



## **ReAD: The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association**

Volume 11, Issue 2

October, 2014

Co-Editors: Sandi Kurbiel and Dawn Montague

### ***Have a Fabulous Fall!***

*To share information in ReAD, please submit news by the first of the month, to be published by the 10th of the month. Issues are published every month except for December-January and summer-combined issues. For more information please contact Sandi Kurbiel at [skurbiel@nycap.rr.com](mailto:skurbiel@nycap.rr.com).*

In this edition: [NYSRA & Legislative News](#), Sandi Kurbiel; [NYSED News](#), Dawn Montague; & [Literacy News/Links of Interest](#), Sandi Kurbiel

Please click on each [blue](#) heading or text to lead you to an associated link. (If you have trouble bringing up a link in Internet Explorer or using certain email systems, you may need to also click on the "e" at the bottom of the screen if it is flashing.)

Don't forget, now you can become a friend to NYSRA on [Facebook](#)! Have you?

\*Thanks to all who contributed their time and expertise to our issue this month!

### **[NYSRA and Legislative News](#)**

#### **[Get a Discount at the NYSRA Conference](#)**

by Sharon Kelly, NYSRA Membership Chair

The New York State Reading Association (NYSRA) Conference is coming soon. Have you looked at the registration form? You get a big discount if you are a current member. So why not join as a member-at-large. The application is on the website at [www.nysreading.org](http://www.nysreading.org). It only costs \$40. An even cheaper way is to join a local reading council. These are also found on the website. Find one near you and join for usually a cheaper price. You can join the local reading council and the NYSRA for one price and get a discount at the conference.

If you haven't renewed your membership, contact your local reading council membership chair or join as a member-at-large. Either way you will get a discount for the registration at the conference. If you don't know who your local reading council membership chair is email me at [shar17@frontiernet.net](mailto:shar17@frontiernet.net).

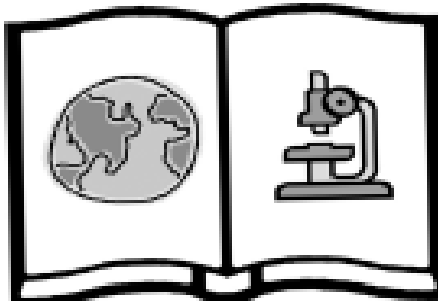
# **WANTED**

## **Dedicated Educators**

**NYSRA is looking for Lifelong Learners who are willing to explore new teaching strategies and methods, as well as act on current research in their classrooms.**

**If this describes you, please consider attending The NYSRA Conference 2014**

*Literacy within the Disciplines*



New York State Reading Association

*Seamless Integration of Literacy & Content*

**NOVEMBER 9 - 11, 2014**

**Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool, Liverpool, NY**

## **Advocacy News: October, 2014**

Submitted by Sue Bogdan-Ritty, Advocacy Chair

### **2014 ELA SCORES**

August brought forth the news many had been waiting for: the release of the scores from the Spring, 2014 New York State ELA and Math Assessments. The results held steady in English Language Arts, with minimal growth across the boards.

A recently released PowerPoint on *EngageNY* highlights some information. Here is some information that should be noted:

- NYS has completed the fourth year of its 12-year phase-in of the Common Core Learning Standards.
- There was slight progress in ELA, and performance was variable across need/resource groups.
- New York's proficiency scores on the 2013 NAEP ranged from 32 to 40 percent. This aligns with proficiency rates on NYS's own tests of the CCLS.
- NYS performance standards (cut scores) from 2013 were maintained on the 2014 tests.
- This matched approach displays the year-to-year results for the exact same students in 2013 and 2014.
- Growth was shown by students with disabilities and ELLs.

There is much more information in the report. The link of this PowerPoint can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/ela-math/2014/2014Grades3-8ELAMath-final8-13-14.pdf>.

### **RELEASE OF ELA QUESTIONS**

As promised, NYSED released fifty percent of the test questions with the release of scores.

You can find these through the following link: <https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-common-core-sample-questions>.

When you review the questions consider the following:

- The level of the reading material
- The question format
- The standard the question addresses

Remember, questions are reviewed by a variety of educator committees. NYSED is always looking for educators who wish to participate in this process. Check the NYSED website for an online form to apply.

## IRA NEWS

The advocacy committee of the International Reading Association, chaired by Keith Lyons of the University of Kentucky, has listed their charges for the 2014-15 year. The major tasks they are looking to complete are the following:

- Coordinating and serving as Advocacy Ambassadors to regions around the world
- Revising the IRA Advocacy Manual
- Revising the IRA Advocacy Award

Progress on these tasks will be updated in Reading Today watch for news in your next edition.

## NATIONAL NEWS

The Common Core Learning Standards have been a topic of discussion everywhere. Many states are reviewing their growth through their *Race to the Top* applications. This has developed concerns politically as well as educationally state to state.

Louisiana's Governor Bobby Jindal filed a lawsuit recently against the CCSS. The argument in the lawsuit deals mainly with states' rights vs. federal rights. This particular lawsuit was addressed publically by U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Keep watch as other states may join in such lawsuits.

### **New York State Reading Association: AWARDS PACKET**

**Submit application to** Eileen LaSpaluto – ebalaspaluto@gmail.com  
OR [eileen.laspaluto@middleburghcsd.org](mailto:eileen.laspaluto@middleburghcsd.org)  
Award Chairperson  
New York State Reading Association  
NYSRA Professional Awards

The complete Awards Packet may be found at the following website:  
<http://nysreading.org/content/awards>. Go to the *Professional Development* tab, click on it, then click on *Awards*.

**Please encourage colleagues and educators involved in promoting literacy to apply for the following awards for which they may be eligible:**

### **EDUCATORS, SCHOOLS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL LITERACY AWARDS:**

#### **NYSRA LITERATURE-BASED MINI-GRANT**

**Eligibility:** Teachers K-12

**GOALS:**

- \* To recognize teachers who are conducting programs that emphasize children's and young adult literature
- \* To showcase model literature-based programs in NYS

\*To showcase mini-grants, and in so doing NYSRA's commitment to literacy

**AWARD:** \$500.00

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** **APRIL 30th**

### **NYSRA LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY MINI-GRANT**

**Eligibility:** Teachers K-12

**GOALS:**

- \*To grant awards to teachers who are conducting programs emphasizing the use of technologies to support literacy learning
- \*To showcase model programs that integrate literacy and technology in NY schools
- \*To showcase NYSRA's commitment to literacy and technology

The recipient of the award or their representative is expected to attend the annual NYSRA Conference to showcase their project. Recipients of the awards will be asked to participate in the review of the following year's mini-grant applications.

**AWARD:** \$500.00

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** **APRIL 30th**

### **NYSRA LITERACY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Eligibility:** Librarian/Media Specialists; Literacy Specialist/Coach or Reading teacher; Reading Administrator/Supervisor; Classroom Teacher nominees

**GOALS:**

- \* To promote excellence in the field of literacy instruction in New York State
- \* To recognize individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy instruction in New York State
- \* To recognize individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of children and adults

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** **APRIL 30th**

### **NYSRA FRIEND OF READING AWARD**

**Eligibility:** Open to anyone who promotes literacy

**GOALS:**

- \* To promote excellence in the field of literacy in New York State
- \* To recognize individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy instruction in New York State
- \* To recognize individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of child and adults
- \* Affiliation with the NYSRA

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** **APRIL 30th**

### **NYSRA WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

- Eligibility:** New York State Educators, Member of NYS Reading Association
- GOALS:** To honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center tragedy by encouraging anti-bias literacy programs throughout New York State
- AWARD:** A plaque indicating that the educator(s) has received this honor  
The award recipient is encouraged to present the winning program at a future NYSRA Conference.
- GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)
- APPLICATION DUE:** **APRIL 30th**

### **NYSRA EXEMPLARY READING PROGRAM AWARD**

- Eligibility:** Elementary and Secondary Schools  
(All Public, Private, and Parochial schools are eligible)
- GOALS:** \* To improve literacy in our society  
\* To recognize school staff who demonstrate excellence in reading and literacy programs
- The award-winning school will be invited to present at NYSRA's Annual Conference, and will receive a plaque from the Exemplary Reading Award Committee.
- GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)
- APPLICATION DUE:** **NOVEMBER 15th**

### **NYSRA LITERACY ADVOCATE AWARD**

- Eligibility:** Organization, Institution or Individual  
(Membership in NYSRA not required)
- GOAL:** To recognize an organization, institution or individual having made a significant contribution to the New York State literacy effort
- GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)
- APPLICATION DUE:** **APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION, EXEMPLARY READING PROGRAM AWARD**

- Contact:** Exemplary Reading Program Award  
International Reading Association  
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139  
Newark, DE 19741-8139, USA
- GOALS:** This IRA Award recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (K-12). Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America.
- GUIDELINES:** Each local council president was given a binder with the necessary guidelines and application forms, OR  
Contact the International Reading Association (IRA) for additional information about this award. A copy of the guidelines and application forms may be copied in PDF format from the IRA website, [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).
- APPLICATION DUE:** **NOVEMBER 15th**

### **NYSRA LITERACY OUTREACH AWARD**

**Eligibility:** NYSRA Local Reading Council

**GOALS:** To honor one or more NYSRA councils for outstanding service to its community and literacy.

**AWARD:** Recognition at the NYSRA Conference

**GUIDELINES:** (See NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30TH

### **NEW YORK STATE HIGHER LEARNING AWARDS:**

#### **NYSRA RICHARD L. ALLINGTON RESEARCH GRANT**

**Eligibility:** New York State K-12 Educator – Currently or formerly employed Classroom teacher, librarian, resource teacher, Title 1 teacher, full-time or permanent half-time OR a faculty member of a New York State college or university in a literacy or related capacity and a current NYSRA council member

**GOALS:** \*To encourage the development of research projects related to the areas of reading, writing, and/or listening at levels K-12

\*To showcase the present winner of the Allington Research Grant at the New York State Reading Association Annual Conference

**AWARD:** \$500.00

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30th

#### **SENATOR DONOVAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**Eligibility:** College students pursuing a Career in Literacy Education/Member of NYSRA; Currently enrolled in a graduate program

**GOAL:** To recognize a college student who is pursuing a career in literacy

**AWARD:** \$500.00

Applicants will write an essay on this year's topic: *"Describe how a classroom teacher can use formative assessments to inform his/her literacy instruction?"*

Award winners are expected to serve on the following year's review committee and attend the NYSRA Conference, when possible.

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>

## **New York State Education News**

### **The Back-to-School Edition of News and Notes from EngageNY:**

#### **[News and Notes from EngageNY - Welcome Back to School](#)**

Commissioner King welcomes and thanks educators for their commitment to New York education.

#### **[Commissioner King's Welcome Back Video](#)**

#### **[New York Students Talk About the Learning Standards](#)**

Watch videos of students talking about meeting higher learning standards.

#### **[Scaffolding Instruction for English Language Learners](#)**

Read about guidance for educators to use the EngageNY materials and provide additional scaffolds for ELL students.

#### **[Seventh Grade ELA Teacher Shares Four Ways to Help Make Complex Texts Accessible for all Students](#)**

Jessica Gross, 7th Grade English Teacher, talks about ways to make complex texts more accessible for students.

### **New York Perspectives:**

#### **[Another Voice: Teachers Working Hard to Make Proper Use of Data](#)**

From *the Buffalo News*, teachers are trying to turn the data from state tests into valuable information.

#### **[Support the Common Core with the Right Instructional Materials](#)**

*The Phi Delta Kappan*, published by Sage, discusses that finding strong instructional materials is crucial to the success of the Common Core.

#### **[New Achieve and Teaching Channel Partnership to be Released](#)**

Three videos provided by *the Teaching Channel* are released that introduce the peer process and the benefits of the peer review process.

#### **[Survey on National Core Arts Standards](#)**

New York State is looking for input from the art teachers on an adoption of the National Core Arts Standards.

#### **[Teachers Working Together, Experiencing Progress](#)**

Terrance Clark, the Superintendent of the Bethpage Union Free School District in Long Island, talks about how working together has helped their implementation of the Common Core.

#### **[SLO Field Samples from Year Two Implementation \(2013-14\)](#)**

An expanded set of annotated SLOs is available to help decisions for implementation.



### **[Professional Development for Principals](#)**

Find Professional Development opportunities for teachers.

### **[Professional Development for Principals](#)**

Find Professional Development opportunities for principals.

### **[Curriculum Module Updates](#)**

Find new materials for modules.

## ***Literacy News and Links of Interest***

### **[New York State Reading Association \(NYSRA\)](#)**

Check out the new NYSRA website! We have many resource links for Literacy teachers, and even a link to NYS ELA (and math) grades 3-8 sample Common Core questions!

### **[Read Write Think](#)**

Find hundreds of lesson plan ideas for the topic of [Columbus Day](#), [Halloween](#), and other important dates in [October](#) here, such as National Bullying Month!

### **[Reading Rockets](#)**

Find numerous ideas, lesson plans, and research articles on literacy and events such as [Halloween](#) and other events in [October](#)!

### **[Reading A-Z and Close Reading](#)**

Reading A-Z not only has resources and activities for students, it also has Common Core related instruction for teachers; find info on Close Reading on this page.

### **[Scholastic and Close Reading](#)**

Scholastic also has some helpful ideas on the topic of Close Reading.

### **[Pinterest.com](#)**

Try typing the topics “Close Reading” and “Common Core Reading” at Pinterest.com for loads of teacher-tested ideas!

### **[Zoodles.com](#)**

Have fun with literacy with over 200 free reading and other educational games for young ones here.

### **[Captions for Literacy](#)**

In case you missed this last issue, check out this innovative way and motivational way to boost reading skills!