



St. Louis Suburban Council
of the INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION



**Recipient of the Honor Council
&
Show Me Awards**

November 2007

Message from the President

What a great start to the school year this has been! We were so pleased with the presentation given by Dr. Marge Lipson on helping students to get smart. She is such a gifted lady and her message about explicit comprehension instruction really hit home.

As the fall and winter holidays approach, it is exciting to also have so many terrific events planned. Many of us will soon be attending the 41st MSC-IRA Gift of Literacy Conference at the Lodge of Four Seasons November 15-17 featuring an impressive schedule of speakers including Mike Artell, Linda Hoyt, Frank Serafini, Roland Smith and others. Go to www.missourireading.org for conference information and registration. This is sure to be a treat! The IRA Plains Regional *Planting the Seeds of Literacy* Conference will be in Overland Park, Kansas November 8-11. Featured speakers will include Michael Johnson, JoBeth Allen, Linda Gambrell, Carrice Cummins, Marcus Conyers, Jerry L. Johns, and others. Go to www.reading.org for more information.

Then, on December 4th, we will have the ever popular Tim Rasinski. His topic will be "From Phonics to Fluency to Proficient Reading." I have just re-read his book, *The Fluent Reader*. It is an easy-to-read guide to

enhancing fluency instruction. His next book reflects his broad expertise and is titled *The Principal's Handbook*. See inside this edition for more about Tim, editor of *The Reading Teacher* and co-editor of the *Journal of Literacy Research*, and how to sign up for this not-to-miss meeting.

The St. Louis Suburban Literacy Mini-Grant guidelines applications are now available to our members. We are awarding up to \$500.00 for your project targeting academic achievement in literacy. Just e-mail either Dr. Betty Porter Walls at drbpw@earthlink.net, or me at lkatzenmeyer@aol.com for an application. The deadline for applications is December 4, 2007.

Our family literacy projects got off with a bang! Thanks to all of you, we collected many coloring books and crayons for Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital patients. Our St. Louis Children's Hospital Library program received some terrific new books thanks to Houghton Mifflin and others. We will also be helping by donating to the Crisis Nursery, Our Lady's Inn, and Room at the Inn shelters. First Book also assists with this. In addition, your kind donations at the last general meeting for the Philippines and Mayan Literacy projects were very much appreciated.

Lillian Katzenmeyer

President- St. Louis Suburban Council
of the International Reading Association
lkatzenmeyer@aol.com



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President -Lillian Katzenmeyer, NESI
President Elect -Mary Jo Barker, Rockwood
Vice President -Jody Rozbicki, Ladue
Recording Secretary -Fran Page, Independent
Reading Consultant, Festus
Corresponding Secretary -Vicky Gonzalez-Rubio,
Retired, University City
Treasurer -Barbara Magrosky, NESI
Historian/Publicity -Sandi Coleman, Affton
Co-Membership -Carol Kemper, Missouri
Baptist University
Sue Artis - St. Louis University
Past President -Karen Johnson Fields, Retired, SSD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Bommarito -- Fontbonne University
Alyssa Barker -- Ritenour
Marcy Burkemper -- Affton
Tom Cornell -- Ferguson-Florissant
Candace Chiburis -- Miriam School
Courtney Coleman -- Northwest
Deb Dickerson -- Hazelwood (Newsletter Editor)
Lin Heater -- Lindbergh
Donna Kloeppe -- Publisher's Rep
Kathleen McDonnell -- Retired, NESI
Carla Nieman -- Publisher's Rep
Tamara Rhomberg -- Rockwood
Betty Porter Walls -- University of Missouri, Columbia

Finding Joy in Literacy

By Carol Kemper, Missouri Baptist University

Recently I visited my grandchildren in Florida. The older is five and in Kindergarten and the younger is four and in preschool. They are as different as two brothers could be; one is focused and serious, the other care-free and daring. They remind me of their father and *his* brother! I also see similarities between my grandchildren and students I have taught. Likewise, I see myself, like each of them, discovering the joy of reading, though not of writing so young! As educators, we've learned much about the relationship of reading, writing, and speaking and how to nurture each as children develop.

As I watch my grandsons, beyond obvious behaviors and mannerisms, I see profound things like literacy growth. I watch for signs of readiness, cheer their efforts, and am relieved when I see progress. They are so in the habit of reading that they cannot go to bed without every adult reading to each of them. This was a ritual that required a sort of musical chairs with books which took us from one bedroom to another. Usually both boys knew which books they wanted to hear, but occasionally the choice was a surprise and at times a result of conversation. I could always expect discussion during the story reading, as well, and since the older child has begun reading independently, he expected to help with the reading.

I had recently begun sending each child a short note with a few comments, questions, and a suggestion they watch the mail for a package. A few days later I would mail a box with a few books to each or both. Their mother has told me that they ask about the mailman and want to know if *any* package that arrives is for them. The thrill of getting your very own mail! They have begun to write me back and the five year old includes words that are spelled correctly, along with others that have just sounds he hears. He spaces correctly, uses capital letters, though not always correctly, and uses punctuation. His ideas are relevant and he can read back what he has written. What fun!

He is learning about rhyming and without prompting will hear a word, repeat it, and say rhyming words for it. He has been taught how to change the beginning sound to make new words and is able to tell which are real words and which rhyme but are just silly. His homework (Yes, I thought, "Ugh!" at first, too!) is the first thing he does when he gets home. Either Dad or Mom--or I, since I was visiting--would sit down with him and do the simple activity for the day. Some activities were math or science related, but all had some literacy aspect. They usually involved talking, reading,

and writing about a book or activity. During Halloween week he had to use a string and measure around a pumpkin and then around himself and compare. He had to dictate a sentence telling which was bigger around and I had to write it for him to read. Sometimes he would do his own writing or draw a picture in response to a prompt; for example, "Draw your favorite part of your favorite book this week." The requirement to read at least one book a day provided him a rich selection from which to choose. He is proud of the list of books he has read and his homework accomplishments. He reads and understands environmental print and expects to enjoy books and stories. He is quick to compare and contrast and to remember other books that are similar in some way to ones he is reading. He also likes to point out things in illustrations to which he can relate. He makes predictions and when we read *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag, he observed that there were parts that were repeated over and over. Dad is actually reading the first Harry Potter book to him a few pages at a time and he can tell me about the story, though I know when he reads it for himself later he will have a deeper and more vivid understanding and appreciation.

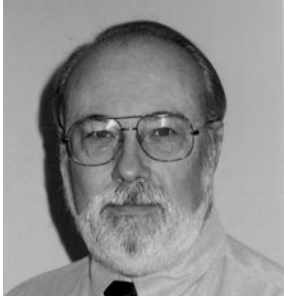
Literacy is clearly becoming important in his life, as it is in his younger brother's. I think the best we can do for our children—or grandchildren—and our students is to similarly foster this love for and need to use literacy skill. We can do this through conversation—not just talking to and at them—but really discussing ideas, reading to and with them, and helping them record their ideas to help them find their voices. We can do this for children of all ages. When we read a passage to older students from *Lincoln: A Photobiography* by Russell Freeman about what Lincoln had in his pocket when he was shot, we can have a rich conversation about what our possessions say about us and consider the historical impact of such an important person and his ideas. We must ensure that literature supports our students' discussions and writing, and that each of these skills is integral to other activities, as well. I'm reminded of *alliteracy*—the notion that one is *able* to read, but chooses not to. What an astounding concern for the well-being of our society—citizens who may be uninformed or misinformed due to an unwillingness to read widely and thoughtfully. It is our responsibility to help our students become literate—not just to be informed, successful, and do well on a test—but more importantly, to find the joy in literacy!

St. Louis Suburban Council's Professional Development Opportunities

Upcoming St. Louis Suburban Council Meetings

December Council Meeting and Dinner

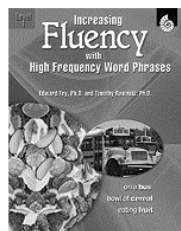
Tuesday, December 4, 2007



Dr. Timothy Rasinski

Topic: From Phonics to Fluency to Proficient Reading

Timothy Rasinski is a professor of literacy education at Kent State University. He has written over 150 articles and has authored, co-authored or edited over 15 books or curriculum programs on reading education. The Fluent Reader: Oral Reading Strategies for Building Word Recognition, Fluency, and Comprehension, and Increasing Fluency with High Frequency Word Phrases, co-authored with Edward Fry, are two frequently used books. He is co-author of the award-winning fluency program, Fluency First, published by The Wright Group. His scholarly interests include reading fluency and word study, reading in the elementary and middle grades, and readers who struggle. His research on reading has been cited by the National Reading Panel and has been published in journals such as *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Reading Psychology*, and the *Journal of Educational Research*.



St. Louis Suburban IRA Spring Banquet

Wednesday, April 23, 2008



Peter Brunn

Topic: "Revisiting What's Important in Elementary Writing Instruction - Writing, Writing, Writing..."

"Over the past few years we have focused lots of time and energy on assessing writing, teaching traits, or teaching revision strategies. In short, we have spent lots of time focusing teachers on teaching skills and strategies. The problem is, that while this instruction is vital, kids just aren't doing enough writing. In the end, it is the volume of writing that will make the difference between a good writer and one who struggles. In this talk I will share strategies to get students to do large quantities of writing while not giving up on skills and strategies."

Peter Brunn is Director of Professional Development at the non-profit Developmental Studies Center (DSC) in Oakland CA. At DSC, he oversees a cadre of 65 full- and part-time staff developers who work in schools and districts across the country to support the adoption of DSC's literacy and community-building programs. He was formerly a classroom teacher in New York City, a staff developer at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, and co-author of DSC's Making Meaning reading comprehension program.

St. Louis Suburban Council's Professional Development Opportunities

St. Louis Suburban Council Literacy Mini-Grant

The St. Louis Suburban Council of the International Reading Association (IRA) administers a mini-grant program for literacy-based instructional activities in the communication arts curriculum. Mini-grants up to \$500.00 are available to IRA member teachers and administrators in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve.

Projects funded by the mini-grant program are intended to enhance the literacy instruction in classrooms for students to improve academic achievement in communication arts – reading, writing, speaking, listening, and information literacy. Mini-grant projects must be aligned to the Missouri Show-Me Standards and the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's). The mini-grant program targets educators who are interested in strengthening their instruction by infusing literature into curriculum content areas. Applicants should plan a mini-grant project that is both needed and timely. Instructional creativity and innovation are encouraged.

The application deadline for 2007 - 2008 is December 4, 2007. All grant funds must be spent by May 30, 2008 and final reports submitted by June 15, 2008. Applicants will be notified about the status of their mini-grants by January 4, 2008. Applications will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Suburban Council of the IRA who will make the decision of mini-grant awards.

International Reading Association

a membership organization of literacy professionals

provides a professional network
for teachers interested in the promotion of literacy



Visit
www.reading.org
for more information.

Please read the following application guidelines and process instructions carefully.

Who Can Apply

Teachers/team of teachers and/or administrators in grades PK – 12 who are members of both the St. Louis Suburban Council local affiliate and the International Reading Association can apply for a literacy mini-grant. Mini-grants are limited to one person/team per year with priority being given to those applying for funds for the first time.

For Further Information

For complete mini-grant guidelines and an application, contact Dr. Betty Porter Walls at drbpwalls@earthlink.net, or Lillian Katzenmeyer at lkatzenmeyer@aol.com. Please remember that the deadline for our 2007 - 2008 review of proposals is December 4, 2007. All applications must be received or postmarked by the deadline date to be considered.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Please be patient with the Missouri State Council of International Reading Association's web-site. Notices for membership renewal are automatically generated. **If you have renewed your membership with St. Louis Suburban Council for this school year, you are automatically a member of Missouri State Council.** Your membership is current. The reminder email messages are automatically being generated and there is no cause for concern if you have paid your dues this year. **Look for a sticker near your address on this newsletter to notify you if you need to renew your membership.**

St. Louis Suburban membership includes your membership to Missouri State Council of International Reading Association.

St. Louis Suburban Council

of the

International Reading Association

August 2007 - August 2008

Does not include membership in International Reading Association

Join or renew with this form to get the prices below. Send to the address below!
Online membership or renewal will be \$20.00!

Regular individual membership \$18.00 each person

Save \$3.00 each!

Partners membership \$15.00 each person

2-4 individuals join together - Checks and applications from both partners must be mailed in together.

Literacy Team membership \$12.00 each person

Save \$6.00 each
Or \$30.00 per team!

5 or more individuals from one school join together - Checks and applications from all team members must be mailed in together.

Student or Retiree membership \$8.00 each person

St. Louis Suburban Council IRA Membership Application

August 2007 - August 2008

All information with an * is required! If you do not have an email address, please indicate that on the form.

Last name* _____ First name* _____ Middle initial* _____

Home address* _____ City* _____ State* _____ Zip code* _____

(____) (____) Home phone* Cell phone e-mail address* or check: I do not have an email address

School District if not retired* _____ School name if not retired* _____ School phone if not retired* _____

Position (Check any that apply)*

Pre K/Elementary Classroom Teacher
 Classroom teacher
 College Teacher
 Jr. High/Middle School
 Reading Specialist
 College Student
 Secondary
 Literacy Coach
 Retired
 Administrator
 Librarian
 Other _____

Check Membership category and dues*

\$18 Regular Individual Membership
 \$15 Partners Membership
 \$12 Literacy Team Membership
 \$ 8 Full time student or Retiree

New Member*
 (2007-2008 membership year)
 Renewal*
 New Address*

Are you a member of the International Reading Association? _____

If yes, please indicate your **IRA Membership number*** _____ Expiration date _____

If no, would you like to receive information about International Reading Association membership? Yes No
 (Please circle)

Please make checks payable to **St. Louis Suburban IRA**

Mail to: 
 Carol Kemper
 IRA Membership Director
 778 Cypress Knoll Dr.
 O'Fallon, MO. 63368

Please join today!

SAVE \$\$\$ on state, regional, and international conferences...
JOIN INTERNATIONAL.
It's easy to join! Just go to
www.reading.org/membership
 IRA's 53rd Annual Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia
 May 4-8, 2008

St. Louis Suburban Council Service Projects

The Board of Directors of St. Louis Suburban Council is committed to supporting the following projects through the generous contributions of time or monetary donations from the St. Louis Suburban Members.

- * The Penny-A-Page project is a partnership with First Book-St. Louis, a nonprofit organization encouraging early reading for at-risk families. Students who participate help others by reading and earning a penny for each page read. Funds generated from this are used to purchase new books which are then given to disadvantaged children. For those of you who have signed up for your students to participate, we hope you have a very successful event!
- * Our Rachel Crandell Mayan Project provides funds to help support school attendance and literacy for Mayan children. We provide funds for school supplies and books.
- * We will also help Missouri State Council support the Philippines Council of the IRA in their pursuit of continued high quality professional development for their teachers across the Philippine Islands.
- * One of our newest "Family Literacy Projects" is our Children's Hospital project. We will donate new books for distribution to families with young children to promote early literacy.
- * Your donations of crayons and coloring books will also be collected for Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital at the December 4th council meeting.
- * Our Lady's Inn is a safe haven for young women who are pregnant and have no place to go. They are allowed to stay at the facility for as long as 17 months with their children. The organization provides comprehensive training for the women in managing finances, job training, and parenting skills. We will providing a bookcase and a wide range of books to this worthwhile organization.
- * It's easy to help St. Louis Suburban Council help families of seriously ill children by donating your tab tops for our Ronald McDonald House project. Just bring your tab tops from soda cans, pet foods, soups, tuna, etc. to any of our meetings. They will be turned in for recycling. The funds generated help support the Ronald McDonald House "homes away from home" for families of children receiving medical treatment in St. Louis.



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES®

Please help us support our literacy projects. Every donation helps. Thanks for all your assistance. You are making a difference in the literacy lives of many families, both here and internationally, through your donations and support of St. Louis Suburban's service projects.

MAP Tips for Teachers

Scoring of the Communication Arts and Math MAP test was completed in June at various locations throughout the state. Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) chose this method of scoring to provide a wide range of teachers throughout the state with a deeper understanding of what is expected from the students of Missouri. After a week of scoring, we collected our tips and ideas that we wanted to share with our staff. Here are a few of our tips.

- Use a variety of scoring guides. Sometimes let students create scoring guides and evaluate their own work.
- Practice MAP style quizzes or tests periodically.
- Stress the importance of going back to the text and looking for the support that relates to the answers.
- Use anchor papers and range finders from the DESE released items and from NAEP to help define what is acceptable at each score point.
- For all writing, emphasize that a longer paper is not always a better paper.
- Teach students that they should not reply, "I just know it" or "The story says so" when they are asked for text-based support for an answer.

St. Louis Suburban Council Fall Meeting and Dinner Information



When: Thursday, December 4, 2007

Where: Ladue Middle School
9701 Conway Road
St. Louis, MO. 63124

Menu:

- Fried Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
- Green Beans Almondine
- Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings
- Dinner Rolls
- Iced Tea and Coffee
- Strawberry Shortcake

Agenda:

- 5:00-5:30 Registration and Networking.
- 5:30-7:00 Dinner Buffet
- 6:45-7:00 Business Meeting
- 7:00-7:45 Speaker - Dr. Timothy Rasinski
Topic: From Phonics to Fluency
to Proficient Reading
- 7:45-8:00 Closing and door prizes

We give a special thanks to Bradburn's and Scholastic for supplying the evening's professional resources.

**Thursday, December 4, 2007
Council Meeting and Dinner
Reservation Form**

_____		_____
Last name		First name
_____		_____
Street	City	State/Zip
_____		_____
Home phone	School phone	
_____		_____
e-mail address		School District

International IRA Membership

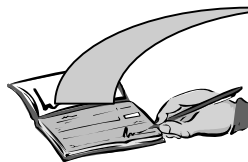
- I am a member and plan to eat dinner. \$7.50 _____
- I am a non-member and plan to eat dinner. \$10.00 _____
- I am a non-member attending without dinner. \$5.00 _____
- I am a member, but not eating dinner. \$0.00 _____

I prefer a vegetarian meal _____
Total amount enclosed: _____

**All reservations must be received
by November 26, 2007.**

**For questions contact:
Carol Kemper at 636-561-3114**

**Mail completed form and check payable to
St. Louis Suburban IRA. Send to:**

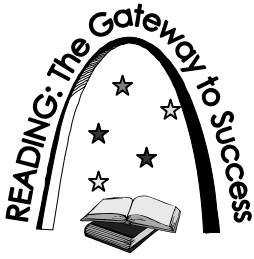


**Carol Kemper
778 Cypress Knoll Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63368**

Thanks!

St. Louis Suburban Council of the
International Reading Association
900 Hanna Valley Estates Dr.
Manchester, MO 63021

stamp



Inside:

- * **RSVPs for our December 4th meeting and dinner *must be received* by November 26th. See page 7.**
- * **Information for our Spring Banquet with Peter Brunn is on page 3.**
- * **St. Louis Suburban Literacy Mini-Grant Information is on page 4.**
- * **St. Louis Suburban/Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association Membership form is included. Please join or renew your membership!**

MSC/IRA State Conference Information and Registration

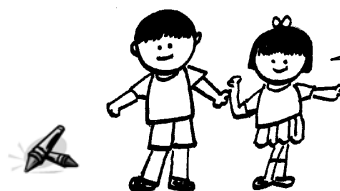
November 15 - 17, 2007

Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri

Go to www.missourireading.org for information




Cardinal Glennon



Please remember to bring
crayons and a coloring book
to the December 4th
meeting. The kids at
Cardinal Glennon thank you!