

# January 2010

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2009-2010

## BRC OFFICERS

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Most families have the Christmas holidays behind them. I say most because some of my family had the flu on Christmas Day, so we will celebrate Christmas and the New Year at the same time this year. It seems I've acquired my Dad's syndrome as I find myself thinking about how fast the years fly by. It feels like we've just started the school year and my term as president of Black Hawk Reading Council then I blinked twice and now it is half over. These thoughts and the book I'm reading, *Wounded By School*, give me more reason to spend time reflecting and questioning my goals and resolutions. What can I/should I do with each passing moment of the year 2010 that will make a significant difference in a student's life? Am I providing enough time for them to acquire the necessary skills to lead a productive life, a life that I can't even imagine because our advances are coming at such a rapid rate? What skills and strategies do we need to keep and which need to be replaced? These are sobering thoughts but ones that we will need to pursue in every level of education. It seems silly to state the obvious. Our future in education requires us to have an open mind to the adaptations necessary to prepare students for a future that some of us can't imagine. Some of us are trying on a daily basis to acquire the skills and knowledge that our children/students have already mastered. Let's face it- for some of us, they really do know more than we do when it comes to



**Our mission is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.**



**International Reading Association**

*The World's Leading Organization of Literacy Professionals*

technology. They can access facts and information with the click of a button that we may or may not be able to recall and would need some time to locate. It is for these reasons that I feel fortunate to be able to participate with the various members of Blackhawk Reading Council and enjoy the benefits of the Illinois Reading Council. Both allow the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to keep current in a rapidly changing world. It is easier to look forward to the uncertainties of the future when surrounding ourselves with knowledgeable people who are dedicated to the research of better ways to meet the needs of our students—our future.

Best wishes,  
Connie Snell, President

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# COUNCIL NEWS



## Black Hawk Reading Council Community Service Project Promotes Family Reading

The Habitat for Humanity organization builds houses in partnership with families, giving them a home. Our goal is to provide books to the families moving into the Habitat houses in the Quad Cities and council region. We will be collecting new or gently used books. These books may be brought to our next meeting on January 30th or dropped off at the Rock Island Schools Administration Center, Attention: Connie Snell. Direct cash donations can be made payable to:

**Black Hawk Reading Council**  
c/o Deb Feddersen, Treasurer  
Longfellow Liberal Arts School  
4198 7th Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201

We are committed to supporting literacy in these new homes and know the families receiving personal libraries will be thrilled.

**Reading Is Funny!** by Rock Island Librarian Dee Anderson

Why does the girl keep reading books about fishing? She's "hooked" on them.

Because they're quick and fun to read, riddles can "hook" even reluctant readers and keep them coming back for more. Riddles also improve vocabulary, comprehension, and oral reading; enhance deductive and inductive thinking skills; and promote libraries as places for fun. Two of its chapters are riddles about books, libraries, and reading. School Library Journal called it "a fun, interesting resource that will be used again and again." This one-of-a-kind resource is for anyone who wants to show children that reading is fun.

**Find out more at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).**

**We welcome these new and returning members who have chosen to be part of our literacy organization!**

*Candy Blankenship*

*Deborah Feldman*

*Dr. Charles Hyser*

*Barb Moskowitz*

*Carol Pressly*

*Ashley Stern*

*Donna Strabley*

*Jodi Verbeck*



## **Proposed Slate of Officers for 2010-11**

The nominating committee for Black Hawk Reading Council has selected the following candidates for office. Voting will take place at the January 30th meeting.

**President: Berni Carmack**

**Pres. Elect: Christine MacDonald**

**Treasurer: Deb Feddersen**

**Secretary: Laura Erikson**



BRC member, Rhonda Koeller, receives a \$35 gift card from the drawing by attending the Education Expo at BiCentennial School in November.

## **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

Become a **BRC** member today! Your name will be entered in our next drawing for a \$35 gift certificate.

As a **BRC** member, you are eligible to enter your name in our drawing for a \$35 gift certificate each time you attend a meeting.

Our next meeting is January 30th at the RI Public Library's Community Room. Join us for the information and conversation, and possibly a \$35 gift card! *(Please post the flyer in your building.)*

**\*\*There's still time to register for the best time a teacher can have!\*\***

Hope the IRC Conference is what came to mind ... ;)

<https://illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference/generalinformation.html>



## ***Education Expo Provides Many Ideas and Contacts***

***Thanks go out to Principal Scott Turnipseed and BiCentennial School for hosting the Ed Expo. Their beautifully renovated school was the perfect setting for sharing expertise and resources.***



You may have missed this meeting; try to make our last one for the year!



# ~~~~~Sites to See~~~~~

- **The Best Websites For Learning About Martin Luther King**

Although this was posted last year, it's still current and offers many technology choices.  
<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2008/12/21/the-best-websites-about-martin-luther-king/>

- **BookHive**

Catch the latest buzz about books at this wonderful website developed by the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, N.C. The site is aimed at parents and kids (up to age 12), and includes hundreds of book reviews, parent advisory notes, an excellent find-a-book tool, “zinger” tale podcasts, and a space for young writers to submit original stories (“bee an author” of course!).

<http://www.plcmc.org/bookhive/>

- **DogEared**

Here's a new online book club from National Geographic, where kids write the book reviews and share recommendations for great reads. Young readers can meet the bloggers and share their own thoughts about the books they're reading. The first post of the New Year: what's the best book you got as a holiday gift this year?

<http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogearred/>

- **Black History Month**

February is Black History Month and an ideal time to learn about and recognize the contributions and history of African Americans. We've gathered some great resources you can share with students in February or any day.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/blackhistory>

- **READ ACROSS AMERICA**

Read Across America Day is the nation's largest reading event, occurring each year on or near Dr. Seuss's birthday (March 2nd). Reading Rockets is pleased to be a national partner of [NEA's Read Across America project](#). To help mark the event at your school, we've created some resources you can use to celebrate reading on Read Across America Day and every day!

<http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/readacross>

- **Free tools for teachers from Google**

Google Docs organizes and stores student work in one place on the Web. To get the gist of it in less than three minutes, check out “Google Docs in Plain English,” a short video intro:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRqUE6IHTEA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRqUE6IHTEA)

Google showcases educators across content areas and grade levels using Google Docs, with testimonial videos and real-life examples:

[http://www.google.com/educators/p\\_docs.html](http://www.google.com/educators/p_docs.html)

You can even create rubrics in Google Docs:

<http://www.brighthub.com/internet/google/articles/53366.aspx>

Visual learner? Interested in going beyond mere documents? See how you can use Google Apps to create e-portfolios for students with this visualization:

<http://electronicportfolios.com/google/index.html>

Black Hawk Reading Council

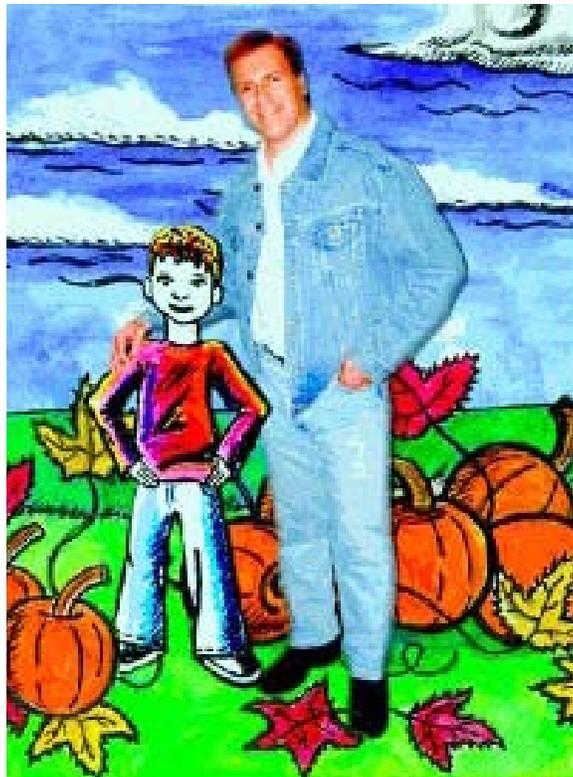
presents

# **Gary Metivier**

Saturday, January 30, 2010

R.I. Public Library

9:30-11:00 a.m.



T.V. Personality & Local Author  
of

## **Willie's Wagon**

and

# **A Hog Ate My Homework**