



GOT BOOKS?

Officers:

President
Teresa Arendell
arendeta@unit5.org

Past President
Liz Luering
luerinea@unit5.org

President Elect
Janel Dowling
dowlingjn@unit5.org

Vice President
Trish Warner
warnert@unit5.org

Treasurer
Carol Owles
csowles@ilstu.edu

Secretary
Gail McDermott
mcdermoga@unit5.org

Membership Chair
Noma Simpson
nsimpson@lexington.k12.us

Publicity
Mary Current/
Anne Atteberry
mary.current@stmarysschool.net
attebera@unit5.org

Hospitality
Cally Hutson
Lori Stevens

Parents in Reading
Debbie Johnson
djohnson@prairiecentral.org

**Bloomington Public
Library Liaison**
Georgianne Schau
geor-
giannes@bloomingtonlibrary.org

**Normal Public Library
Liaison**
Katrina Pollitt
kitkat1.32@gmail.com

Greetings from the President...

Welcome! What a thrilling year this is going to be! I am excited to be president of MID-State this year. The board has lots of exciting events planned for you this year. In July, most of us attended the annual Leadership Retreat at Grand Bear Lodge in Utica, IL. While there, we had the opportunity to interact with all of the leaders of the reading councils across the state. It was inspiring to hear what other councils have planned!

While we were at Leadership Retreat, we finished the revision of the council by-laws, reviewed the roles and responsibilities of each board position, and planned the Meet and Greet, Fall Fest, Spring Fling, and Summer Conference. We also have a new event this year – Grant Writing Workshop! Another activity we are considering is to incorporate a book study on a book by the author that we are planning to bring in for our summer conference. So be sure to look for more information on these upcoming events and save the dates so you can plan to participate. In addition, when you attend one of our events, invite a colleague to come along. MID-State is a great council to be a part of and it's affordable! Being a member of your local reading council provides many benefits – (Check out the Top Ten Reasons to be a Member).

MID-State has T-shirts for sale! So when you are at one of our events, check them out and pick one up.

Join us on Facebook! (MID State Reading Council) We also have a blog (www.midstaterreadingcouncil.blogspot.com). Our hope is to use the blog and Facebook to provide you with the latest updated information on what's happening within our council, as well as offer a tool for communicating to us what your literacy needs are so MID-State can help.

I am looking forward to seeing and meeting many of you throughout the upcoming year and hope that you will consider becoming more involved with our great reading council!

Happy Reading!

Teresa Arendell

Save The Dates:

Martinis, Massages & 1/2 Price Memberships, Thursday, September 22, 4:30-6:30p.m.

Fall Fest, Part 1, Monday, October 3, 5:00-7:30p.m.

Fall Fest, Part 2, Thursday, October 6, 5:00-7:30p.m.

Carnival of Reading, Friday, November 4, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Grant Writing Workshop, Thursday, January 12

Spring Fling, March 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fall Fest Info. 2

Carol Berry Grant 2

Top Ten 3

Local Library News 4

Try these electronic updates:

Check out our blog at www.midstaterreadingcouncil.blogspot.com

Join us on **Facebook!**
MID-State Reading Council

Illinois Reading Council
Website
illinoisreadingcouncil.org

R.T.I- What Can I Do to Help My Students? By Gail McDermott (Secretary)

By now, we have all heard those three letters: R T I. We even know that it stands for “Response to Intervention”. We probably even know that RtI is a method of academic interventions designed to provide early, effective assistance to children who are having difficulty learning. RtI uses research-based and data driven interventions across all levels of academic abilities. The big question for some of us is what are the interventions to which our students will be responding? Two of the literacy interventions which are research-based and data driven are Guided Reading Plus and Comprehension Focus Groups.

* **Comprehension Focus Groups (CFG)** is a series of reading and writing lessons in a specific genre that occur over a period of weeks. The goal is to help the struggling read-

ers develop efficient strategies for problem solving in texts and to comprehend the message at deeper levels (Soffos, 2008). It is designed for small groups of students in 3rd- 12th grades, and involves working with literature. During CFG, one genre is studied over several weeks. The students first read in the genre, and then they write in the genre. It is designed for daily 30 minute lessons. Each genre unit has 3 phases, typically occurring over 4-6 weeks.

* **Guided Reading Plus** is an intervention process that is presented in small group format, and is most effective with students in grades 1-3, or students in emergent, early, or transi-

tional reading levels. It involves working with leveled readers, and lessons are daily for 30 minutes. Each lesson has 2 phases, which occur over 2 consecutive days. The “Plus” is the work with words before Guided Reading, and the writing about the reading afterward.

In order for the interventions to be effective, they must be presented with fidelity and integrity by trained professionals. **MID-State Reading Council is offering a two night training during Fall Festival on October 3 and 6, 2011.** If you are interested in training in these interventions, be sure to register for Fall Festival for MID-State Reading Council.

HAVE A FUN,
CREATIVE PROJECT
THAT YOU CAN'T WAIT
TO TRY OUT IN YOUR
CLASSROOM? CHECK
OUT THE LITERACY
GRANT OPPORTUNITY
BELOW!

Fall Festival Coming Soon! *“Don't let the word intervention frighten you!”*
October 3 & 6...See Attached Flyer for more information!

Carol Berry Memorial Literacy Grant By Trisha Warner (Vice President/ Grants Chair)

Purpose: The MID-State Reading Council will annually award two financial grants up to \$300 to individual council members for the purpose of promoting the literacy of children in the classroom.

Guidelines:

Each applicant will:

1. **Be a current member of the MID-State Reading Council**
2. **Submit a complete proposal for the program or project which includes:**

- a. A statement of purpose
- b. A needs statement, including information about the population to be served
- c. A description of the project including a timeline
- d. An itemized budget
- e. A plan for program or project publicity
- f. A plan for program or project evaluation

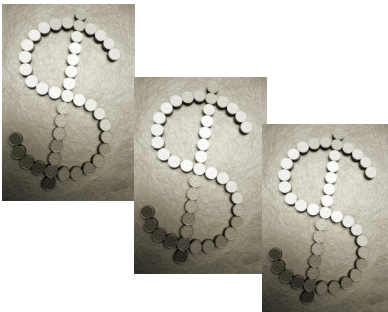
Review Process:

A committee of MID-State members will serve on the review com-

mittee using a blind review process. Grants with identifiers will be disqualified. Grant recipients will be informed of their awards by email by the notification deadline. Those who submitted but did not receive grants will be notified by email and will be provided with feedback.

1st Grant Deadline:
December 15, 2011

Notification and Award Date:
January 12, 2012



Top Ten Reasons to Join MID-State By Carol Owles (Treasurer)

Ever wondered what MID-State could do for you? Read on for 10 ways membership can help you:

10. Receive a joint membership to both MID-State and Illinois Reading Council for the low annual dues of \$40.
9. Pay reduced fees to attend MID-State conferences and workshops, as well as the annual IRC Conference in Springfield.
8. Always have resources to help you—including grants and awards.
7. Be eligible to apply for teaching support grants from MID-State of up to \$300 and from IRC of an amount based on your needs.
6. Meet children's authors and other professional authors at conferences and events.
5. Receive our IRA-recognized and prestigious IRC journal, the *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, as well as keep abreast of the latest research and legislation in the area of literacy .
4. Have opportunities to attend professional development workshops that are locally planned and relevant to current topics of interest to teachers.
3. Help promote and provide children and families with literacy events in our local area and community.
2. Have networking opportunities to exchange strategies and ideas with colleagues and other literacy professionals on how to be successful in developing the literacy capabilities of our students in today's educational environment.

And the **#1 reason** why **you** should join MID-State and IRC is: Be a more effective teacher because of your learning and growth through your participation in a professional organization!



WHAT IS
COMPREHENSION
FOCUS GROUP?
HOW CAN IT HELP
MY STUDENTS?
FIND OUT IN THIS
NEWSLETTER!

Classroom Connections in Your Own Backyard! By Debbie Johnson (Parents in Reading)

Remember reading *Sarah Plain and Tall*? How about all the Little House Books? This week my second graders were reading *The Long Way Westward* by Joan Sandin. More pioneer stories are suggested at <http://www.barbsbooks.com/books.htm> which reminded me of my now long ago summer. I had the pleasure of hosting family friends from overseas and wanted to share our American culture and history. I found it was not hard to find treasures right here in McLean County.

Start with Historic Route 66 and head for Chenoa. Next to the existing highway is a walking/bike trail. You can listen for the red-wing blackbirds, admire the trees planted by the 4H club, and if you get there before harvest, stand next to the corn. Yes, it really is that tall! While in Chenoa, pretend you are a pioneer and find the Matthew T. Scott House built in 1855. Just follow the brown

signs. Mr. Scott was instrumental in developing the farm land in this part of the county. His brother-in-law, Adlai Stevenson, was the vice president to Grover Cleveland and was married right there in the parlor! Check out more details at http://chenoail.org/scott_house_brochure.html. It is open on Sundays from 2 to 4.

Next stop is Lexington. There are two trails for Route 66. Memory Lane is tucked in next to railroad tracks. The other trail is next to the current highway. It is fun to walk over the Mackinaw River Bridge. Then be sure to stop for ice cream at the Shake Shack before you head out to Patton Cabin at the city park. The 1829-built Patton Cabin, is the oldest structure in McLean County and was originally closer to the Mackinaw River in the timber. Read more about the cabin, the Pattons, their 12 kids, and the pioneer times at <http://pattoncabin.yolasite.com/>

and <http://www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org/> Look for the article on Patton Cabin Lexington, Illinois Again. Before leaving the park, check out the Born Learning Trail that is on the east side of the football field.

Last stop is Towanda's Route 66 that features state signs, Burma Shave signs, and gorgeous flowers. Sign the guest book and take time to relax at the lake.

Coming soon-Saturday, September 10th, the Barn Keepers sponsor a tour of area barns in Dawson Township. Details? <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/barnkeepers/>

Enjoy visiting these historical jewels in your own backyard and take time to reread all those Little House books.

At the...

L

I

B

R

A

R

Y



Bloomington Public Library News

Your local library has plenty of activities to offer you and your students! See below and check out their website for more!

Tuesday, September 27

Anime Now! (Teens)

Do you like manga and graphic novels? Check out our Anime Now club. We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 4-5:30 in the Community Room where we watch tons of super fun Japanese animated cartoons.

Fiction Book Club (Adults)

The Bloomington Public Library's fiction book club — Bloomington Bookies — will meet at 7 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month at the Library. This month we'll be discussing *Secrets of Eden* by Chris Bohjalian. Books are available at the Library's Adult Services reference desk.

Thursday, September 29

Civil War Postal History: The Confederate Side (All Ages)

This all-ages program lead by Tim Davis of the CornBelt Philatelic Society will meet at 7p.m. in the Library's Community Room.

Tuesdays, Throughout September

Lapsits for Infants (Children)

Lapsit for Infants will take place at 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. in the Story Room at Bloomington Public Library. Babies and their caregivers are invited to drop in for 30 minutes of stories, rhymes, songs and more. This is baby-and-me-time for infants up to 18-months-old; please make arrangements for older siblings. A sign-language interpreter is available at the 6:30 p.m. program.

Wednesdays, Throughout September

Preschool Storytime (Children)

Preschool Storytime will meet at 10 a.m. in the Story Room at Bloomington Public Library. Help your 3- to 5-year-old build independent listening skills with this weekly 30-minute story time for preschoolers.

Nearly New Movie Series (All Ages)

On Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m., BPL will be showing the newest and hottest DVD movie which was released just the day before. Every showing is free, and so is the popcorn. Titles will be determined as movie release dates are made available.

Happenings at the Normal Public Library

There are many events taking place at the Normal Library. They include:

Tuesday Tales

Every Tuesday morning at 10:30am, join us for stories and songs that are aimed for children ages 3-5, but all are welcome. No registration required. Program starts September 20th.

Manga/Anime Club

Held on the first and third

Tuesdays of the month, from 4:30-6:00pm, this club is for teenagers who are interested in Japanese comics and animation.

Fall Story Hour

Children aged 3-5 are welcome to attend a weekly 40 minute program to enjoy stories, songs, games, and crafts! The Fall Story Hour requires registration. Classes start September 20th. There are several

sessions available.

- Tuesdays 5:30-6:10pm, 6:30-7:10 pm
- Wednesdays, 9:30-10:10, 11:00-11:40.

Check out their website at <http://www.normal-library.org> for more information!

Your Reading Council Touches the Community- By Noma Simpson (Membership Chair)

MID-State Reading Council reached out to the community this past spring by providing books and bookshelves to two habitat families during their house blessings. The books were provided by Star Literacy Book Showers. It was such a joy to see the families' faces as we presented the books on the bookshelves. The children immediately started reading the books and the parents enjoyed their books also. The families were very appreciative



and could not thank our council enough for providing such a valuable resource.



Mid-State Reading Council proudly presents

Fall Fest



“Don’t let the word intervention frighten You!”

Intervention can be overwhelming. You’ve assessed and analyzed – now what? How will you best meet the needs of your students? Our Fall Fest offers you an opportunity to learn interventions or data collection techniques you can use during your literacy block. Presented by McLean County District Unit 5 Literacy Leaders, this 2-night event allows you to gain four hours of instruction in the areas of Comprehension Focus Groups, Collaborative Reasoning, Assisted Writing, Running Records, or Guided Reading Plus. To ensure a higher level of integrity to implement these strategies in your classroom, you will choose one of the five and attend that session both evenings.

When: October 3 & 6, 2011
Time: 5:00-7:30 pm
Where: Prairieland Elementary School
 1300 East Raab Road
 Normal, IL 61761
CPDUs: 4
RSVP: Register by
Wednesday, September 28, 2011

MID-State is adding a fall Habitat Home to our Community service agenda. If you bring a new children's book with you to Fall Fest or purchase one at our book fair on Thursday night and donate it, you can help MID-State promote literacy all year long. Books will be distributed to our two families at their House Blessings. For every book you bring, you will get a chance to win a FREE registration to our Spring Fling!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Sessions:

Mark your first 3 choices for the sessions you would like to attend, with (1) being your first choice. We will do our best to accommodate your first preference. However, we want to have a balance of participants in each session, so we cannot guarantee everyone will get their first choice.

- _____ Collaborative Reasoning
- _____ Comprehension Focus Groups
- _____ Guided Reading Plus
- _____ Assisted Writing
- _____ Running Records

Fees:

- Please check one.
- _____ Mid-State Members - \$30. 00
 - _____ Non-Members -\$40.00
 - _____ Students-\$15.00

Make checks payable to: MID-State Reading Council.

Send registration to:
 Carol Owles
 8325 Edgewater Drive
 Carlock, IL 61725

Door Prizes will be awarded!

Dinner will be provided!

Bring a friend or two along!

Dinner Selections:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Monday:</i> Please check one: _____ Vegetarian Meal _____ Non-Vegetarian Meal</p> | <p><i>Thursday:</i> Pizza and Salad</p> |
|---|---|



MID-State Reading Council
Serving McLean & DeWitt, Counties

Member Address