


NIRC Newsletter



NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
READING
COUNCIL

an affiliate of the
International Reading Association 

Mark Your Calendars!

**June 17, 20-23—NIU Summer
Conference**

July 1—Awards Applications Deadline

**September 10—Fall Conference Early
Registration Deadline! **After***

***September 10th please register at the
door.***

September 22—NIRC Fall Conference

Northern Illinois Reading Council Board of Directors 2009-2010 Officers

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7831 E Grist Mill Rd Chana IL 61015 815-732-2845

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10222 Hickory Ridge Rochelle, IL 61068 815-562-4956

Ad Hoc. Committee: Janet Pariza
5N350 Ronsu Lane St.Charles, IL 60175 630-377-8412

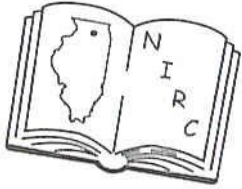
Professional Development: Kirstin Ellis
10950 Flagg Rd Rochelle, IL 60168 815-561-8901

Publicity: Sarah Kennay
1591 Midway Rd Ashton, IL 61006 815-440-4207

Inside This Issue:

- Letter from the President
- Fall Conference Information
- Literacy Awards
- Video Staff Development
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- Books in the Home-Habitat Update
- NIRC T-shirts
- Author Visit Recap





May 2011

Dear NIRC members,

It has been a wonderful experience serving as president of the Northern Illinois Reading Council for the past two years. This is a thriving, active local council of the Illinois Reading Council. I sincerely thank the NIRC board of directors – Mary, Teri, Barb, Betsy, Linda O., Linda T., Pam, Joan, Janet, Kirstin, and Sarah for their support and wise counsel. And special thanks to the IRC officers and staff that help in countless ways.

As you read this newsletter, please note that Dr. Pamela Farris is the keynote speaker for the **fall conference on Thursday, September 22nd** titled **Live the Lincoln Legacy- Read!** I hope that you will attend this informative and exciting presentation. There are also applications in the newsletter for the literacy project award and library grant **awards**. Check out the **DVD/video rental** list for new professional development opportunities.

I sincerely hope that you will consider getting involved in the Northern Illinois Reading Council as a committee member or as a member of the board. The continued strength of this organization lies in its members.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Have a delightful, book-filled summer,
Kim McKenna
President Northern Illinois Reading Council



**NIU College of Education presents
The 38th Annual Summer Literacy Conference**

**Writing Matters
Effective Instruction in the 21st Century**

Featuring:

**Jeff Anderson
Kelly Gallagher
Troy Hicks
Jacquie McTaggart
Jeanette Gordon
Alice B. McGinty**

June 17, 20-23, 2011

Waubensee Community College

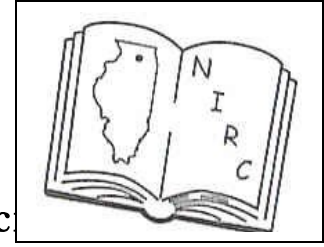
Sugar Grove Campus

For more information,

Call 1-800-345-9472 or 815-753-0277

Or

www.cedu.niu.edu/oep/conferences



Northern Illinois Reading Council
24th Annual Fall Conference
Thursday, September 22, 2011
4:30-8:00 p.m.
Kishwaukee College Conference Center
Malta, IL

Live the Lincoln Legacy- Read!
Ways to Incorporate Reading and Writing
Across the Curriculum



Featuring: Dr. Pam Farris

- Member of Illinois Reading Hall of Fame
- Associate Professor of Literacy at Illinois State University
 - Author of Crossover Dribble
and
Young Mouse and Elephant, An East African Folktale
- Author of numerous professional books on language arts, reading , writing, handwriting and social studies for elementary and middle school teachers

Registration Form
The 24rd Annual Northern Illinois Reading Council Fall Conference
Live the Lincoln Legacy: Read!

Featuring:
Dr. Pam Farris
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Kishwaukee College Conference Center Malta, IL

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: Home () _____ Work () _____
E-mail _____
(CPDU forms will be available at the registration desk.)

REGISTER NOW!

_____ **\$15 - Registration for current NIRC Members - Join NIRC now and pay member price!!**

(See below for membership details.)

_____ **\$30 - Registration for Non-NIRC Members**

_____ **\$5 - Registration for Undergraduate Students (Non-NIRC Members)**

_____ **FREE! Registration for Undergraduate Students with paid NIRC/IRC membership**

_____ **FREE! Registration for a school administrator who registers with a teacher**

_____ **FREE! Registration for Literacy Grant Recipient Presenters**

Pizza Dinner provided by Alfano's of Rochelle, IL from 4:30- 5:30 p.m.

_____ **\$6.00 dinner includes a tossed salad with your choice of dressing, four slices of pizza, and a soft drink or water. The pizza dinner is available only to those participants who preorder.**

Please mark a pizza choice! _____ **cheese** _____ **sausage** _____ **pepperoni**

_____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED - Make check payable to NIRC.**

Registration must be postmarked by SEPTEMBER 10 to:
Linda Oshita 1312 Camp Ave Rockford, IL 61103 Attn: Fall Conference
After September 10, pay at the door.

TO JOIN NIRC AND IRC (Illinois Reading Council) TODAY: Complete NIRC/IRC membership forms found on the IRC website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org and include a SEPARATE CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO IRC. Mail with your conference registration and fees to above address.

Date received: _____ Cash or Check # _____
Amount _____

Northern Illinois Reading Council Literacy Awards

Do you have a great idea for a special literacy project but no funding to make it happen? Are you a new teacher or a teacher who has changed assignments and looking for a way to build your classroom library?

The Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC) has established two monetary awards to help projects like these. The \$500 Literacy Project Award is intended to support teachers who develop or adopt literacy projects for use in their classrooms or schools. Some projects in previous years have included parent/child literacy activities, after-school reading programs, and thematic literacy ideas to be used in the classroom.

The \$250 Library Launch Grant is intended for teachers who are new to a classroom or who have received an assignment to a new grade level. The award is intended to help teachers build classroom and professional libraries of their own.

Both grants are available only to NIRC members. Award winners will be expected to submit a written and/or photographic summary of their completed projects to the NIRC newsletter. Awards will be presented at the NIRC Fall Conference in September. Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2011.

For further information, please email Joan Bereman at joan.bereman@dist428.org.

Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC)
LITERACY PROJECT AWARD APPLICATION

Applicant:

Member of NIRC? Yes ___ No ___

Home address:

Home phone:

Email address:

School name/ District:

School address:

LITERACY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title:

Grade level(s)

Number of students participating:

Status of project: New program ___ Existing/Continuing program ___

Is applicant a classroom teacher? Yes ___ No ___ Other _____ (please identify)

I hereby submit my application for a Literacy Project Award from the Northern Illinois Reading Council. I understand that, if awarded, I am required to submit an article and/or photographs and descriptions of the project to the NIRC newsletter.

Teacher's signature _____

Date _____



Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC)
LITERACY PROJECT AWARD APPLICATION, p. 2

Please type or print in black ink. Limit attachments to one page.

Project title:

Objective: State your project's objective in 3-5 sentences. (What literacy need is being addressed by your project?)

Description: Summarize your project. (What is your project? When and how will it be implemented?)

Activities: List the key activities in which the students will be involved.

Budget: Purchases must be an integral part of this project. Be very specific and detailed with your budget request. Include materials, equipment, and sources of supply as well as the cost of each item. Verify availability of supplies.

Evaluation: Describe the methods you will use to evaluate the impact and success of your project. (What will you use to collect data that can indicate that your project has been successful?)

All applications must be received by midnight on July 1, 2011 to be considered. You may send the application through the U.S. mail or via email to:

Joan Bereman

1822 Paw Paw Rd. , Steward, IL 60553

joan.bereman@dist428.org

NIRC Literacy Award Rubric

Criteria	Below Average (1 point)	Satisfactory (2 points)	Outstanding (3 points)	Score
Need	Not tied to literacy purposes or need is minimal; need not stated in proposal	Tied to literacy purposes and need is adequate; need explicitly stated in proposal	Tied to literacy purposes and need is thorough and detailed; multiple needs are explicitly stated in proposal	___/3
Project description	Project is incomplete; timeline is missing or insufficient	Project and timeline are realistic and attainable; description is adequate	Project and timeline are well thought out; implementation plans are detailed	___/3
Scope of project	Involves a limited number of participants	Involves the classroom of the participant	Involves multiple classrooms and/or community involvement	___/3
Budget	Total amounts listed; no budget breakdown provided; expenditures are unrealistic	Adequate budget is provided; some breakdown of expenses is given; expenditures are realistic	Detailed list of expenses is included; expenditures are realistic	___/3
Evaluation	Little or no evaluation of the project is described; data collection not appropriate or sufficient for the project	Evaluation plan is adequate; describes how one type of data supporting the success of the project will be collected and analyzed	Evaluation plan is outstanding; describes how more than one type of data supporting the success of the project will be collected and analyzed	___/3
Publicity	No evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; no plan to share project in NIRC newsletter or at NIRC conference	Evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; plan to share project in NIRC newsletter or at NIRC conference is evident	Evidence that NIRC will be acknowledged as the grant provider; plan to share project in NIRC newsletter <u>and</u> at NIRC conference or other venue	___/3

Total score ___/18

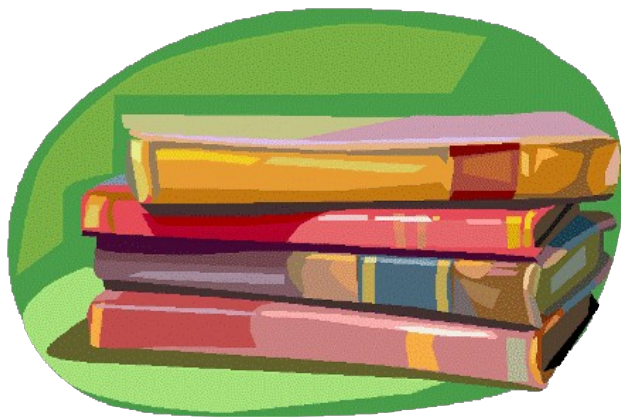
NIRC Literacy Library Launch Grant

Overview

One of the most challenging tasks of a new teacher is building a classroom and professional library. Current leaders in the field of reading advocate having up to 3,000 titles for a classroom library and rotating them by taking

some home and bringing others during the school year. For the new teacher, the cost is prohibitive. Likewise, staying current with new professional titles is vital but expensive.

The **NIRC Literacy Library Launch Grant** targets teachers who are either new to the profession of teaching or new to a particular grade level. The individual must be a current member of NIRC. The purpose is to provide financial assistance (\$250) to teachers as they develop a children's/young adult classroom library as well as acquire literacy titles for their personal professional library.



Eligibility requirements

- 1. You must be a teacher with Initial Illinois Teacher Certification (Years 1-4 of teaching) OR a teacher who is being assigned to a new grade level.**
- 2. You must be a member of the Northern Illinois Reading Council (NIRC)**

This grant provides funds for both classroom libraries and personal professional libraries. Please write a one page overview that explains why the grant will help you develop and expand your classroom library. Specific reasons for selecting books should be mentioned (i.e. for literature circles, to accompany a science or social studies unit, to serve as mentor texts for writing examples, etc.) Also include an explanation of how the funds would help you become a better teacher of reading by expanding your professional library.

All applications must be received by midnight on July 1, 2011 to be considered. You may send the application through the U.S. mail or via email to:

Joan Bereman

1822 Paw Paw Rd. , Steward, IL 60553

joan.bereman@dist428.org

NIRC Literacy Library Launch Grant Application

Applicant:

Member of NIRC? Yes ___ No ___

I am a(n)

___ New teacher with an Illinois Initial Certificate

___ Experienced teacher who is teaching a new grade level

Home address:

Home phone:

Email address:

School name/ District:

School address:



VIDEO/DVD STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A \$50 deposit is required to obtain a tape made out to NIRC. A separate check for \$5 must be sent to help defray the postage costs. The tape/DVD will be mailed postage-paid on a 2-week lending basis. The borrower is required to pay return postage. To

obtain a tape, please fill out this form and return it with a check for \$50 and one for \$5 payable to NIRC.

Send to Kirstin Ellis, 10950 Flagg Rd Rochelle, IL 61068. (815)561-8901

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (home & work) _____

Name & # of video/DVD requested: _____

App. Date of use: _____ (contact coordinator to ask about availability.)

Using for inservice? Yes _____ **No** _____

Please return my deposit check when videos are returned to NIRC. _____

OR Please tear up my deposit check when videos are returned to NIRC. _____



VIDEO/DVD SELECTION

#1—The Four Blocks: A Framework for Reading and Writing

(Patricia Cunningham & Dottie Hall) (VHS) An introduction to the Four-Blocks® literacy model presented by the originators. Four Blocks is a multilevel, balanced literacy framework that incorporates the approaches of Guided Reading, Self-Selected Reading, Writing, and Working with Words each day to teach children how to become better readers, writers, and spellers. This model acknowledges that not all children learn in the same way and provides ideas for instruction to better meet the needs and learning styles of all students.

#2—Guided Reading (Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell)

Introduction to the basic components and essential elements of a guided reading lesson. Provides examples of the differences in guided reading lessons for emergent, early, transitional, and extending readers in K, 1st, and 2nd grade classrooms.
(DVD accompanied by viewing guide.)

#3—The Daily Five Alive! (Gail Boushey & Jean Moser)

This DVD complements the book by "The Sisters" and focuses on three of the five "Dailies"-Read to Self, Read to Someone, and Work on Writing. (K-2 focus)

#4—Café in the Classroom (Gail Boushey & Jean Moser) (DVD – 2 disc set)

The CAFÉ assessment system was developed to help elementary students understand & master different strategies used by successful readers. CAFÉ is an acronym for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary. The workshop kit includes video of individual conferences, small group lessons, & whole class instruction in Jean Moser's K-2 multi-age classroom.

#5-Intermediate Daily 5: Fostering Independent Literacy Learning in Grades 3-6 (Gail Boushey & Jean Moser)

The Daily Five of is a series literacy tasks (reading to self, reading with someone, writing, word work, and listening to reading) which students complete while the teacher meets with small groups or confers with individuals. It is more than a management system or a curriculum framework; The Daily Five is a structure that will help students take responsibility for monitoring their behaviors and literacy learning and develop habits that lead to a lifetime of independent literacy. The program includes: launching lessons for each of the five program components; "Good-Fit Books" and "Three Ways to Read a Book" lessons; discussions of the specific needs of older learners; suggestions for using The Daily Five in classrooms of students who have a range of previous experience with the program; and coaching sessions with teachers.

#6- Intermediate CAFÉ in the Classroom: Helping Readers Thrive in

Grades 3-6 (Gail Boushey & Jean Moser) The CAFÉ system was developed to help students understand and master different strategies used by successful readers. CAFÉ is an acronym for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary. The system includes: individual goal-setting and conferencing, developing small group instruction based on clusters of students with similar goals, and targeting whole-class instruction based on emerging student needs. The program includes: launching lessons and introduction of the CAFE menu; sample whole-class and small-group lessons; conferring with diverse students; discussion of the specific needs of older learners; suggestions for using the CAFÉ system in classrooms of students who have a range of previous experience with the program; and coaching sessions with teachers.

#7—A Close-Up Look at Teaching Reading (Sharon Taberski) (VHS)

This series set in a primary classroom features renowned expert in the field Sharon Taberski presenting a framework for reading instruction upon which teachers can reflect & expand. Topics include: "Independent Reading & Reading Share;" "Read Aloud & Shared Reading;" "Reading Conferences;" & "Guided Reading."

#8-Thoughtful Reading-Teaching Comprehension to Adolescents (Tovani)

Prepare to enter a remarkable high school classroom where students who are reluctant to read are developing new skills and redefining their sense of themselves as readers.

#9-Strategy Instruction in Action (Stephanie Harvey & Anne Goudvis) (VHS)

4 video collection including: "Creating a Culture of Thinking", "Modeling Questioning in a Reading Workshop", "Reading and Understanding Nonfiction", and "Using Strategies to Enhance Book Club Discussions"

Learn to help students read for deeper meaning by constructing meaning, making connections, asking questions, and drawing inferences. Shows examples of reader's workshop, including whole group mini-lessons as well as individualized follow-up, in both primary and intermediate classrooms.

#10—Strategic Thinking, Reading, and Responding (Harvey & Goudvis) (VHS)

This 4 video series builds on the comprehension instruction in the book, *Strategies That Work*. Models a week in middle school language arts instruction, focusing on teaching the comprehension strategies of inferring in fiction and determining importance in nonfiction. (Grades 4-8)

#11— Reading the World: Content Comprehension with Linguistically Diverse Learners

(Stephanie Harvey & Anne Goudvis)

Visit culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms, in which kids learn to read, write, talk/listen, and investigate their way through the curriculum, developing a common language for reading, writing, and speaking English. Learn how effective comprehension strategy instruction is integrated with content knowledge acquisition in science and social studies. Observe instruction responsive to the learning and language needs of English language learners in both the primary and intermediate grades, giving them tools to understand and actively use information and ideas, and learn English along the way. Purposeful talk is central to instruction, as kids discuss and try out their ideas with each other, developing the confidence to become independent learners.

#12— Traits of Writing for Primary Grades (Ruth Culham) (2 DVD set)

Part 1 – introduction to trait-based assessment and instruction

Part 2 – provides close-up look at each individual trait

Models how to use assessment to guide focused writing instruction in primary (K-2) classrooms, as well as conferencing with young writers. Provides a close look at each individual trait in practice. (Includes professional study guide.)

#13— Traits of Writing (Ruth Culham) (2 DVD set)

Part 1 – introduction to the TRAITS model

Part 2 – more in-depth exploration of each individual trait

Provides a sampling of the 6 traits in action in 3rd-5th grade classrooms. (Includes professional study guide.)

#14 —When Students Write (Ralph Fletcher)

When Students Write takes us into diverse classrooms where teachers wrestle with the questions of what it means to become an effective writer and what is a teacher's role in developing students' competence as writers. The four parts cover all the practical components necessary for establishing and implementing a successful writing workshop, including the importance of choice, creating a risk-taking environment, the difference between skills and craft, the writer's notebook, the writing conference, revision, the role of literature, and much more.

Part 1: Building a Writing Community

Part 2: Teaching Writing Skills in Context

Part 3: Literature That Supports Writing

Part 4: Craft Lessons to Stretch Young Writers

#15 —Dude, Listen to This! (Ralph Fletcher)

Well-known writing expert Ralph Fletcher examines what inspires boy writers and what shuts them down, as well as ways teachers can do a better job of nurturing boys' contributions. It deals with important issues surrounding this topic and provides examples of ways educators can become more adept at understanding boys and meeting their needs. (Includes an extensive workshop guide with questions for discussion, classroom extensions, handouts to accompany the DVD, and student work.)

#16—Inside Reading & Writing Workshops (VHS)

This set of four videos includes: "Reading Mini-Lessons;" "Writing Mini-Lessons;" "Reading Conferences;" & "Writing Conferences." Videos feature 3rd grade students in NYC, showing how their teacher deals with the diversity of students as readers & writers.

#17—Comprehension Strategies that Help Your Struggling Students Be More Successful Readers, Gr.2-5 (Bureau of Education Research) (VHS)

Linda Hoyt, a recognized expert in the field of reading, demonstrates comprehension strategies helpful to all readers, but especially useful to readers who struggle to construct meaning from text.

#18—Using Modeled Writing to Maximize Your Students' Growth in Writing & Reading (BER) (VHS – 2 videos) (K-1 focus)

Modeled writing enables students at a variety of levels of literacy to learn & grow together as the teacher incorporates elements of phonemic awareness, phonics skills, concepts of print, extension of text, use of descriptive language & other key techniques into the daily lesson.

#19—Using State-of-the-Art Strategies for Teaching Writing to Maximize Your Students' Growth in Writing & Reading (BER) (VHS)

This video training program demonstrates practical & dynamic ways to support & stretch the writing progress of K-1 students.

#20—Using a Six Trait Model to Strengthen Students' Writing (BER) (DVD)

This program focuses on effective primary-grade writing instruction. Get advice about the best way to launch students as writers early on and begin six trait writing instruction with primary-age children. (K-2 focus)

#21—Using the "Making Words" Strategy to Strengthen Your Students' Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Skills (K-2) (BER) (VHS - 2 video tapes)

An introduction to Making Words, including the benefits, along with a full length model, with discussion and demonstration of lesson structure, pacing, student involvement, cueing and coaching strategies. Part 2 includes word sort and activities designed to promote transfer.

#22—Step-by-Step Assessment Guide to Code Breaking (Richard Gentry)

A practical assessment/teaching resource that guides you as you learn the five phases of reading development. Learn to determine a child's literacy phase, so you have the power to make sure that every child cracks the code!

#23—Editing Invitations—This fifteen minute DVD takes you into Jeff Anderson's sixth-grade classroom as he demonstrates how he naturally links grammar instruction to writer's craft through his "Innovations to Notice," a warm-up activity used at the beginning of writer's workshops to help students learn to pay close attention to mechanics, style, and craft. They can be used as an alternative to "Daily Oral Language."

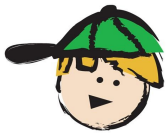
#24—Making the Most of News Magazines---Learn how upper grade elementary students organize weekly news magazines for use as a resource throughout the year as part of content area curriculum. Includes discussion of natural curriculum extensions that come from having an assortment of current short text accessible to students for skimming, sorting, and classifying.



Books in the Home

For the last four years, NIRC has worked with local Habitat for Humanity groups to supply books and a bookshelf selected specifically for each family for the homes they construct. We have supplied books and bookshelves for families in Rockford, Belvidere, Rochelle, and Sycamore. Wonderland Books owner Erin Taylor and a NIRC member select the books for the children according to their ages and interests. The parents receive a book which informs them how to help their children love reading. Presently, we are working with Tonya Thayer, from the Winnebago County Habitat office. They are building five homes this summer and have invited NIRC members to help with the construction. If you are interested in helping to build a home, please call Tonya at 815-636-4573. She will tell you the location of the home when you register to help. Volunteers are needed every Saturday beginning May 7. The construction crew works with a contractor from 8:30 a.m.-1:00p.m. You do not have to have any building experience nor do you have to attend every Saturday. Just volunteer when you can and bring friends. If you are unable to volunteer to build the house, then please try to attend the home dedications this September. Look for the dates in the next newsletter.





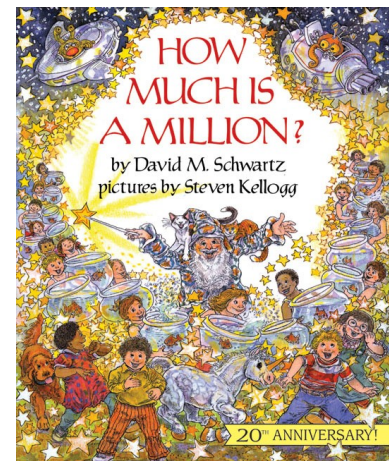
Now Available! NIRC T-shirts!



NIRC t-shirts can be purchased at any NIRC event for \$15. They are 100% cotton and come in only one design (V-neck) and color (purple). They are made for adult women in sizes M-XXL. When purchasing one, please select a size larger than you usually wear to accommodate any shrinkage when washing it. If you want to order a t-shirt on-line directly from the maker, log on to the website of Tattooed Tees at www.tattooedtees.com

Thank you Rochelle Rotary!

On Monday, March 14th, the Rochelle Rotary Club in conjunction with the Northern Illinois Reading Council sponsored the David M. Schwartz author visit at the Rochelle Middle School. Over a thousand students from Rochelle, Creston, Eswood, St. Paul, Kings and Stewart schools enjoyed Mr. Schwartz's high energy and interesting presentations. Mr. Schwartz is the author of over 50 books including *How Much is a Million?*, *Where in the Wild?*, *If Dogs Were Dinosaurs* and many more. Thank you to the members of the Rochelle Rotary for supporting literacy in our community.



**Are you a member of the Illinois Reading
Council?**

**Check out the website at
www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org
to find the membership form!**



Northern Illinois Reading Council

c/o Sarah Kennay
1591 Midway Road
Ashton, IL 61006
sarahelsiekennay@hotmail.com

