South Suburban Reading Council presents:
Pam Bartusiewicz & Linda Tatum: "Skype Sisters"
February 2, 2012 (5:00 PM Cash Bar—5:45 PM Dinner)

Silver Lakes Country Club 14700 South 82nd Ave. Orland Park, IL 60462 (708) 349-6940	**Menu:** **Sauteed boneless chicken breast w/ marsala sauce** **Soup of the day/ salad/ double baked potato w/ gravy** **Broccoli au grautin** **Spumoni ice cream—Coffee, Tea, Milk**	**Mail this form and** payment to: Gail Prindle 17203 Parkside Ave. Tinley Park, IL 60477

Reservations are due January 13, 2012. Late reservations cannot be honored.

Please PRINT clearly and make check payable to SSRC.

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School _____ District _____

_____Member ($23.00)

_____Non-Member ($28.00)

_____Pre-Service Teacher ($12.00)

____ Yes. I would like to receive 1 CPDU for attending this event

_____ Yes. I would like a vegetarian meal.

Practice Makes Comprehension
By Justin Opiola

Practice makes perfect. Not quite. As educators, we read a lot (hopefully). That does not mean we know how to pronounce every word we encounter. Practice makes improvement. That sounds more adequate. According to Pam Allen, founder and executive director of LitWorld, "With all the many programs our teachers adopt and school districts purchase, and with all the debate over different approaches to teaching reading, it is urgently time to reinvent the teaching of reading, acknowledging that it is the key to improving students' overall success in school, impacting every single subject area and our children's future success in the workplace" (2011).

With all the growing technology that students use (hold on . . . I'm getting a text message), Pam Allen says that the 21st century is the century of the critical reader. "The way we've taught reading until now does not match what the 21st century child needs to know, and to know what to do when navigating this complex and varied universe of information and opinion" (Allen, 2011).

The simple solution is practice. If an athlete wants to improve skill level and performance, the athlete practices. Musicians improve with practice. Chefs improve with practice. Teachers improve with practice. No matter what the skill is, with practice, improvement will follow.

"Teachers lecture about 'reading comprehension strategies' and 'decoding skills' instead of giving children the real and authentic opportunities to actually read from varied and meaningful resources in school. They are reading less than seven minutes every day, if that, independently, by the middle school grades" (Allen, 2011).

"It's as simple as this: children learn to read by reading" (Allen, 2011). I don't know about you, but I could really go for a nice book and/or SSRC newsletter right about now!

Allen, P. (2011, November 12). Reading Scores and Wars: A New Solution. *Huffington Post*, Retrieved: December 11, 2011, from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pam-allyn/teaching-reading_b_1087076.html.

Using Best Literacy Practices to Teach Math with Susan Whited
By Carrie Piet

On Thursday, December 8th, SSRC welcomed Susan Whited, Math Coach in Oak Lawn Hometown SD 123. In an engaging presentation, Susan connected basic reading comprehension strategies to everyday math concepts through discussion and children's books. She stressed the importance of making it possible for teachers to "create flexible, efficient, strategic problem solvers," whether you teach kindergarten or 8th grade. For those of you who may have missed this dinner meeting, Susan's presentation and all related materials can be found on http://www.livebinders.com.

Are you bored with your math instruction? Don't miss out on a strategy you can incorporate immediately- check out this info today!