



Independence/ Fort Osage Council
International Reading Association
Newsletter
November 2006

From your President

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. In fact I have several on my living room table that are waiting for me to finish.

There are many literacy activities planned for this year that can get everyone in the mood for reading. The week of November 13th is Children's Book Week. Carol Thompson will be delivering materials to your building to help you support this event. We continue to work with the Literacy Design team to plan a wonderful Reading Fair/Young Writer's day for all of the kids in our district. This will be held in the spring. Our job, together, is to promote the love of reading. IRA is strong because of people like you. Thank you for your continued support. I hope some of you who were at our last IRA meeting have tried some of the wonderful 6-Trait ideas that were presented. I know that I learned a lot and went back to try some of them. We had a great first Teachers as Researchers meeting at Barnes and Noble last month. Thanks to those ladies who attended. We discussed the Ideas section of the book and plan to discuss Organization/Word Choice and the strategies we tried the next time we meet. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion. I hope to see you all at our next IRA meeting when we hear convention highlights! This is always a good meeting to learn what's happening in the world of literacy. Happy Reading!
Vicky Myres

Your Council Board Members For 2006-2007 School Year

President	Vicky Myres, Benton
Vice President	Dana Smith, Spring Branch
Treasurer	Sue English, Retired
Secretary	Judy Zeih, Mill Creek
Membership	Karol Palmer, Glendale
Past-President	Paula Erdel, Bryant

Membership News

Karol Palmer, Glendale
Membership Director
Winners of the Fall Membership Drive (ending October 26)

1st—Bryant (75%)
2nd—Benton (47%)
3rd—Spring Branch (46%)

Thanks to all who have joined our local and state council of IRA this year! We now have 167 members. That is still 50 members short of our goal of 217. We still need to make an effort to reach our goal by the end of the year (2006). Reps, please be watching the district mail for some membership letters from me to principals and former members. When you receive these letters, I would appreciate your help in distributing them to individuals in your building. Please continue promoting IRA and membership in your buildings. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Important Information about Membership

Please read the information from Sue English, our treasurer, about important changes in membership data from the state. A very special "thank you" goes to Sue for devoting many hours to the new data entry process. She has been working on behalf of our entire membership to help make this transition as smooth as possible. Thank you, Sue!

General Meeting Information

The October session of Teachers as Readers was October 3 at Glendale Elementary Library. Surrounded by goodies and good books, we shared many ideas. The highlight of the hour was Jennifer Epperson's mountain of books featuring the 6 Traits. Thanks, again, Jennifer for sharing your resources!

Please plan to join us at our next Teachers as Readers meeting on December 5, 2006 from 4:30-5:30PM at my school, Spring Branch! I can't wait to see you there! Bring a book, bring a friend!

Our next IRA council meeting is on November 14 at Mill Creek Elementary Gym from 4:30-5:30PM. The featured presentation will be "IRA Convention Highlights" by Sue

English, Judy Zeih, Paula Erdel, Vicky Myres, Karol Palmer, and Lyn Verstraete. I look forward to seeing everyone there!
Have a great week!
Dana Smith, IRA Vice President

News From Around the Council

We have the Winners of the Indep/Ft. Osage IRA Reading Poster Contest!!!! Winners from our council will be taken to MO IRA State Conference to be entered into the statewide contest.

Grades K-2
1st place-Erika Merino-Benton
2nd place-Ariana Mendoza-Blackburn
2nd place-Breanne Fox-Benton
3rd place-Gregory Clark-Benton
Grades 3-5
1st place-Gabby Aviles-Bryant
2nd place-Courtney Brim-Benton
2nd place-Christopher Paddock-Benton
3rd place-Molly Bower-Sycamore Hills
Honorable Mention-Aaron Mendoza-Blackburn
Grades 6-8
1st place-Ashley Mendoza-Pioneer Ridge

Thank you to Benton, Blackburn, Bryant, Sycamore Hills and Pioneer Ridge for sending in posters.

Congratulations to all of our Artists! You all did a wonderful job!

Letter about membership:

Dear IRA Members,
This fall the Missouri State Council of IRA changed its data-keeping process. The Missouri State Council is requiring members to enter membership data on-line. All of our local members have been entered into the state IRA system. For the User Name, the member's first initial and last name was used. Twenty-one individuals had to have a number added to the end of their names. They will be contacted individually by email to notify them of their unique User Name. Right now, the password for everyone is IRA. You are encouraged to go to the MSC website at www.missourireading.org, login, and change your password. You will also have the option to check/change your name, address, and position information. **Please check this information soon.**

Everyone has been entered as living in Jackson County (Independence/Fort Osage) even though many of us are in Blue Springs, Lee's Summit, or in other council or county boundaries. Feel free to change your residence location if needed.
Please leave your membership with your

school affiliation and our Independence/Fort Osage Council!

You will receive emails when the latest state newsletter has been posted.
The state will automatically email you a renewal reminder next year (unless you asked not to receive them on your membership form or you left your email blank). You can renew your membership on-line with Pay Pal, send a check to the state, or send a check to our local membership person as in the past.
If you would prefer not to be notified from the state by email, please contact Sue English so you can be put on the "no contact" list.

Thank you,
Sue English, Treasurer
Phone: 229-6350 Cell phone: 277-8898

Important Dates

November

- 14 Indep. /Ft. Osage Council mtg. @ Mill Creek Elem.
- 13-19 National Children's Book Week
- 16-18 MSC/IRA State Conference @ Lake Ozark

December

- 5 Teachers as Readers @ Spring Branch

January

- 18 Indep. /Ft. Osage Council Mtg. @ Spring Branch
- 31 Teachers as Researchers @ Barnes-n-Noble Cafe

February

- 1-4 Children's Authors and Illustrators Week
- 27 Teachers as Readers @ Benton Elementary

March

- 2 Read Across America
- 2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday
- 5-9 Newspapers in Education Week
- TBA Teachers as Researchers Barnes -n- Noble Café

April

- 3 Teachers as Readers @ Bryant Elementary
- 2-8 National Library Week

May

- 13-17 51st IRA National Convention Toronto
- 1-31 Get Caught Reading Month