

News from the Two Rivers Reading Council

October 2011

Greetings! As the sun peeks out this morning, I know it is just a mirage and that when I step outside it is going to be COLD! I can't believe how time flies and we are almost at the end of our first quarter of school! I hope that you have all had an easy transition from summer to fall and are making connections with your students. When I feel myself getting stressed from the day in and day out of the school year, I remind myself that I need to do something for myself. I try to find time to exercise, go out with my husband, or friends, enjoy time with my own children, or get a massage or mani/pedi. Another thing I love to do is read for pleasure! A couple of great books I have read recently are *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett and *The Nine Lessons*, by Kevin Alan Milne. Both books made me laugh, cry and just take a moment away from the every day stresses. I highly recommend reading for enjoyment!

We had two very successful events in September! Our member mixer was a wonderful sharing time with a fantastic speaker, Bobbie Sejnost, IRA Coordinator for IRC. As an added surprise, the teachers who attended were allowed to take books for free, from Bourbonnais Public Library's book sale leftovers! We added two new members at the mixer. We also hosted a Daily Five Cafe Make and Take workshop in September and participants took home lots of good ideas and lots of goodies! Thanks to our presenter, Julie Steinke, for her ideas and for putting in the work to provide us with the goodies! In total for August and September we had 13 new members! Great job promoting our Council and the benefits of being a member!

Just as a reminder, if your IRC membership is up for renewal, don't forget to renew it! You not only help your local council by renewing, but you continue to reap the benefits of membership, like discounted entry fees to local workshops, discounted registration to IRC Conference in March, access to grant money at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org <<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org>> and being part of a professional organization! Let's keep our momentum going and don't forget to renew!

Some important events, coming up are the November 5th ONU Professional Development Day and Book Sale at Weber Business Center on the campus of Olivet, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 for the day for the conference. If you want to just come for the book sale, it will be open to the public all day on the 3rd floor. **If you are looking to get involved, please contact me. Two Rivers needs about four people to work 2.5 hour shifts at our membership table that day. You can contact me via this email trrc5@hotmail.com to volunteer. If you want more information about**

the conference, please email Roxanne Forgrave, our membership co-chair at rforgrave@olivet.edu. Hope to see you there!

After the Professional Development Day in November, our next event is the Kankakee Historical Society's annual Gallery of Trees. **We are looking for teachers to help sponsor our tree with ornaments made by their students.** The theme of our tree this year will be The History of Christmas Around the World. If you and your class would like to participate, **please contact our Treasurer, Tamara Springer at tammy-springer@hotmail.com** She is coordinating this event. Please have a country theme for your class ornaments and remember that this is a competition, with a reward for Two Rivers Reading Council, so ornaments should be well-thought out and students should be carefully guided through the process. Maybe you could get parents to come in and help or the art teacher in your building....we can't wait to hear from you and get going on the tree! Ornaments must be delivered to Tammy by November 21st, in order to decorate the tree by December 1st.

Looking into the New Year, yes it's just around the corner, start spreading the word about our workshop on storybook use in grades 4-12 which will be held January 26th at Aurelio's Pizza in Bourbonnais. The workshop will include a pizza and salad dinner with the cost of entry. 5-8 p.m., \$15 for Members, \$12 for student members, \$18 for non-members.

Finally, start making plans now to attend the 2012 IRC conference in Springfield. "Literacy in the Land of Lincoln" will be March 15th through the 17th. You can get more information and download registration forms at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org <<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org>> . I believe registration opens to everyone on October 15th. Start talking to your principals/administrators now about attending this phenomenal event!

I wish all of you a wonderful fall and hope that you are reading for enjoyment in addition to reading to your students! Please feel free to contact me with your questions and don't forget to visit our website www.tworiversreadingcouncil.wordpress.com <<http://www.tworiversreadingcouncil.wordpress.com%20>> and like us on FaceBook.

Happy Reading!

Priscilla Dwyer
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