

# PARC Newsletter

August 28, 2023

## Letter from the President

Welcome back to another great year! We are excited to share our events with you, which are *free for PARC members*! As always, we are passionate about sharing the love of literacy with the community and educators. We are looking forward to a variety of events with something for everyone. We are kicking off the year on **Sept. 18th at 5:30 pm** with our annual **Book Gossip** with Kathleen March at Gatto's Restaurant in Downers Grove. It is always a pleasure to hear about the latest books from Kathleen and shop afterwards. On **December 8th**, we will be hosting the **2024 Illinois Reads authors** at Anderson's Bookshop in Downers Grove at **6 pm**. Join us as we get a sneak peek at the 2024 books and hear the authors read their books aloud. On **January 12th at 4:45 pm**, we will be co-hosting the **Family Fort Night** with the Westmont Public Library. We will be distributing free books, singing by the campfire, eating Smores and reading in forts. For our final event of this year, we are very excited to be a part of the **Illinois Reads Book Festival** that will be held at **Westmont High School** on **Feb. 3rd at 10 am**. Come out and join us as we celebrate reading with families in the community. Please put these dates in your calendar. We are looking forward to seeing you!



## Meet your PARC Board

**President:** Sheila Ruh [sheilaruh@yahoo.com](mailto:sheilaruh@yahoo.com)

**President Elect:** Ann Peters [ann807098@gmail.com](mailto:ann807098@gmail.com)

**Vice President & IRC Region Director:** Sherry Sejnost [ssejnost@me.com](mailto:ssejnost@me.com)

**Recording Secretary:** Laura Kelly [lkreads@gmail.com](mailto:lkreads@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Kari Bauerlein [kbauerlein@gmail.com](mailto:kbauerlein@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Kristin Kolodziej [kolodziej@d83.org](mailto:kolodziej@d83.org)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Laura Riley [dlmriley@gmail.com](mailto:dlmriley@gmail.com)

## Local PARC Events 23-24

### KATHLEEN MARCH BOOK GOSSIP

Bring someone new  
and get a prize!

September 18  
5:30-7:30PM

Gatto's Restaurant  
Downers Grove, IL

### IL READS SNEAK PEEK

December 8, 2023  
6:00PM Anderson's Bookshop  
Downers Grove, IL

### FORT NIGHT

January 12, 2024  
4:45-6:45PM  
Westmont Public Library  
Westmont, IL

### IL READS EVENT

February 3, 2024  
Westmont High School  
Westmont, IL



SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

## IRC Events 23-24

### FALL IRC BOOK CLUBS

Register by October 15  
15 Clock Hours Per Book



### 2024 IRC CONFERENCE

March 14-15, 2024  
Springfield, IL



### Wired Wednesday Webinars

JOIN LIVE AT 7:00 PM OR WATCH RECORDINGS

September 6

Zetta Elliot

Poems Can Heal the Heart

October 4

Kylene Beers

When Kids Can't Read

November 1, 2023

Julia E. Torres

topic TBD

December 6, 2023

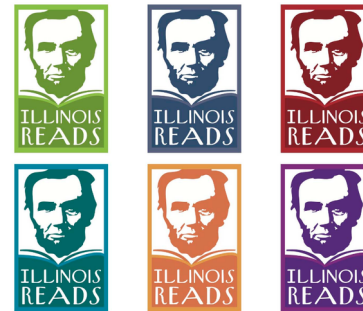
Debbie Reese

Updating Representations of Native  
Americans in Your Classroom Library



# Family Literacy at the Illinois State Fair 2023

Prairie Area Reading Council's Vice President and Illinois Reads Chair, *Sherry Sejnost*, welcomed 2023 Illinois Reads authors and families at the Illinois State Fair in partnership with the Illinois Secretary of State's representative Bonnie Mattheis. The Illinois Reads authors signed over 700 books that were donated by the Illinois Secretary of State's office. These books were given away to families throughout the state. The Illinois Reads authors and illustrators included Candace Fleming, Eric Rohmann, Skyler Schrempp, Alex Perry, Jay Fleck, Stephen Majsak, Kayla Ancrum and Barbara Binns. Many thanks to all of the volunteers from the Illinois Reading Council that made the event such a great success.



## Book Review

### Elephant's Big Solo: Illinois Reads K-2

Review Submitted by *Kari Bauerlein*


Despite being included in the K-2 text band, Kurpiel's text is one for all ages. A book about courage, *Elephant's Big Solo* shares an experience we can all relate to—navigating a situation that puts us outside of our comfort zone. Elephant is tasked with performing a solo in an upcoming school concert. The problem is...she feels very uncomfortable with the spot light. We know books are like a dress rehearsal for life—this text is certainly an example of that. Readers are sure to relate to this character's journey and learn a bit about themselves and how they might handle a situation like this. Beyond the text, the illustrations in this book pair well with the text on each page, providing an opportunity for analysis and discussion. A wonderful addition to any classroom! Click the [link](#) to find the book on Amazon or go to your local bookstore!



## Membership

The Council was so excited to welcome 22 new members this past June! Teachers from Conrad Fischer Elementary School in Elmhurst turned out, expanding our membership significantly. We can't wait to meet you all at our events this year. Our total membership is near 90 as of July. Please join us at Gatto's Restaurant in Downers Grove on September 18 and bring along a friend who wants to join PARC. Thanks to all our members for your support. Let's keep growing! Click the [link](#) to join or renew today!


## Sign-up for Book Gossip 9/18/23




**BOOK** *Gossip*

Sept. 18, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

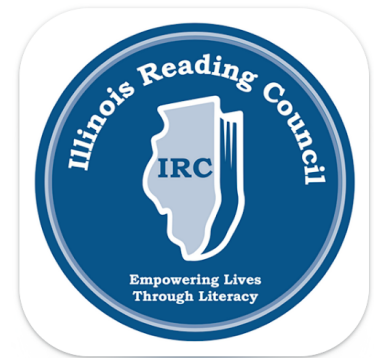
With Kathleen March from Anderson's  
We will meet at Gatto's  
and shop afterwards.  
Gatto's - 5123 Main Street,  
Downers Grove

Register here 



## IRC Mission

*To provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.*



## Prairie Area Reading Council (PARC)

PARC is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters