



NWIRC NOTES

Summer Edition, 2008

A publication of the Northwestern
Illinois Reading Council

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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This newsletter gives you a glimpse at the year your NWIRC Executive Board has been planning. We were privileged to attend the Leadership Retreat put on by the Illinois Reading Council at Grand Bear Lodge in Utica, Illinois. We had a wonderful time brainstorming & planning events that will help you as a teacher & that will also serve our communities.

Check out the enclosed flier for our **August 16 Event**. We are excited to team up with **Staples & Bookworld** in Freeport to give you some extra

perks for being a teacher. We hope to see many of you there! *Don't forget to bring some type of teacher identification for Staples.* We will also be unveiling our **new t-shirts**, designed exclusively for teachers who love reading!

Do you have a special event planned for your students that other teachers would like to attend? Maybe you have an author coming to your school—we're usually the first ones lined up at the door to get in! Let us know about it & we'll help spread the

word to other NWIRC members!

We are looking for volunteers to help at Story Hour with Santa at several of our local libraries. Please let me know if you can help with any of the events listed in the Calendar of Events.

If you, as a member of NWIRC, do something that deserves recognition, let one of your board members know. We want to applaud your success with your students as you go through the 2008-2009 school year. Good luck & enjoy the rest of your summer!

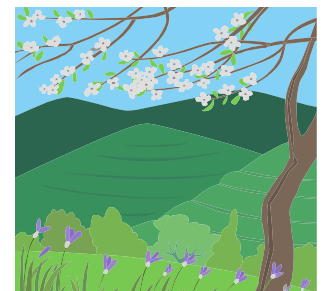
Highlights of NWIRC Notes

- * Spring Meeting Recap
- * Grant Updates
- * Postage Costs Rising
- * Council Representatives
- * Steven Layne
- * 2008-2009 Event Calendar
- * Engage! Excite! Ignite!
Back-to-School Event
Flyer

2008 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING RECAP

On May 15 we met for our member appreciation night at the Massbach Ridge Winery. On this gorgeous spring evening we were treated to a tour of Peg Harmston's winery, samples, & snacks. New officers were elected & we

had a brainstorming session on how we can become a more active council. Plants were provided by the West Carroll FFA for door prizes & member appreciation gifts.



NWIRC GRANT UPDATES

NWIRC was awarded the following grants in the past year:

Books for Babes (\$750) 100 bags will be packed for Freeport Memorial Hospital to pass out to new parents & babies. Included will be a book for the baby & "Grow with Me", a booklet from IRC.

December Story Hours (\$1,000) Five public libraries are currently participating in these events. Santa, Father Christmas, or Mrs. Claus will read a book & then each

child receives a book "from" the guest reader. Last year we put books in over 200 children's hands.



children while they are a patient on the floor & then they may choose a

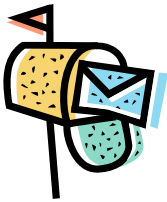
Reads for Pedes (\$500) 215 books will be given to the pediatrics unit at Freeport Memorial Hospital. These books are available for parents to read to their

book to take home.

(From personal experience: These books are wonderful when you actually have a child on the pediatric floor. Thanks to NWIRC for making this a priority!)



POSTAGE COSTS RISING



NWIRC board members have discussed how to keep postage costs down when we sent out newsletters. One way is to send to as many members as possible electronically. We would like to create a database of NWIRC member's e-mails (Preferably home e-mail address so we can contact

you in the summer). We will not share your address with any other group! **If you would like to receive your newsletter by email**, please send your name & e-mail address to us at



northwestern@illinoisreadingcouncil.org or click on our link on the Illinois Reading Council website.

EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM FOR 2008-2009

Each spring IRC recognizes councils who excel at providing programs that serve the members & communities we come from. How will this benefit NWIRC in 2009? NWIRC could receive **\$100 & a Council of Excellence Award**.

Some of the requirements may be completed by you, an individual council



member, but we need to know about it.

- Have you applied for an IRC Grant?
- Have you written an article that has been published in the *IRC Communicator*, *IRC Journal*, or one of the IRA publications?
- Have you presented a program at an IRC/IRA Conference?

If you know you can answer yes to any of these questions **by January 17, 2009** we would like to know. **Peg Haffey**, one of our very own NWIRC members, will be tracking our progress on completing the requirements for earning this award. Please contact her at **mhaffey@wc314.org** or **815-273-7747** if you have done something to contribute to this award.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

We would like to thank these NWIRC members for becoming **Council Representatives**. They will stay in contact with the Illinois Reading Council & your Executive Board to pass information along to you as needed.

- **Parents & Reading—Denise Brinkmeier** will have information regarding ideas currently being implemented by area teachers to encourage parent involvement in local councils. Denise can be contacted at dbrinkmeier@wc314.org.
- **Newspapers in Education—Chris Urish** will have information about participating in the Newspapers In Education Week activities & encouraging members to continue using those activities throughout the year.

Chris can be contacted at urish@eastland308.com.

- **Legislative—Carrie Schneider** will work with the Executive Board of NWIRC to notify members of proposed legislation that will directly or indirectly influence or effect reading/ language instruction or teacher certification. Members may be encouraged to contact legislators or conduct local council discussions on the topic. Carrie can be contacted at carrieanne_23@yahoo.com.
- **Publicity—Peg Haffey** will help publicize NWIRC events & coordinate the Council of Excellence Award data collection. Peg can be reached at mhaffey@wc314.org.

- **Adult & Family Literacy—Paula Watson** will have information about encouraging members to provide literacy programs & information to families about the impact of illiteracy on society. You may contact Paula at pwatson@wc314.org.



Once again, thank you to these council members who are willing to serve as Council Representatives. If you have ideas to share on these topics or would like to lend a hand, let one of them know how you can help.

PROFESSIONAL BOOK EXCERPT

From Who I Am Depends on Me! By Patty Hendrickson

☞ All of us have different wants and needs and we join groups for different reasons.

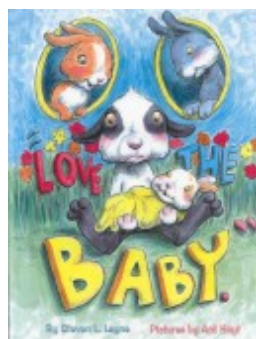
☞ People support what they help to create.

☞ Conflict is not a contest. It is our trademark of being a unique individual in this beautiful world.

☞ We must look at the lens through which we see the world, as well as the world we see, and that the lens itself shapes how we interpret the world.

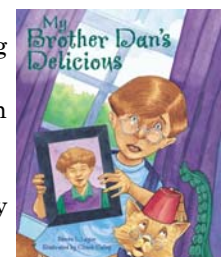
STEVEN LAYNE TO VISIT WEST CARROLL PRIMARY

Steven Layne, author of several books including Love the Baby, P is for Princess—A Royal Alphabet, My Brother Dan's Delicious, will be coming to West Carroll Primary School on Thursday, September 18 as part of their Author & Me Celebration. He will be speaking to the kindergarten through third grade students



about being an author. After school, we will be showcasing the second & third graders as authors by displaying books they have written over the summer. At 6:00 Mr. Layne will be talking to students, parents, teachers, & community members about fostering

the love of reading & writing for life. This event is funded in part by the Illinois Reading Council's Literacy Grant. Contact Keta Foltz at kfoltz@wc314.org for more information.





2008-2009 EVENT CALENDAR

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for some of these events! Contact one of the Executive Board members if you can help in any way with any of these! Thanks and we'll look forward to seeing you !

- ✍ **August 16**—Engage! Excite! Ignite! **Back-to-School Event** starting at *9:00* in Freeport at STAPLES (see next page for details)



- ✍ **Saturday, December 6**—*Story Hour with Father Christmas* at the Mt. Carroll Public Library at *10:30*

- ✍ **Saturday, December 6**—*Story Hour with Santa* at the Freeport Public Library at *10:00*



- ✍ **Saturday, December 13**—*Story Hour with Mrs. Claus* at the York Township Public Library in Thomson from *10:00—12:00*



- ✍ **Saturday, December 13**—*Story Hour with Santa* at the Stockton Public Library at *10:00*

- ✍ **Saturday, December 13**—*Story Hour with Santa* at the Savanna Public Library at *10:00*

- ✍ **March 12—14**—*Engage! Excite! Ignite!*
IRC Conference at Springfield



- ✍ **Thursday, April 2**—*Annual Meeting / Membership Appreciation* at Massbach Ridge Winery at *5:30*



- ✍ **Saturday, May 23**—*Used Book Sale with Story Time* at Mt. Carroll's Mayfest from *9:00—1:00*

Engage! Excite! Ignite!

WITH THE NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

Engage with fellow teachers!

Excite with books!

Ignite your school year!



on August 16th in Freeport!

9:00 Start at **Staples** in Freeport, IL to shop for school supplies. This is their teacher appreciation day. They will have **free gifts for the first 200 teachers!**



10:00-11:00 Meet us at **Manny's Four** for cold drinks, prizes, and a presentation by **Boomer Crotty** entitled...

"25 Books that have Changed Children into Readers"

11:00 Head to **Book World** to shop for books. Book World always offers a 20% discount to educators. Teachers will also receive a free gift for stopping by after the event.



This event is also sponsored by your **Northwestern Illinois Reading Council & IRC.**

NWIRC NOTES

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Engage! Excite! Ignite!

“Our mission is to provide support & leadership to educators as they promote & teach lifelong literacy.”
—Illinois Reading Council

