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FVRC Newsletter

February 17th, 2024

President's Letter

As I write this the sun is shining, and I hope you are all enjoying a much deserved day off for President's Day (here's hoping when you read this, the sun is still shining)! I don't know about you, but the weather we have had lately really makes me think about all the promises spring brings the Midwest. The promise of new growth, new experiences, and more days filled with sunshine!

Fox Valley Reading Council's upcoming spring events fall into these promises. We are excited to host John Schu on Monday, March 11th at the Geneva Public library from 6:30 - 8:30 pm (more information and a link to register is below). This night is sure to leave you full of excitement and passion as you enter the classroom the next day! Not sure who John Schu is? Our book reviews in this edition of our newsletter give you a glimpse into what an amazing night March 11th will be!

In addition, we have our annual Wine, Dine, and Collaborate in May to honor all of your hard work and dedication over the past year. Please join us Friday, May 17th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at UpNorth Wine Tasting room. Your students are better because of you, and we want to celebrate that!

And, finally, we are teaming up with a few of our favorite organizations (Anderson's Bookshop and Love Smiles) for new opportunities! Our first is Anderson's Educator Book Club and the second is Love Smiles Third annual Love's Mile Kid's Run and Fox Trot. Additional information for all of these events can be found in the newsletter below.

Inspire Growth,

Camille Lutz



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An evening with John Schu

Who else do you know that has the opportunity to spend a Monday night with John Schu at the Geneva Public Library? If you are looking for an uplifting time, this is for you. John's heart is exploding with excitement for life and personal connections. You will leave feeling motivated all over.

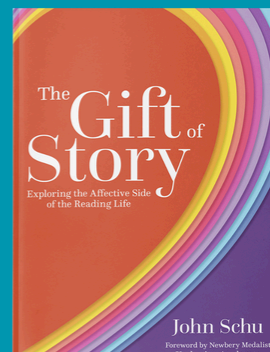


We are just under a month away, but don't worry, there is still an opportunity to receive a free copy of his book, "Gift of Story" with your ticket purchase! Click on the link below to register.

We look forward to seeing you in March!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-gift-of-story-with-john-schu-tickets-754230201837>

FOX VALLEY READING COUNCIL AND BERT CROSSLAND LITERACY PRESENT JOHN SCHU



Join us for an intimate evening with our very own John Schu! In this presentation of the heart, teacher, librarian, children's author, book lover, and story ambassador John Schu invites readers to consider literacy beyond its academic benefits, highlighting the ways story speaks to our hearts and brings us together.

**Monday,
March 11th
6:30-8:00 pm
Geneva
Public
Library
(Meeting
Room)**

The Gift of Story will take us on a journey through the five affective elements of story. Participants will explore how the universal truths found in stories can change us, inspire the readers we support, connect readers to each other, answer our deepest questions and promote healing.

Join us for our spring event: Wine, Dine & Collaborate @ 5:30 pm on May 17th at Up North Wine Tasting Room, Geneva

Sign up through the IRC website for:
*IRC Webinars on the first Wednesday of each month
*IRC Book Club- register by 1/15/24



Like us on Facebook at
Fox Valley Reading Council

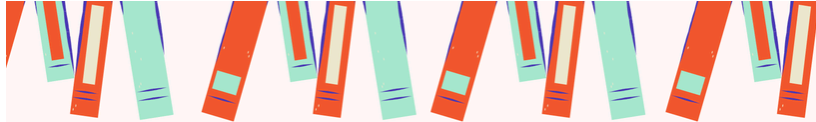
Register Here




Anderson's Edu  smore


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Join Fox Valley Board members in this book club that will take place bimonthly. The form is linked [here](#) for you. Educators have the option to attend in person or virtually. Let's join together in conversation.

Fox Valley Reading Council
invites you to join






ANDERSON'S BOOK CLUB

Join the Fox Valley Board members as we participate in
this Educator book club with Anderson's Bookshop.

We will be reading LUNAR NEW YEAR LOVE STORY, a young adult graphic novel about fate, family, and falling in love written by Gene Luen Yang and illustrated by LeYuen Pham.


To get 25% off your purchase of LUNAR NEW YEAR LOVE STORY, order through Anderson's Bookshop! Enter the code YANG25EBC at check out! You can pick up your book at our shops in Downers Grove or Naperville, or have it shipped directly to you for an additional cost. Discount ends March 8.

RSVP

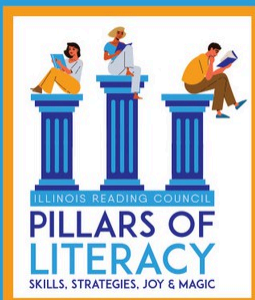


SCAN ME

Purchase the book!



SCAN ME



2024 IRC CONFERENCE
March 14-15, 2024
Springfield, Illinois

Plan now to join IF
Springfield Center



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t the Bank of
pringfield, Illinois.

IRC and FVRC are excited to learn from an amazing line-up of featured speakers who will help teachers, specialists, and administrators from every grade-level and content area. Check out the [2024 PRELIMINARY PROGRAM!](#)

Registering? You can pre-register for the 2024 IRC Conference by returning the [Registration Form by Mail/Fax](#) or on the secured [Online Conference Registration System](#). Please note that early registration with discounted prices has ended. Onsite registration is recommended for those registering after March 1, 2024. Please note that the meal functions require pre-purchased tickets and will not be available for purchase on-site.

Welcome New Members!

Abby Bartle
Rachel Henricks
Amy Howerton
Jill Marsh
George Petmezas
Paula Rossi
Benjamin Spears
Shana Wang
Alysha Wodecki
Leticia Adame
Bridge Biggs
Kimberly Millard
Nichelle Olson
Valerie Ricotta
Ryan Schaefer



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight

Meet Kristen Walsh

Fox Valley Reading Council is honoring its members this year.

1. What grade level do you teach? *I teach 8th grade ELA, and I am also an adjunct professor at NIU teaching undergraduate and graduate literacy classes.*
2. Briefly describe yourself, including personal information. *I am in my 32nd year of being a public school teacher and I continue to be passionate about instilling the love of literacy in all my students. I enjoy reading (of course), traveling, spending time with family and friends, and visiting as many Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives that I can.*
3. What are you reading personally or professionally? **Professionally:** *Best Practices in Writing Instruction* by Steve Graham, Charles A. MacArthur, & Michael Hebert; *Writing for Pleasure: Theory, Research and Practice* by Ross Young & Felicity Ferguson; *The Writing Revolution* by Judith C. Hochman & Natalie Wexler **Personal:** *The Mystery of Locked Rooms* by Lindsay Currie; *The Davenports* by Krystal Marquis; *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
4. What are some of your students' favorite books? *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han; *One of Us is Lying* By Karen M. McManus; *Long Way Down* By Jason Reynolds; *The Inheritance Games* By Jennifer Lynn Barnes; *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* By Holly Jackson



5. What strategy
their writing a



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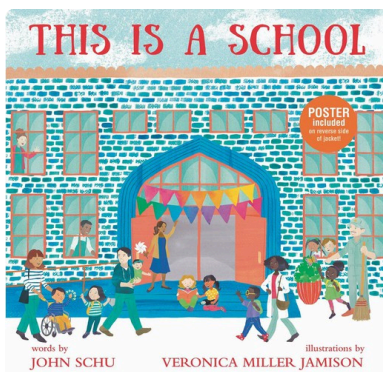
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students about
ss in 8th grade

with a negative perception of self as a writer, and allowing choice writing opportunities daily, coupled with teacher conferences and peer writing conferences enhances not only student writing but also perception of themselves as writers.

6. Why is reading a passion for you? *Reading is my passion because I love that books can transport me to different worlds, times, and perspectives, and it can provide an escape from the realities of everyday life.*

Book Reviews

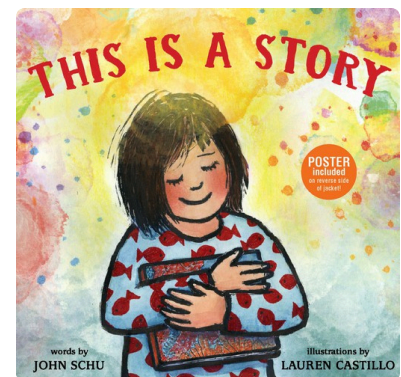


This is a School

This is a School is a celebration of school and all that it can represent: work, play, trust, creativity, and a supportive community. A school isn't just a building, but it is also a place of discovery, a place where people learn to work together, and a place of hope and even healing.

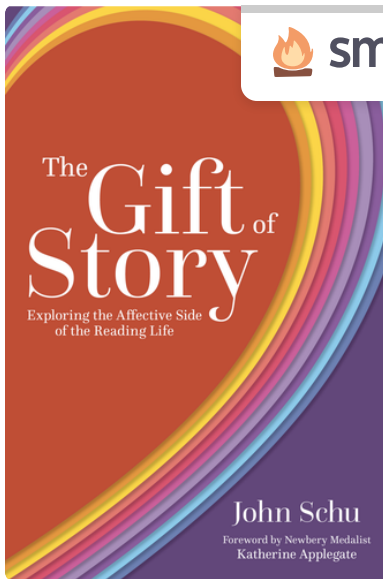
This is a Story

This is a Story shows the many ways in which books can foster connection, understanding, and empower children to change the world through their own passions — a beautiful love letter to the library.



The Gift of Story

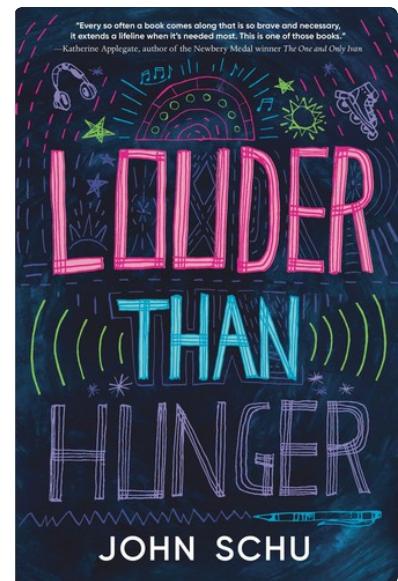
The Gift of Story is presented through a study of five affective elements: Healer, Inspiration, Clarifier, Compassion, and Connector. Along the way, readers will encounter insightful contributions from educators, children's writers, and illustrators, as well as recommendations for sharing the gift of story with learning communities. This includes book suggestions that stir reflection, engaging tips for celebrating literacy, and heart-growing applications to lift classroom and library practices.



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Louder Than Hunger

In *Louder Than Hunger*, John Schu explores anorexia and self-expression as an act of survival in a beautiful novel-in-verse. This is a fictionalized account of Mr. Schu's experiences and emotions while living in a residential treatment facility as a young teen with an eating disorder. This story is a powerful testament to silencing destructive inside voices, articulating and managing pain, and embracing yourself, support, and love.



Welcome to Fox Valley's Wine, Dine, & Collaborate!

Come network with fellow teachers and enjoy a glass of wine and some snacks on a large charcuterie board at FVRC's annual Wine, Dine, & Collaborate!

We appreciate you and want you to enjoy this great venue, delicious Michigan wine, and empathetic conversations with those who understand what you've been going through. Think about joining our Board, sharing your ideas, and making a positive influence on your colleagues. Bring a friend and get the chance for them to win a membership in Fox Valley Reading Council! There is a book raffle, too!

We look forward to seeing you there!
Donations will be accepted.



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Fox Valley Reading Council's Literacy Project Partnership with Love Smiles

Join us for 3rd Annual Love's Mile Kid Run & Fox Trot 5K

Sat June 22, 2024

Bedford Park, IL 60501 US

[Sign-up!](#)



Love Smiles is a nonprofit organization committed to fighting pediatric cancer. Our upcoming event welcomes families and individuals of all abilities to run for the cause, connect with survivors and special guests, and enjoy a day of fun, food, and games- all while supporting a great cause directly impacting children and families in need.

We accept donations of any age books. If you would like to donate, contact dianawilkie@aol.com. Or bring donations to our winter event.

<https://www.love-smiles.org/>

International & Intranational Projects

This year we donated to the **Intra-National project with the Navajo Nation** in Monument Valley, Utah. Our donation will be used to purchase school supplies for students at Monument Valley High School on the Navajo Nation.

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**Fox Valley Reading Council**

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