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The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association

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Editor: Sandi Kurbiel

NYSED Contributing Editor: Kristen Driskill



Issues are published every month except for December-January and June-August combined issues. For more information, please contact Sandi Kurbiel at skurbiel@nycap.rr.com. (Above image from GoogleImages)

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!

Inside: [NYSRA & Legislative News by Sandi Kurbiel](#); [NYSED News](#) by Kristen Driskill; & [Literacy News/Links of Interest](#) by Sandi Kurbiel

NYSRA and Legislative News

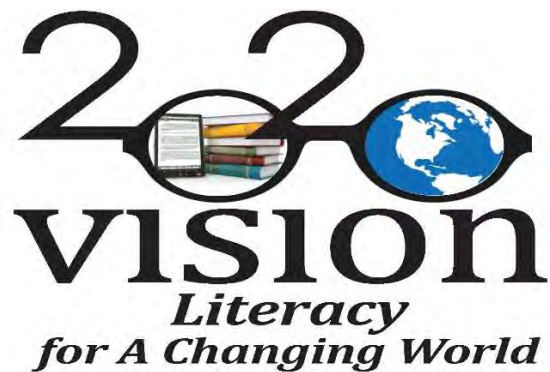
A Reminder from Thea Yurkewecz, our NYSRA President:

The New York State Reading Association will hold the
March Assembly of Delegates and Board of Directors Meeting

Date: **Friday, March 20th and Saturday, March, 21st**

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse

2020 NYSRA CONFERENCE UPDATE



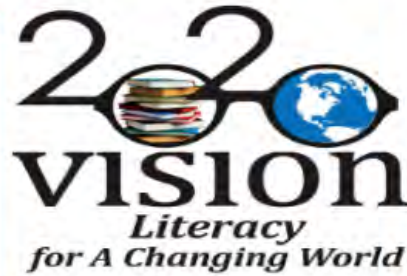
The NYSRA Conference 2020 Committee is proud to announce we will be holding a pre-conference community event in partnership with the **STRONG Museum of Play on Wednesday, 11/11/2020.**

All conference attendees will be offered a discounted admission for Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

With November 11th being Veteran's Day, mark your calendars now and plan on arriving early, enjoy the day or the afternoon at the STRONG and then join us for the pre-conference training sessions at the Hyatt!

SAVE THE DATE!

Hyatt Regency
Rochester
Rochester, NY



November 11-13,
2020



53rd Annual NYSRA Conference

Keynote Speakers:

Penny Kittle, Cornelius Minor and Pam Allyn

Featured speakers confirmed to date:

Julie Corio, Kate Eagan Cunningham, Timothy Rasinski, Kate Roberts, Kathy Hinchman, and NYSED Curriculum Office Representative

the strong
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY

Join us for our community event in partnership with The Strong Museum of Play on Wednesday, 11/11/20.

All conference attendees will receive a discounted admission rate to the Strong Museum Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

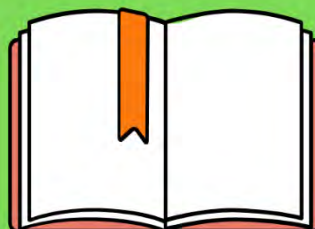
<https://www.nysreading.org/>



#NYSReading

powered by

 **PIKTOCHART**



Applications Are Now Open for

NYSRA Awards 2020



THE NEW YORK STATE READING ASSOCIATION
OFFERS 11 DIFFERENT AWARDS AND MINI-GRANTS
TO ITS MEMBERS.

For more info, visit:
nysreading.org/content/awards-and-grants



The List Below Includes Both NYSRA and Some ILA Awards,
Arranged Chronologically by Due Date:

Award	Application Due	Awarded
ILA Exemplary Reading Program Award	11/15	ILA Conference
ILA Honor Council	12/15	NYSRA AOD
NYSRA Charlotte Award (even-numbered years)	4/15	NYSRA Conference
Literacy Outreach Award	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Senator Donovan Memorial Scholarship	5/31	NYSRA Meeting
NYSRA Literacy Educator of the Year	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Friend of Reading Award	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Literature Based Mini-Grant	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Literacy and Technology Mini-Grant	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Richard L. Allington Research Grant	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Cultural Diversity through Literacy Award	5/31	NYSRA Conference
NYSRA Membership Excellence Award	5/31	NYSRA Fall AOD
NYSRA Council Service Award	5/31	NYSRA Fall AOD
NYSRA Literacy Advocate Award	5/31	NYSRA Conference

For additional ILA awards, please refer to their website:

<https://literacyworldwide.org/about-us/awards-grants>

For more information or questions, contact

NYSRA Professional Awards Chairperson:

Kirsten Burke Smith, NYSRAawards@gmail.com

Kirsten Burke Smith, M.S.Ed.

Literacy Specialist, 2019 NYSRA Literacy Educator of the Year

President, [Niagara Frontier Reading Council](#)

Vice President, [New York State Reading Association](#)

[EdTechInspired.com](#)

Advocacy News March 2020 BOD

by Barbara Vokatis, Ph.D.
NYSRA Advocacy Chair

New York State Policy

Dyslexia Legislation

We continue to encourage members to comment to their local legislators before the bill is introduced and voted in in the New York State. Link to the proposed legislation:

https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A08697&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y

Link to the site listing assemblymen and senators:

<https://www.aqeny.org/find-your-new-york-state-legislators/>

The December/January issue has points on dyslexia legislation to consider as you voice your opinions to legislators.

Changes in Literacy Coursework in Teacher Preparation Programs

The item still did not come before the Regents.

Board of Regents Appoints Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Early Learning

The Board of Regents this week [appointed Marybeth Casey](#) as the Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Early Learning.

Transition to the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards

Full implementation of the new standards is approaching and will begin during the 2020-2021 school year for prekindergarten through grade 8.

NYSED designed Next Generation Learning Standards Roadmap to assist educators' transition to fully implement the new standards. [Find an editable version of the Roadmap and other resources](#) on the Curriculum & Instruction website of NYSED.

Board of Regents Revise Regulations on APPR

The Board of Regents adopted changes to the new APPR regulations as an emergency at its February meeting. The changes provide additional flexibility for principal evaluations and streamline a variance process.

Nominating Committee Vote

By Sharon Kelly, Immediate Past President

The Nominating Committee is bringing Keith Newvine to the Assembly of Delegates meeting for a vote for the position of Vice President starting in July, 2020 to June, 2021. Please send your allotted number of delegates to the Assembly of Delegates meeting on March 21 in Syracuse at the Doubletree Hotel to voice your vote in filling this position.

There will be many other topics addressed at this meeting, so we hope that you will send some representatives from your reading council. It is a time when you can vote and shape how NYSRA is run. You also will receive some professional development at this meeting.

New York State Education News

by Kristen Driskill

NYSED Contributing Editor

Regional Meetings to Review Graduation Measures

On February 7, 2020, the Board of Regents and NYS Education Department have announced additional information meetings around the state. These meetings offer all stakeholders input on what a state diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for every student in New York State.

The Chancellor is looking for input from educators, parents, students, school board members, community members, business organizations, and anyone else who is invested in the education of children.

For a list of regional meetings through the end of March, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the press release.

Title I School Improvement Grant Funding Opportunity

Section 1003 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that State Education Agencies allocate funds to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools and Target Districts to develop a plan that will meet the progress goals in their District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) and/or School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP), and thereby improve student performance. These funds are to be used to support planning of school improvement activities as required in the ESEA.

The project period for the 2019-2020 funding goes from December 1, 2019 to August 30, 2020. Applications are due March 6, 2020.

Click [here](#) for more information, including the grant application documents.

The New York State Center for School Safety (CFSS)

The New York State Education Department has put out a call for proposals for the operation of the Center for School Safety (CFSS). This is a statewide technical assistance center for schools, which will help schools create and maintain a systems-approach model for safe and supportive learning environments.

The services the Center provides to schools and districts are critical to the health and safety of students, district and school staff, families, and communities throughout the State. These services include providing professional development and technical assistance at the school and the school district levels; reviewing district safety plans; conducting on-site reviews of policies and practices; responding quickly and efficaciously to emergency situations that may arise; evaluating and analyzing aggregate, deidentified, publicly available student data related to attendance, disciplinary referrals, and suspension as well as incidents of violent and/or bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

In addition, the Center will support safe and supportive school environments free from bullying, harassment and discrimination and providing support to the schools receiving Safe and Supportive Schools grants.

Click [here](#) to see more information, including the call for proposals.

Literacy News and Links of Interest

by Sandi Kurbiel

ReAD Editor

[Reading/Writing Relationships](#)

Reminders from literacy expert Shanahan how the two are intertwined.

["What's Hot" in Literacy?](#)

Educators share their ideas of what's currently "hot" in the literacy world.

[Noteworthy Calendar Dates](#)

Find some interesting literacy ideas for these noteworthy calendar dates here.

[Wary of Using Graphic Novels?](#)

Are you afraid to use graphic novels in the classroom? Are you worried they're not "real" books? Read one librarian's opinion here.