



Independence/ Fort Osage Council
International Reading Association

Newsletter
January 2006

From your Presidents

Dear IRA,

How do you say thank you?
So it sounds sincere and true.
How do you show appreciation?
Show a grateful dedication.
How do you say you appreciate?
Someone who has been really great.
How do you express the thought?
For the help that someone has brought.
There are a million little ways
to express two words that say...

Thank you! ☺
Author Unknown

A million thanks to *everyone* who has made IRA so successful. Thank you to *each* building representative for sharing important information, and promoting IRA throughout the year. Thank you to *each* committee chair for all your extra time and devotion in helping us. Thank you to *each* of our members for joining each year. Thank you for attending our meetings and participating in our events. Thank you to our two districts' offices that support our cause. Without you, our organization wouldn't be as wonderful as it is. I am honored to have served as IRA president these past three years because of people like you that give of your heart to support IRA. From the IRA board and me, to *all* of you, we are deeply grateful for your dedication. A very special thank you to our board: Lyn, Vicky, Sue, Judy, and Karol because of their strong dedication to IRA. Your commitment to IRA is to be greatly commended. We have been a terrific team. I look forward to serving you as past president next year.

A huge thank you,
Paula Erdel, Co-President

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Reading Fair Feb. 23.
We're excited that we will have most elementary schools offering an activity session for students that evening. So far, the following schools will be presenting sessions for students between 6:00 and 7:00.
Benton-Pioneer Bingo
Blackburn-Bookmarks
Bryant-Wheel of Reading
Glendale-Book Bingo
Luff-Book Title Hangman

Mill Creek-Doorknob Posters
Ott-Book Walk
Proctor-Game Room
Randall-Awesome Author Bingo
Southern- Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum Storytellers
Sycamore Hills-Sticker Books
A big thank you goes to all of you who are helping to make our Reading Fair a success! We appreciate your commitment, time, and effort!

Lyn Verstraete, Co-President

Your Council Board Members For 2005-2006 School Year

Co-Presidents	Paula Erdel, Bryant Lyn Verstraete, Glendale
Vice President	Vicky Myres, Benton
Treasurer	Sue English, Spring Branch
Secretary	Judy Zeih, Mill Creek
Membership	Karol Palmer, Glendale

Membership Section

The results of the membership drive:

1. Spring Branch--89%--\$100 for library
2. Bryant--87.5%--\$75 for library
3. Glendale--69%--\$50 for library

Congratulations, and thanks to everyone for their support! We are still a few members short (less than 10) of our goal of 213. Please spread the word that it is still not too late to join! Dues are \$18 and \$13 for fulltime students, retired teachers, and paras. Send your memberships to Karol Palmer at Glendale or to Sue English at Spring Branch.

General Meeting Information

At our last meeting in November, we discussed our book study book "Creating Strategic Readers: Techniques for Developing Competency in Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension". We learned some fun strategies for Reading and comprehension, and there were many willing volunteers to demonstrate the strategies. Our next meeting will be January 24th, and we are very excited to have local author, Cheryl Harness, presenting. Her topic sounds like a lot

of fun: Ten Big Fat Reasons for Studying History. We hope to see everyone there!

News From Around the Council

Here are the results of the Missouri IRA Poster Contest that took place in the fall of this school year. Thank you to Benton, Bryant and Sycamore Hills for sending in entries. Everyone did a fabulous job! Thank you also to Deena Graham, Cheryl Andes and Amy Suhr for judging the entries received.

K-2

1st - Jessica Blauvelt - 2nd grade Benton
2nd - Taylor Dean Olson - 2nd grade Benton
3rd - Junior Ulberg - 1st grade Benton

3-5

1st - Ian Templeton - 5th grade Bryant
1st - Hunter Myers - 5th grade Benton
2nd - Chris Paddock - 4th grade Benton
3rd - Reba Shanefelter - 4th grade Benton

Great news!!!! The third graders will once again delight us by singing at the IRA Reading Fair!! The following schools have graciously agreed to support IRA by encouraging their third grade students to join us on February 23rd: Benton, Blackburn, Bryant, Glendale, Luff, Mill Creek, Procter, Santa Fe Trail, Sycamore, and Southern. That is ten out of the thirteen elementary schools in our district that are participating! A big thank you to *each* building's music teacher for helping to make this annual event such a success. Know how very grateful we are to you for your time in teaching the songs about reading. Your support of the reading fair means a great deal. A letter to every third grader in the district should have gone home last week, so their parents are apprised of this program, as well. Last year over 700 people attended, in large part to the third grade choir. Thank you,
Paula Erdel, 3rd Grade Choir Chair

The 51st Annual IRA Convention is coming up soon in the windy city of Chicago from April 30th – May 14th. This year, thousands of educators, will have the opportunity to learn from well known authors and researchers. IRA president, Richard Allington, will present the keynote speaker, Michael Pressley, who will discuss comprehension. Along with the many diverse sessions and microshops available, the conference will include presentations by educators such as Shelby Barrentine on assessment and vocabulary with Cathy Collins Block. Well known authors, such as David Shannon - No, David!, Jerry Spinelli- Maniac Magee, and Patricia MacLachlan- Sarah, Plain and Tall, will also be at the meal functions. We are looking forward to this great opportunity to join other educators, to learn, and to bring back new strategies and new resources for reading!

Judy Zeih, Indep./Ft. Osage IRA
Secretary

Important Dates

January

- 19 Teachers as Researchers
Barnes –n- Noble Cafe
24 Indep. / Ft. Osage Council Mtg. @
Benton Elementary

February

- 1-4 Children's Authors and
Illustrators Week
7 Teachers as Readers @
Bryant Elementary
23 Independence Reading Fair
Pioneer Ridge Middle School

March

- 1 Read Across America
2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday
6-12 Newspapers in Education
Week
7 Teachers as Researchers
Barnes –n- Noble Café

April

- 2-8 National Library Week
18 Teachers as Readers @
Glendale Elementary
27 Teachers as Researchers
Barnes –n- Noble Café
29 Beginning of the 51st IRA
National Convention
Chicago, IL

May

- 1-4 51st IRA National Convention
Chicago, IL
1-31 Get Caught Reading Month

June

- 17 Give a Boy a Book Day

***Join us for our next meeting
January 24 at Benton Elementary
from 4:30-5:30.***

Hope to see you there ☺