

President's Message

As we enter into the beginning of the 2012 FCAT administration, my mind has been with many of the classrooms in Lee County and throughout the state of Florida. While districts are bracing themselves for the changes in the cut scores with FCAT 2.0, teachers have continued to do an excellent job preparing their students to handle the text and questions aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards that they will encounter. Using data to guide our instructional decisions, we teachers have improved our craft through careful thought, hard work, and collaboration with one another. I was recently working together with a teacher of a fourth grade classroom. When the teacher mentioned "FCAT" to the students, I was so proud to hear the class chant, quite loudly and vigorously, "FCAT; bring that! I ain't afraid of nothing". These students have worked hard, they understand their challenges, and they have faith in their abilities. Their teacher has worked hard to prepare them through her instruction and as she shared information on their benchmark assessments throughout the year. Additionally, she understood the importance of building her students' confidence and celebrating their successes. My wish is that every teacher and all students are as self-assured as this teacher and her students as we complete this year's assessments. Be proud of all that you accomplish.

It seems just a short time ago we were together attending the Florida Reading Association's 49th annual conference; however, plans are well underway for the 50th annual conference to take place on October 18th through 21st at Shingle Creek in Orlando. Proposals have been submitted and are being reviewed. General session and featured speakers, as well as authors are being scheduled. Denise Pedro, the General Conference Chair for 2012, is planning special festivities to celebrate our 50 years of literacy gold. Please look for upcoming information posted at www.flreads.org and in email notifications.

This quarter's newsletter is filled with much information from Florida's local councils, FRA's committees and affiliated organizations, not to mention the newly opened Morgridge International Reading Center at UCF. I am very excited to share news of the reinvigorated Florida Secondary Reading Council's 18th annual conference to be held on May 11th and 12th. There are plenty of



**FRA President,
Maria Callis**

opportunities available here to receive and to give back professional support. I encourage you to reach out to a local council, if you are not already a member, or to one of the FRA committees to see how you might benefit from participation.

One final reminder, please check the FRA website in the upcoming weeks. The organization is undergoing some changes in the awards that are offered, and wants to encourage as many nominations and applicants as possible. At this tough time of year, take a few moments to consider these availabilities.

Thank you for all that you do each day to support the learning and lifelong love of literacy for our students in Florida. Your work is greatly valued and appreciated.



FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NEW DATE

OCTOBER 18, 2012 – OCTOBER 21, 2012

**ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK RESORT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

Conference Presentation Strands Include:

- ~School and District Leadership
- ~Early Childhood
- ~Technology
- ~Common Core State Standards
- ~Developing Your Local Council
- ~Adolescent Years
- ~Coaching
- ~ Response to Intervention

COMMITTEE NEWS

Ellie Somer's Reading Poster Contest

Georgina Rivera-Singletary, Chair

The 2011 Ellie Somer's Reading Poster contest was a huge success! The original size entries were converted to poster size replicas and were displayed at the annual conference in Orlando for voting. We had many great entries that can be viewed on the FRA website. It was a difficult choice for the conference participants to choose the winner because all entries were fabulous.

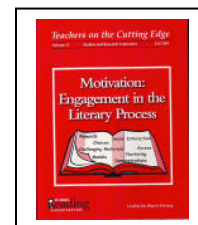
The first place winner, Lydia Lutsyshyna of Hillsborough County, took home the first place prize of a \$200 Barnes & Noble gift bag filled with many literacy goodies. Her winning entry was created with the reading contest slogan "Reading Takes You Place". Check it out on the FRA website.

Look out for the 2012 contest information to be coming out soon as plans are underway. All the information will be filtered through the school districts. The tentative date for this year's contest deadline is May 18, 2012. I encourage district reading departments to begin making announcements to their respective schools in anticipation of the start of the contest. There will be great prizes to be awarded, and as usual, the top 12 entries will be posted on the FRA website. More to come soon.

Studies and Research Committee

Enrique Puig & Joyce Warner, chairs

The topic for the next edition of *Teachers on the Cutting Edge* is disciplinary literacy. Anyone wishing to submit an article summary for this edition can contact Joyce Warner at jwarner@barry.edu for more information and a copy of the template used for *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*. Reading professors are invited to involve their students in this writing process by including this as an assignment in the class syllabus.



Governmental Relations

Craig Cogsdan, chair

ANGST! a feeling of dread, anxiety, or anguish

It seems like panic time is here across the educational reading field in Florida. Can you hear the slight pounding of the footsteps? It comes close. The footfalls never ceasing - - boom.....boom.....boom....boom...boom..boom..boom.boom.boom.boom. Tirelessly, the creature advances - unrelenting, remorseless. It comes our way and keeps coming and coming and coming and coming and coming.

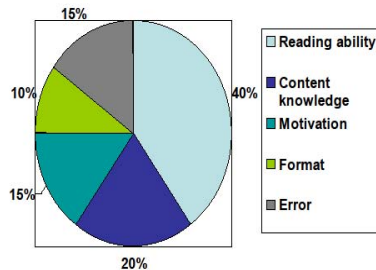
We knew, time ago, it had awakened and began its unremitting journey directly at us. We knew it would come. It will come. It has come. It is coming closer and closer and closer as straight as an arrow to pierce our hopes and ambitions. Nothing will stop it, nothing will deter it, and nothing will satisfy its hunger except for us, us.

-continued-

Is there nothing we can do in our despair?

Research-Based Reading Classroom (Guthrie, 2002)

- Which factors affect FCAT reading scores?



Ah, a light... or was it? A subtle flicker per chance? I notice from the corner of my eye. So slight, so soft but there. There again. And again. I see it. Could it be? Could a hope of salvation exist? A hope! A real hope? Alas, come to the light, come from your bitter darkness, come, come, hurry now... we must all go to the light.

Essential Questions:

What will most assist our students in FCAT 2.0 Success?

Extracting and constructing meaning from instructionally leveled text especially within non-narrative genre.

How do student's best attend to this?

Through purposeful and strategic reading

What reading stratagems are most critical?

1. Use of text features (do students know how adequately preview a text?)
2. Recognition of writer purpose (do students understand that text communicates specific and general information?)
3. Understanding literary devices (Can students identify and use literacy devices to support their comprehension?)
4. Textual Interaction (Do students reliably use visualization techniques, ask questions while reading, reread difficult parts to clarify meaning etc.?)
5. Word Study (Do students possess a high degree of morphemic knowledge and apply such knowledge to text?)
6. Identifying similarities and differences
7. Writing to process and clarify meaning

Essential Answer:

Practice, practice and more practice.

Process:

Insure that students are accountably reading at their independent level.

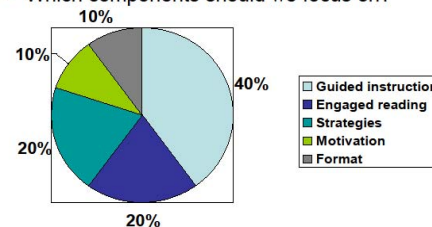
In class use scaffolded activities to implement the aforementioned such as QAR- SQ4R- GIST-3 W's.

Note: Reading is an extremely complicated task.

Teaching in isolation will not produce readers. Skills taught and employed while attempting the comprehension process will return the greatest benefits for our investment (Guthrie, 2002).

Research-Based Reading Classroom

- Which components should we focus on?



Guthrie, J.T. (2002). Preparing Students for High-Stakes Test Taking in Reading. In A.E. Farstrup, & S. Samuels (Eds.), What Research Has to Say About Reading Instruction (pp. 370-391). Newark, DE: International Reading Association.

Children's Book Award (CBA): Jodi Vizzi and Roberta Mann - chairs

The deadline for voting for your favorite 2011-2012 Children's Book Award is quickly approaching. All votes must be submitted by April 15! To vote go to the Florida Reading Association web page, select Children's Book Award, then Vote on a Book. The winner will be announced on the Florida Reading Association web page on May 1st.

The 2011-2012 titles are:

Christian, the Hugging Lion
by Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell

Going Around the Sun: Some Planetary Fun by Marianne Berkes

Green Tree Frogs: Colorful Hiders by Natalie Lunis

I Always, Always Get My Way by Thad Krasnesky

Oscar and the Very Hungry Dragon by Ute Krause

Ugly Pie by Lisa Wheeler

What's in the Egg, Little Pip? by Karma Wilson & Jane Chapman

Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse by Emily Arnold McCully

Activities to go with the books can also be found on the Children's Book Award page under the Extension Activities tab.

Jodi Vizzi and Roberta Mann
Children's Book Award co-chairs



District Directors

Local Reading Councils enhance the IRA/FRA experience by providing:

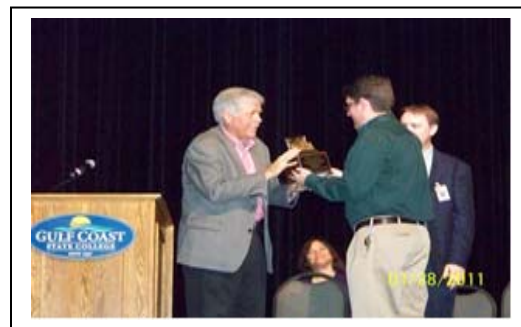
- **Connection.** Joining a diverse group of professionals who share a passion for literacy, instruction, and student achievement, can expand professional relations and transform formal and informal learning opportunities.
- **Leadership outside classroom walls.** Teaching can be an isolation career, but volunteer-led professional organization develop and grow leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of areas.
- **Community building for a literate future.** Councils engage whole communities in literacy awareness campaigns through recognition programs, community service, and special projects.

For the Regional Coordinator for your specific area, you may directly contact any local council or access them through www.FLReads.org. Click on FRA Organizations, and then click on Local Councils and Associations. Alternately, contact the IRA Coordinator Ellen Supran at: esupran@aol.com.

Highlights:

• Bay County

- The Bay County Reading Association (BCRA) hosted the 27th Annual Language Arts/Reading Classic on Saturday, January 28, 2012, at Gulf Coast State College with over 350 administrators, teachers, and staff in attendance. This one day drive-in conference was a wonderful way to culminate the 2012 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! activities. Dr. MaryEllen Vogt gave the keynote address for the conference ; Mr. Kevin Smith, Deputy Director of Just Read, Florida!, provided an update of the latest information from Tallahassee; and Mr. William Husfelt, Bay District Schools' Superintendent, presented several long standing, prestigious Reading/Literacy Awards to individuals, schools, and school districts.
- Planning is underway for the Battle of the Books Contest that tests the knowledge of 4th Grade students on specific details of the books chosen from the Sunshine State Reader's list. This event will be held in the spring of 2012 at the District Media Center
- For more information please contact Kathleen Fontaine at: fontakh@bay.k12.fl.us



Mr. William Husfelt, Bay District Schools' Superintendent, presents awards at Bay County's 27th Annual Language Arts/Reading Classic

• Broward County

- The Broward Reading Council had our Fall meeting in November. Tom Tufts presented on his book, *The Night Before Middle School* . Participants received a chapter-by-chapter teacher's guide with new strategies and newspaper activities. The Broward Reading Council is proud to be co-sponsoring with the Secondary Reading Council of Florida's conference, Navigating Through Literacy on May 11 & 12th at the Hilton Deerfield Beach. The Broward Reading Council is in the process of seeking nominations for the next slate of officers.
- For more information, contact Lois Haid at: lhaid@mail.barry.edu

• Duval County:

- On May 10th – Installation Dinner; speakers will be three literacy professors from the University of North Florida. On May 19, 2012 - Superintendent's 10th Annual Reading Celebration. Each spring, all students who read 25 books are invited to attend a reading celebration at Metropolitan Park. The park is filled with fun, family activities which promote literacy. Each year, DCRC members volunteer to help make the celebration a success. We do whatever is needed, from serving lunch to handing out posters to keeping the shelves straightened at the Scholastic Book Fair booth.
- For information please contact Alice Smith at: smithA4@duvalschools.org



Duval President Lisa Wells with Dick Allington at a recent event

- **Sarasota County**
 - Cedric Hameed and Claudia King presented a Poetry Workshop at Sarasota Reading Council's January meeting. Through videos of student presentations (and a "hands on experience" for participants) they showed how poetry becomes a cathartic tool allowing students to find their voice. One parent gave a moving testimonial detailing how the power of poetry helped her son deal with difficult issues in his teen life. Participants were reminded that April is Poetry Month and that SRC will have its annual Poetry Contest with time and date to be announced.
 - For more information, please contact Ann Smith at: onechalkdust@verizon.net

- **Lee County**
 - Lee County Reading Council has had a great start to the year! In January, we hosted James Dean from Thinking Maps and got some great strategies for having students create graphic organizers to aid comprehension. Trudy Johnson from National Geographic taught us some new strategies that will help our students fall in love all over again with reading. In March, Zaner Bloser helped us integrate writing using the new Common Core Standards. Our Saturday Readers program is still running strong with several teachers meeting each Saturday to read to and distribute new books to kids in the hospital. We are looking forward to our end of the year banquet, which will be here before we know it! Happy Spring!
 - For more information, please contact Shannon Barone at: shannonmb@leeschools.net

- **Palm Beach County**
 - The Palm Beach County Reading Council has held three professional development meetings this year. In October, Jennifer Olsen from Lakeshore presented on the topic of, "Teaching Comprehension in Small Groups Using High-Interest, Low-Readability Materials". In December McGraw-Hill brought in Kathy Bumgardner. She provided us with "Best Practices in Literacy Instruction to Grow Successful Readers and Writers Who Know How to Really Think." In January Raintree brought Maryellen Coughlan-Gregoire to help us understand how to use graphic novels to inspire young readers. At each of these meetings we were able to provide our membership with dinner, sponsored by John Bull English Pub. We are continuing are community project with Habitat from Humanity, an idea "borrowed" from another Florida Reading Council. We provide a bookcase filled with books on the day the new owners receive the keys to their new home. We are reinstating an old program in which we visit first-time moms and present them with reading material for them and their new babies. We have also taken on an International Literacy Day project. We collaborated with Barnes and Noble by providing teachers with a list of books to use as read alouds, as well as independent reading in the classroom. Additionally, students were encouraged to create posters that reflected the theme, "Literacy for Peace". Our council held a poster contest and winners were selected from submissions in the following categories: K-2, 3-5, middle and high school.
 - For more information, please contact Darlene Staley at: darlene.staley@palmbeachschools.org

- **Pasco County**
 - The Pasco County Reading Council held their general meeting on Thursday, February 23. The focus was on linking literacy and technology. They had three different presenters that night. On March 2nd, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America, Pasco County Reading Council distributed free books at local McDonald restaurants.
 - For more information, please contact Joy Milner at: jmilner@pasco.k12.fl.us

- **Pinellas County**

- Pinellas Reading Council hosted "A Journey with Janet Stevens", sponsored by Jeff Guerra of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, at an evening celebration in March. Proceeds from the event will fund a mini-grant for a teacher to use Stevens' books in the classroom. PRC will also be donating "Read to Me" baby t-shirts along with the book "Read to Me, Mama!" authored by PRC member Sharon Corvey to Kimberly Home, a center for pregnant mothers.
- For more information, please contact Margaret Adams at: moonchild@tampabay.rr.com

- **Polk County**

- "Science Notebooking: Writing to Learn Science," was sponsored by Trudy Johnson of *National Geographic* on January 26, 2012. One hundred and thirty-five animated educators filled The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland, FL to participate in a lively and interactive presentation. After feasting on heavy hors d'oeuvres, stir-fry meats and veggies from the hot bar, and dessert petit fours, members appreciated a humorous and insightful workshop presented by Dr. Malcolm Butler from the USF St. Petersburg campus.



He addressed four aspects of notebooking: the historical perspective of keeping science notebooks, ways notebooking improves literacy achievement, student samples, and how to begin notebooking in the classroom.

- For more information, please contact Dr. Rita Meadows at: rmeadows@poly.usf.edu

Florida Literacy Coaches Update

The FLCA website is undergoing some changes to make it more user friendly and up-to-date. Please visit our newly improved website at www.floridaliteracycoaches.org



Also, we are in the process of organizing our Coaches Institute which is expanding to include instructional coaches in other content areas as well. The Institute is scheduled for May 21, 2012 at UCF. We are lining up some great keynote speakers and breakout session presenters. The Institute will culminate in a Panel Discussion immediately followed by a networking social. Please plan on joining us for a great day centered on coaching.

UCF Morgridge International Reading Center

The Morgridge International Reading Center was established to be a resource for professional learning to improve the art and science of literacy acquisition and instruction. Pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, school and district administrators, parents, researchers, policymakers, non-profit organizations and others interested in the education of students can visit the Center on-line (mirc.ucf.edu) and on site to investigate and share successful instructional practices for assisting students in becoming literate.



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Based on many recommendations from focus groups held with various stakeholders to establish the vision and mission of the Center, the Center collects and distributes information on successful instructional practices used nationally and internationally. Grounded in the work of titans in education, the Morgridge International Reading Center serves as a conduit of information at a national and international level with the sole purpose of improving literacy acquisition and instruction in all languages. As a conduit of information the Center, free of political affiliation, provides all stakeholders the opportunity to share breakthrough research and instructional materials in the area of literacy acquisition and instruction to better serve third millennium teachers and students.

Using technology and inter-university articulation, the Center is a catalyst for relationships among major PK-20 stakeholders. The relationship building started at the state level with inter-university literacy representatives meeting to learn and share on a variety of topics from state and national policies to international research. In addition to state university representatives meeting, the Morgridge International Reading Center collaborates with a group of distinguished professors to serve as advisors to guide the evolving form and function of the Center from a university perspective. Teachers, school district personnel, and state administrators were sought as well to complete the network of professionals. The wealth of knowledge and experiences from all these stakeholders make the Center a unique, synergistic and constantly evolving enterprise that fulfills a global need for communication to improve literacy acquisition and instruction.



Dear Classroom Teacher:

Are you tired of hearing people outside of education say that teaching is an easy job with short hours and long vacations? Do you think most people understand what is involved being a teacher?

The only way we can hope to influence public perceptions is to present data. So, I have designed a computer based survey that explores how classroom teachers work -the degree to which you spend time at school, and how much time you spend related to your job outside of school. I have also included questions which explore the extent to which teachers spend their own money related to school needs.

The only way a study like this will be taken seriously is if the number of teachers who have taken it are huge. So, if you are a full time teacher, would you consider taking this survey? Would you also consider passing it along to another teacher who may not have gotten this email? The more the merrier!

Click of the link here or paste this into your browser address bar. If you have any difficulties, email me at wkasten@kent.edu .

https://kent.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_70jwAHmWx5Bskzq

Thanks!

Dr. Wendy C. Kasten

Professor of Curriculum and Instruction Kent State University



18th Annual Reading Conference

Navigating Through Literacy

May 11th and 12th

Hilton Deerfield Beach/Boca Raton

100 Fairway Drive
Deerfield Beach, Florida, United States 33441-1856
Tel: 1-954-427-7700

Check out the SRCFL website at www.srcfl.org for more conference details and click on [Hilton Deerfield Beach](#) for more hotel information.

Special Conference Room Rate: under \$90.00 per night
based on availability.

Hurry and call the Hilton Deerfield Beach at 1-954-427-7700 to
make your reservation.

For more information, please contact Rachelle Savitz
Rachelle.savitz@palmbeachschools.org



Seeking Nominees for Vice Presidential Candidates

It is time to nominate an FRA member for the office of Vice President of the Florida Reading Association. This position is a 4-year term to be completed as follows:

- 2012-2013 Vice President, planning for the 2013 fall conference is main task
- 2013-2014 President-elect, 2013 fall conference and assist President
- 2014-2015 President, oversee and guide all aspects of the organization
- 2015-2016 Past-President, presiding over the Administrative Committee

Nominations may be submitted using the form that is included on the next page. For further information, please contact Sherida Weaver, past president, via e-mail at sheridaw@hotmail.com.



PROCEDURES FOR FRA VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS

(Policy Handbook Revision, Minutes: 3/22/85)

Nominee Selection Criteria:

1. The candidate must be a member of IRA, FRA, and a local council. List other reading groups, educational groups, or professional organizations.
2. The candidate should be actively interested in reading and express such interest through participation in various activities such as attendance and/or presentations at IRA conferences or other reading symposia, participation on committees, chairmanship of committee(s), or special events work so as to be well known as an activist promoting reading awareness.
3. The candidate should list any publications he or she has authored.
4. The candidate should have proven experience in working with a Board of Directors in local, state, or national affiliates.
5. The candidate should be in a situation that affords him/her the opportunity to be present at all Board meetings of FRA.
6. The candidate who has been defeated for Vice President may not be nominated again for the same office until a lapse of three intervening years.

How to Recommend Candidates:

1. Submit nominations in writing using this form. Each nomination must have the consent of the nominee and must be accompanied by a vita.
2. Send nomination forms to the immediate Past President of FRA, who is Chair of the Nominating Committee prior to July 1.



FRA VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATION FORM

I Recommend: _____

Home address: _____

Work address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Present Occupation _____

I have obtained this person's permission to nominate him/her. This person's vita is attached. The vita includes IRA, FRA, and Local Council involvement with position(s) held or committee(s) served with dates included.

Candidate is nominated by: _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Address _____

Work Phone _____

Send nomination to:
Sherida Weaver
603 Red Robin Rd., Seffner, FL 33584
e-mail: sheridaw@hotmail.com

Join or renew today!



FRA Membership
P.O. Box 151555
Cape Coral, FL 33915
www.FLReads.org

Check Appropriate Box: [] New Member [] Renewal
Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____
(Required to receive electronic journals and newsletter)

Mailing Address _____ City _____

County _____ State _____ Zip code _____

School or Organization _____

- Occupation: [] Elementary Teacher (PreK-5) [] Secondary Teacher (6-12)
[] District/School Administrator [] College/University Instructor
[] Retired Educator [] Full Time College Student
[] Consultant/Representative [] Other _____

I am a current member of: [] International Reading Association (IRA)
[] Local Reading Council _____

Referred for membership by a current FRA member? If so, please list both

Member's name _____ Member # _____

The membership year is from July 1 through June 30. Membership applications received after March 1 will become effective immediately and extend through June 30 of the following year.

- Membership Type: [] Regular with electronic Florida Reading Journal (FRJ) \$30.00
[] Regular with print FRJ \$60.00
[] Retired with electronic FRJ \$20.00
[] Retired with print FRJ \$50.00

[] Full Time Student with electronic FRJ \$20.00
[] Full time Student with print FRJ \$50.00
Faculty Sponsor's Signature (Required) College/University

Make checks payable to: FRA

[] VISA [] MasterCard [] American Express Expiration Date: ___ / ___ (month / year)

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Signature _____



Leading the Way to Literacy

NEWSLETTER

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION.... VOLUME XXXII, NO. 3

SPRING 2012

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

Heidi Maier, Ed.D.
College of Central Florida, Teacher Education

E-mail: heidimaier@earthlink.net

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

FRA Newsletter

Published by the Florida Reading Association, an affiliate of the International Reading Association

Deadlines for Upcoming Newsletter Issues:

Issue	Deadline
Fall: October/November	October 1
Winter: January/February	January 3
Spring: April/May	April 1
Summer: August	July 1

Florida Reading Association's Fall Conference, 2012



NEW DATE

OCTOBER 18, 2012 – OCTOBER 21, 2012

More information for the 2012 Conference

Check <http://www.flreads.org/Annual%20Conference/annual.htm> for details