



MID-STATE READING COUNCIL

Fall 2008 Newsletter

September

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK -

KATIE ALBRITTON (PRESIDENT)

First of all, I would like to welcome everyone. I am sure you have been busy preparing for the first weeks of school, such an exciting time of the year. During the summer and past month MID-State has been busy as well, preparing wonderful professional development opportunities for you.

MID-State has planned several events for the year and we are excited about each one. On Oc-

tober 9th, we will be hosting Pam Nelson at our Inspiration Mini Conference. Pam will be discussing poetry as the keynote speaker and then breakout sessions will follow. To promote family and community literacy we will host our annual Carnival of Reading on November 7th. Then in January, MID-state will be holding their annual Winter Dinner Meeting (details coming soon), as well as in April

another book discussion will take place.

I hope that you have a wonderful start to the school year. MID-State looks forward to seeing you at our events and bring a friend, colleague, or preservice teacher to a meeting.

Your President,
Katie Albritton

If past history was all there was to the game, the richest people would be librarians.

~ Warren Buffet ~

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—INSPIRATION

- KATIE ALBRITTON (PRESIDENT)

MID-State will be hosting a mini-conference on October 9th from 5:30-8:00 at Kingsley Jr. High School in Normal, IL. It includes a box lunch dinner, keynote speaker Pam Nelson, and

a carousel of sessions that focus on topics of current educational issues. Pam Nelson will be presenting "Grab Your Suitcase for a Poetry Get-Away". Partici-

pants will receive 2 CPDUs. We are also asking members to bring gently used or new books to Inspiration to be distributed to the community.

FROM THE PARENTS IN READING COMMITTEE—

BY DEBBIE JOHNSON (PARENTS IN READING CHAIR)

I have learned about a wonderful browser that was created for children with characteristics of autism spectrum disorders. It is called the **ZAC Browser-Zone for Autistic Children**.

According to the information on the site, a grandfather created a browser especially for his grandson, Zac. Even though its primary purpose is to give children the freedom of a safe

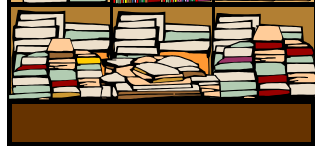
way to use the internet, there is a section for parents as well. Check out <http://zacbrowser.com> to learn all about the site. You'll see it is free to download and safe to use.

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Inspiration	1
Parents in Reading	1
Board Members Information	2
Carnival of Reading	2
Local Library News	3
Grants Update	3
YA-YNOT Information	4
Habitat for Humanity	4
MID-State/IRC Membership Form	5-6

Contact your President at:

Katie - albrittk@unit5.org



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS— MARY CURRENT (SECRETARY)

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COMING IN NOVEMBER....OUR CARNIVAL OF READING!

- BY CAROL OWLES (PAST-PRESIDENT)

Mark your calendars now for **Friday, November 7, 2008**, when our annual Carnival of Reading will be held at Bloomington Junior High School from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. It's a fun family literacy affair for parents and their preschool and primary-grade children!

Highlights of the evening include:

- Professional storyteller, Kay Price
- Balloons for everyone
- Our great clown and his magical balloon animals
- Free popcorn and lemonade
- A Book Walk with free children's books as prizes

- Book Mark-creating craft
- Face-painting
- Library information and resource tables from Bloomington and Normal's Public Libraries ! Also, meet your BPL and NPL children's librarians!

Invite your students and their families and bring your own families. **It's a FREE Family Event!!**

(Flyers for the Carnival will be distributed to local elementary schools in mid-October. If you need flyers for your students and do not receive them, contact Carol Owles @ 309-376-7031.)

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS-

GEORGIANNE SCHAU (BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LIAISON)

September 18

Ms. Frizzle Party "Wahoo!" Come to the Children's Room and have Magic School Bus fun with hands-on science activities. For children Pre-K to 3rd grade. From 6:30-7:30 pm

October 11

Children's Open House Celebrate recent department improvements with these activities:
11 am Storytelling by Mike Lockett
11:30 – 12:45 Face painting by the

Zoo Lady

Balloon animals

Craft

1:00- 2:00

Magic Show with

Rick Eugene

All activities will be in the Children's Room.

October 23

Ghost Stories by the Twin City Tale Spinners Shivery tales to curl your hair! Fun for the whole family.

6:30 pm in the Community Room

November 15

DePriest Puppets Enjoy the unique experience of the DePriest Puppets featuring hand puppets, rod puppets and marionettes. Ideal for all ages. 2 pm. In the Community Room

2nd Monday Story Club

Special storytime for boys and girls in grades 1 – 3. Beginning at 6:30 in the Story Room.

October 13, November 10, and

December 8.

Art Classes for Kids age 8-11

Join us as we explore the world of art. Each child will have hands-on experience creating their own work of art. Call to register at 828-6091 ext.205

Art Class I October 13 11am – Noon in the Story Room
Register by Friday, October 10

Art Class II November 11 11am – Noon in the Story Room
Register by Friday, November 7



plenty to do and see at your local library. Check them out!

NORMAL PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS-

KATRINA POLLITT (NORMAL PUBLIC LIBRARY LIAISON)

There are many events taking place at the Normal Public Library this fall. Please check out the link below for more information.

Go to <http://www.normal-library.org> and click on Children's Department. Then click on Activities and Programs. There is

MYSTERIES, CULTURES, AND ELECTIONS, OH MY!-

JANEL DOWLING (GRANTS CHAIR)

It was an honor to award the following educators Carol Berry Memorial Literacy grants for the 2008-2009 school year. Teachers plan to use grant money to further their curriculum in specific areas.

This year, teachers will use their grant money in a variety of settings. At the early elementary level, Wendy Hadden was awarded

\$250.00 to purchase items that will enable her class to take "A Trip around the World". At the late elementary level, Amy Schumacher will use her \$500.00 to put her students at work with mysteries through her project "Super Sleuths on the Case". As these teachers are planning their units, Jennifer Ritchason will be using her \$250.00 to purchase materials as she en-

courages middle school students to analyze the election process with her project: "Hail to the Chief".

As a MID-State Reading Council member, you are able to apply for the Carol Berry Memorial Literacy Grant. Stay tuned for further information in our next newsletter.

HELPING A HOUSE BECOME A HOME—NOMA SIMPSON (COMMUNITY RELATIONS & LITERACY CHAIR)

MID-State Reading Council reached out to the community this past spring by providing books and bookshelves to two Habitat for Humanity families during their

house blessings. 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.

CALLING ALL EDUCATORS!—JANEL

As a division of Illinois Reading Council, MID-State Reading Council is a non-profit, professional organization. We are currently seeking out educators interested in promoting literacy in their schools and communities. Who should become a member?

People who are:

- wanting to be a part of a reading organization
- looking for grant opportunities to fund their literacy projects
- want discounts on the infamous IRC Annual Conference
- seeking networking opportunities with other educators
- needing professional journals at their fingertips
- in search of quality opportunities to attend literacy workshops and events
- interested in promoting reading



MID-State Reading Council offers all of the above and more! If you or someone you know fits the profile of any of the interests above; fill out the membership form attached! Questions? Feel free to e-mail me at dowlingjn@unit5.org. Already a member? To avoid interruption in benefits, be sure to renew your membership if you haven't already done so.

YA? YNOT? UPDATE—KARI HENNENFENT

The first meeting for the 2008-2009 school year will be held at Barnes & Noble in Bloomington on Friday, September 19th, from 7:00– 9:00. The theme for the month is Banned Books. You can find a list of appropriate books on this website:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm>

You can also find more information on the new wiki that has been created just for this event! The address is <http://yaynot.wikispaces.com/> Please join us for a lively book discussion and earn 2 CPDUs in the process!