



Independence/ Fort Osage Council  
International Reading Association

Newsletter

November 2005

## From your Presidents

Happy Autumn!

This is my favorite time of year with all the beautiful fall colors and the crisp chill in the air. Hope you have some time to stop to curl up with a good book. We are celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> year as the Independence/Fort Osage council. Many wonderful literacy activities have occurred through out the years. This year, we are looking forward to Suzy Kline's visit for our annual reading fair on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. As author of the Horrible Harry series, she has helped many of my reluctant readers in my classes want to pick up a book to enjoy. We hope you will share some of her books with the students in your schools. Our job, together, is to promote the love of reading. IRA is strong because of people like you. Thank you for your continued support. Happy reading!

Paula Erdel, Co-President

I hope some of you who were at our last IRA meeting have tried some of the vocabulary strategies that were presented. A few reminders: **Words will not become part of a student's vocabulary unless the words are continuously used.** As teachers, we need to make that happen by continuously using the words ourselves when talking to the students. **Create a Wizard or Smart Word Wall for interesting vocabulary words. Then use these word walls:** Every time you read something new, go to the word wall to find words that can be applied to the story. Use the words on the word wall to ask questions about the new text you've read. Have students pick appropriate word wall words to tell about something in everything they read. Use the words in all ways possible until they become part of the students' speaking vocabularies. Make a game of using the words. See how many times during the day someone can use a word wall word.

I hope to see you all at our next IRA meeting when we learn about Creating Strategic Readers!

Lyn Verstraete, Co-President

## Your Council Board Members

For 2005-2006 School Year

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

## Membership Section

We are only 23 members away from our goal of 213! Thanks so much to all of you for your hard work. We are going to extend our fall membership drive until November 10, which is the date of our next general meeting at Spring Branch. Please help our association meet this important goal and retain our honor council status. Please urge teachers, para-educators, student teachers, administrators, retired teachers, and parents 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. The building that has the highest percentage of membership in IRA will be awarded \$100 for their library, 2<sup>nd</sup> place receives \$75, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place receives \$50.

## General Meeting Information

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** was the first general meeting of our local IRA membership. We enjoyed convention highlights from those teachers who attended the IRA Convention in San Antonio, Texas. We learned new information on Vocabulary Instruction, Fluency, Reader's Theatre, and interesting information about author's and their craft. We enjoyed refreshments provided by our hospitality ladies. To end our meeting, there was a raffle drawing for some great prizes.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** – Join us to hear the latest on “Creating Strategic Learners”. Vicky Myres will be presenting a few techniques for developing competency in Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. This

will be the lead-in to our Teachers as Researchers book study.

## News from your State Council

Vicky Myres and Judy Zeih went to the MSC IRA State meeting on September 24, 2005. Some of the highlights from the meeting are as follows:

Vicky Myres accepted the 35 years as a council certificate for the Independence/Fort Osage Council.

The MO IRA Newsletter is now on line. Photos from board meetings and conferences will be posted. Members can also download awards and grants. The Poster Contest and the new on line membership forms are posted on the website as well.

### MO. Reading Week is Nov. 14-20.

Mary Kim Schreck who is a Missouri author did a presentation at the meeting. Some of the ideas that she shared with us included writing every morning before you begin the day. She recommended 3 pages. Another great idea that she suggested was putting a special "artist date" on the calendar for yourself. She also gave a very unique "gift" idea by having a special album filled with family member memoirs. These can be written every holiday, copied, and placed in every family members' album. A memorable and lifelong birthday present is the birthday box. Decorate a special box for a family member and write special birthday letters to that person every year. The letters are stored in the box.

## Important Dates

### November

- 10 Indep. / Ft. Osage Council Mtg. @ Spring Branch Elementary
- 14-20 MO Reading Week
- 17-19 MSC/IRA State Conference
- 29 Teachers as Researchers Barnes –n- Noble Café

### December

- 1 Teachers as Readers @ Benton Elementary

### 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

- 2 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
- 30 Beginning of the 51<sup>st</sup> IRA National Convention Chicago, IL

### May

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

### June

- 17 Give a Boy a Book Day

*Join us for our next  
Independence/Fort Osage  
Council Meeting on Creating  
Strategic Readers at Spring  
Branch from 4:30-5:30.*