


# LIVE, LAUGH, READ!

Volume 1, Issue 3

Winter 2011



Hey! Going to the Illinois Reading Council Conference? Don't Forget your MID-State Passport! Membership has its benefits....

<p><i>MID-State Reading Council</i></p> <p><b>EVENTS PASSPORT</b></p> 	Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Expires: June 30, 2011	<p><b>IRA Member</b></p> <p><b>MID-State Reading Council Member</b></p> <p><b>Sponsor a new member</b></p>	<p><b>Meet &amp; Greet</b> Sept. 30, 2010 Station 220</p> <p><b>Fall Festival</b> Nov. 4, 2010 Northpoint Elementary</p> <p><b>IRC Conference</b> March 17-19, 2011 Springfield, IL</p> <p><b>Spring Fling</b> April 7, 2011 Kingsley Jr. High School</p> <p><b>Summer Conference</b> June 9, 2011</p>							
	<p>For each event you attend, any of the councils that you are a member of, or if you sponsor a new member, you will receive a stamp on the boxes below. Receive at least 6 stamps and you will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a year's membership to MID-State Reading Council. It's a \$40 value.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>									

- Officers:**  
 President  
 Liz Luering  
 Luerinea@unit5.org
- Past President:**  
 Katie Albritton  
 albrittk@unit5.org
- President Elect**  
 Teresa Arendell  
 arendeta@unit5.org
- Vice-President**  
 Janel Dowling  
 dowlingjn@unit5.org
- Treasurer**  
 Carol Owles  
 csowles@ilstu.edu
- Secretary**  
 Gail McDermott  
 Mcdermog@unit5.org

**The President's Corner...**

*I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and that your new year is off to a great start! Winter has certainly arrived. Time to curl up with a good book! Although winter can be beautiful with that newly fallen snow, we teachers know that means students are often kept inside due to cold temperatures and keeping their attention starts to become a challenge. I would like to recommend some great winter books that your students might enjoy. One of my favorites to read this time of year is Stranger in the Woods by Carl R. Sams and Jean Stoick. This is a beautiful photographic fantasy that my students loved! Another, of course, is Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner. We have had fun decorating our room with snowmen and snowflakes. Be sure to check out some of our board member's favorites inside this issue. Mark your calendars for our spring event coming up on April 7<sup>th</sup> and our summer conference with Candace Fleming on June 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there! Keep reading.*

*Liz Luering*

*Mid-State Reading Council President*

**An Idea for a Snowy Day**-By Debbie Johnson- (Parents in Reading

Have you tried the [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com) site lately? Click on Read Every Day, Lead a Better Life. There's a section for parents and teachers with another section where you can share your "Bookprint." What's that you ask? Your "Bookprint" would be the 5 books that left an indelible mark on your life. During the next snow storm, check it out!

**Save The Dates**

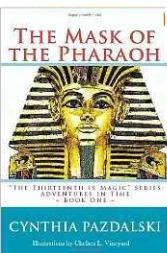
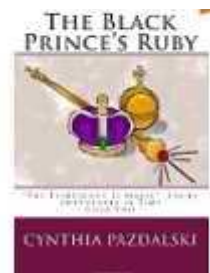
- Spring Fling  
Thursday, April 7 5-7:30
- Summer Conference with  
Candace Fleming & Cindy  
Georgis  
June 9, 2011

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MID-State Reading Council  
 Serving McLean & DeWitt, Counties

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MID-STATE READING COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND BLOG! BECOME A FRIEND OF MID-STATE AND STAY INFORMED OF UPCOMING LITERACY OPPORTUNITIES!



## Board Members

**Membership Chairs**  
Noma Simpson/Brittney Minton  
nsimpson@lexington.k12.il.us  
brittney.minton@gmail.com

**Publicity**  
Mary Current/Anne Atteberry  
Mary.current@stmarysschol.net  
attebera@unit5.org

**Hospitality**  
Donna Rollins  
Rollindj@unit5.org

**Parents in Reading**  
Debbie Johnson  
djohnson@prairiecentral.org

**Grant Chair**  
Trish Warner  
warnert@unit5.org

**Jr. High/Middle School Liaison**  
Terri Peoples  
peoplesta@unit5.org

**Bloomington Public Library Liaison**  
Georgianne Schau  
georgiannes@bloomingtonlibrary.org

**Normal Public Library Liaison**  
Katrina Pollitt  
Kpollitt@normallibrary.org

## Curl Up with a Good Book- Noma Simpson (Co-Membership Chair)

During the winter months, I was able to read two books written by Cynthia Pazdalski. Cynthia is a teaching assistant at LeRoy Elementary School in Illinois. This book started out as a challenge thrown out to a sixth-grade reading class at LeRoy Elementary School. The teacher showed the class a wonderful picture book entitled *The Pictures of Harris Burdick*. This enchanting book claimed that a man named Harris Burdick brought a series of his drawings to a publisher in hopes of finding work as an illustrator. He left the drawings with the publisher for consideration. This led Cynthia to write two books and is on her third book because of the challenge from her students.

The first book called *The Mask of the Pharaoh* is about a twelve-year old Daniel Trueblood getting dumped by his parents

at his ever-so-great Aunt Bertha's farm house in Illinois. He thinks he's in for a boring time. Little does he suspect that he is actually in for the time of his life as he travels back to 1922 for a new, exciting adventure.

Daniel and his best friends, the Crumbucket, kids-brave Diamante, brainy Cinquain, and little Haiku join up with Emmaline, an escaped dove, to form a magic show to keep history from being changed. They do this while waging battle with a time-traveling villain whose thirst for magical treasures and evil deeds spans across decades.

But never fear readers, help is on the way not only for the heroes in the book but for you, too. There is a silly dictionary and definitions section at the back of the book to help with any unfamiliar words, and it's worth read-

ing just for the fun of it.

The second book, called *The Black Prince's Ruby*, is about Emmaline, the magic dove, who is at it again as she whisks 12 year-old Daniel Trueblood and his friends Diamante, Cinquain, and Haiku Crumbucket to jolly, old England. But the four friends find that England, circa 1671, isn't so fun. For the first and only time in history, the fabulous crown jewels of England have been stolen and heads will roll if Daniel and his friends can't find the missing crown and return it to its rightful owner-King Charles II. As if that wasn't enough trouble, the heroes have to put up with strange foods, no toilets, dirt floors, and evil adversaries. Emmaline will not even consider returning the children to their own time until the crown is recovered and history is put to right.

## New Grant Opportunity!- Trisha Warner (Grants Chair)

### Carol Berry Memorial Literacy Grant for summer 2011—Up to \$300 Awarded

This year the council will award this grant twice. The fall grant has been awarded so now it is time to begin applying for the summer grant. Grants are awarded based on the worthiness of the project described in the application and the completeness of the information provided. The summer grant will be awarded at MID-State's summer conference on June 9,

2011. Applications are due no later than May 27, 2011. Applications should be mailed to Trisha Warner at 303 Kingsley Street, Normal, IL 61761, or sent electronically to [warnert@unit5.org](mailto:warnert@unit5.org). Your application should include the following items:

- ◆ Contact Person
- ◆ Phone/email
- ◆ Street Address, City, Zip

- ◆ Date of Application
- ◆ Title
- ◆ Date of Project
- ◆ Place
- ◆ Statement of Purpose
- ◆ Needs Statement
- ◆ Description of Population Served
- ◆ Description of Project
- ◆ Itemized Budget
- ◆ Plan for Publicity
- ◆ Plan for Evaluation

# AT THE LIBRARY

## Local Libraries- Your Best Resource for LITERACY!

The Bloomington Public & Normal Public Libraries often feature many exciting events and resources for all ages.

Both libraries have very useful websites that offer a plethora of ideas for building literacy and having fun at the same time. Please check out Bloomington Public Li-

brary's website at [www.bloomingtonlibrary.org](http://www.bloomingtonlibrary.org). The Normal Public Library's website is located at [www.normal-library.org](http://www.normal-library.org). Come see what's happening!

## Carol Berry Memorial Literacy Grant Update- Trisha Warner (Grants)

The fall grant of \$300 was awarded to Rexie Lanier, Literacy Specialist for McLean County Unit 5. Rexie will use the grant to benefit the district's three (soon to be four) middle schools. This year, for the first time ever, the district's middle schools have worked together to promote literacy through monthly activities. The grant will offer

another opportunity for the schools to be literate together. We've all seen and love the celebrity READ posters from the American Library Association (ALA). With the grant money, Rexie has purchased software from the ALA to create READ pictures of students, staff, and student groups reading a favorite book. These pictures will be on display throughout the middle schools. Congratulations to Rexie and all the middle school students at Unit 5!

## Fall Fest Mini-Conference Update- Liz Laering (President)

In November, MID-State held a very successful mini-conference. We hosted Crystal Anderson & Elaine Modene of Aurora, Illinois. These two high energy ladies

presented on The CAFÉ in the Classroom. They spoke to a packed house! There were over 120 people in attendance. We all took away great ideas for a comprehensive

approach to literacy. It was a fun evening. We hope to hear more from these fantastic speakers in the future!



BE SURE TO REGISTER AND ATTEND IRC'S 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ILLINOIS READING CONFERENCE MARCH 17-19, 2011 IN SPRINGFIELD, IL— "LITERACY OUTSIDE THE BOX!" GREAT SPEAKERS, AUTHORS, AND EVENTS!! GO TO THE IRC WEBSITE @ [WWW.ILLINOISREADINGCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.ILLINOISREADINGCOUNCIL.ORG) FOR INFORMATION & REGISTRATION!

Mid-State Reading Council proudly presents



# Spring Fling



## *Increasing Reading Performance through Technology*

It is no surprise the students in our classroom today are technology natives. While most of our classroom literacy practices are based on traditional printed texts, we can embrace the technology our students are involved in to extend their learning, increase motivation, and honor our students' voices. Join us while our **keynote speaker, Tracy Tarasiuk, shares ideas for utilizing technology practices while increasing student performance and engagement in reading.** Using wiki spaces to organize information and meaning while reading novels can increase student collaboration and support meaning making in book clubs. By creating digital book talks students engage in transformed practice in which they demonstrate understanding in other contexts. Incorporating music and images in poetry can increase students' success in attempt at interpretation. Come hear about these fabulous ideas that can easily be implemented in your classroom!

**When:** April 7, 2011  
**Time:** 5:00-7:30 pm  
**Where:** Kingsley Junior High School  
303 Kingsley Street  
Normal, IL 61761  
**CPDUs:** 1  
**RSVP:** Register by Friday, April 1, 2011

*o summer conference!  
vith you to Spring Fling  
'long. Books will be  
mer reading. For every  
'EE registration to our  
value!*

----- ✂✂✂ ----- Detach and return with payment to register----- ✂✂✂-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees:**  
Please check one. \_\_\_\_\_ Mid-State Members - \$7.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Members -\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Students-\$5.00  
Make checks payable to: MID-State Reading Council

**Dinner Selections:**  
Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Meal \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Vegetarian Meal

**Send registration to:**  
Janel Dowling @ Kingsley Junior High School  
303 Kingsley St. Normal, IL 61761

*will be awarded! Dinner  
vided! Bring a friend or  
two along!  
ish to bring your laptop  
u; however, it is not  
necessary.*

**Registration is open NOW for MID-State Reading Council's  
Summer Conference - Thursday, June 9, 2011!**

**Title: Writing Under the Influence (of Literature)**

**Featuring: Candace Fleming and Cyndi Giorgis**



The conference presentation will address the question, “How does the literature that authors write and teachers read to and with students inform as well as transform their writing?” The presenters will develop the idea of a triangular intersection between children’s literature, teacher, and writer and consider how and why children’s literature becomes a key component in learning to write. In addition, the presenters will exam the role of the read aloud as foundational for direct and indirect lessons about writing and explore how independent reading teaches students about the craft of writing and the impact of writing on the reader.

Candace Fleming is an acclaimed author of more than twenty books for children including the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award-winning biography, *The Lincolns*; the bestselling picture book, *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*; the award winning *The Great and Only P.T. Barnum*; and the beloved *Boxes for Katje*.

Cyndi Giorgis is a Professor of Literacy Education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Children’s Literature* and has been a book reviewer for *The Reading Teacher* and *Book Links Magazine*. She has published several books including *The Wonder of It All: When Literature and Literacy Intersect*, *Literature for Young Children: Supporting Emergent Literacy Ages 0 -8*, and *Reading Aloud and Beyond*. Dr. Giorgis teaches courses in children’s literature and language arts at UNLV.

**Register today to attend this exciting conference! Details and registration form are included in this newsletter!!**

**MID-State Reading Council's Annual Summer Conference**

**Writing Under the Influence (of Literature)**

**Featuring Cyndi Giorgis and Candace Fleming**

**Thursday, June 9, 2011 at Kingsley Junior High School, 303 Kingsley Street,  
Normal, IL**

**Sign-in from 8:30– 9:00 a.m., Conference time 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

.....  
**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
School District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(5 CPDU credits will be available at the registration desk at the end of the conference.) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive 5 CPDU's for attending this event.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$65 – Registration for current MID-State Members – includes lunch  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$110 – Registration for Non-MID-State Members – includes lunch  
Join MID-State now and pay member price! (See below for membership details.)

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED - Make registration checks payable to MID-State Reading Council .

**Registration must be postmarked by May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to:**

**Liz Luering, 2151 Inez Lane, Normal, IL 61761, Attn. Summer Conference**  
TO JOIN MID-State AND IRC (Illinois Reading Council) TODAY, complete MID-State/IRC membership form found on the IRC website at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org) and include a SEPARATE CHECK FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP MADE PAYABLE TO IRC. Mail this with your conference registration and fees to the above address. If you have any questions about registration, you may e-mail Liz Luering at [luerinea@unit5.org](mailto:luerinea@unit5.org) or Carol Owles at [csowles@ilstu.edu](mailto:csowles@ilstu.edu).

**Seating is limited, so register early!**

