



Will
County
Reading Council

Reading Will give you a step up.

WCRC Newsletter

February 2011
What Have YOU Been Reading?

Contents

President's Message

Santa Reads

Zonta Club Party

Member's Mosh

Reading Council Awards

Upcoming Events:

IRC Conference

Tea Ladies

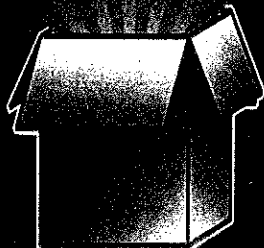
Will County Reading Council

Board of Directors

2010-2011 Officers

President:	Deborah Augsburger augsbude@lewisu.edu
President-Elect & Awards:	Christy Ziller cziller@wilmington.will.k12.il.us
Vice-President:	Donna Herman dkalwat1@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Kristen Wooten kkaufhold1@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Joyce Eddy jedagreen@att.net
Membership:	Boomer Crotty 608Boomer@sbcglobal.net;
Historian:	Darin Krol krold@365u.will.k12.il.us
Newsletter:	Chris Palmi palmich@lewisu.edu
Past President:	Amy O'Brien amyfuerst@hotmail.com

Literacy



OUTSIDE THE BOX!

Mark Your Calendars!

- ◆ March 17-19—IRC Conference
(Springfield, Illinois)
- ◆ April 1—Reading Council Award nominations due
- ◆ April 12—Tea Ladies at the Fair
(University of St. Francis, 5:00-8:00 p.m.)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wow! 2011 has made itself known! Many of us are still digging out from the blizzard, celebrating the rest of a few snow days, or working out the knots in your muscles from shoveling. I must say, our huskies were thrilled for the snow and I think that they wished it upon us. I found myself grateful for the wonder of a cell phone, books to read, and the preparation that advanced notice provided, while I also was somberly thinking of those for whom preparations and communications did not help. Now that we are nearly back to "normal," it is time to think ahead to a busy spring. By the time you receive this, we will have held our Winter Professional Development event, at which nine presenters covered everything from early literacy book clubs to Ethiopian Cinderella tales to motivating reluctant high schoolers.

In March, we'll see you at the annual IRC conference, *Literacy Outside the Box!* WCRC's April event takes us back in time to the Chicago World's Fair with the Tea Ladies. Other reading councils have raved about their presentations, so don't miss this one!

Know someone who deserves recognition for their work promoting literacy? Nominate them for a WCRC award. Teachers tend to minimize the importance of their work and should be recognized more. Let's honor those who inspire us and their students to become lifelong readers. We will present awards at our Chicago World's Fair event with the Tea Ladies. Spring also brings our annual election of officers. We are seeking someone to serve as a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, and a Vice President. If you made it through the Blizzard of 2011, you can surely serve as an officer in the reading council! We meet about 4 times per year and have an excellent retreat in July for training, so you don't have to worry about not knowing what to do or not having time. This is a great way to become more involved in local literacy events and service.

I hope to see you at each of our winter and spring events. Stay warm and keep reading! *Deb*

WCRC extends our deepest sympathy to Boomer Crotty as he mourns the loss of his beloved wife, Joan. Pictured here is Fitzwilliam James, the therapy dog Joan raised and volunteered within the last few years in hospitals and libraries. We will miss Joan, dedicated teacher and longtime member of WCRC, and we keep Boomer and his family in our thoughts during this most difficult time.



Strategy Exchange (contributed by Kristen Wooten)

How should I group my students for paired readings?

This is a question that many educators ask themselves when starting reading groups of two. There are several ways to do this. Homogeneous-based ability groups are one way to group students. Many of my colleagues prefer not to use this method so I have included my favorite heterogeneous-ability group creation method.

First, rank your students starting with the most proficient as the first and the least proficient as the last on this list. I like to use independent reading inventories or AIMS Web Maze scores. You may use whichever assessment you like best. After you have your rankings, split the class in half. For example, if you have 26 students, you would draw a line after the 13th student. After you have done this, you will have two groups. Take the most proficient student from each group and pair them. Then do the same with the second most proficient and so on. By using this strategy to group students, I have found the most successful partnerships are formed. Happy pairing!



◆◆◆◆ Member's Mosh ◆◆◆◆

Professional Book Review written by Chris Palmi

At this year's National Reading Conference, I was on the search for a resource that I could use in my spring Teaching Reading in the Content Areas course at Lewis University. All of the students enrolled in the class are preservice educators who are studying to teach English at the secondary level. Although I wanted to find a book that would be based on theory, I hoped to locate a supplementary text that would be filled with practical ideas and suggestions. I found that with Sharon Kane's *Integrating Literature in the Content Areas: Enhancing Adolescent Learning and Literacy*.

To my elementary colleagues and friends, before you decide that this book review doesn't concern you, hear me out. Kane's work serves as a reminder of what many of you already know: Literature has a definite place in the teaching of skills and strategies in the other content areas. In fact, the book begins by drawing attention to the reasons for and processes behind infusing literature into mathematics, science and social studies classes. She also provides a brief synopsis of multiple methods teachers often use including read-alouds, readers theatre, and literature circles.

Where the real value behind this resource lies, however, is the specific attention that Kane pays to the types of books that might be incorporated into all classrooms (including those of English teachers). Her subsequent chapters detail the benefits of using informational books, fiction, (auto)biography, poetry, and how-to books in the curriculum. In fact each of the aforementioned genres is addressed in its own well-organized and detailed chapter. For example, the poetry chapter begins with a rationale for its inclusion in content curriculum. Then, Kane outlines specific strategies in which poetry may be utilized including dramatic poems, poetry slams, and found poems. Following the description of the strategies is a discussion of the works of selected poets whose works teachers might find appealing. Finally, the chapter ends with explicit annotations of poetry anthologies that might be used in other classrooms as well (e.g., art, physical education).

So why will I use this book and why do I encourage my colleagues at multiple levels to give Kane's work some consideration? For starters, elementary school teachers, I believe, will see some unfamiliar strategies as well as recent additional works to consider as resources. My middle and secondary friends will discover a practical application of literature that helps to supplement and strengthen the content that they are already teaching. And my students, the preservice educators, will have the opportunity to "play" with some strategies in class, ones that they will hopefully consider using in their own classrooms one day.

If you're looking for an easy-to-read resource that combines a theoretical approach with practical education, then Kane's *Integrating Literature in the Content Areas: Enhancing Adolescent Learning and Literacy* may be for you. If you have any anecdotes for ways in which Kane's work has influenced your classroom practice, please send them along to me in care of the newsletter. I would be happy to post them!

Santa Reads and Zonta Club Party (Contributed by Joyce Eddy)

Service projects were on the agenda for WCRC during the month of December. On the 15th, WCRC joined the Black Road Branch of the Joliet Public Library for their children's event known as "Santa Reads." The library prepared stations for ornament making, refreshments, game playing, story reading, and visiting with Santa. Will County assisted in most of the stations and gave away over 100 books to children who visited Santa along with their older siblings. The evening was a great success and ran even more smoothly than it had in the past.

On December 16th, WCRC participated in a Joliet ZONTA project providing a festive holiday for women who have experienced domestic difficulties along with their children. Once again members helped entertain children with games and activities prior to dinner. During the buffet-style meal, members assisted moms with dishing up food and finding places to sit. Following the meal Will County members read holiday stories to various age groups and joined in the distribution of gifts to each family. Everyone went home with a cheerful smile and wishes for a happy holiday.



Earth Friendly Reminder

In an effort to be environmentally friendly, the Will County Reading Council is asking for your e-mail address. We are collecting the e-mail addresses of members who would like their newsletter and other correspondences sent to them via the web. If you are a member who would like this service, please email Kristen Wooten at kwooten@palos118.org. If you could e-mail her from the e-mail account where you would like the future information sent, that would be very helpful. Also, updates on the council can be found on our Facebook page, so check it out.

WCRC is now on FB! Visit our page on Facebook. Become a fan of Will County Reading Council on Facebook and receive notice of our meetings and events in a more convenient format.

Will County Reading Council Awards

The **WCRC Reading Scholarship** is granted to a member pursuing a graduate degree in reading. These candidates have demonstrated dedication to the profession through continuing professional development. The recipient will receive two hundred and fifty dollars and recognition of this honor at the spring event.

The **WCRC Local Literacy Award** is bestowed upon an individual who has made a significant contribution to literacy at any level, regardless of membership. This award is not limited to professional educators nor is it limited to a certain level of education. The candidates must merely have given their time and effort to assist others towards literacy.

The **WCRC Literacy Educator of the Year** is awarded to a teacher who has made inroads into the education of children. These candidates have helped others on a path to lifelong learning. They have inspired their students to become readers and have served as models for other teachers.

Please use this form to nominate yourself or others for one of the three awards described above. Please send your nominations by **Friday, April 1** to
Christy Ziller, 403 Central, Wilmington, IL 60481 cziller@wilmington.will.k12.il.us

I would like to nominate:

Name

Street

City, State, ZIP

Phone number & email:

For the following award:

_____ Reading Scholarship

_____ Literacy Educator of the Year

_____ Local Literacy Award

Reason (or submit a separate letter):

My name and contact information:

Name

Address, phone, email

SPRING EVENT

Take Me To the Fair!

Step back in time and go to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with the Tea Ladies!

Experience an unforgettable day at the Columbian Exposition, the fair that offered a glimpse into the future of a new century: electricity, iced tea, Cracker Jack, the Ferris Wheel, Thomas Edison's fabulous Tower Of Lights, and oh, so much more!

<http://www.thetealadiesinc.com/index.html>

The fair will be held at University of St Francis on April 12 from 5:00-8:00.



Will County Reading Council

Will County Reading Council is committed to promoting the value of literacy in our society; encouraging professional growth among educators by connecting them to best practices in the classroom; and providing leadership in the field of literacy.

Membership in Will County Reading Council includes membership in Illinois Reading Council.

Visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org to join.

Benefits of membership in Will County

Reading Council include:

- *Professional Development opportunities*
- *The Award-winning Illinois Reading Council Journal — 4 issues per year*
- *Networking with other Reading Professionals*
- *Advocacy of current research and information about reading*
- *Scholarships, Grants & Awards*
- *Innovative & Inspiring Professional Conferences*

**Will County Reading Council
C/O Christopher Palmi
Lewis University
One University Parkway
Romeoville, IL 60446**

