

SOUTHERN LAKES READING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Anchors away! Sailing along together teaching others to read!

NOTES FROM NATALIE

Here's hoping everyone has had a relaxing break. By now, WKCE is finished and, if you administer MAP, the second session begins soon. As we see more blustery days, we will be seeing more light bulbs go on with our students.

Our November meeting was well attended. Sponsored by WSRA, Deb Zarling discussed "Intervention and Progress Monitoring in Literacy," which proved to be very informative. She shared an article by Donna Scanlon explaining the trouble with packaged and scripted interventions found in the August/September 2013 edition of *Reading Today*. Her main message was this: **Expertise matters! Teachers matter!** In December, I had the opportunity to attend the Waukesha County Reading Council where Christopher Lehman spoke about writing. His message was to give students choice when writing. As his colleague Lucy Calkins puts it, "Writers do not write with words and convention alone; writers write above all with meaning. Children will invest themselves more in their writing if they are allowed - indeed if they are taught - to select their own topics and to write about subjects that are important to them." As teachers, we need to hook into students' interests to make that statement a reality!

Upcoming events include the following:

- **Our next meeting with speaker Nick Glass presenting *Common Core Instructional Shifts & Multimedia Connections to Books & Authors*** Wednesday, January 29 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at West Side Elementary School. Our speaker will be Nick Glass. (see p. 2)
- **WSRA Convention *Developing Literate Minds: Exploring the Complexity of Teaching and Learning, February 6-8, 2014*** Register by the 15th! Consider volunteering at the registration booth to help our council earn \$10 per hour and to provide invaluable help for WSRA. Contact me for details.

Stay warm and learn more about Educator Effectiveness in coming months. Hope to see you at our next meeting! Until then, happy reading!

Natalie McAvoy, President of SLRC



President
Natalie McAvoy

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Nancy Haak

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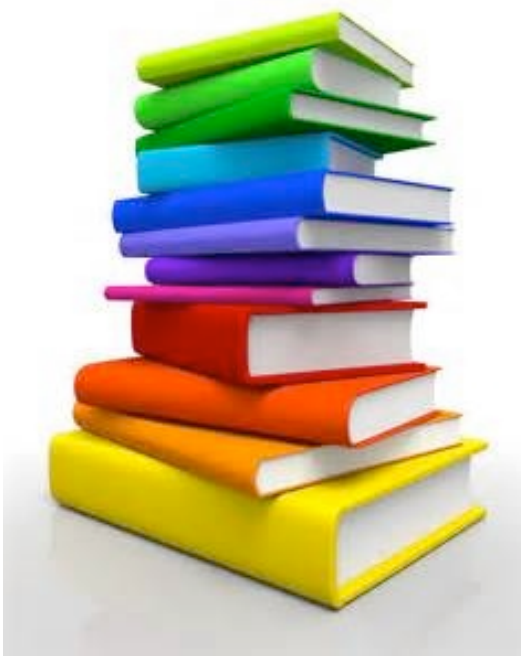
Newsletter
Barbara Townsend



Common Core Instructional Shifts and Multimedia Connections to Books and Authors

with **Nick Glass**

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014



Participants of this interactive program will learn how to use **Teaching Books.net**—a database of K-12 author and book resources that BadgerLink already licenses to everyone in Wisconsin—to enliven reading activities as well as directly support the implementation of three Common Core ELA & Literacy evidence-based pedagogical shifts.

5:00 pm light meal and
brief business meeting

5:30 pm program

Please RSVP SouthernLakesReadingCouncil@gmail.com four days before a scheduled meeting to ensure your spot!

Remaining Southern Lakes Reading Council Program 2013-14

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Using KidBlog & Other Web 2.0 Tools with Your Reading Program with **Keri Simacek**

Learn how to use KidBlog and other Web 2.0 tools for the 21st Century Learner. Focus will include KidBlog for read-to-self and strategies; Big 6 online graphic organizers for students to plan research, fabulous research sites for students to utilize during research, and electronic portfolios.

8:30 am light breakfast and brief business meeting, 9:00 am program

All meetings held at West Side Elementary School, 222 Sunset Drive, Elkhorn, WI 53121



**February 6 - 8,
2014**

Registration
Deadline
January 15, 2014

**Do NOT
miss this
great
opportunity!**

Surfin' the Web



CCSS have increased the rigor for much of our instruction and writing is no exception.

The **PARCC Assessments** demand writing at every grade level. Sample items can be seen at this address: <http://www.parcconline.org/samples/ELA>

Sign up for updates from **Achieve the Core**. Click on *menu*, *ELA/LITERACY* for information on writing, but you will find helpful information on *MATHEMATICS* and *LEADERSHIP TOOLS*, as well. <http://www.achievethecore.org>

Poway Unified School District (San Diego, CA) has a student resource section on their site named **Writing With Style**. http://www.powayusd.com/student_resources/WritingWithStyle/default.shtml

National Writing Project has a site devoted to improving writing and learning in the nation's schools. Visit this address to sign up for their newsletter, learn about ways to encourage writing, find out about student publishing opportunities, etc. <http://www.nwp.org>

Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything is just that--a guide to *everything!* Check out her site which includes everything from APPS to VIDEO. You are sure to find something that will interest you--guaranteed! <http://www.schrockguide.net>

Scholastic's Book Expert Online is a helpful site for teachers. Books listed there include genre type, skills, topics and themes, interest level, reading level (Lexile, guided reading level, and/or grade level), as well as a brief synopsis of the book. <http://src.scholastic.com/bookexpert/default.asp?UID=C402BC8D80E44B689D5BD39180B8AC84&subt=0&Test=NA>

The Importance of Strong Vocabulary

Learning about new words is an important and exciting part of reading development. Words are the vehicles we use to take us into new stories and adventures. They help us to understand and learn more about the world around us. Vocabulary is an important part of a child's growth in reading and will help a child in many other subjects, as well.

It is not necessary for children to memorize long lists of words, but it is important for them to use words in many different situations. As adults, we can help children to develop and appreciate new words. Here are some tips that may help:

- Encourage your child to share new words with you. What new words have you found in books or magazines? What new words were heard on TV or radio? Help your child to become more aware of new words and their uses.
- Share with your child new words that you have discovered. If your child sees that you enjoy words and their uses, he or she will appreciate them, too.
- Encourage your child to read from a variety of printed materials. The more words your child encounters in reading, the more valuable they will become for him or her.
- Help your child understand that many words have multiple meanings. Demonstrate how other words in a sentence help define a new word.
- As a family, attempt to learn a new word each day. All members of the family will benefit from this simple exercise!
- Read many books to your child. The more opportunities children have to hear words in action, the more inclined they will be to add those words to their own vocabularies.

As with most things in today's world, the Internet is a great source for vocabulary assistance. The Merriam-Webster site [www.m-w.com] has many different possibilities including Word of the Day for anyone wishing to expand his or her vocabulary. Unique, fun, and educational spelling games and word puzzles are also available there! [Wordsmith.org](http://www.wordsmith.org) [www.wordsmith.org/awad] has a goal for a word a day (AWAD) for vocabulary expansion. Dating back to 1994, they have been contributing numerous words to vocabulary growth worldwide!

Happy reading—and good luck growing those vocabularies!

SOUTHERN LAKES READING COUNCIL

- We are dedicated to improving reading instruction and promoting literacy.
- We enjoy networking with others who are also dedicated to excellence in literacy from Walworth, Western Racine, & Western Kenosha counties.
- We benefit from hearing top-notch speakers at our meetings who present on best practices in the field of education.
- We believe it is important to stay current and informed.
- We publish newsletters with information on professional development opportunities, and current trends or practices in reading and writing.
- AND, if you're a first year teacher or undergrad student, we'll waive meeting fees!

Come join us! You'll be glad you did!

Take Time for Eight Matters of the Heart

by Ed Young

Take time for repose--it is the gem of creation.

Take time to read--it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to think--it is the source of strength.

Take time to work--it is the path to patience and success.

Take time to play--it is the secret of youth and constancy.

Take time to be cheerful--it is the appreciation of life that brings happiness.

Take time to share--it is in fellowship and sound relationships one finds meaning.

Take time to rejoice--for joy is the music of the soul.

Wisconsin Literacy Dates to Celebrate!

January

- National Book Month
- January 7 - 13 Letter Writing Week
- January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. School Observance Day
- January 23 National Handwriting Day
- January 26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February

- I Love to Read Month
- African American History Month
- February 9 National African American Parent Involvement Day



WSRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date _____

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Place of Employment/School District _____

Duties, Title & Level/Dept. _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

E-mail _____

Are you a member of International Reading Association? Yes No

Are you a member of a local reading council? Yes No If yes, check name(s) → _____

Send me information about: WSRAs Committees Information about your local reading council can be found at www.wsra.org

_____ Ashland Bayfield Counties	55045
_____ Central Wisconsin	55050
_____ Door County	55075
_____ Eau Claire	55100
_____ Fox Valley	55125
_____ Greater Bayland	55150
_____ Headwaters	55200
_____ Hidden Valley	55210
_____ Interlake	55250
_____ Lake Superior	55300
_____ Madison Area	55350
_____ Mid-East Area	55400
_____ Midwest Wisconsin	55450
_____ Milwaukee Area	55500
_____ Northeast Wisconsin	55525
_____ Northwest Wisconsin	55550
_____ Racine-Kenosha	55750
_____ Rock River	55825
_____ St. Croix Valley	55800
_____ South Kettle Moraine	55850
_____ Southern Lakes	55860
_____ Washington Ozaukee	55875
_____ Waukesha County	55900
_____ Wis. Professors of Reading	56703
_____ Wolf River	55950



Renewal New *Your membership expiration date appears on your mailing label.*

Membership is for one year from the date of joining • Dues may be tax deductible. Some of the information provided will be in the WSRAs Membership Directory.

You may join or renew your membership via:

MAIL: WSRAs MEMBERSHIP • N7902 E. Friesland Road • Randolph, WI 53956
Please make checks payable to WSRAs for \$37.00

ONLINE: Visit www.wsra.org and use your credit card

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