



WEST SUBURBAN READING COUNCIL

SPRING 2008

PROMOTING LITERACY IN THE WESTERN SUBURBS

VOLUME 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Although the calendar still says winter, the sun is shining, the snow is almost gone, and spring is just a few days away. With that thought in mind, I'd like to invite you to our spring gathering on April 17. Pamela Nelson, past president of IRC will be presenting "Grab Your Suitcase for a Poetry Escape."

Although the weather was frigid and snowy, it was nice to see and greet so many of you at our annual February Conference at Concordia University. From the presenters, the exhibitors, and engaged participants, to the committee members, all helped to make the atmosphere warm and pleasant inside, while gaining new ideas to take back to the classroom.

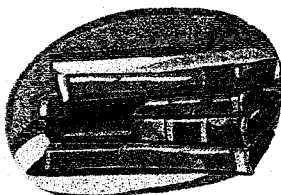
It's getting to be that time of year again to start thinking about being part of West Suburban's Board. We are always looking for an extra pair of hands and would like for you to give it some consideration.

Don't forget to renew your membership when it is due.

Looking forward to meeting you on April 17.

Please share our newsletter with your fellow teachers, administrators, pre service teachers, and friends.

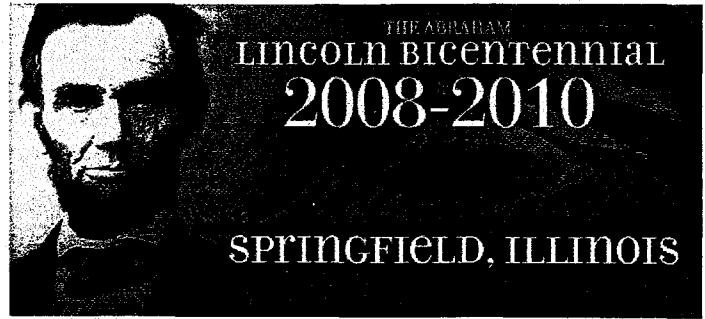
Have an enjoyable spring and remainder of the school year.



Barbara Ashton

President





LINCOLN ESSAY CONTEST

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is sponsoring and encouraging students in grades 5 to 12 to read President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and take part in a statewide essay contest to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

In November 1863, Lincoln was asked to speak a few words at the dedication of the cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which was to be the resting place for those who gave their lives in the Civil War. In less than 300 words, Lincoln gave one of his most famous speeches. Therefore, students are being asked to write in 300 words or less their personal thoughts and dreams about where we are as a nation, and their ideals for freedom, democracy and equal opportunity.

The Illinois Center for the Book, which Mr. White serves as Honorary Chairman, will select the judges to determine the first, second and third place winners in the following levels: grades 5-6, grades 7-8, and grades 9-12. The Illinois State Library will send winners and their parents/guardians to Springfield for an awards ceremony in conjunction with the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration on February 12, 2009. The winners will read their essays, tour the Lincoln Presidential Museum, and receive a plaque and cash awards of \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. Winning essays will also be published in the 2009 Handbook of Illinois Government.

The deadline for submitting the essays is May 31, 2008. Winners will be announced in December 2008. Essay forms have been sent to all Illinois public and private elementary and secondary schools. If your school hasn't received a form it can be downloaded at the Illinois State Library, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Center for the Book, all co-sponsor of the contest. The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Illinois Bicentennial Commission have also endorsed the essay contest. If you need further information you can contact Bonnie Matheis @ 217-558-2065 orbmatheis@ilsos.net.

WATSEKA SCHOOL DAMAGED BY FLOOD WATERS

Shortly after the first of the year, the excessive rains and flood waters damaged five schools in Iroquois County. The flood waters damaged classrooms, libraries, heating systems, etc. The damage was extensive. To help the schools in Watseka refurbish their libraries, West Suburban Reading Council will be sending them a cash donation to help them buy new books and materials for their school/libraries.

WELCOME

West Suburban Reading Council would like to welcome Natalie Biancalana and Diane Fischer to West Sub's board. Thank you for volunteering. We look forward to working with you.



WEST SUBURBAN READING COUNCIL



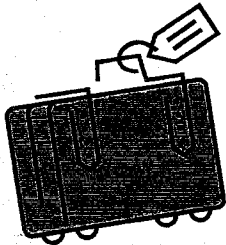
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
OUR SPRING MEETING AND PRESENTATION

GRAB YOUR SUITCASE FOR A POETRY ESCAPE

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

**OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE PAMELA NELSON
PAST PRESIDENT OF IRC AND
PROFESSOR AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

At this time especially, teachers and students feel the pressure of accountability. Grabbing your suitcase for a "Poetry Escape" may be exactly what you and your students need. New and familiar poetry books, poetic forms, and online resources will be shared. Poetry for content areas will be presented, as well as, ideas for sharing or writing content related poetry.



Join us for dinner at

Jim and Pete's

7806 W. North Avenue

Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707

\$20.00 per person

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Registration 4:30

Dinner 5:00

Presentation 6:00

RSVP

**Judy Schriener
1666 Charleston Court
Melrose Park, Illinois 60160
1 - 708 - 681 - 1389**

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

