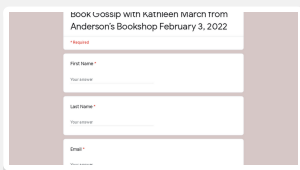


Prairie Area Reading Council



 **Book Gossip with ...**

tinyurl.com

President's Letter

President's Letter

Happy New Year, welcome to 2022! As we continue to find our way through these challenging times of Covid, Prairie Area Reading Council would like to provide professional development that is safe and also fun. So Kathleen March will be presenting her annual Book Gossip presentation virtually. We hope that you can join us on February 3 at 6:00 pm.

How are you taking advantage of your membership in PARC/IRC? Have you participated in a Wired Wednesday Webinar recently? If not, please join us on March 2, 2022 to listen to M. Colleen Cruz when she discusses how to transform students' writing. IRC next book club will be starting January 23, 2022. You can read *Passionate Readers: The Art of Reaching and Engaging Every Child* by Pernille Ripp and/or *Welcome to Writing Workshop: Engaging Today's Students with a Model That Works* by Stacey Shubitz and Lynne R. Dorfman. These seven-week online discussions will help you learn the five keys to creating a passionate reading environment or how to create a thriving writing workshop. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive 15 PD clock hours for each book club. Participants who complete one book club during the winter will have the opportunity to participate in the other one during the spring session.

We hope that you will join us for some of these events.

Happy Reading,
Sherry Sejnost

Book Gossip with Kathleen March - Our next virtual event!

When

Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 6pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

Join us for a night of books, books, and more books! Kathleen March has all the books you need to know about in a wide range of ages. This event is all virtual! Sit back, relax in your pajamas, and get ready to make your must read list.

Our events are FREE for PARC members, \$15 for IRC members, and \$45 for non-members. Join PARC today and have a year of free events with us. Not a member yet? No problem! Need help signing up? Let us know!

Click here to register! <https://tinyurl.com/PARCAndersons>



PARC Pride - Service Projects

What is Jan's Book Angels? A way to spread love & literacy! Anderson's Bookshop (a local bookstore) matches books to children and adults in need. In 2021, more than 2,200 children received a new book for the holidays.

How does PARC assist with Book Angels? We donate towards this philanthropic charity in service to our community.

How can you help? You can donate!! Anderson's offers discounts and gift cards to help the program. To participate contact Anderson's Bookshop at 630-355-2665. To learn more about the program go to andersonsbookshop.com/book-angels

Book Angels



Winter Spotlight

Hello amazing educators!

This year has had so many ups and downs no matter what role you play in the education system. One thing that we know is that it is essential for our students to have healthy SEL habits. While perusing articles on Edutopia, I stumbled across the article, [3 SEL Practices that Early Childhood Educators Can Use Everyday](#). They went through several ideas that, in my opinion, would be beneficial to read for educators or all ages.

We often hear about elementary classrooms having class meetings. This is one of the welcoming Inclusion activities mentioned in the article. Older classrooms could have quick morning check-ins instead. One of the tools suggested to help discuss emotions was a mood meter. One of my teacher friends uses this at her school with K-5 and it has been successful! I have done an activity with 3rd graders in Google Slides taking the mood meter and breaking it down for students to add corresponding colors. It was a day of powerful small group discussions.

Veteran teachers are usually pros at anticipating when students will need a break in learning. With our littles it is easy to see (or hear) when they are starting to get squirrely! One of the tools suggested in the article, and also one I have experience with is GoNoodle. I have had success using this virtually and in person to give my kiddos a movement break or to provide a structure for a breathing exercise. I'll be honest - it is a good way for me to add movement for myself as well. The section this is mentioned in is about engaging strategies. The author suggests restoration with something like breathing exercises and a safe place to express feelings once we are able to re-engage our learners.

The last section of the article was called Optimistic Closure. One example the author gave was to practice gratitude by asking students to share someone or something that brought them joy that day. I loved this simple idea and connected to it since I often ask my daughter one question when she comes home from school, "What happened today that made you smile?" It bonds us, just as this activity could do in your learning space.

I hope that these quick tidbits help you in a small way and that you are able to find joy in your day today.

Membership

Happy New Year! We are holding steady at about 78 members in PARC.

Welcome new members this fall: Angela Sobotka, Sienna Godfrey, Dr. Kevin Marcano, Betty Grimaldo, Kara Harmon, Jill Albrecht-Cucchi, Katy Boehm, and Katie Russell.

We thank our several renewing members too!

It would be excellent if we push past 80 members in the next month. Make it your resolution to recruit a friend, colleague, or mentee to become a member of PARC. [Here is the link to join or renew.](#)

ILA - International Literacy Association

The **International Literacy Association** (ILA) is a professional organization with a mission of connecting research and practice to continuously improve the quality of literacy instruction across the globe.

What are some benefits of joining? ILA offers online learning, career opportunities and easy to implement instructional practices.

How can you get involved in ILA? Volunteer. Donate. Write for ILA. Review for ILA. To learn more/join, go to literacyworldwide.org

Support the ILA mission and join today with online memberships starting at \$39.

The logo for the International Literacy Association is centered on a bright yellow rectangular background. The text "INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION" is written in a bold, dark grey, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines: "INTERNATIONAL" on the top line, "LITERACY" in the largest font size on the middle line, and "ASSOCIATION" on the bottom line.

**INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION**

2022 ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL CONFERENCE
PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



LITERACY IN BLOOM
GROWING READERS AND IDEAS
ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

MARCH 10 - 11, 2022
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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- **David Biedrzycki**
- **Jeffrey Brown**
- **Joelle Charbonneau**
- **Sonja Cherry-Paul**
- **Debbie Diller**
- **Lynne Dorfman**
- **Alison Gordon**
- **Chris Grabenstein**
- **Jacob Grant**
- **Carol Jago**
- **Brendan Kiely**
- **Donalyn Miller**
- **Raúl The Third**
- **Jan Richardson**
- **Pernille Ripp**
- **Jason Reynolds**
- **John Schu**
- **Brian Selznick**
- **Lauren Tarshis**
- **Matt Tavares**
- **Becky Anderson Wilkins**
- **Ibi Zoboi**
- **2022 Illinois Reads Authors**

Interested in learning more about the Illinois Reading Council Conference? Use this link!
<https://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference-information>

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PRAIRIE AREA READING COUNCIL

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Prairie Area is a professional non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy, a love for reading and the improvement of reading instruction.

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