

Prairie Area Reading Council

Growth Through Literacy

Summer Newsletter

August 2007



Greetings PARC Members!

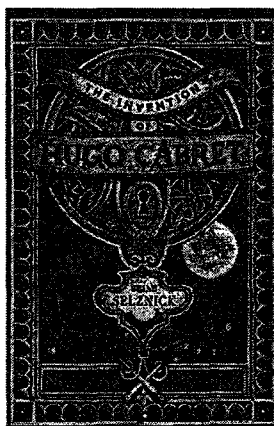
Summer has gone by quickly, hasn't it? We hope it has been enjoyable, leisurely, and yet reenergizing. Our purpose in this newsletter is to touch base and let you know we've been thinking about you. We are looking forward to the new school year and all of the events IRC and PARC have to offer you this school year.

Enjoy the last vestiges of summer....

Adrienne Murphy
Kelly Neylon

Here's a "giggle" for you...

Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number. ~Author Unknown



(Brian will be at the IRC Conference in March!)

PARC Board of Directors 2007-2008

Co-Presidents

Adrienne Murphy, Retired District 68

Kelly Neylon, Woodridge District 68

President-Elect

Sandi Ridker, Downers Grove Dist. 58

June Green, Downers Grove District 58

Secretary

Christine McDaniel, Downers Grove Dist. 58

Treasurer

Melissa Love, Woodridge Dist. 68

Membership

Alisa VanHekken, Bensenville Dist. 2

Historian

Andrienne Murphy, retired, Woodridge 68

Hospitality

Kelly McCombs, Woodridge District 68

Literacy Project

Sandi Ridker, Downers Grove District 58

Newsletter

Kathy Kreps, Center Cass District 66

IRC Committee Representatives

Parents & Reading

Melissa Love, Woodridge District 68

Please contact Kelly Neylon at
neylonk@woodridge68.org
to volunteer for any position!

Dictionaries for Kenya

We are pleased to announce that PARC has been awarded an International Literacy Grant in the amount of \$1,000. These monies will be donated to the elementary school in Kenya supported by Park View School in Lombard. The school will use the grant money to purchase dictionaries and other reference materials needed by the children. Sandy Dressler, the principal of Park View School, has been instrumental in obtaining much needed support for the school children of Kenya.

As we receive details regarding the actual awarding of the grant, we will inform the membership.



Bylaws

We are pleased to announce that PARC's amended Bylaws have been approved IRC. We were one of the first local councils to have our Bylaws submitted and approved. Thanks to the board members for all the hard work in amending the Bylaws.

Membership Information

Contact Alisa VanHekken, Membership Chair
Mohawk School
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Bensenville, IL 60106

Or the central office of the Illinois Reading Council:
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Normal, IL 61761-1836
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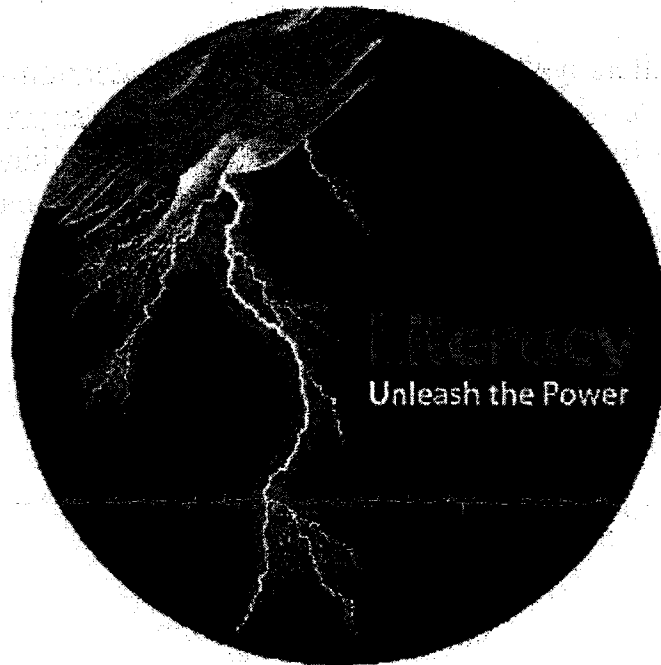
PARC Meetings

Our new Co-Presidents-Elect, Sandi Ridker and June Green are hard at work developing and planning programs for the 2007-2008 School year. Our first meeting will be in October. As details and plans are finalized, we will include that information in the next newsletter.



IRC Conference
LITERACY: UNLEASH THE POWER
March 13-15, 2008
Springfield, Illinois

The conference next year is during the second week of ISATs!



Illinois Reading Council
an affiliate of the International Reading Association

For more information, contact us at:

www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Literacy Project

In an effort to promote literacy locally, PARC worked with Family Shelter Service last year and will continue to work with them again this year. We would like to continue to have members donate backpacks, school supplies and new books for children. Also, gently used reading materials for adults are appreciated. Additionally, this year we are expanding this project and PARC will be purchasing some magazine subscriptions for children and women. Besides promoting literacy, these items help make the facilities warm and welcoming places for the families who are beginning to move beyond the shadow of domestic abuse.

Several other worthwhile literacy projects have come to our attention and we are looking for someone or several people who could help PARC organize these projects. One idea is to coordinate with Habitat for Humanity and provide books for children when they move into the homes built by this organization. Another idea is a program called Books for Babies. This program provides books for babies born in local hospitals. Both programs would also provide information for parents about the importance of reading aloud to children from the very beginning through adolescence.

If you are interested in becoming involved in one of these literacy projects, please contact any of the PARC Board members.

Helpful School Supplies

markers
pens and pencils
rulers
folders
glue sticks
backpacks
writing journals

Did You Know?

Anderson's Bookshop is sponsoring their
4th Annual Children's and Young Adult Literature Conference
Saturday, September 29, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Select, Naperville
It will be a gathering of authors and professional educators interested in the best and newest in young adult literature. Meet authors Robert Sharenow, Sherman Alexie, Chris Crutcher, Christopher Paul Curtis and Sonya Sones. There will be breakout sessions on a variety of motivating topics, enjoy a continental breakfast and a full luncheon. Book signing opportunities and CPDU credits offered. Check the store or website for further details.