



Illinois Author Candace Fleming  
Meadowview Elementary School  
April 15th

March 2009

From Your Presidents' Desks:

The crocuses are blooming. The first robin was sighted near school. ISATs are over. Jackets are piled high on the blacktop during recess. The sun is shining. The thermometer is rising. It must be spring! At last!

Spring is not only an exciting time for the jacketless kids on the playground, but also for PARC. This newsletter is filled with information about upcoming events and updates on PARC projects.

First, look for information about our next PARC meeting. April 15 may be income tax day for the rest of the country, but for us PARC members, it is the date of our next meeting. Candace Fleming, author of numerous fiction and non-fiction books for children will be addressing our group. Come to meet Candace Fleming and hear her speak about writing and her books.

We will also have elections on the 15th. We'd like to urge everyone to consider becoming involved with Prairie Area Reading Council. It is truly a wonderful organization. It may seem like a great deal of time must be needed to complete tasks, but that isn't the case!! Especially because there is a dedicated group of professionals like yourself on the Board to work with you. Please consider volunteering for a position, either alone or with a partner. Volunteering together makes it a lot more fun and a lot less work! There are many benefits, too. Presidents share a complimentary registration from the Illinois Reading Council to the March conference every year.

At the April meeting, you will also hear about the long anticipated Books for Babies. After a year in the works, Books for Babies is ready to launch. With the cooperation of local pediatricians who will distribute the materials, Books for Babies will provide parents of newborns in our area with books and ideas about how to develop literacy. Co-sponsored by the Downers Grove Rotary, Books for Babies will be coming soon to a pediatrician's office near you!

In conclusion, we would like to say thank you to PARC for the opportunity to be your co-presidents this year. Thank you, too, to our hard working board. Throughout the past year, we have played together, talked together, worked together, and had a great time doing it.

Enjoy the rest of your school year,  
Sandi and June





## Community Service Projects



### Green Light For Books for Babies!

Submitted by Carrie Edwards



We are now partnered with the DuPage Medical Group pediatric doctors on Highland Ave. to spread the love of reading with babies and their families. Each family will receive a "Books for Babies" kit during their third month well child visit.

The kits will contain a baby board book, supplemental reading materials for parents on the benefits of reading early and often to young children, and a "Baby's First Library Card" to be traded in for a real library card at the local library. The Books For Babies kits will be purchased from the Friends of Libraries Foundation by the Prairie Area Reading Council with the help of funding from the Downers Grove Rotary Club. There would be no cost for the DuPage Medical Group. Once ordered, the pediatric doctors will distribute the kits. We are also asking that the physicians to spend some time with the parents discussing the benefits of reading to young children.

***At our April meeting, we will be collecting school supplies for our Family Shelter Community Project. Pencils, pens, paper, folders, crayons, rulers and other school supplies would be greatly appreciated.***



From Cheryl and Rosemary...

Engage, Excite, Ignite...what great words to describe our experience when we attended the Illinois Reading Council Conference in Springfield, Illinois! It was a first time event for both of us and it would never have happened without the generosity of PARC. As the lucky winners of a raffle drawing, we enriched our reading background through the numerous workshops and sessions we attended. A favorite being Dr. Maria Walther's writing and literacy which set our path to finish the year using her practical and easy to implement lessons. We want to extend our thanks to the PARC organization for this insightful opportunity.



Raffle winners, Cheryl Gersch a 1st grade teacher, and Rosemary Turley a 2nd grade teacher, both from Meadowview School, enjoy the IRC conference in Springfield!



# Prairie Area Reading Council

Proudly Presents:

## Illinois Author Candace Fleming

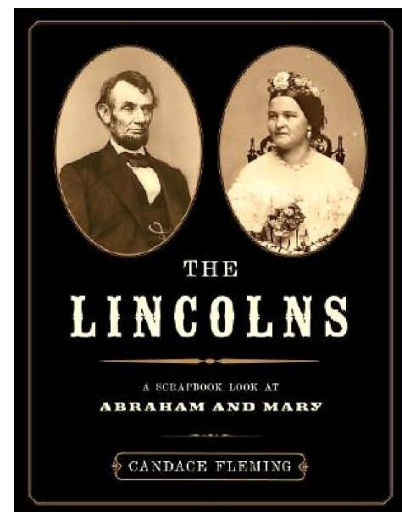
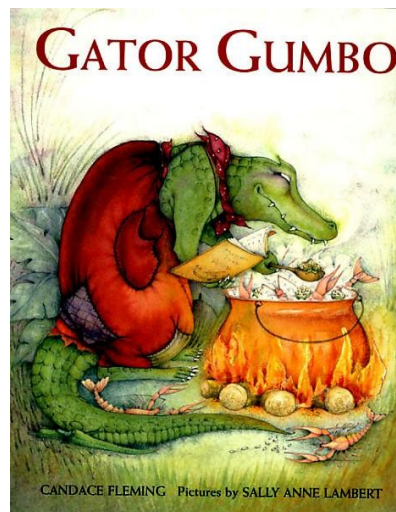
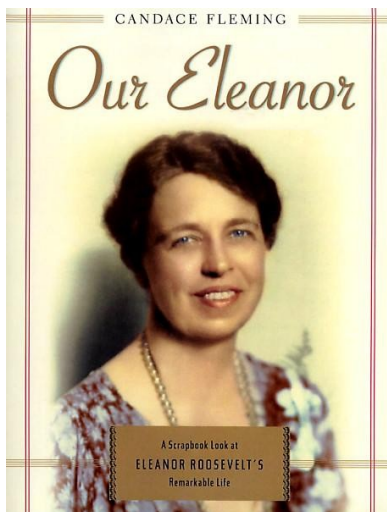
Ms. Fleming is the author of many fiction and non-fiction books including *Our Eleanor*, *Gator Gumbo* and *The Lincolns*.

Ms. Fleming will be at Meadowview School on Wednesday, April 15th.

Registration 4:45 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m., Presentation 5:30 p.m.

CPDUs and Door Prices

Dinner from Uncle Bub's



Registration Deadline: Monday, April 6, 2009

Cost includes dinner and speaker.

Members: \$15.00 members, \$18.00 Non-members, \$10 students

Please make your check payable to: Prairie Area Reading Council

Mail this form & check to:

Jennifer Woods

c/o Puffer School

2220 Haddow Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home /cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

District and School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prairie Area Reading Council**

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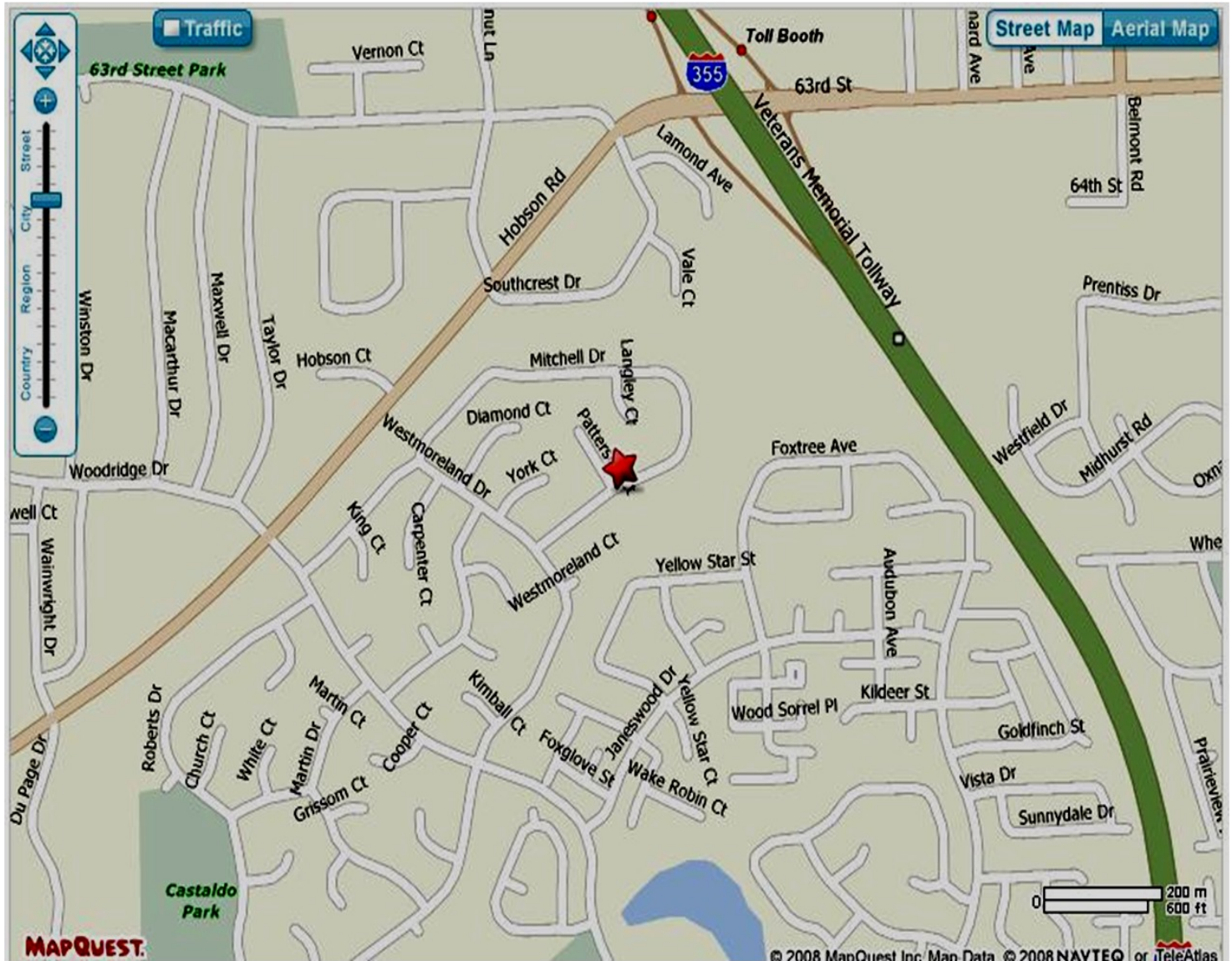
The two most engaging powers of an author  
are to make new things familiar and familiar  
things new.

—Samuel Johnson



## Directions to Meadowview School

Rt. 355 to 63rd Street/Hobson Road  
63rd Street/Hobson Road West to Woodridge Drive  
Woodridge Drive South to Westmoreland Drive  
Left on Westmoreland Drive  
Westmoreland Drive to Mitchell Drive  
Right on Mitchell Drive  
School is on the right  
Please use the marked entrance.





## Prairie Area is looking for a few good people!

We are in need of volunteers to serve on the PARC Board. The board makes decisions about speakers and community service projects. Many board positions have become "CO" these past few years. That certainly helps when it comes to getting things done and ideas! Two heads are better than one, as they say! Please consider joining PARC's board! The amount of time involved is minimal when you work together as a team, as June said in the president's letter! Please consider helping to keep PARC alive!

The following positions will be open:

Secretary for 2009-2010 school year

Vice-President (or co-vice presidents) to serve as Vice President in 2009-2010, President Elect in 2010-2011 and President in 2011-2012. (you get two years to learn the ropes with everyone!)

If you have any questions, please mail:

Kelly Neylon at [neylonk@woodridge68.org](mailto:neylonk@woodridge68.org) or

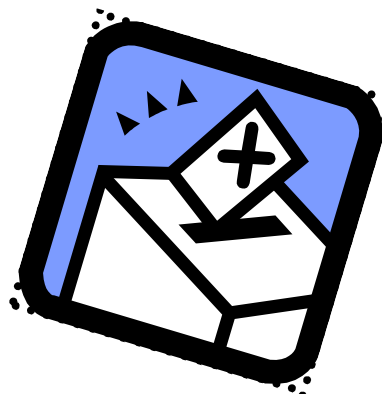
Melissa Love at [lovem@woodridge68.org](mailto:lovem@woodridge68.org), or

Sandi Ridker at [sridker@dg58.org](mailto:sridker@dg58.org).



## We'd love to have you on the Board!

• Elections for PARC Board  
• members will be held at the April  
• 15th meeting.



### JANET ALLEN IS COMING SOON!

On April 14 from 8:30 A.M. -3 P.M., "internationally known content literacy advocate Janet Allen will bring her wealth of experience, creativity, and practicality to DuPage County SCIENCE TEACHERS. This interactive workshop is designed to support science teachers in developing effective instructional strategies to support students in science learning. Each strategy lesson will be demonstrated using a variety of science materials. In addition, teachers will have the opportunity to brainstorm ideas and create an implementation plan for instructional strategies that will support student learning in their classrooms." (DuPage ROE website) For more information, go to the Du Page ROE website: <http://www.dupage.k12.il.us/>, click on CALENDAR on the right side of the page, then click on the April 14 workshop: **More Tools for Teaching Science: Research Based Strategies and Instruction.**

