

- **Illinois Reading Council**
- **International Reading Association**

South Suburban Reading Council

Volume 2, Issue 3

November 2009

A Message from the President.....



Officers:

President:
Kathleen Doyle
kdoyle@s-cook.org

President-Elect:
Jill Liapis
jliapis@s-cook.org

Vice President:
Megan Wrzesinski
meg_wrzesinski@hotmail.com

Treasurer:
Peggy Gannon
pgannon@district146.org

Secretary:
Rita Queeney
qgoblue@comcast.net

Immediate Past President:
Kathy Puchkors
klpuchkors@comcast.net

Next Board Meeting:
February 2, 2010
4:30 p.m.

Inside this issue:

- Illinois Snapshot of Early Literacy (ISEL) **2**
- Question-Answer Relationships **2**
- Reservation Form **3**
- Read Kiddo Read **3**
- Strategy Exchange **3**
- Bookmatch **4**

Dear Members,
As the saying goes, "Time flies, when you're having fun" and did we have fun at the Share Fair! Our first event of this nature was a great success. There were so many terrific presentations that we did not get a chance to see all of the wonderful ideas that educators in the South Suburban area are implementing in their classrooms. I would like to thank the following presenters for stepping forward and blazing the trail to a wonderful evening:

Jennifer Gervase - #163-Data Driven Intervention Groups;
Jennifer Duda and Becky Griffith - #148-Busy Bee Bag- Literacy Parent Involvement;
Gerry Krull and Michelle Malone - #123-Systemic Implementation of a Balanced Literacy Design;
Joyce Eddy - #130-7 Words in 7 Minutes: Interactive Vocabulary;
Nicole Creiger - #152.5-Engaging Children's Library ;
Lori Szeszycki and Anne Coffman - #218 -Adult and Family Literacy;
Jennifer Volpe - #152.5-Content Reading: Engaging Vocabulary Instruction;

Susan Karlson- #148-Library Mouse Inspires Student Writing;
Kathy Puchkors- #207-U and Pam Bartusiewicz- #167-Parent Involvement and Family Reading Night;
Jaime Hewitt- #167-; Technology Meets Teacher;
Dominique Morgan- #167-ipods and Reading;
Donna Huff- #152.5 - Using Technology for Students to Compare and Contrast Passages ; and
Jill Liapis-SCISC4-Squeeze 'N Reads©: Multisensory Comprehension Strategy Instruction.

I encourage you to start thinking about all the good things you do in your classroom and hope you will present one of those ideas at our Share Fair next year.

Have a great holiday season while you are practicing the 3Rs: Resting, Relaxing and Reading. We hope to see you after the New Year at our next event on January 14th at Silver Lakes Country Club for "Bookmatch".

Dr. Kathleen Doyle

Hold These Dates

- January 14-Book Match at Silver Lakes Country Club
- March 10-Foldables at Balagio
- March 18-20-IRC Conference in Springfield
- April 25-28-IRA Annual Convention in Chicago
- April 29-An Evening with Author Jerry Pallotta at Dinolfos

SSRC Board Needs You! by Kathleen Puchkors

Elections for officers of the 2010-2011 SSRC Board will take place at the March 9th meeting. Nominations for Vice President are being taken by Kathy Puchkors. If you would like to nominate someone or would like to be considered for this position, please contact Kathy at klpuchkors@comcast.net. In addition, chairs and committee member positions may also be available. **We would love to have you join us.** If you are interested in serving on the SSRC Board, please contact Kathy at the above email address.

Going Green by Kathleen Doyle

Starting in the Fall of 2010, SSRC is going green! Since almost everyone has access to the Internet, the newsletter will be sent via email or it can be accessed on the IRC website at <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/localcouncils/southsuburban.html>. Not only is this an eco-friendly concept, but it will save our council hundreds of dollars in printing and mailing costs. If you do not have Internet access,

please indicate on your next dinner meeting reservation that you still need to receive your newsletters via mail. If you have not been receiving emails from SSRC, let us know by dropping us a note at southsuburban@illinoisreadingcouncil.org so that we have your most current email address.

The Illinois Snapshot for Early Literacy (ISEL)

By Carrie Cahill



The Illinois Snapshots or Early Literacy (ISEL) is a formative, comprehensive, and practical assessment. Identifying students, who demonstrate struggles in learning to read, as well as monitoring students' progress in reading can result in a profound effect on a student's long-term achievement (Snow, Burns, and Griffin, 1998). This is particularly true in the primary grades. Research supports the notion that students benefit from the early, appropriate, and targeted instruction. Teachers must have a clear understanding of the Students' strengths and needs in order to provide meaningful and purposeful literacy instruction.

Through the data gathered from the administration of valid and reliable assessments that are linked to best classroom practice, teachers are better able to focus their efforts with their students (Barr, Blanchowics, Dunn, Buhle, and Sullivan, 2004). The ISEL assesses student performance

and provides data on both process and performance skills that reflect those taught in a comprehensive literacy program.

A group of Illinois researchers and teachers developed the ISEL in conjunction with the Illinois State Board of Education. The developers identified and used an extensive research base to cull out significant factors needed for student success in learning to read and meet state standards. This resulted in a multifaceted classroom-based reading performance screening and diagnostic assessment which provides data to improve student literacy. The purposes of the ISEL are threefold.

- To provide screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic information for instructional planning
- To identify students in need of early reading intervention and support
- To provide pre- and post-assessment data to assess

student progress over time

The focus of the ISEL assessment is classroom instruction. Therefore, each individual snapshot is assessed in such a manner as to resemble classroom instruction, and the data gathered from the snapshots have direct implications for staff development.

In order to facilitate the process, the developers approached The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning (The Center) to create technology for collecting and reporting the assessment data. This allows for immediate access to score sheets, reports and item analysis.

Our district chose to pilot The Center's ISEL technology last spring, and incorporated ISEL into our literacy program this year.

ISBE approves the use if ISEL for early literacy assessment and Rtl.



Benefits of ISEL

- The various snapshots address comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, phonemic awareness, concept of word, and fluency. These provide teachers the data for planning appropriate and meaningful classroom instruction and intervention.
- Each snapshot is assessed in a manner that resembles classroom instruction.
- The data gathered has direct implications for staff development.
- The Spanish version of the ISEL is not a direct translation of the English version, but a test constructed based on the Spanish language.
- Administration can be done with any web based device, and once data is gathered score sheets, reports, and item analysis can be accessed immediately on the website.
- Data can be easily sorted for differentiated instruction.
- A progress monitoring tool is available for grades K-5
- A placement reading inventory is available to determine students' instructional reading level.

Question Answer Relationships: A Strategy for High Stakes Testing

By Bernadette Wachel

If you find yourself searching for a surefire strategy to increase student ISAT performance, don't overlook an oldie but a goodie: Question Answer Relationships (QARs). Created by Taffy Raphael in response to her observation that students overly rely on the text OR memory and experience when answering questions, QARs teach students to look at both. Providing students with a framework and a common language in which to organize their thinking, QARs encourage students to analyze a question in terms of what the question is asking and where the answer may be found. Initially, students are taught to categorize a question in one of two ways: *IN THE BOOK* versus *IN MY HEAD*.

IN THE BOOK

RIGHT THERE QUESTION: The answer can be found "right there" in the book. You can point to the answer.

THINK AND SEARCH: The answer can be found in the book, but you have to search for it in several places.



IN MY HEAD

AUTHOR AND YOU: The answer cannot be found in the book. You have to think about what you have read and what you already know to formulate the answer.



ON MY OWN:

The answer cannot be found in the book. Your own experiences can be used to answer the question.

What's new with QARs? Schools are using QARs to frame comprehension strategy instruction. For example, comprehension strategies to be taught for THINK AND SEARCH QUESTIONS might include summarizing, visualizing, using context, determining important information, etc. (Raphael, Highfield and Au, 2006).

Picture-Question-Answer Relationships are another exciting new development. In this use of the strategy, students answer questions using the text's pictures (Cortese, 2003). Students are taught to use four picture question answer relationships (*Right There, Artist and You, On My Own and Putting It Together*) to increase their understanding of

a story.

Why use QARs? First and foremost, research (Raphael, 1986) indicates that QARs increase student achievement. Besides its documented effectiveness, it is a flexible strategy in that it can be easily embedded into instruction across grade levels and content areas.

References:

- Cortese, E. E. (2003). The application of question-answer relationship strategies to pictures. *The Reading Teacher*, 57, 374 – 380.
- Raphael, T. E. (1986). *Teaching question answer relationships, revisited. The Reading Teacher*, 39, 516-152.
- Raphael, T. E., Highfield, K., & Au, K. H. (2006). *QAR Now*. New York: Scholastic.

**South Suburban Reading Council Presents:
BOOKMATCH
Thursday, January 14, 2010 (5:00 PM Cash Bar—5:45 PM Dinner)**

Silver Lakes Country Club
West Garden Room
14700 S. 82nd Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-349-6940

Menu
Soup of the day, Caesar Salad
Chicken Marsala
Double Baked Potato, Broccoli Au Gratin
Sherbet, Ice Cream
Vegetarian Option Available

Mail this form and
payment to:
Gail Prindle
17203 Parkside Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Come early for convenient seating
Reservations are due December 23, 2009 Late reservations cannot be honored.

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)

_____ I would like a Vegetarian meal please

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

Don't Forget Those Reservations!

By Gail Prindle

Hospitality and Reservations

Our lives are so hectic; every minute brings another responsibility that encroaches on our time! Even though all of us feel these daily pressures, it is very important that we take the time to notice due dates—especially those for our SSRC dinner reservations. It is easy to forget when our reservations are due, but please remember that we must confirm numbers of attendees for each dinner well in advance of the meeting night itself. Venues have due dates too! It would be a good idea to mail in your reservations at least one week prior to the due date. That will insure that your reservation is received in time for you to attend.



Read Kiddo Read

Readkiddoread.com is a new website by author James Patterson. This site is "Dedicated to making kids readers for life." You can find book recommendations by age group, books for boys, great page turners, interviews with authors, a "first lines" quiz, 12 tried-and-true ways to get your kids reading, and more. It's a great site for teachers and perfect for sharing with parents.

Strategy Exchange

By Megan Wrzesinski

Do you have a great lesson, strategy, website or idea to share with other teachers? The South Suburban Reading Council is looking for your great ideas to share with other Reading Council members. Please send us your favorite teaching strategies, lessons, and ideas to be submitted in our next newsletter.

Submit your best practices, teaching strategies, favorite websites, technology tools, recommended professional books and books to use in the classroom to meg_wrzesinski@hotmail.com

South Suburban Reading Council
Gail Prindle
17203 Parkside Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Bookmatch
By: Jill Liapis



Do you often wonder what characteristics children consider when self selecting a book? Is it just a lucky draw, are they overwhelmed with the possibilities, or do they just feel defeated by the process and just grab any book? What do the students do when they are at a book store or library? These were often things that I considered as a teacher. In the classroom we have ways of organizing books and guiding students to appropriate levels, but do we always address interests, appeal, length, organization, prior knowledge, and etc? In January, we will have the opportunity to explore strategies that will help students with appropriate book selection, with BOOKMATCH. Linda Wedwick and Jessica Ann Wutz have developed a structure to support students with book selection and essentially helping students match the book to criteria. Each letter of BOOKMATCH is a criterion for selection. This is illustrated through student friendly bookmarks and posters. Each participant will receive a bookmark, and there will be an opportunity to win your own copy of Bookmatch, an International Reading Association Book Club Selection in August 2008. I encourage you to attend the January meeting and see what BOOKMATCH is all about.



Peggy Williams Scholarship Application
by Kathleen Puchkors



Just a reminder that SSRC members are welcome to apply for scholarship money to pursue a master's degree in reading. Interested graduate reading students need to submit a letter to Kathy Puchkors by January 15, 2010. Your letter must include your present position, where you are enrolled for graduate school, expected date of graduation, your reasons for pursuing the advanced degree in reading, and your goals for your future in the profession. Remember that you also must be a member in good standing of South Suburban Reading Council. Mail your letter to Kathleen Puchkors at 11437 W. 93rd Avenue, Saint John, Indiana 46373 or email it to klpuchkors@comcast.net. Late applications will not be accepted.