

Will
County
Reading Council

Reading Will give you a step up.

WCRC Newsletter

October 2011

What Have YOU Been Reading?

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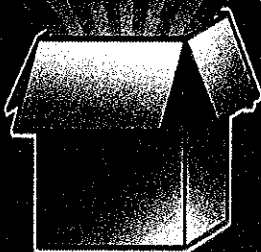
Will County Reading Council

Board of Directors

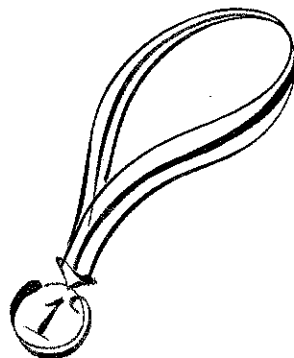
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| | |
|-----------------|---|
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Literacy



OUTSIDE THE BOX!



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**WCRC Celebrates
Five Decades
1961-2011**

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As I look back over the last nine weeks, I can't believe the first quarter of school is about over. Time goes by so fast when you're busy. It may seem almost impossible to "smell the roses" especially during the school year, as I know many of you are busy both in and out of the classroom. With less money to have a full staff, classroom teachers are faced with larger class sizes and more students. There is less support to aid students who could use additional assistance. With the teaching demands continuing to rise each year with mandates of AYP and district norms, it is getting more difficult to find joy in your job. Let's not forget endless committee meetings and preparation for transitions from district curriculum and state goals to common core standards. In addition to those aspects of education, our student population is changing as well. In many school districts, there has been an increase of students with special needs. In our district, we have seen our Autistic and Asperger population increase from one to two students per hundred to eight to nine per hundred. With the economy in peril, many families are struggling to find shelter and provide the necessities like three meals a day, clean clothes, and time to help their children with school work. As students enter the school buildings, they are carrying more baggage than most of us could handle in a lifetime. There are not many educational institutions that can prepare teachers for all of these demands and issues that affect student achievement.

So, why be a teacher? It could be so much easier working at a job that you clock in at 8:45 a.m. and clock out at 5:00 p.m. and leave your work at work. Well, the teachers I know get two kinds of pay checks. We get one that helps fill our bank account. The other pay check, more importantly, fills our soul. When teachers 'cash in' these kinds of deposits, it reminds us why we chose this profession. It happens each time we make a difference in a child's day or a child's life. I reflect every day to find my "Golden" moments. Depending on the day, I can myself richer than the day before. For example, I was able to cash in recently when I offered one of my autistic students a surprise. He has difficulty in every classroom and has a one-on-one aide. I had found him a book at Barnes and Nobles that I knew he would love to read. So when he came to my class, I bargained with him for his compliance. If he would pay attention and participate for half the period, he could read this new book. With a reluctant smirk, he asked me what the book was about. I showed him the cover of *Poptropica*, a book based on a web gaming site, and his excitement overflowed. His facial expression was priceless. He was so excited! He has never been so cooperative. Cha-Ching! Pay check for the soul! Another student I have in class is soft spoken and lacks confidence in his abilities. As a slow learner and new student, he really struggled at the beginning of the year. Our time in RtI has been the most influential even though I see him every day in our Language Arts block. The other day when I was progress monitoring, I discussed with him his reading scores on a plot line that he obviously understood. I showed him where he started and how far he has come thus far. This concrete visual representation of his success brought a smile to his face I hadn't seen before. I could almost read his mind, "I am learning; I am getting it. My teacher believes in me." He has since finished getting all his Reading Counts points for the quarter and has had no missing assignments for over four weeks. Cha -Ching! Wow! It adds up so quickly.

Remember, being a teacher can be a thankless profession, but can be very rewarding. As life may bring down the moral of your life and the lives around you, try to focus on the "Golden" moments. I challenge you to 'make bank' on your opportunities to help students grow and learn. Your life will be richer for it!

Christy Ziller
Professional Educator

Check out my blog or comment me at <http://www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us/blog/cziller/>

Strategy Exchange

Elevate the Picture Book
(Contributed by Joyce Eddy)

Practice, practice, practice - that's what it takes to become a good reader once the skills, strategies, and concepts about how to read have been taught. We all know how difficult it is to get older, struggling readers to choose materials that match their reading level. In his book, *Igniting a Passion for Reading*, Steven Layne suggests elevating the level of the picture book. How do we do that?

Layne suggests that a teacher place a sign "Picture Book of the Month" on his/her desk along with the selected picture book. Nothing is said about the book, but students are permitted to read it whenever they have some appropriate time - during SSR, when work is completed, etc. The book could be checked out overnight but only once during the time it is featured. Near the end of the month Layne has lunch with any students who have read the book and want to discuss it. At the end of the month he reads the book aloud, pointing out any special features or ideas captured by the author or illustrator. To increase practice with picture books, a teacher might have a "Picture Book of the Week" or a "Picture Book of the Fortnight." Go on; give it a try - a book in the teacher's hands is often the book that students like best!



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 Christopher Palmi at palmich@lewisu.edu. If you could e-mail her from the e-mail account where you would like the future information sent, that would be very helpful.

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.



Idea Exchange—Literacy Game—A Classroom Classic

(Submitted by Linda Whitaker) /

Hink Pinks...Hinky-Pinkies, Hinkety-Pinketies... Figure Out the Rhyming Pair

Have your students practice rhyming words, syllable skills, and synonym usage. Given a clue, students must figure out the two word answer. The answer has two words that have the same number of syllables and rhymes. Hink Pinks have one syllable answers, while the Hinky Pinkies have two syllable answers, and the Hinkety-Pinketies have three syllable answers. Here are some examples from the internet:

Hink Pinks—One syllable answers

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. paperback thief | book crook |
| 2. sound slumber | deep sleep |
| 3. lengthy tune | long song |

Source: <http://www.superteacherworksheets.com>

Hinky Pinkies—Two syllable answers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. bloody tale | gory story |
| 2. clever detective | super snooper |
| 3. one who lives in the basement | cellar dweller |

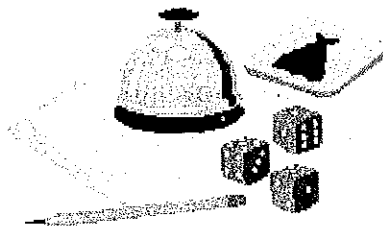
Source: <http://www.teachersdesk.org/vocabhink.html>

Hinkety-Pinketies-Three syllable answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Non-military person from Rio | Brazilian civilian |
| 2. Evil clergyman | sinister minister |

Source: <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid>

Guess what? HINK PINK is now a box game by Discovery Bay Games and found in many retail stores. It has over 500 riddles ready to use at all three levels!



Check out this web site for other games for educators: <http://www.g4ed.com/index.php>.

If you have a literacy game idea that you would like to share with our readers, please feel free to send it along to Christopher Palmi at palmich@lewisu.edu.

Author Event: September 2011 at Lewis University



(Seated: Deborah Augsburger, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, Christy Ziller
Standing: Donna Herman, Linda Whitaker, Joyce Eddy, Boomer Crotty)

In a packed meeting hall with standing room only, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson was welcomed to the Lewis University Campus by audience members of all ages. She shared stories of her childhood and her love of “juicy” words. Her love of language was fostered by both her parents, especially Vaunda’s father who loved poetry. Her parents instilled the value of language and reading at a young age. They even made the babysitter read books to her and her four siblings. After many years of studying, teaching, and working as a librarian, Mrs. Nelson can also add to her resume, award winning author. Her work has received many honors – *Always Gramma* was named a Notable Children’s Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies and *Beyond Mayfield* won a Parents’ Choice Gold Award. Her picture book, *Almost to Freedom*, won a Coretta Scott King Honor Award for illustration and was made into a play. Vaunda spoke of her husband and his love of cowboys and “The Wild West.” She explained that her husband was a history buff and loved to help her with research. Mrs. Nelson talked at length about Bass Reeves and his amazing story. Her book, *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, U.S. Deputy Marshall*, is a non-fiction picture biography. She brought in some hand-cuffs and deputy badges to share with the audience. Vaunda signed autographs and took photos with audience members, most of whom were teachers excited to hear the story behind the story. Mrs. Nelson’s trip was sponsored by the IRC, Will County Reading Council, and Lewis University. Because of these partnerships, Mrs. Nelson was able to visit two local schools in the area at no additional cost to the school districts or those in attendance.

WCRC Upcoming events:

November: Call for presentations for Winter professional development - details to follow.

December: Santa Reads

Zonta Christmas Party

February: Professional Development Round Table

March: Illinois Reading Council Conference

April: Wine, Chocolate and Books!

He's coming to town...

Santa Claus will be coming into town on Wednesday, December 14th, at the Black Road branch of the Joliet Library. As usual, the jolly old elf will speak with children and make sure that each one receives a book to keep. This year Santa will make two appearances and he will need the help of WCRC members - at 2 p.m. and/or at 7 p.m. The tasks aren't difficult - serving refreshments, reading to children, handing out books or making sure that parents and their offspring get to the right room. If you would like to help with this important community service opportunity, please contact Joyce Eddy at 708-448-9235 or jedagreen@att.net by December 1st. Calling all elves - your help is needed and the event is guaranteed to help you with your holiday spirit!



Zonta says "Happy Holidays!"

The Joliet chapter of Zonta works with the women and children who come from abusive environments. WCRC has been asked to assist at the December holiday party for these women and children. The tasks are easy. You would need to bring a holiday book or two for reading aloud, plan to help with entertaining the children (supplies provided), be willing to help moms serve up their children's plates from the buffet line, and hand out gifts (provided) at the appropriate time. **Women** (no men, please), you can make the holidays a bit more cheerful for some very deserving folks. To volunteer call Joyce Eddy at 708-448-9235 or jedagreen@att.net; date and time will be known soon.

Meet the Board Member

Meet our President-Elect, Donna Herman. Donna stepped in last year to fill the Vice Presidency position and has enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people and become more actively involved in promoting literacy through the Will County Reading Council. After many years in the Insurance Industry, Donna transitioned into the field of education, pursuing her passion for teaching and motivating students with disabilities. She has taught pre-school through adults and is currently a special education teacher at Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park. Blessed with teaching reading all day, to special education teenagers, she feels she has the best of both worlds. Donna maintains a strong passion for promoting and building a school wide literacy foundation through a number of initiatives both in and out of the classroom. She is hoping to begin using some of the ideas with the Will County Reading Council and is looking forward to helping the organization meet the needs of its membership.

An avid picture book collector, her family now limits her on how much time she is allowed to spend in bookstores, especially Andersons! All kidding aside, her husband Tom and three daughters have come to find their own reading passion and now enjoy toting along to bookstores and libraries as well. In her spare time, she admits, she really enjoys conducting and reading research articles on reading and disabilities, but likes to think she also has other hobbies such as hiking and tinkering around the house.

WCRC Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence----Think Back.... 1961 Fun Facts

(Contributed by Linda Whitaker)

The Avengers premieres on TV

Four cents—Cost of a first class postage stamp

Mister Ed debuts on TV

John F. Kennedy is President

Stanley Cup --Chicago vs. Detroit (4-2)

Car 54, Where Are You? begins on NBC

Gary Player wins the Masters Tournament

Unemployment at 5.5%

Best Motion Picture: *West Side Story*

Record of the Year: "Moon River" by Henry Mancini

Raymond Burr wins Emmy for Best Actor in *Perry Mason*

"Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen" is released by Neil Sedaka

1961 World Series—NY Yankees vs. Cincinnati Reds (4-1)



Source: <http://woodstockcandy.com/fun-facts-from-1961.html>

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

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