

Illinois Title I Association

September 2008

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS
- ◆ BYLAWS REVISIONS
- ◆ BANNED BOOKS WEEK
- ◆ TEEN READ WEEK
- ◆ NEWSPAPERS IN ED.
- ◆ MYRON MASON
- ◆ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT READING

Important Dates to Remember

September 27, 2008

IRC Board of Directors Meeting—9 am to 1 pm
Chateau Hotel
Bloomington, IL

November 15, 2008

IRC Board of Directors Meeting—9 am to 1 pm
Chateau Hotel
Bloomington, IL

March 19-21, 2009

Reading! Engage!
Excite! Ignite!
IRC State Conference
Prairie Capital
Convention Center
Springfield, IL

Email address:



ita@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

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"Teaching reading IS rocket science."

—Louisa Moats



Dear ITA Member,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 Illinois Title I Association year. Getting back into the swing of the school year can be trying as we feel pulled from our less structured days of summer. This issue of the newsletter is devoted to engaging our student to become life-long readers as well as us as reading professionals. We often overlook how difficult the task of engaging ourselves in professional development and keeping current on literacy issues can be. Bringing a fresh look to our tried and true methods as well as exploring new ideas will engage all of us. Take time to share new or different ideas with your colleagues to bring the wonderful world of reading to all you touch.

Each year ITA offers an opportunity for literacy grants to its members. Last year after careful consideration, no grants were awarded. Look for the announcement of this year's winners in the next newsletter.

Please note that the contact information for each committee chair is listed on the next page. You are encouraged to contact any of them with questions, concerns, or ideas. The 2008-2009 ITA Board is working for you and with you.

Wishing each of you a successful year,
Diane M. Rezek Fator, President



Challenge 2008

By Diane Fator



At the July 7, 2008 Lions Club Meeting in De Kalb, IL, the Illinois Title 1 Association presented the group with *Challenge 2008*. This challenge is an effort to put books into the hands of every person in Illinois who wants them. To accomplish this, Illinois Title 1 Association is asking groups to help identify places, such as women's shelters, laundromats, etc., where books are needed. ITA will then make sure that gently used books are placed in these areas for anyone to use or take. It is important to the reading health of Illinois that everyone, young or old, has the opportunity to read. Placing materials in locations that would not normally have access to reading materials is very important to the people these agencies serve. ITA wishes to thank Lions Club of De Kalb for their assistance with this project.

2008-2009

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Parents and Reading:	
By-Laws:	
Adult Literacy:	Diane Fator

HIGHLIGHTS 4/19/08 BUSINESS MEETING

- ITA has closed our old website and now have a new website address in conjunction with the Illinois Reading Council
- IRC Conference 2009 will be held in Springfield March 19-21.
- 2009 IRC conference **will not** conflict with ISAT testing
- ITA currently has 138 members but are always welcoming new members—fill out form on the back of this newsletter
- The ITA Board will meet in July at the IRC office in Bloomington to plan the coming year and approve the budget.
- President-elect Diane Fator described the new ITA Challenge Program—ITA's effort to further literacy by putting books in the hands of everyone in Illinois.



2008-2009

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Using Your School Librarian To Engage Students

By Diane Fator



Your librarian or someone in a similar position may be a person to help engage your students. As students mature as readers, their independent reading choices become more focused. This is especially true for students in grades 3 and up. It is during this time that students' reading energy shifts from showing that they can read to selecting what they want to read. Many students are overwhelmed by the numbers of books in a given area. If students can't find what they want to read, they simply stop reading. Here's where your librarian can be your biggest help in engaging your students. At the beginning of the year have your students complete a short reading interest survey.

Include questions like:

- What do you like to read?
- What is your least favorite reading topic?
- What length of book do you like to read?
- Do you like to read fiction or non fiction?

Bring the gathered information to your librarian to be used as guidelines to help in the selection or suggestion of books of interest. Putting books of interest into the hands of struggling readers is key to independent reading success. This also opens a new line of communication with your students. As interests changes your librarian may be the first to know. With the help of your library staff, reading will continue inside and outside of school but best of all, you will have more engaged readers in your classroom!

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)

Students receive: *Faces of the Future: Hispanics Who Will Influence the World*, a bilingual student supplement— 8 printed or electronic versions of the Chicago Tribune, on Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 30—Oct. 23, 2008. (Newspaper delivery where available.)

Teachers receive: Teacher's Guide with reproducible activities to accompany student supplement (materials will be available online if you choose the e-Edition). Also receive a full-color poster. For more information: - www.nie.chicagotribune.com Registration deadline: September 24th

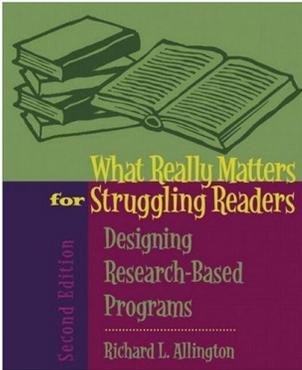
Banned Books Week is September 27—October 4.

For the past 27 years, Banned Books Week has been observed to mark the importance of the power of free speech to a self-governing citizenry. According to the American Library Association, a sponsor of Banned Book Week, a seemingly simple children's tale, *And Tango Makes Three* — about two male penguins caring for an orphaned egg — has topped the list of ALA's 10 Most Challenged Books last year. Suggested activities for celebrating the right to freely read include read-alouds from challenged books; displaying posters, pins, etc.; and even writing to local, state, and federal legislators urging them to support the right to read. For more information visit www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm (*Reading Today*—Vol. 26, NO.1, 2008)

Teen Read Week is October 12—18. Main Theme—"Read For the Fun of It"

Teenagers today are swamped with huge demands on their time. Though many young people realize the importance of reading they have so many activities to choose from in their free time that reading can get lost in the shuffle. Many active literacy campaigns exist but very few focus on teenagers.

One very important campaign that does target teens is Teen Read Week and is celebrated at thousands of public and school libraries, classrooms, and bookstores across the country. This year's sub-theme is "Books with Bite @ your Library" promoting a variety of books — from vampire stories to cooking to technology (byte) — as a tool for getting young adults to read. For more information visit www.ala.org/teenread (*Reading Today*—Vol. 26, NO.1, 2008)



Energize With Books!

By Teddie Torney

A great way to energize staff is to organize a professional book club. At Westfield Middle School, we have TAPER (Teachers As Professional Education Readers) lunchtime book clubs, and many of our teachers have become enthusiastic book club members. First, a professional book dealing with a topic of interest, usually literacy-related, is chosen. Then a flyer is sent to teachers announcing the book, with dates and times. After teachers sign up, books are ordered. Westfield's principal generously supports our club by purchasing the books and providing a delicious pizza lunch. Two book club dates are selected; during the first meeting, we discuss the book. Teachers then go back to their classrooms to try out an idea from the book. Two weeks later we have our second lunch meeting and share our experiences.

Our book club idea is from Richard Allington's book, *What Really Matters For Struggling Readers: Designing Research-Based Programs*. As the book suggests, we focus our discussion on five questions:

- What was the author arguing for?
- Does the text seem to offer useful ideas for our school/classrooms?
- What do we need more information about?
- Who has tried to implement one or more ideas in their classroom?
- Does it make sense to support additional applications of these ideas?

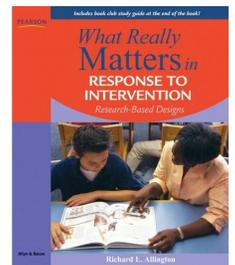
(Allington, 2001)

Supportive administration and enthusiastic teacher-readers (and great pizza!) have energized our staff and encouraged all of us to read more of the great professional resources available to educators.

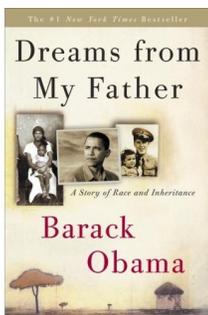
Another Allington Book

by Melinda Grimm

With the great interest in RTI (Response To Intervention) another of Richard Allington's books is sure to be of interest to those involved. *What Really Matters in Response to Intervention: Research-based Designs* (What Really Matters Series). I use this book in my Literacy Methods course for elementary teaching candidates so they will be introduced to RTI—very informative.



Editor's Note: My apologies to Teddie for omitting this in our May newsletter so I am including it now—after all, we can always save this to read next summer!!



Dreams From My Father: A Great Summer (Or Any Other Time) Read

By Teddie Torney

Like many people, I have been inspired and impressed by Illinois' own Barack Obama's campaign speeches. He seems a compelling person, and to learn about him I didn't want to read more speeches, but I wanted to know about his earlier life. I picked up a copy of *Dreams From My Father* at the Anderson Book Store booth at the Springfield IRC conference in March.

The book was first published in 1995, so many people know the basics of Barack Obama's story: his birth to a white mother and a Kenyan father, his childhood in Kansas, Indonesia, and Hawaii, and his move to Chicago to work as a community organizer on the South side. It is fascinating to read about Obama's conscious decision to explore his identity as a black man, which eventually leads him to Kenya to meet his large African family. The reader feels his sense of wonder as he meets seemingly endless grandmothers, siblings, and cousins (his grandfather and father each had at least four wives), each supplying a piece of the complex jigsaw puzzle of his heritage. And in the telling of his story, African history is always the backdrop, providing cultural color, both dark and light.

More satisfying and amazing than the mere facts of his life, is Obama's telling of his story. As I read, I could hear Obama himself telling the story. His written words carry the same poetry and graceful cadences of his spoken words. The book is both informative and reflective, and always firmly intelligent. It reads like the terrific story that it is and is a book for any season.

ITA By-Laws Proposed Revisions & ITA Strand Review

Volume 16 Issue 1

Note: Members of have been working on revising the ITA By-Laws and following are the last proposed changes. These revisions will be voted on soon. If you have any input, suggestions, or concerns, contact Diane Fator, President.

Revisions are proposed as follows: Former language is italicized. Additions are underlined and in bold. Throughout the Revised By-Laws, the revisions committee recommended that the word "Council" be used when referring to the Illinois Title I Association to provide consistency

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 6 - Duties of Vice president: The vice president shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors, and as a member of the Program Committee. Should the office of president-elect become vacant, the vice president shall serve the unexpired portion of the president-elect's term. **The vice president shall oversee the completion of and submit all forms pertaining to the following awards: (a) Council of Excellence (IRC) ; (b) Honor Council (IRA).** **Section 9 - Duties of Immediate Past President:** The immediate past president shall: 1) serve as advisor to the Board; 2) chair the nominating committee; **(3) monitor the Illinois Title One Association's website as it pertains to member questions.**

ARTICLE VI - ASSEMBLY

Section 1—Composition: *The assembly shall consist of the Board of Directors and all other members of the council.* **The assembly shall be open to all members of the council in good standing.** **Section 3—**Quorum: A quorum shall consist of 20% of all *those eligible to vote* **active members** in the assembly.

ARTICLE VII - NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 3—Mode of Election: **The voting shall take place at a meeting of the council. The president** *If the voting is to take place at a meeting of the council, the president shall give an opportunity to propose nominations from the floor.. A plurality of the votes cast shall constitute an election. (remove this phrase)*

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 2—Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the president (who shall serve as chairperson), the president elect, *and the vice president,* **secretary, treasurer, and past president.**

Section 3 - Publicity Committee: The Publicity Committee shall publicize all council meetings and activities and work with **media, web-sites,** television and radio stations and local and state newspapers. Persons representing various interests in Title I issues - public school administrators, public school teachers, college administrators and/or teachers-shall compose the committee.

Section 4—Membership Committee: The Committee on Membership shall: 1) keep an accurate record of total membership, including latest **mailing addresses, email addresses,**

ARTICLE XII—AMENDMENTS

Section 3—Incorporation: Amendments adopted as described in Section 2 shall be incorporated into these bylaws. Copies of all amendments shall immediately be sent to the **IRA State Coordinator at the IRC Office.** *Council Coordinator at IRA Headquarters and to the state/provincial president and coordinator. (remove)*

The Best of Myron Mason — Highlights of Mr. Mason's ITA Strand Presentation **By Teddie Torney and Sue Riddell**

Myron Mason presented a double session at the IRC conference in March. Mr. Mason is the Title I/NCLB "guru" on the Illinois State Board of Education. Some highlights of his question-answer session:

1. There are two types of Title I programs: School-wide and Targeted Assistance.
2. In School-wide programs, Title money is spread across the whole school.
3. In Targeted-Assistance programs, a set group of students is selected early in the year, and Title I money can be used only for these students.
4. Rti (Response to intervention) is **not** a Special Education program, and may actually reduce the number of students in Special Education programs.
5. Grades should not be given in Title I programs.
6. Right now there are no qualifications for literacy coaches

A Thompson Publishing publication, *The Title I Monitor*, is a newsletter that districts can subscribe to in order to receive up-to-date information about Title I and NCLB.

ITA honored Mr. Mason for all of his help in presenting at the Title I Strands at the IRC Conference in Springfield. For many years he has come and met with teachers at this session and answered questions and addressed concerns. He plans on retiring by the end of this year. We thank him for all of his help in making us the most informed Title I teachers we can be.

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
READING ASSOCIATION AND ILLINOIS
READING COUNCIL

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Illinois Title I Association

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- I have enclosed \$40.00 for ITA Membership as a new member
- I have enclosed \$15.00 for ITA Membership—add to my current IRC membership

Mail checks payable to: **Illinois Reading Council**
1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2
Normal, IL 61761-1836

Already a current IRC member?
To also join ITA, just send \$15.00 until
your next renewal