



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

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Happy Thanksgiving!

To share information in ReAD, please submit news by the first of the month, to be published 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.

In this edition: NYSRA News, NYSED News, & Literacy News of Interest

(Please click on each heading to lead you to an associated link.)

NYSRA News

If you know someone that is thinking about becoming a member of your local reading council or a college student that would benefit from information from a local council meeting, why not invite them to join you at a reading council meeting or workshop? Do not forget that if they join the local council, they will automatically become a member of NYSRA. They are then eligible to receive this email (*ReAD*) with new information and the *Empire Reading Scene* that comes out quarterly. In addition, *Language and Literacy* magazine with articles on current topics is also sent out to members once a year. Many great articles were in the recent *Language and Literacy* magazine via email. You can access this on our website: (www.nysreading.org).

If you were a member last year and have not renewed your membership, please contact your local reading council officers. If you do not know whom to contact, email Sharon Kelly, NYSRA Membership Chair at shar17@frontiernet.net for information. Please include the name of your local reading council or your county that you live in.

Howard Funk

We would like to acknowledge the passing of a friend of NYSRA, Howard Funk. Howard designed our on-line membership system and showed infinite patience as we learned to use this state-wide format. He was instrumental in getting all the Charlotte Award information available on our website, as well! He was our web mentor as well as our webmaster. Howard will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,
NYSRA Board of Directors

Fall NYSRA Conference

Our Fall 2011 conference, “Literacy Connections,” was held at the Hilton in Rye Brook, New York from Sunday, October 23rd to Tuesday, October 25th. It was an educationally rewarding experience for all in attendance, as participants attended thoughtfully planned workshops and institutes on a variety of topics related to literacy instruction and the implementation of the common core learning standards. This year’s conference provided a variety of venues where our participants interfaced with phenomenal presenters, great authors and fantastic storytellers over breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Some new features included a visit to a charter school in Yonkers and a panel discussion around the movie *Waiting for Superman*, as well as thought-provoking general session presentations from Nell Duke, Patricia Polacco, and Dr. Alfred Tatum. The greatest entity was the myriad of professional conversations being held throughout the entire conference.

A special thanks to our conference co-coordinators, Wallace Freeland and Mary Kline, along with their conference and management committees, for an outstanding job. We look forward to seeing you in Syracuse, New York for Fall Conference 2012! Mark October 28th – 30th, 2012 on your calendars for “Literacy: Common Core and Beyond!”

New York Library Association Disaster Relief Fund

NYSRA recently received a thank you letter from NYLA for our donation to the NYLA Disaster Relief Fund. NYSRA conference attendees also donated to the NYSRA Disaster Relief Fund. If you would like to donate more as an individual member you may visit the NYLA website. Thank you to all who helped the thousands affected by Hurricane Irene.

NYS Letters About Literature

Empire State Center for the Book is a once again a participant in the national Letters About Literature program, which is sponsored by the Library of Congress National Center for the Book. New York State students in grades 4-12 are eligible to participate in the state program. NYSRA continues to support this program through volunteers and donations of funds.

NYS Education News

Regents Approve Development of Kindergarten Readiness Tool

The NYS Board of Regents approves the development of a kindergarten readiness tool to use in the 2014-2015 School Year.

Curriculum Modules and Statewide Professional Development for New York State English Language Arts & Literacy and Mathematics

NYSED is looking for proposals to develop curriculum and curriculum modules aligned to the NYS Common Core Learning Standards.

Academic Intervention Services Requirements

The one year waiver that permitted districts not to provide services during the 2010-2011 school year has ended.

[Teacher and Principal Practice Rubrics](#)

The approved list of teacher and principal practice rubrics has been updated with additional providers.

[Literacy News of Interest Links](#)

[Reading is Fundamental](#)

This is the official website for Reading is Fundamental, one of our country's leading advocates for literacy.

[ProLiteracy](#)

This is another organization which uses resources in literacy to advocate for adults, their families, and their communities.

[Lesson Planet.com](#)

This is a large comprehensive search engine for thousands of lesson plans and ideas for teachers in multiple subject areas.

[Teaching Resource Center](#)

Find free resources for teachers on literacy-related lesson plans and activities.