



Independence/ Fort Osage Council  
International Reading Association

Newsletter

December 2007

## From your Presidents

Happy Autumn! What a great time of year this is with wonderful fall colors and just a slight chill in the air. I know that some of my "reader" friends enjoy this weather because they enjoy curling up with a great book. I don't enjoy the chilly part much, but I do enjoy reading a great book.

We will soon begin to work with the Literacy Design team to plan a wonderful Literacy event for all of the kids in our district. This will be held in the spring and will feature Patricia Hermes as our guest author. Several schools will have the opportunity to have Ms. Hermes visit their school. This is always an exciting event for the educators and the children of the district. It takes many people to make it successful, and I know I appreciate all of the hard work that goes into the planning.

I had the opportunity to attend the Regional IRA conference in Overland Park last weekend and it was exceptionally informative. I attended seven sessions and six of them were overwhelming exciting ... new ideas, inspiration and collaboration. I had an interest in the vocabulary workshops and learned valuable tools to use in my classroom the following Monday. I also attended several sessions on Writing in the content areas. WOW! I left inspired and ready for action. I implemented several ideas the following week and my kids loved them. I would highly recommend this conference next year. It was definitely worth my weekend time ... plus I was able to have Paneras three days in a row.

We have many literacy events coming up, and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Be on the lookout for fliers and informational emails. If you should have any questions, please contact any of the board members. Have a great holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Vicky Myres,  
Co-President

## Your Council Board Members For 2007-2008 School Year

*Co-Presidents* Vicky Myres, Benton  
Julie Birks, Glendale  
*Co-Vice Presidents* Kathy Swanson, Glendale  
Jennifer Epperson, Glendale  
*Treasurer* Stephanie Merriott, Sycamore  
Hills  
*Secretary* Judy Zeih, Mill Creek  
*Membership* Janet Miller, Glendale  
*Past-President* Vicky Myres, Benton

## Membership

A special thanks goes out to everyone for participating in the IRA membership drive. Since May, we have 130 members who have joined or renewed their membership. Congratulations to Bryant Elementary, who won first place with the most members, and received \$100 for their library. Second place went to Sycamore and third place to Glendale. If you joined IRA during the school year, you can check your membership on the web at [www.missourireading.org](http://www.missourireading.org). Members can also renew their membership online. Thanks again supporting IRA.

Janet Miller,  
Membership Director

## General Meeting Information

On Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> IRA members met at Glendale Elementary to share various educational ideas that could easily be implemented in any classroom. Over 30 educators from Independence and Fort Osages attended the Make It & Take It session. After the general meeting was held we spent the next hour preparing samples of activities to use immediately in our classrooms. Cake was served in honor of Children's Book Week which was held during the week of November 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>.

## News in Reading

### Save the Date!

The date for Independence School District's Celebration of Literacy has been set. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 8, 2008. Patricia Hermes, author of some historical fiction, will be at the Celebration of Literacy. Some of her more recent books are *Emma Dilemma and the Two Nannies*, *Salem Witch* and *The Brother's War*. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Teachers as Researchers

Our next meeting is November 29<sup>th</sup> and we will be reading the reflection poem on curriculum from the book, *How We "Do" School* by Karen Morrow Durica. That doesn't seem like something to reflect on yet each poem in this year's book study book really guides you to understanding yourself as a teacher and as a person. I have a few books left if anyone wants to purchase a copy. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion.

Happy Reading!

Vicky Myres

### Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week was celebrated from November 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Each elementary school in Independence and Fort Osage received a gift bag filled with books to be given away, bookmarks for each child, fun puzzles for duplication, and a packet of information containing ideas on how Children's Book Week could be celebrated. Independence middle schools and high schools received a packet of decorative bookmarks. Hopefully, everyone had fun celebrating Children's Book Week!

## Ideas from Around the Independence/Ft. Osage Council Make It – Take It!

Children love to experience hands on activities - teachers do too!

At our November meeting, centers were set up for teachers to participate in various activities from sight word games to inventing new words. Some very helpful 6+1 writing idea packets were also shared.

The following is an activity that helps with vocabulary:

### Captivating Words!

"Swinging the word choice door wide open and inviting students in" Ruth Culham

**Activity:** Students are allowed to experiment with words by selecting words from a magazine and creating word banks.

**Materials:** Cardstock, construction paper, or spiral notebook, scissors, gluestick, magazine

**Objective 1:** To help students take on meaning of words. Great for tutoring and conferencing with while completing activity.

1. Students are given a magazine or several pages of a magazine to find words. These words could be:

- Words they don't know the meaning of
- Words that are interesting to them
- Words that they don't know how to pronounce

2. As they find the words, have the students work with you on context clues surrounding the word or why they chose that word.

3. Student cuts out the words and glues them on their paper.

**Objective 2:** To help students take on meaning of words through categorizing:

Action verbs  
Sound words  
Content words  
Rhyming words  
Suffix/prefix words  
Multi-meaning words  
Compound words  
Nouns

The word cards can then be laminated, hole punched, and clasped together.

Submitted by:

Judy Zeih,

Secretary

***Join us for our next meeting  
January 30, 2008 at Glendale  
Elementary from 4:30-5:30.***

***Hope to see you there ☺***