

FLORIDA Reading NEWSLETTER ASSOCIATION

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION VOLUME XXVIII, NO. 1

Fall 2007

Welcome to our post-conference newsletter. Our new location, Shingle Creek Resort, won rave reviews from our attendees. It is a beautiful location and all of us could eat desserts, guilt free, because of all the walking we had to do to maneuver this huge facility. We will be meeting at this location for the next four years. Mark your calendars because our next conference is only 10 months away, September 4 – 7, 2008. Proposals forms, for those of you interested in presenting next year, are now available on our website www.FLReads.org.



Planning our conference is one of the hardest, yet most rewarding professional experiences I have had. I would not be truthful if I did not add that I was grateful that it was Pam LaRiviere's job this year. I was much more relaxed and even attended a few sessions. One thing I noted from my new "relaxed" perspective was that our conference looks very different to those of us behind the scenes than it does to those of you who join us for the long weekend to enjoy and learn from the reading researchers, peer presenters, and author/illustrator sessions. It is also very different to those of us who are veterans attending many FRA conferences and those of you who were first-timers, or even second-time attendees. Let me explain.

One first-time attendee was Allison Schuldt, a sophomore at Rollins College. Allison knows she wants to be a teacher, but she has only had a course or two in the education department. She is serving a two-year term as student membership director for the Florida Reading Association. Allison's freshness to our profession was so much fun for me to witness. A few years ago, Sharon Draper spoke at our conference and referred to our newest professionals as "baby teachers." She went on to encourage us to adopt these baby teachers and nourish them. I felt I would have made Sharon proud. Allison's fresh view of our "amazing conference" was heart-warming. She enjoyed meeting the authors of her favorite childhood stories, she learned so much from the sessions she attended and she . . . worked . . . HARD; you may have seen her working in the bookstore, at the registration desk, or helping an author at the autographing table.

For those of you who did join us, please share with your principals, teachers, reading coaches and reading supervisors what a great conference it was. We want our conference to "kick off" your new year and revitalize you. For those of you who missed us this year, mark your calendars now and work with your administrators to use these days for professional development. Florida Reading Association is here to serve your reading needs. I would love to hear from you. If there is something more we can do, I would like to know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debra Wellman
President, Florida Reading Association
Associate Dean of the Faculty, Rollins College

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, Everyone, Welcome Back !

We are so pleased to be digital. Do let us know what you think!

In the last newsletter I said “Summer is right for thoughts of leisure reading !!” and Nancy Maszta provided a wonderful list of suggested breezy time readings. But now my thoughts of leisure reading give way to “not so leisure reading”, as summer has ended and we have been in school for while. The “not so leisure readings”, which I call professional readings, are the fabric of what allows us to pause and ponder as we once again become reflective practitioners who take a quiet moment to contemplate the activity, the day, the reading or whatever has made an impact (good or not so good) on the daily activity of educating. With this in mind, let me suggest a few not so leisure readings.

I found the time to read the first two articles in the Journal of Literacy Research (Vol. 39 (2). 2007) a publication of the National Reading Conference (NRC). The first by Norman A. Stahl, historian and president-elect of NRC, is a simple reminder of the history of our field. “Schema theory was a child of the 1930s, but as rediscovered in the 1980s launched” careers (p. 142). He reminds me that literacy instruction has a deep history; and that deep history forms the foundation of the literacy beliefs we promote. “Old wine, new bottles!” The second article in the Journal is a thoughtful and well researched piece by P. David Pearson called “An Endangered Species Act for Literacy Education.” Pearson discusses what he refers to as the “three fundamental values and practices” of educating: “insistence on transfer; faith in teacher prerogative, and regard for individual differences. He calls these the “hallmark of learning and assessment” and contends that they have “disappeared from the educational landscape...” (p.145). He targets the current educational/political environment as cause for the disappearance of these notions of good pedagogical practice. These discussions will affirm your own view. Further into the discussion, however, he concedes, yet “as a profession, we have not met our responsibilities to ensure that all of us as teachers...possess the very best and most current knowledge available” (p. 150), asking us to look into ourselves. As always, he causes reflection.

Another piece I read was Understanding and Using Reading Assessment K-12 by Peter Afflerbach. It is an apt named text as its title describes exactly what is presented. Chapter 6, “A Comparison of Two Assessments (OSELA and DIBELS)” is a must read for us as practitioners in this profession of aligning instructional planning with assessment data. This chapter provides a reasonable comparison of two very different assessments, promotes the notion that a teacher will be able to determine which one is appropriate for a particular student and confirms that understanding who is assessed and when to administer either assessment depends on the student and those outcome needs for planning instruction.

Finally, the October 2007 editions of both The Reading Teacher and the Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy offer a wide range of worthy ideas from an article by William Brozo, to articles expanding on his ideas for boys’ reading, to examining the metacognitive development of future educators, to the plight of the dyslexic secondary learners and specific links to **ReadWriteThink.org**.

These articles and sections of publications are excellent for use in your professional study group reading as they are bound to stir the pot. The challenge is to select just one! Take the challenge, bring together a group of colleagues and let me know how the reading has impacted your discussion.



AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Pam LaRiviere, chairperson

For **Awards and Scholarship** see the calendar link on FRA website <http://www.flreads.org/>. All awards and scholarship information is listed there with their criterion and deadlines.

Coming up:

- Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research Award, submit now
- Elementary teacher of the Year nominations due by February 1
- The Marguerite Cogorno Radencich Award nominations due by February 1



Congratulations to Shannon Ayrish, winner of 2006-07 Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research who was recognized at the September FRA Conference for her action research entitled "Hook Readers with Powerful Classroom Libraries: Research in Action."

CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

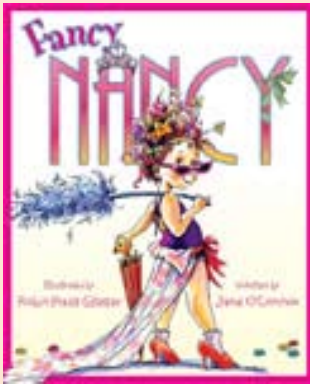
Coordinators Shannon Ayrish and Becky Beran

Children's Book Award Timeline

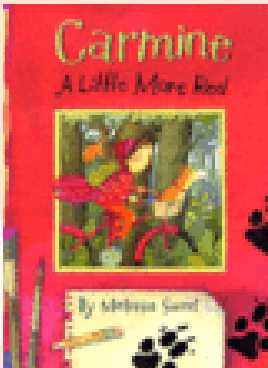
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| October | Book extensions posted on the FRA website and listed below |
| December | Schools planning to participate in the book award election should be registered by the 15th. |
| January 1 | Web site allows schools to enter their votes online. Schools may send tally sheets via web, email, fax, or US mail. |
| April 15 | Voting closes for the Book Award. |
| May 1 | Winners will be announced on the web site. |

Don't forget to vote...see <http://www.flreads.org/Children's%20Book%20Award/childrenftpage.htm>

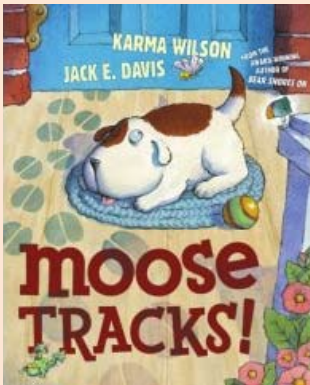
2007-2008 Florida Reading Association's Children's Book Award Booklist



Fancy Nancy
by Jane O'Connor



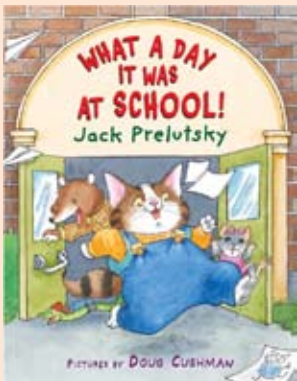
Carmine: A Little More Red
by Melissa Sweet



Moose Tracks
by Karma Wilson



The Gingerbread Girl
by Lisa Campbell Ernst



What a Day it Was at School
by Jack Prelutsky

This Jazz Man
by Karen Ehrhardt



Mammoths on the Move
by Lisa Wheeler

One More Sheep
by Mij Kelly and Russell Ayto



Don't forget to vote...see
<http://www.flreads.org/Children's%20Book%20Award/childrenftpage.htm>

CONTESTS and LITERACY PROJECTS

Adolescent Literacy:

Annual Florida Reading Association Poster Contest, Dr. Ellis Somers, chair Secondary students in Florida schools are invited to create reading posters that will be exhibited at the Secondary Reading Council (SRC) State Conference held in Panama City, April 2008. Entries will be judged by conference attendees and fabulous prizes will be awarded as well.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who participated and hope this project is both beneficial and motivational for adolescent readers. Thank you for supporting literacy in this very creative way.

Go to http://www.flreads.org/contest/poster_contest.htm for all the details:

- Announcement Flyers to download and distribute
- Contest flyers to download and post
- Poster Slogans
- Rule and Regulations

Deadline: April 7, 2008

Florida Teen Book Map Project for Adolescent Literature, Dr. Terry Cavanaugh, chair The Florida Book Map Project is designed to help Florida teachers, reading coaches, and students find high interest books that take place in Florida. The Florida Reading Association invites you to recommend novels that teens and tweens enjoy and which have Florida settings and you have found to be of high interest. Join FRA in celebrating our Sunshine State through adolescent literature by submitting your suggestions to this resource. Submissions will only be used to create a Florida Teen Book Map available on the FRA web page. For details, ideas and possibilities see:

http://www.flreads.org/adolescent_lit/FL_book_map/index.htm.

Elementary and Tween Literacy



Student Book Hook Contest:

Announcing 2007 Student Book Hook Contest Winners: Mrs. Elizabeth Darcy's students at Sanford Middle School in Seminole County recently swept the second Annual Student Book Hook Contest.

Grand Prize winner Alan Blancard and 2nd Prize winner Lizzy Sult with Mrs. Darcy

Grand Prize

Alan Blancard of Sanford Middle School

Cryptid Hunters

Cryptid Hunters, the Congo, and teenagers make for a deadly combination. Grace and Marty's life is about to take an unbelievable turn, will they be able to handle it?

Everything seems to be going down hill for the thirteen-year-old twins, Grace and Marty. While in boarding school, their parents died climbing a mountain and now they are going to live with their uncle Wolfe- an uncle that they didn't even know. Uncle Wolfe is a veterinary doctor who has dedicated his life to finding cryptids. Cryptids are "hidden animals" they could be anything from dinosaurs to thousands of year old animals. When their uncle Wolfe takes them to his island, they feel like everything is going to turn out okay. They quickly find out that they will return to boarding school, because their uncle is afraid of his enemy Blackwood. While flying to the school they decided to drop off in the Congo. Their pet chimp, Bo, ran into the cargo hold of the plane. The twins followed, and all were dropped into the Congo. While waiting to be rescued, will the twins be able to survive the Congo or will Blackwood find them first?

This Action Adventure Book is fast paced and consumes the reader. You can easily lose yourself into Grace and Marty's world. As their adventure becomes more intense, your adrenaline rushes and you become lost in the Congo. If this book sounds interesting, then try some of these: Brian Jacques Redwall series, Downriver and Bearstone by Will Hobbs, and Double Dutch by Sharon Mills Drape.

2nd Prize

Lizzy Sult of Sanford Middle School

An Underwood's Love

What comes to mind when you hear the word Flush? Toilets maybe? What would you do if someone was flushing their toilet waste into water that people swim in, just to save a couple of bucks? This is the question that Noah Underwood is faced within Flush, by Carl Hiasson.

When Noah's dad discovers that a rich casino boat manager is doing just that, flushing toilet waste into the ocean, he takes charge of the situation. His violent plan puts him in jail, though, so now the pressure lands on Noah himself. It becomes his job to unearth this dirty scheme and prove that his dad isn't lying. Armed with the motivation, and backed up by his little sister and Shelly, he's ready to take on the boat's manager!

In Flush, there were many great parts, but my favorite was by far the scene where Noah ends up swimming blind rams and a sea cow. Flush was the perfect mix between hilarious and serious, and I could really connect with it at every moment during the plot. It is a must-read for any realistic fiction fan or outdoors person. If you love the environment, sometimes you've just got to ask yourself: how far would you go to protect the places that you love? In Flush, that's just the question that Noah has to answer...

Special thanks to Mary Dunn, the Southeast representative from Scholastic Book Fairs, who generously donated the books for the Grand prize, to Board member Pat Camber who facilitated and to Dr. Michelle Kelley's undergraduate students at the University of Central Florida who helped evaluate the book hooks writings. See for details of 2007-08 contest <http://www.flreads.org/>, Dr. Michelle Kelley, chair.

STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Artis Gray, Chair

Teachers on the Cutting Edge

The 2008 issue, Volume 20, is our anniversary issue. The “hot topic” for the very special issue is Differentiating Instruction for Literacy. Contact Dr. Artis Gray artisgray@comcast.net with your suggestions for articles you would like to see featured in a future Teachers on the Cutting Edge, please let us know by contacting any of the FRA Board members. The committee members are currently in the process of selecting the articles to be included in the 2008 edition of Teachers on the Cutting Edge, to be published in April 2008. Be sure to see Teacher Bag of Tricks Section of this newsletter for ideas for sharing and using material found the Cutting Edge.

FRA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE from Florence Brainerd . . .

FRA’s Legislative Advocate

October 2007 update

Special Sessions B, C, D – Budget & Taxes

The Florida Legislature was unable to resolve the property tax issue during the regular 2007 Session, therefore, it came back into Special Session (B) on June 12 and passed three bills dealing exclusively with property tax reform.

In early October the Legislature came back to the Capitol for a Special Session (C) to revise and pass the 2007-2008 Budget they passed in the 2007 Session because the State coffers were predicted to be \$1.1 billion short in revenues. Since education is budgeted the largest amount of the total budget, there was no way to hold education totally harmless. However, on a positive note, although money was cut from that budget, it was still larger than the 2006-2007 budget, by 5.19 percent.

During the Special Session (C), the Legislature passed bill CS/SB 6C to amend several statutory provisions necessary to conform the statutes and Special Appropriations Act. The bill basically (listing classroom interests only):

- Provides flexibility to use specified categorical allocations for classroom instruction, and requires documentation and reporting when flexibility is used.
- Requires funds for the Merit Award Program be released and distributed to eligible school districts before July 31, and distributed to recipients by Sept. 1.
- Provides that if funds available for Excellent Teaching Program are insufficient for all payments, payments for mentoring and related services shall be prorated among eligible recipients.
- Provides legislative intent that the expenditures for classroom instruction shall not be reduced as a result of the 2007-08 Special Appropriations Act.

Ten minutes after the budget Special Session (C) ended, the next Session (D) began for the purpose of cutting taxes for Floridians.

Background: At the earlier Session (B) the Legislature put on the ballot for a vote in January of 2008 a proposed constitutional amendment that could change the tax base upon which all homestead assessed. This would affect all budgets that get ad valorem tax revenue, including schools.

However, a Circuit Court found the proposed Constitutional Amendment invalid because of lack of clarity in its ballot summary. Therefore, a Special Session (D) was scheduled for mid-October to replace the constitutional amendment to give additional relief to tax payers by giving further exemption and reductions in the tax base. Under at least one version under discussion, this would not apply to the ad valorem tax for schools. After much debate, the Legislature decided they could not reach agreement and will continue the debate several days longer than expected.

Note: As we go to press: The House and Senate are actively considering various plans to reduce taxation in Florida. The plans, while having some similarities, differ greatly in detail. On a positive note, most plans appear to substantially protect education K-12. A final vote by the Legislature can be expected by the end of October.

ESOL Bill Vetoed by Governor

Governor Crist vetoed one education bill that the legislature passed in the 2007 Session. The ESOL Bill SB-2512, by Senator Wise, was vetoed because Governor Crist “could not justify lower standards for teachers”. If you recall, the bill would have lowered the hours for in-service requirements for ESOL instruction for certain teachers. In the 2008 Session, Senator Wise will introduce the same bill content again as Senate Bill 286.

2008 Session Bills Filed

Over twenty bills for next session have been filed as of this October writing, most of which are filed by Senator Wilson of Miami and Senator Wise of Jacksonville. Of these, a few are duplicate bills that were not passed last year. Listed are several bills of interest:

- SJR 132 – Joint Resolution that proposes an amendment to the Constitution to create an elected office of Commissioner of Education.
- SB 148 – Requires that a school-year PreK program must comprise up to 720 instructional hours, or same hours provided in K-1.
- SB 158 – Requires each student entering K-3 grade to be assessed in reading proficiency, and if below grade level, be placed into intensive reading lab. Encourages principal to ask for funds or materials donations for the lab.
- SJR 172 – Joint Resolution that proposes an amendment to the Constitution that requires by 2011, the beginning salary for full-time public school teachers shall be no less than the national average beginning salary for full-time public school teachers.
- SB 180 – Requires a cost-of-living increase in the General Appropriations Act for public school PreK-12 teachers.
- SB 254 – Removes requirement of alternative placement of a student who has been retained 2 or more years. Eliminates guidelines for allocating school district remedial & supplemental instruction resources. Eliminates mandatory retention of a student who is not reading at grade level by grade 3.

Additional bills filed:

SB 88, School Safety/Bullying & Harassment;	SB 286, ESOL (bill from 2007 Session)
SB 234, Gov. School for Science & Tech.;	SB 292, School Grading System;
SB 238 Charter Schools;	SB 302, Dress Requirement.
SB 242, Single Gender Schools; HB 65, Supplemental Ed. Services; and,	
HB 67, K-12 Administrative Personnel/DROP.	

Education Commissioner Chosen –

Eric J. Smith has been chosen as the new Florida Commissioner of Education.

Summer and post summer 2007

The Legislature was unable to resolve the property tax issue during the regular session, therefore, it came back into Special Session on June 12 and passed three bills dealing exclusively with property tax reform.

The Legislature put on the ballot for a vote in January of 2008 a proposed constitutional amendment that could change the tax base upon which school revenues are levied. The Legislature has promised “to hold harmless” school funding. (Editor’s note: As of this publication, a judge has ruled that this proposed amendment is not ready to be placed on the ballot.)

Legislative Interim Projects –

The Senate and House Education Committees have been working on their interim projects in preparation for the 2008 Legislative Session.

The only Senate interim project that connects with FRA interests the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Participation and Kindergarten Readiness (VPK). The committee will review student enrollment and estimate funding. The staff will also monitor kindergarten readiness under current statutes.

Other projects are:

- Student Participation in Visual and Performing Arts Education
- Review of DOE and SBOE Responsibilities in Public School Management
- Report & Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse By District SB Employees
- Consolidation of Leadership for Effective Career Education
- Charter School Accountability
- Appropriations – Review of K-12 Virtual Education
- Impact of General Appropriations Act on PreK-12 Education

There were no mandatory reviews, but there are several projects to be monitored:

- Merit Award Program for Instructional Personnel & School-based Administrators
- High-Performing School Districts
- Career & Professional Academies
- FCAT – DOE announced variations in 3rd grade FCAT reading test that potentially indicates that the 2006 3rd-grade reading test was not properly equated, resulting in a test that was less difficult than 3rd-grade in other years.
- Appropriations – Class Size Reduction Compliance
- Appropriations – VPK Participation & Kindergarten Readiness

The House Education Committee has several interim projects:

- Charter School Accountability – Current oversight mechanisms to ensure high performance and sound financial management
- Education FACT Sheets – reflects current law
- Teacher Professional Development Programs in Florida – To identify options for the improvement of teacher professional development in Florida

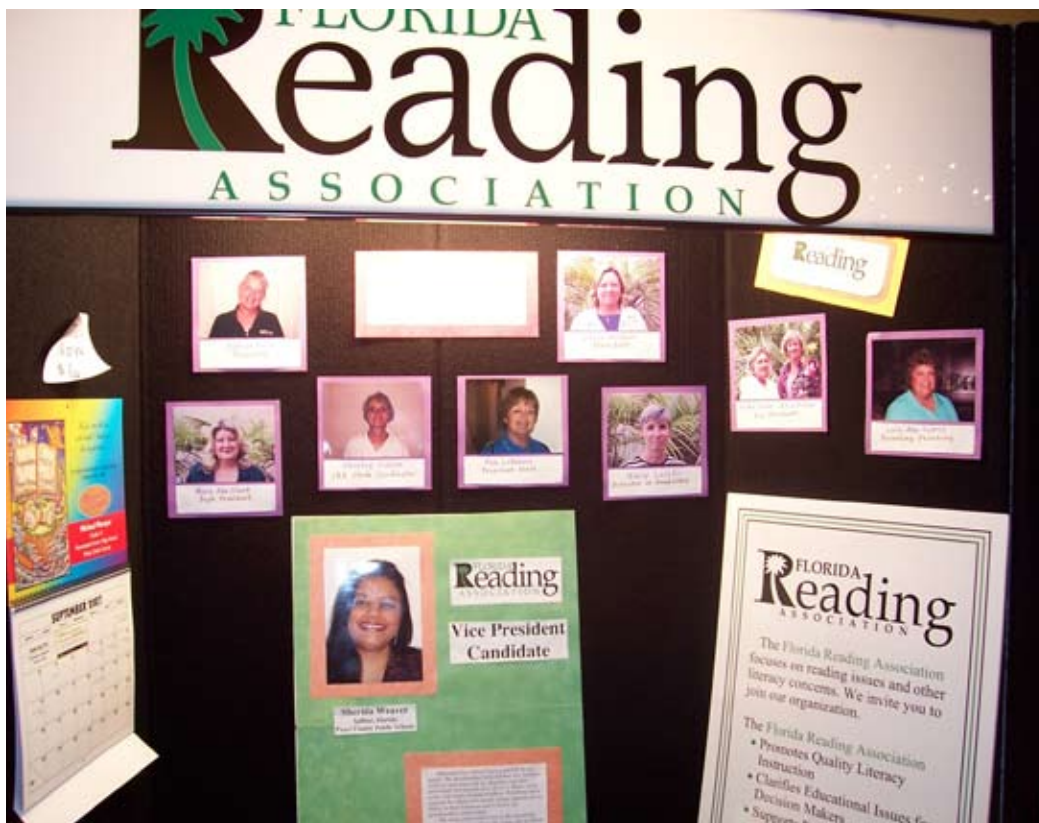
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Events: Evelyn Florence, FRA Food and Special Events chair would like to thank the Publishers who sponsored the Food Events at the 2007 FRA Conference.

Harcourt Achieve, Inc. (Rigby, Saxon, Steck Vaughn)
 SRA/McGraw- Hill
 Harcourt School Publishing
 Booksource and Rally
 Scholastic
 Scientific Learning
 Great Source Education Group
 National Geographic School Publishing
 Pearson Scott Foresman
 Maupin House Publishing
 Sundance/New bridge
 Wright Group

Displays: Shirley Gibson, IRA State Coordinator, would like to thank all the Councils who participated in the council displays

Membership: Please see http://www.flreads.org/about_FRA/membersh.htm for the new membership application and information about the benefits of being a member of FRA. Or contact Nancy Laszlo, membership chair nancylaszlo@aol.com.



NEWS FROM THE LOCAL READING COUNCILS

You may contact any local council through shirleyJG13@aol.com

District 1 – Okaloosa and Santa Rosa October 2007 – V. D. Yelder

The Okaloosa County Reading Council started off the school year with a school wide membership drive that was held from August 13 - 31, 2007. The school with the highest percentage of memberships won a catered luncheon from Olive Garden!

On September 13, 2007, Okaloosa Reading Council and Pearson presented its first meeting of the school year at La Paz in Destin, Florida. The theme is "Jumpstart's Read for the Record." Jumpstart is a National Campaign to encourage children and adults from across the country to read the same book on the same day. The first 100 participants to register will receive the book "The Story of Ferdinand."

The Santa Rosa County Reading Council Santa Rosa Reading Council Board met on September 27, 2007 to discuss their upcoming events and setting dates for future presenters and topics. The first meeting is tentatively set for November 9, 2007. The topic will focus on fluency skills and strategies.

District 2 – Bay County October 2007 – E. Duke www.bay.k12.fl.us/bcra

The Bay County Reading Association held first general meeting as a "Membership Makes and Takes" with a salute to the 8 books on Florida's Children Books finalist list. Each book was presented as a make and take Learning Center with handouts and strategies as it was read. Rotations were similar to a classroom's circulation.

District 3 – Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla October 2007 – S. Hinsley <http://mel25345-01.k12.fsu.edu>

Leon Country Reading Council:

The goal of improved membership communication continues for the 2007-08 school year.

LCRC published a fall edition of its newsletter. The current and past editions are in PDF format and can be viewed over the internet on our web site: <http://lcrc.pbwiki.com/>. LCRC looks forward to another full year of activities:

- Spelling Bee for Leon County
- Writing Contest
- Adrian Fogelin's Saturday Writing Seminar for Young Writers
- Annual Seminar: "Reading – It's a Capital Idea" in April
- "Vote for Books" – The 2007-2008 workshop series of this year's eight FRA nominated K-2 picture books will be held at various schools around the district. The format of the 2 hour workshops will be changed to include all the books because teachers and media specialist don't attend all the workshops. This workshop format would expose teachers and media specialist to all 8 books. Activities will be presented for each book and a few done to support the literature.

- Barnes & Noble partnership, to raise funds for the Council through a promotion from September 29-October 6. Anyone can use the B&N voucher to purchase book, CD's, or DVD's and the Council will get 20% credit form each purchase.

**District 5 – Baker, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Levy
October 2007 – D. N. Pedro
duvalreadingcouncil.org**

The Duval County Reading Council began its year of professional development by adopting the theme “Reading is a Treasure”. As in past years, outstanding speakers and authors have been invited to present on a variety of topics.

- Dr. Jack Pikulski was Duval County's opening presenter. His current research interests focus on strategies for preventing reading problems and the teaching and developing of vocabulary.
- Dr Candy Dawson Boyd, professor at St. Mary's College, will speak on literature and culturally diverse learners at the next general meeting.

Duval County Reading Council has a strong elementary base of elementary and is pleased to report that 9 middle schools and 9 high schools are also represented in the membership.

**District 6 – Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy
October 2007 – S. Gibson**

Alachua County Reading Council looks forward to another year of increasing membership. The board is in the process of planning activities. Officers for ACRC this year are President: Nancy Logan, Vice President: Jessica Feldman and Secretary: Catherine O'Steen. You may contact any officer for additional information or about joining ACRC.

**District 8 – Citrus, Hernando, Pasco
October 2007 – J. Milner**

Pasco County Reading Council held a summer planning in June to plan and set goals for 2007 – 2008 year. The first general meeting was held on September 20. The meeting featured a Comprehension Round Table. Each board member will focused on a comprehension skill and all who attended were exposed to a new idea or strategy for teaching that skill in the classroom.

**District 9 – Brevard, Orange, Seminole
October 2007 - S. Gibson**

www.orangecountyreadingcouncil.org, www.scps.k12.fl.us, www.scps.k12.fl.us/src/index.html

Brevard County Reading Council will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 16 at 5:00 at Barnes and Noble in Melbourne. The community relations coordinator at Barnes and Noble will talk about services and products available to teachers. The FRA Children's Book Award Books and the Sunshine State Books will be promoted. Officers for BCC this year are President: Sheryl Finch, President-elect: Lynne Nilles, Vice President: Jayna Snyder and Secretary: Arlene Anderson. You may contact any officer about joining Brevard County Council.

Orange County Reading Council held its annual Open House at the Orlando Museum of Art which on August 30th. The Guest Speaker, Orange County Superintendent Ron Blocker spoke about the importance of reading, emphasizing the connection between home and school particularly the brain research which confirms the importance of early stimulation. The district's approach to reading including curriculum, intervention at all grade levels and accountability issues were included.

Upcoming events:

- October 4: Make and Take,
- November 10: OCRC Mini Conference,
- December: Community Outreach.

Orange County Reading Council Officers are President: Kristin Abel, President-elect: Kim Howard, Vice President: Cathy Rivera, Recording Secretary: Tracey Savelli, Corresponding Secretary: Jenny Marik, Treasurer: Joyce Kikendall, and Membership: Rebecca Conner. For additional information, please visit the OCRC website.

For information about the **Osceola County Reading Council** contact Amber Kruse.

Seminole County Reading Council held its annual building rep meeting on Thursday, September 20 at the Education Support Center. Prior to this, SRC awarded a FRA Conference registration through a random drawing to Tina Spillman, who indicated she would represent her school at the building rep meeting. Plans for the year were presented and committees were established.

Projects and activities:

- Continuing the community outreach project: Books for Babies.
- The first general meeting is Tuesday, October 16 where Dr. Deb Wellman, President of FRA and Dean of the Faculty at Rollins College will speak on comprehension.
- December, SRC will hold its annual shopping spree at Borders in Oviedo. Seminole Reading Council Officers are President: Taylor Clements and Analexis Kennedy, Vice-President: Tracey Williams, Secretary: Mary Ellen Allen, Treasurer: Martha Rydenbark, and Membership: Elizabeth Gehron.

For additional information or to print a membership application, please visit the Seminole Reading Council website or contact one of the officers.

District 10 – Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk October 2007 – M. Adams

Hillsborough County Reading Council is in the midst of their membership campaign. Several members were awarded a scholarship to attend the FRA conference in Orlando or the Tampa Bay Area Writing Conference featuring Lois Lowry. HCC, with the support of Brake Media, is planning a banquet at the Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club October 9 with "Battle of the Books" authors Alexandria LaFaye and Barbara O'Connor.

Pinellas County Reading Council offered scholarships to its members to attend the FRA conference in Orlando. Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Glencoe is cosponsoring a dinner workshop featuring Dr. Vicki Gibson speaking on "Differentiating Instruction." In October, Harcourt is cosponsoring a banquet with Colleen Salley, author of "Eposomondus" stories among others.

District 11 – Sarasota October 2007 – A. Smith

Sarasota County Reading Council has kicked off the new school year:

- Building Reps at Marina Jacks in August were hosted to an evening of good food and great ideas with a “Foldables” workshop.
- A reception for perspectives members was held on September 18th.
- On October 23 Isabel Beck will present on Vocabulary and Phonics.
- SRC will play an active role at the Sarasota Reading Festival on November 3, 2007.
- On February 14th members will model good shared reading practices at a local school for young mothers and their tots. They will give them the books and an accompanying toy to take home.

District 12 – Flagler, Lake, Marion, Sumter, Volusia October 2007 – S. Johnson

Volusia County Reading Council held its membership drive on two consecutive Wednesdays, September 26 and October 3. This event, called a Celebration of Books, kicked off the year with enthusiasm. Local author, Marion Tomblin, spoke on “The Craft of Writing: Inspiring Readers to Write.” Ideas were presented and shared about the connection between reading and writing.

VCRC continues their ongoing community service project at the Rose Marie Bryan Center, which provides after school care for kindergarten through middle school students. Past projects include creating a cheerful “reading nook” for the children and continues involvement with the center’s “Make a Difference Day” activities where council members dress as book characters and read to children. Volusia County Reading Council Officers are President: Kasey Lamb, President-elect: Alison Cooper, Vice President: Emily Johnson, Secretary: Jeanette Pels, Treasurer: Judith Watson, and Membership: Georgia Howard. For additional information. For information see www.nieworld.com and click on VCRC.

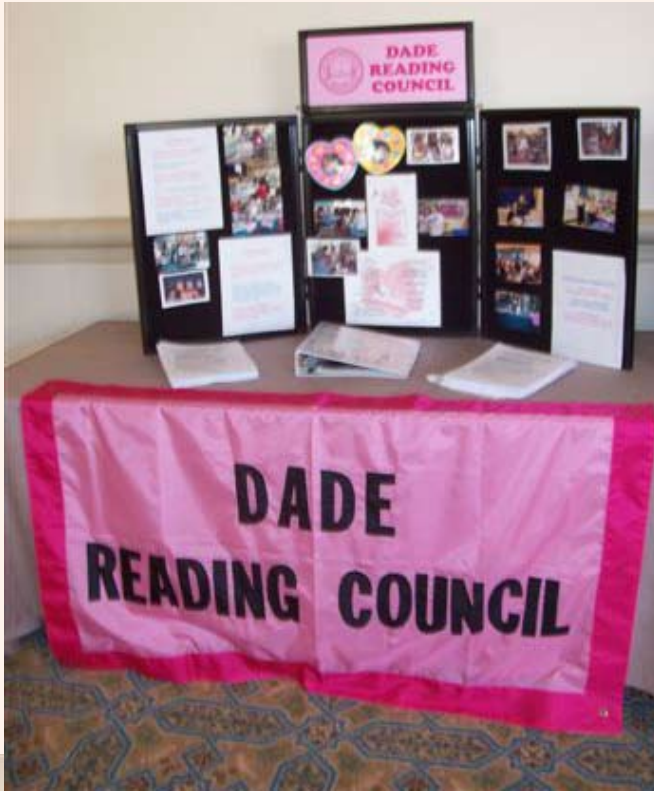
Marion County Reading Council looking forward to another year. The board is in the process of planning activities. If you are interested in learning more about MCRC, please contact Dortha. **Johnston@marion.k12.fl.us**.

District 14 - Miami/Dade, Monroe March & October 2007 – V. Papier <http://www.dadereading.com/>

Dade County Reading Council held a combined membership meeting and Fall Mini-Conference. Eighteen grant winners from the past two years presented their projects. Handouts and student work samples made this a practical approach for the people attending. Dade Reading Council once again participated in IRA’s Hispanic American Read In at Southland Mall. If you are interested in a calendar of DRC happenings, please contact Linda Askari at **luv2learn@bellsouth.net**. Dade Reading Council Officers are President: Linda Askari Blanchfield, Vice President: Susan Rosenthal, Secretary: Glenn Steinberg, Treasurer: Janet Diaz, and Membership: Linda Askari Blanchfield. For additional information, please visit the Dade Reading Council website.

Conference Recap

Conference Highlights and Council Pride



Conference Recap

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Conference Recap

Conference Highlights and Council Pride



Ideas for your teacher bag of tricks

A requested reprint

Using the Florida Reading Association Newsletter and Teachers on the Cutting Edge

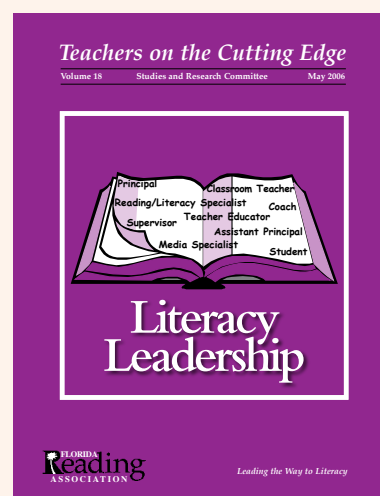
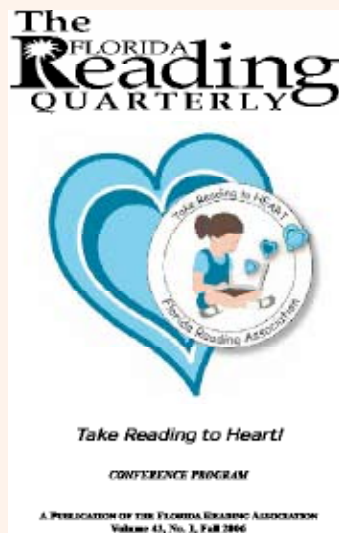
By Dr. Andrea Rosenblatt

Membership in the Florida Reading Association offers some wonderful professional development opportunities. We hope that you will take advantage of these resources. There are two publications, the Florida Reading Association Newsletter and Teachers on the Cutting Edge, that provide timely information that can be used by individual teachers, local councils, schools, and school districts.

The Newsletter has many columns, that can help you understand the work of the Florida Reading Association Board of Directors, but, more importantly, it can help you find new websites, plan speakers and other activities for your school or local council. It can also help you find out about available scholarships and awards, the latest action from our state legislature, student and professional books, as well as the up and coming professional conferences and meetings.

Each year the Studies and Research Committee of the Florida Reading Association Board of Directors selects a 'hot topic' to review for the yearly issue of Teachers on the Cutting Edge. Committee members review research articles and recent books published on the specific selected topic, providing readers with the source, summary, and implications/applications of the article or book. This yearly document can be used in a variety of ways. As a classroom teacher, you can read the reviews and use the information or look for the original source, as well as share the document with your colleagues and administration. Administrators can read the reviews to plan programs and professional development. College and university professors can use the content for classroom assignments. Everyone can also duplicate individual pages of the Teachers on the Cutting Edge, placing the copies in school mailboxes for discussion at faculty or grade level meetings.

With our busy lives, it is sometimes difficult to read everything that is sent to us. I hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful information provided through these two publications.





Leading the Way to Literacy

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Articles for the next FRA Newsletter should be sent to the newsletter editor:

Joyce VW Warner, Editor

Barry University - ADSOE
Andreas 233

11300 NE Second Ave., Miami Shores, Florida 33161

E-mail: jvwarner@gate.net

NOTE: E-mailing articles allows the editor to cut and paste your information directly into the FRA Newsletter.

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