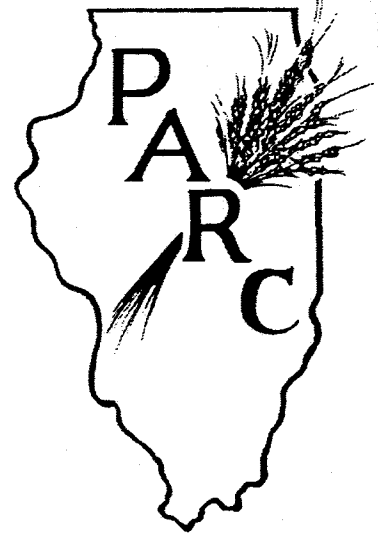


Prairie Area Reading Council

Growth Through Literacy

Fall Newsletter
September 2007



Greetings PARC Members!

Welcome back to a brand new school year!

Ah! The beginning of the school year, new starts, clean slates, new possibilities. How many people can say they have a new start with their jobs? We are truly lucky to be able to have such a new beginning each school year.

We have a great program planned for you this fall. On October 11, 2007 at Prairie View Elementary, PARC proudly presents Dr. Richard Allington.

Dr. Allington is a Professor of Education at the University of Tennessee. He was an elementary school classroom teacher and a Title I director in poor rural schools prior to beginning his career as a teacher educator and instructional researcher. His research interests include reading/learning disabilities and effective instruction, especially in classroom settings. His publications include over 100 articles, chapters, monographs, and books. He served or serves on the editorial advisory boards of Reading Research Quarterly, Review of Educational Research, Journal of Educational Psychology, Reading Teacher, Elementary School Journal, Journal of Literacy Research, and Remedial and Special Education.

Dr. Allington has served as president of the National Reading Conference and is a past President of the International Reading Association. He was co-recipient (with Dr. Anne McGill-Franzen) of the Albert J. Harris Award for contributions to improving professional understanding of reading/learning disabilities and was elected to the Reading Hall of Fame.

Dr. Allington is author or co-author of several books including Classrooms That Work: They Can All Read And Write (AllynBacon), and Schools That Work: All Children Can Read And Write (AllynBacon). Dr. Allington is co-editor of No Quick Fix: Rethinking Literacy Programs in America's Elementary Schools (TeachersCollege). His most recent books are What Really Matters for Struggling Readers: designing research-based programs (Allyn-Bacon) and Big Brother and the National Reading Curriculum: How ideology trumped evidence (Heinemann).

We feel very fortunate to be able to present this speaker to you and hope to see you all at the meeting.
Until next time,

Adrienne Murphy
Kelly Neylon

PARC Board of Directors 2007-2008

Co-Presidents

Adrienne Murphy, Retired District 68

Kelly Neylon, Woodridge District 68

Co-Presidents-Elect

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June Green, Downers Grove District 58

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Membership

Alisa VanHekken, Bensenville Dist. 2

Historian

Adrienne Murphy, retired, Woodridge 68

Literacy Project

Sandi Ridker, Downers Grove District 58

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.

The grant will be presented to Praire Area Reading Council and Park View School Staff at our October 11, 2007 meeting. Please join us in congratulating them on a job well done.





Prairie Area Reading Council Presents

Dr. Richard Allington
October 11, 2007

Dr. Richard Allington is a former classroom teacher and Title I director. He currently is a Professor of Education at the University of Tennessee and former President of the International Reading Association. His research focuses on reading/learning disabilities and effective classroom instruction. Dr. Allington is the co-author of *Classrooms that Work They Can All Read And Write* (AllynBacon), *Schools that Work: All Children Can Read And Write* (AllynBacon), and the author of *What Really Matters for Struggling Readers: Designing Research-Based Programs* (Allyn-Bacon).

Park View School
341 N. Elizabeth Street
Lombard, IL 60148

Registration 4:30p.m. Book Sales 4:45

Program 5:45-6:45

Questions: Adrienne Murphy: 630-971-0234

One CPDU will be awarded to participants.

Please remember to bring supplies for our Shelter and Literacy Projects.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Cost includes dinner and speaker: Member \$8.00 Non-Member \$10.00

Please make your check payable to: Prairie Area Reading Council

Mail this form & check to:

Alisa Van Hekken, Mohawk School
917 W. Hillside Drive. Bensenville, IL 60106

Name: _____

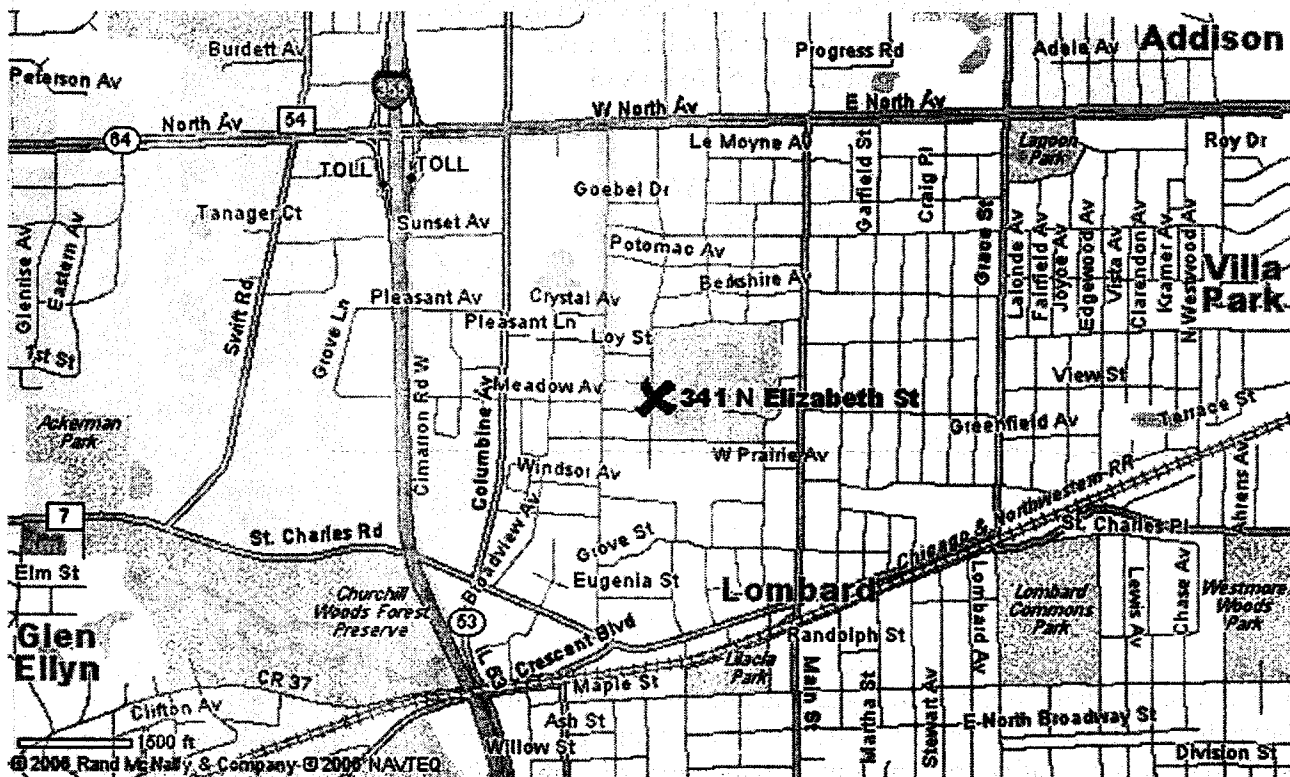
Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____

District and School: _____

Directions to Park View School

- Take I-355 to North Ave.
- Go east on North Ave. to Main Street, Lombard.
- Go south on Main Street to Greenfield.
- Go west on Greenfield to Elizabeth Street.
- Go north on Elizabeth Street to Park View School.



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
917 W. Hillside Drive
Bensenville, IL 60106

Or the central office of the Illinois Reading Council:
1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2
Normal, IL 61761-1836
www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Phone: (309) 454-1341
Toll Free: 1-888-454-1341
Fax: (309) 454-3512
Email: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

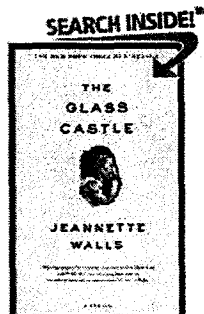
Book Review

By Cindy Gerwin, Vice President PARC

The Glass Castle
By Jeannette Walls

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience. Jeannette Walls tells her story in childlike, non-judgmental way that will keep you glued to the pages long into the evening. The Walls family, although deeply dysfunctional, was also uniquely vibrant, loving and loyal. Her father when sober challenged his children to learn and embrace life. But when he drank, was destructive – at one point attempting to sell his daughter for money. Walls' mother was a creative free spirit who found domestic life, and any sense of responsibility, stifling. The Walls children learned to feed, cloth and protect one another, eventually finding their way to New York. Amazingly Jeannette Walls completed college and prospered as a regular contributor to MSNBC while her parents chose to remain homeless.

A must read for any teacher who needs a gentle reminder of life in a lower socioeconomic household where homework is not a priority – surviving is!



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 IRC 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

