begun to touch on how Title I receives its money. Check out this website for dates when Title I money may be coming to your district <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>.

Providing you with the most succinct information regarding legislation and its impact on Title I personnel and materials, is key but it appears to be a mystery that needs to be unraveled as information trickles down from the federal government. If you visit these websites, you may find some clarity on the government's intentions, but the details and plans on how to meet their intentions and goals are not in place. The impact the legislation has on our students will be the final determination of its success. Generally, there are two stances to take on any legislation that comes down the pipe or any directives from administration. The first is to complain and hope it will not interfere with us. The second is to try to figure it out and work with it so we can make a difference in students' lives. Learning to circumvent is one of the greatest skills a teacher needs to make a difference. I'm still trying to figure it out and work it. Please email me with any questions or comments as I continue to explore legislation that impacts Title I. In the meantime check out these websites.

<http://reading.org/General/Legislative.aspx>

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/> (What Works Clearinghouse-interventions and teaching strategies approved by approved committees)

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders-literacy/resources.html> (Additional resources for striving readers legislation)

International Literacy

ITA Supports International Literacy By Noma Simpson

Each year ITA supports an international literacy project. This year our focus will be with a project in India. Embracing literacy in cultures around the world makes each of us aware of hurdles literacy education faces for all students.

Don't Forget
Check the IRC website
For
Conference Registration Information.

We look forward to seeing you
As we explore
Literacy in the Land of Lincoln.

Already a current IRC member?

To also join ITA, just send an additional
\$15.00 until your next renewal to IRC.

Ready to Use!

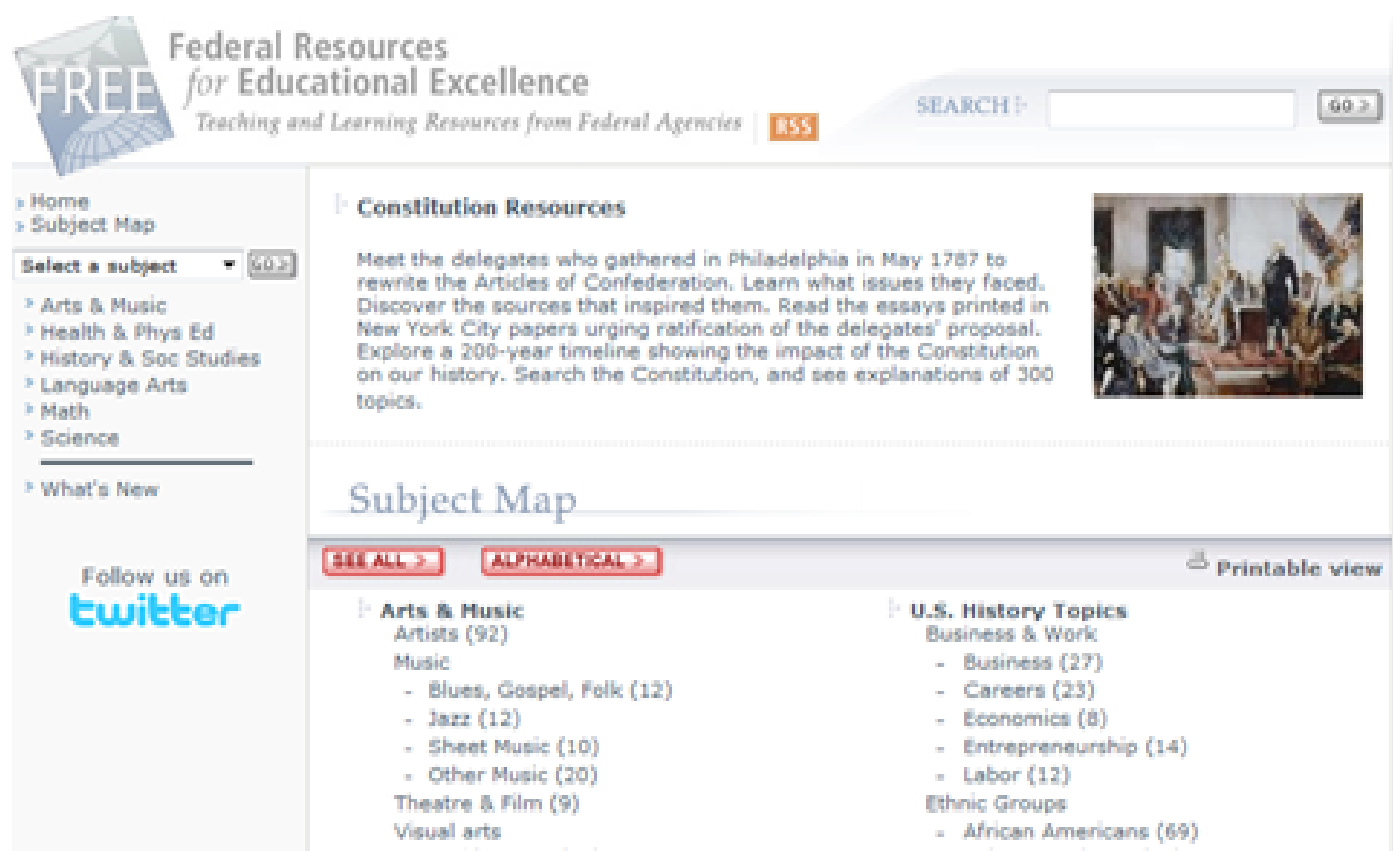
During my afternoon drive time I sometimes listen to 5 at 5 on WLS. They announce 5 newsworthy events that have taken place during the day. My Back-to-School tip is to do 3 at 3. While my 2nd graders are lined up for the bus it is time for 3 at 3! We talk about 3 memorable events of our day. Hoping for carryover when they get off the bus, maybe the answer won't be, "Nothing," when asked, "What did you do in school today?"



The Information Train

My husband's grandmother turned ninety-nine this summer. When she was a girl she used an outhouse and was lucky to have any electricity. Antibiotics had not been invented yet. Juxtapose her life as a child with those of the students we teach. Technology and conveniences are everywhere (including flush toilets). Technology is the avenue of communication, entertainment, and knowledge in our current world and in order to meet our students where they are we may need to incorporate technology in our classrooms. To start out the new year it may be worthwhile to investigate some of the free websites below and be creative in integrating them into your curriculum. Who knows? You could become the 'hip' teacher yet.

<http://free.ed.gov/>



Federal Resources for Educational Excellence
Teaching and Learning Resources from Federal Agencies

SEARCH: GO >

Home
Subject Map

Select a subject

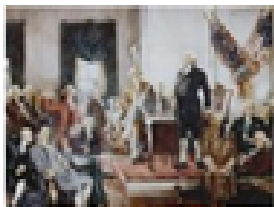
- Arts & Music
- Health & Phys Ed
- History & Soc Studies
- Language Arts
- Math
- Science

What's New

Follow us on **twitter**

Constitution Resources

Meet the delegates who gathered in Philadelphia in May 1787 to rewrite the Articles of Confederation. Learn what issues they faced. Discover the sources that inspired them. Read the essays printed in New York City papers urging ratification of the delegates' proposal. Explore a 200-year timeline showing the impact of the Constitution on our history. Search the Constitution, and see explanations of 300 topics.



Subject Map

- Arts & Music**
 - Artists (92)
 - Music
 - Blues, Gospel, Folk (12)
 - Jazz (12)
 - Sheet Music (10)
 - Other Music (20)
 - Theatre & Film (9)
 - Visual arts
- U.S. History Topics**
 - Business & Work
 - Business (27)
 - Careers (23)
 - Economics (8)
 - Entrepreneurship (14)
 - Labor (12)
 - Ethnic Groups
 - African Americans (69)

<http://reading.org/General/Default.aspx>

Edmodo

Ann Peters

There is a free site for teachers at Edmodo.com. It is designed specifically for schools. The site runs similarly to Blackboard. A teacher can pose a question to her students, put You Tube videos on there for the students to see, set up a calendar of assignments, or share other information with students. The teacher can set it up so that he/she gets an e-mail alert when a student posts a reply, and can delete an inappropriate student response (if necessary). It can also be set up as a teacher site, school site, or even district site.

Here We Go!

By Teddie Torney

What job besides teaching has such clear starting and ending points each year? The start of each school year provides a comforting routine for both teachers and students.

For me, starting off each fall means gathering information. In my role as a classroom teacher, I start by rolling out my Reading Workshop right away, and making time to **interview each student** about reading, books, and general interests. As a reading specialist, my classes are small, making interviews very possible. With larger groups, an interest inventory can provide similar information, but an individual conference with a student is such a positive experience, I would try to somehow find time for it.

I want to talk to my students, but I also want to them to talk to each other, so I start the year with some type of getting-to-know-you activity that involves **student-to-student interviews**. All these activities are designed to gather information about students' interests, likes and dislikes, favorites, and families. The interview "data" is then converted into some project: a poem, a scrapbook, a poster, etc. Projects decorate the room just in time for curriculum night.

As a literacy coach, I also need to gather information about the teachers I work with. Since I've worked at my school for many years, as has most of our staff, I don't need personal information. What I need to determine is how I can help teachers meet the needs of students throughout the year.

To do this, early in the school year I ask teachers to sign up for a **10 minute meeting** with me during plan time or before or after school. These interviews are very casual, and I provide teachers with some little treat (post-it notes, highlighters, CANDY!) as reward for sharing their precious time with me. The most important questions for me are: What is difficult this year about teaching your subject? and What reading issues are you seeing with your students? I'm always amazed at how much information I gather through these casual interviews, and I always come away from them with ways to assist them in the classroom.

I notice all of my ideas for a positive start to the school year involve **talking**. Despite all of the technical advances that we live with, nothing takes the place of face-to-face communication.