President's Letter

Welcome Back! We are very excited to share the events we have planned for the coming year.

**September 28, 2021**
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - virtually
Pernille Ripp - The Global Read Aloud
[https://forms.gle/9vLRHVVw91D9b2v9A](https://forms.gle/9vLRHVVw91D9b2v9A)

**February 3, 2022**
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm - in person and virtually
7:30 pm to 8:30 pm - shopping at Anderson's
Book Gossip with Kathleen March from Anderson's Bookshop
[https://forms.gle/juyUuhBEggdWVUkj8](https://forms.gle/juyUuhBEggdWVUkj8)

**April 7, 2022**
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - virtually
Melissa Stewart - 5 Kinds of Non Fiction
[https://forms.gle/WTtPrWPUzcAnxXUT6](https://forms.gle/WTtPrWPUzcAnxXUT6)

**All our events are free for members.** Please make sure that you register for each event. We look forward to sharing resources and news in our newsletters. Be sure to follow us on social media for even more networking possibilities. Enjoy!!
Pernille Ripp - The Global Read Aloud

When
Tuesday, Sep. 28th, 6:30pm

Where
This is an online event.

More information
Do not miss our first event of the year with Pernille Ripp! Pernille has brought the Global Read Aloud to schools all around the world. We will be gathering virtually on September 28th. [https://forms.gle/9vLRHVvw91D9b2v9A](https://forms.gle/9vLRHVvw91D9b2v9A)

Our events are FREE for PARC members, $15 for IRC members, and $45 for non-members. Join PARC today and have a year of free events with us. Not a member yet? No problem! Need help signing up? Let us know!
**Literacy Spotlight**

As we begin this school year, it has been apparent to me that our students are showing a loss in social emotional skills due to the time away from school. I came across an article on Edutopia called **Helping K-12 Students Cope with a Difficult Year** by Carolyn Curtis. It focused on emotional regulation. Curtis recommended allowing more options for students to engage in creative outlets. She also recommends providing a calm corner and conducting daily check-ins with your students. The last part of the article was my favorite - it dove into building relationships with students. Curtis discusses ways to have fun, add movement and collaboration to your daily lessons and routines.

The next article I read was **What K-12 Students Will Need as the Year Begins**, written by Lori Desautels. Just as in the previous article, Desautels suggests checking in with students of all ages frequently. One main point that was discussed is the fact that students were not required to sit for seven hours while they were learning from home. Once they came back into school we put them right back into seats. Desautels recommends providing frequent breaks to help our students with their stress and re accommodate them to school routines.

We all have so much on our plates this year, still. The one thing we all have in common is that we want the best for our students, always. I hope these quick reads provide a few ideas for improving the days at school for our students and you.

**Fall Book Review**

PARC is very excited to host Pernille Ripp at our Fall meeting. She has published several books to help educators inspire their students to love reading. Pernille’s book, **Passionate Readers: The Art of Reaching and Engaging Every Child**, provides you with five keys to create a passionate reading environment and a variety of practical tools to use in your classroom to support and help students develop good reading habits. Go to her website to learn about other books she has published as well as a handy list of books to use in your classroom. [https://pernillesripp.com/our-favorite-books/](https://pernillesripp.com/our-favorite-books/)
Membership

As of 8/31/21, PARC has 78 members. We are excited to welcome Jennifer Meyer as a new member and thank Judy Kmak for renewing. Please share with your colleagues and friends the benefits of joining IRC and the Prairie Area Reading Council. We have an ambitious membership goal this year, so let's show off our PARC Pride!

MEET YOUR PARC BOARD

President: Sherry Sejnost sej7@comcast.net
Co President-Elect: Tracy Billie tbillie@cusd201.org & Laura Riley dlmriley@gmail.com
Vice President: Sheila Ruh sheilaruh@yahoo.com
Past President: Laura Bass lapanco@gmail.com
Recording Secretary: Laura Kelly lkreads@gmail.com
Treasurer: Melissa Love lovem@woodridge68.org
Membership: Kristin Kolodziej kolodziej@d83.org
Corresponding Secretary: Victoria Dellinges vnogle@gmail.com
PRAIRIE AREA READING COUNCIL

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Prairie Area is a professional non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy, a love for reading and the improvement of reading instruction.

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