

South Suburban Reading Council

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2010

- Illinois Reading Council
- International Reading Association

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Next Board Meeting:
May 11, 2010
4:30 p.m.

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A Message from the President.....

Dear Members,

Spring is in the air not only for us but also for our students. The end of the school year seems right around the corner, but we still have so much to do. This is a time to remember that teaching and learning still need to happen up to the last hour of our last day. Hopefully, you will be able to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity when the International Reading Association (IRA) Conference comes to Chicago April 25-28.

As this year starts to draw to a close, I would really like to thank all the members of the SSRC Board who have contributed to making this organization such a huge success. These are the people that make my job as president so easy. We have tried to move in a little different direction this year and it is all due to the "out of the

box" thinking of this board. Next year, under the direction of Jill Liapis, promises to be just as exciting.

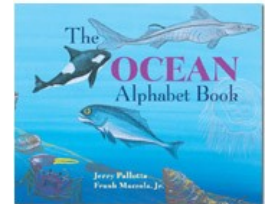
Our work this year has been rewarded by the Illinois Reading Council (IRC), and we have been given the Council of Excellence Award. This award recognizes local and special interest councils that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the council members, the community, and the state association. The best part is that we also receive a \$100 award! In addition, we also received a \$500 Speaker Grant to bring, Jerry Pallotta, an author to our council on April 29th.

Have an enjoyable spring and I hope to see you on April 29th for Jerry Pallotta.

Dr. Kathleen Doyle

Hold These Dates

- April 25-28-IRA Annual Convention in Chicago
- April 29-An Evening with Author Jerry Pallotta at Dinolfos



SSRC Executive Board 2010-2011

By Kathleen Puchkors

SSRC is very fortunate to have many talented and knowledgeable educators interested in serving on the Board of SSRC for next year. Many of them have been a part of the Board for a number of years and provide much needed wisdom and experience as SSRC serves the reading community. We also have several new Board members whose creative ideas and enthusiasm for teaching reading are welcome additions to our council. What an outstanding group of educators leading SSRC for the next year!

Elected Officers are:

President – Jill Liapis
President Elect – Megan Wrzesinski
Vice President – Carrie Oswald
Treasurer - Peggy Gannon
Recording Secretary – Rita Queeney
Corresponding Secretary – Jen Nichols

Immediate Past President – Kathleen Doyle

Other Board Members are:

Membership – Bernadette Wachel and Lisa Wachel
Hospitality/Arrangements – Jaime Hewitt
Hospitality/Reservations – Gail Prindle and Jane Kinshaw
CPDU Provider – Karen Pohrte
Newsletter – Carrie Cahill
Publicity – Pam Bartusiewicz
Legislation – Dominique Morgan
Newspapers in Education – Amy Jachowicz and Toni St. Pierre
Parents and Reading – Denita Scott
Studies and Research – Justin Opiola
Books for Shelter – Ginny Koepel
Adult Literacy – Kathleen Puchkors
Audit – Anne Leuring

Looking For Presenters

The Illinois State Board of Education will be holding a Reading First Summer Institute on August 10-12, 2010 at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn. They are looking for presenters on topics that would appeal to K-3 teachers. If you are interested in presenting you can email Dr. Kathleen Doyle at kdoyle@s-cook.org for a proposal.





Round Robin Reading is Never a Best Practice!

By Bernadette Wachel

Round Robin Reading, also known as Popcorn, is never a best reading practice. Opitz and Rasinski (2008) cite many reasons for not using Round Robin Reading with students. Interfering with comprehension, creating inattentive behaviors and giving students an inaccurate view of reading are but a few of them.

What to do instead?

Cunningham and Allington (1999) provide these effective alternatives to Round Robin Reading.

ERT (Everybody Read To)

The teacher divides the text into segments. The teacher sets a purpose for reading the first segment and then directs "Everyone to read to....." (Ex.: Everyone read to the bottom of page 7 to find out the story's problem.) Emerging readers

(for example, Levels A – F) may engage in whisper reading in ERT, while more experienced readers are expected to read the text silently. After all of the students have finished reading, the teacher follows up with a question or two: "What did you find out about.....?" or "What is the author telling us about....?" Students answer the question(s) in their own words, the teacher sets a new purpose for reading and then the students proceed to read the next segment of the text. The cycle repeats until the text is finished. You may find it helpful to do a mini-lesson as to how the students should signal that they have finished reading and what they should do if they should finish before their peers. Many teachers have their students use a simple thumbs up to signal that that they are

finished. The students are instructed to put their thumbs up, think about the purpose and go back to reread to locate information in the text that supports the purpose while the other students finish reading.

Sticky Note Reading

Similar to ERT, but the students use sticky notes to mark what they found during their reading. For example, students may mark what they learned, found interesting or confusing. Students discuss their findings after they have read the segment. The teacher may ask, "Would anyone like to share a piece of information that they found interesting during their reading?" Students refer to the section of the text that they have marked with a sticky note.

Partner Reading A variety of partner reading formats can be

taught to the students. For example, on "read/retell days" both partners read a page silently and then take turns retelling what they remember. Another version is "ask question days"; it involves both partners reading the same page silently and then asking each other a question before going on to the next page. "Sticky note days" require that each partner mark something that they want to remember with a sticky note while reading. After reading a page, they share their notes.

Echo Reading The teacher reads first and then the students read it back, trying to match the teacher's fluent reading.

Opitz, M. F., & Rasinski, T.V. (2008) *Goodbye Round Robin*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. Cunningham, P. M., & Allington,

The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

By Kathleen Doyle

On Monday March 15, 2010 the Obama administration sent to Congress its blueprint for a new Elementary and Secondary Education Act to replace No Child Left Behind. The major focus of this plan are (1) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness to ensure that every classroom has a great teacher and every school has a great leader; (2) Providing information to families to help them evaluate and improve their children's schools, and to educators to help them improve their students' learning; (3)

Implementing college- and career-ready standards and developing improved assessments aligned with those standards; and (4) Improving student learning and achievement in America's lowest-performing schools by providing intensive support and effective interventions.

Along with the "Race to the Top" funds, this reauthorization has a major impact on the teaching and learning in Illinois. It may also have an impact on many of the reading

specialists, who are currently being funded by Title 1, a major component of this Act.

For a great summary of this blueprint, you can go to the International Reading Association's site at http://www.reading.org/Libraries/Legislative/ESEA_RENEWAL_SUMMARY.sflb.ashx or you can get the document from the U.S. Department of Education at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/blueprint.pdf>.

Tech Talk

By Megan Wrzesinski

Technology has become a significant tool in the classroom. It seems each day new websites and tools are being introduced. Here are a few that I have found to be successful in the classroom.

Wallwisher- www.wallwisher.com

Wallwisher is an online bulletin

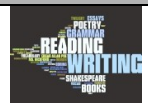
board in which anyone can post a comment or answer a question. No registration is required which allows students to post responses without creating usernames. When you build a wall you can set up control features to view content before it is displayed on the page. To see a sample wall visit

<http://www.wallwisher.com/wall/gG4rpL5K8e> and add your favorite fluency strategies.

Wordle- www.wordle.net

Wordle is an online tool to create word clouds. This is a great resource to use to summarize a chapter or theme. Students type in key words relating to the

theme and a word cloud is generated from the responses. Students can then edit the shape, colors, and font. Please send your favorite websites and technology resources to meg_wrzesinski@hotmail.com to be included in future newsletters.



**South Suburban Reading Council presents:
Jerry Pallotta—Children's Author
April 29, 2010 (5:00 PM Cash Bar—5:45 PM Dinner)**

<p style="text-align: center;">Dinolfos Banquets 9425 W. 191st Street Mokena, IL 60448 (708) 479-1919</p>	<p>Menu</p> <p>Tossed Salad with Poppy Seed, Ranch, or French Dressing Double Boneless Chicken Breast with Stuffing California Medley, Oven Roasted Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Tea, Milk</p>	<p>Mail this form and payment to: Gail Prindle 17203 Parkside Ave. Tinley Park, IL 60477</p>
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Reservations are due April 8, 2010 Late reservations cannot be honored.
Come early for convenient seating

We're considering sending our newsletter online. Would you like to receive yours via Email? Yes _____ No _____

Please PRINT clearly and make check payable to SSRC.

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School _____ District _____

_____ Member (\$22.00)

_____ Non-Member (\$27.00)

_____ Pre-Service Teacher (\$12.00)

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

3, 2, 1.... Go Green!

By Amy Jachowicz and Carrie Oswald

In the famous words of Kermit the Frog, "It's not easy being GREEN!" The current generation of children and teens has grown up becoming more "green." It is important to continue making children aware of their responsibility in caring for our environment. We can do this by not only recycling paper, but opening the eyes of students to the accessibility of online newspapers which aids in the lesson that our decisions affect future generations. The newspaper industry has also attempted to "go green" by reducing paper production, and promoting electronic and web editions so that teachers and students can use on a daily basis. In the classroom, students need to see that society is reinforcing the position of green to make way for a better future. Teachers can incorporate this green mentality by developing content area lessons in conjunction with electronic editions of the newspaper.

For example, Elish-Piper (2009) recommends the 3-2-1 Comprehension Strategy that can be used with any non-fiction text. This strategy encourages students to become detectives by discovering and questioning the text. Using an e-edition article, teachers can model how to locate 3 new concepts, 2 interesting facts, and 1 question that still remains. This technique can be used in both whole group and small group instruction, or as an independent activity.

Depending upon the available technology within your building, an interactive white board, document camera or computer lab accessibility can enhance the use of the e-edition articles and web articles to provide the students the experience of the non-fiction newspaper text. Teachers can allow students the opportunity to delve into articles that go along with the current lesson being developed

during class time in correspondence with the 3-2-1 comprehension strategy. Allowing the students these opportunities can only benefit the students opportunities with print and our environment. It may not always be easy going green, but it is the best way to address the needs of our students in this modern age.



Citation:

Elish-Piper, L. (2009). Parent involvement in reading. *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, 37(4), 50-54.

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Final Dinner Meeting of the Year !

By Jill Lapias

Our March dinner meeting was a huge success. Our presenter Laura Baker shared techniques to create visual and kinesthetic methods for students to share their knowledge. I walked away with techniques to keep students engaged and excited about learning.

Our next dinner meeting will be the final one for this school year. We are ending our year with an exciting presentation from Jerry Pallotta, a well known author of children's books and a very engaging speaker. He will have books available for purchase and of course he will autograph them as well.

Jerry Pallotta brings together non-fiction subjects with humor and the unexpected to create enthusiasm for learning. Join Jerry for his twenty- five year review of publishing as he discusses researching, writing, designing, working with illustrators, editing and publishing his best-selling books. Learn how he alphabetizes bugs, skulls and trucks. Take a math literacy tour through his MATH=FUN series. Enjoy a dose of fiction in his imaginative holiday books. Come see Jerry's newest books Who Would Win? Lion vs Tiger , part of a new reluctant reader series and Who Will Plant a Tree? a charming review of how nature renews its forests. Jerry's books engage readers of all ages. Get tips on how to encourage students to read and write a zillion books!