

Illinois



Language and Literacy Council

“Proud Sponsor of the Young Authors’ Conference”

Newsletter

Fall, 2016

President’s Letter

Recently, I was thinking about one of the first trade books I remembered reading, “Caps for Sale”. I began thinking about the peddler and his balancing act with all those hats and about those little monkeys all trying on the hats. I began to think about the various hats that I wear. Over time I have worn many different hats from daughter to mother, student to teacher, listener to reader, member to officer and many others. I didn’t always know if the hat would fit, or if it would be comfortable, but I kept trying them. I kept many, discarded some. Like those little monkeys, I have been curious about them, I’ve mimicked those who wore them before me, and I’ve chosen the ones I liked best.

I encourage each of you to be one of those little monkeys and try on various hats. Give yourself the chance to try new things and find the ones that you enjoy—keep those. Give yourself permission to discard the hats that don’t fit you well. Always remember that you are the peddler, also though, and only keep the hats that you are comfortable balancing.

We hope that your membership in ILLC and IRC, as well as volunteering to help with our Young Authors Conference (YAC) will be among the hats you choose to keep, and to wear proudly. We greatly appreciate our members and all of our YAC volunteers. Thank you!

Leslie Forsman, President, ILLC

43rd Annual Illinois Young Authors' Conference

Saturday, May 20th

Illinois State University

Sponsored by the Illinois Language and Literacy Council and Illinois Reading Council, this daylong event is designed to honor exceptional writing by K through 8 students across the state of Illinois.

Guidelines and registration materials can be located at <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/yac.html>
or
<http://www.isbe.net/young-authors/>

Volunteers are Needed and Appreciated
Please fill out this form in its entirety if you are interested.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckM8DRkV31O2MwQ2-2iOP42xDtGOpDumiEa2eF8yOM7IOkcQ/viewform>

2017 Illinois Young Author's Conference Volunteer Form

docs.google.com

Thank you!

Follow us on Twitter@ilyoungauthor or like us on Facebook

JUST WHAT IS THE YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE?

The Young Authors' Conference, held each year in May at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, is an event sponsored by the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, in conjunction with the Illinois Reading Council. Designed as a celebration to honor exceptional writing by students in grades K through 8, the conference provides an opportunity for these young writers to meet published authors and to hear how the authors themselves create the characters and stories that have become their books.

The daylong event, held on a Saturday, actually begins on Friday night for students, parents, or volunteers who wish to come early to attend a panel discussion by the authors in the Bone Center bookstore. This is an informal chance to meet all of the authors at the conference, and to ask them questions about themselves and their work.

On the actual day of the event, which will be **Saturday, May 20th, 2017**, the students register in the ballroom where they receive their room assignments and a book bag containing a pencil and gold seal, which they can later place on their own story. After hearing an introductory speaker, parents take off on their own until the afternoon, and students' head for small group sessions headed by volunteer parents and teachers. Students spend the next several hours sharing their stories, attending author workshops and listening to authors speak. The day ends with students and parents reunited in an awards ceremony where students receive certificates for participating in the Young Authors' Conference as well as copies of the books written by the author whose presentation they attended. The gifted young writers have had a full day, and often leave with stories for next year's Young Author competition starting to take shape in their heads.

Without an increase in funding this may be the last year of our conference. Please help by donating to our Gofundme campaign.
gofundme.com/2467wgjk

Keep the Illinois Young Authors' Conference Going!!

Like many organizations in the state of Illinois, the Illinois Young Authors' Conference lost state funding several years ago. The Illinois Language and Literacy Council has been able to continue sponsoring the Conference due to the financial reserves we had built over the years, but that is rapidly coming to an end and without further outside funding sources, this may be the last year for the Illinois Young Authors' Conference.

How can you help?

Please help by donating to our Gofundme campaign. gofundme.com/2467wgjk

You can also make a donation yourself to the Conference by submitting the form in this newsletter with your check. Your donation will be tax deductible and with the end of the tax year approaching, this could be doubly advantageous! Secondly, you can get the word out to your community, your PTA's, and any corporations, businesses or organizations that you know of that would be interested in supporting our Conference. Ideally, we would love to partner with a corporation, business, or organization for ongoing sponsorship. Their name would be featured prominently in everything related to the Young Authors' Conference. For further information about sponsorship for the Conference, please contact Dr. Sue Anderson at anderbrose@aol.com.

**ILLINOIS YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE
DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I would like to sponsor the Illinois Young Authors' Conference in the amount of

_____.

_____ **Enclosed is my check made payable to the Illinois Language and Literacy Council (ILLC).**

_____ **I am interested in being contacted about ongoing sponsorship, please contact me.**

**Mail to: Dr. Sue Anderson
537 South Oak Avenue
Westmont, IL 60559**



Brianna Dument



Jennifer Ward



Jeff Miller



Jennifer Allison



Patricia Hruby Powell



Janet Nolan



Lori Degman



Kate Hannigan



Ted Sanders

Young Authors' Conference 2016

Guest Authors

Friday Night Reception

Peter Kujawinski with young author



Nancy Cavanaugh





The Conference Begins

On Saturday morning after registration for volunteers is complete, YA coordinator Christina Podraza conducts an orientation. Student registration is next and then all students and parents gather in Braden Auditorium for the opening ceremony, conducted by Sue Anderson, YA anchor.

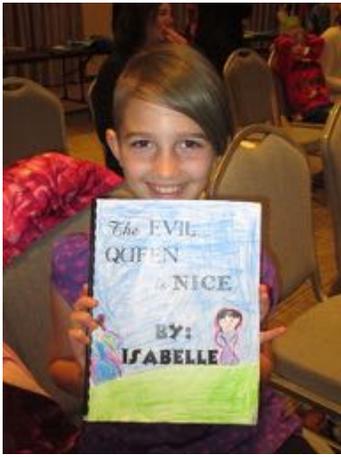


Students are then off with their group leaders to individual classrooms where they will share their books and meet with the guest authors. Pictured below is Chris Fascione, storyteller, who is entertaining at a closing ceremony.



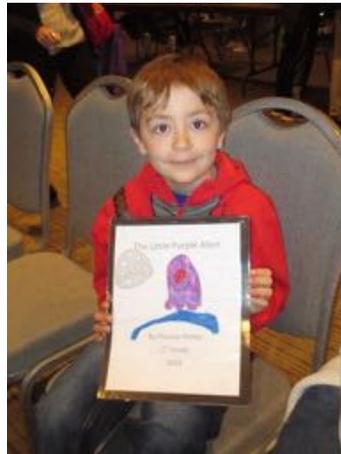
Guest Authors Interact with Young Authors





Young Authors and Their Books

What the Conference is All About - Encouraging Writing





At Conference End - Proud Certificate Holders

**Last Chance to Meet the Guest
Authors - Book Signing**



2017 Illinois Young Author's Conference Timeline

September/October – Create a committee of teachers that will be in charge of YAC at your school. This could be 2 teachers or more.

November 1st – Download the YAC guidelines from: <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/yac.html>

November – Meet as a committee and decide how you would like to organize the conference. Some things to think about...

- Will you focus on all grade levels or just one?
- How many students will your school/district send? (\$50 per student; 1 volunteer for every 3 students)
- Will you have a theme that students must write about or can it be a free write?
- Will students work on this in class or is it the students' responsibility outside of school?
- What will be your process for determining a winner?
 - Rubric or checklist?
 - Will the criteria be the same for each grade level?
 - Classroom teachers select and then it goes to committee OR
 - All of the entries go straight to the committee to decide

December – Have a meeting explaining the Young Author's process to teachers and their responsibilities.

January – Teachers send home a letter explaining the Young Author's Conference. They also explain the process to students.

End of February – Teachers collect manuscripts and choose one classroom winner. Teachers give this to YAC Committee.

March 7-14: Committee decides on the school winner.

March 15: Download student congratulatory packet from here:

<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/yac.html> Send home with students to be returned no later than March 28th. Also included should be paperwork from the guidelines including: student registration form and medical waiver. Send [link](#) to volunteer form with parents/teachers who will be volunteering to be filled out by March 28th.

March 30: Mail the following paperwork to Sue Anderson

- Completed District Registration Form, page 5 (only one per district will be accepted),
- Completed Student Registration Form for each student selected to attend the Conference, page 6
- A signed Emergency Medical Treatment and Parental Waiver Form for each student registered, page 7
- Registration fee of \$50 per student (checks only) made payable to Illinois Language and Literacy Council

March 30: Make sure your volunteer(s) has filled out the online volunteer form.

- Mandatory Volunteer Form(s) (at least one volunteer per three students). <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckM8DRkV31O2MwQ2-2iOP42xDtgOpDumiEa2eF8yOM7IOkcQ/viewform>
- Volunteer packets will be mailed to volunteers in May by ILLC.

May 20: Students will represent their school at the 2017 Illinois Young Author's Conference at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois.

Keep in mind:

1. The work must be the child's own.
2. Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult, but must be in the student's own language.
3. Parents may assist in editing and spelling.
4. Illustrations are optional. Photos taken by the student may be used.
5. Two children at the same grade level may work to co-author, or author-illustrate one manuscript.
6. Stories must have a cover with pages that are securely attached.

If you have any questions about the Young Authors' Conference or volunteering, please email

Christina Podraza at cpodraza@naperville203.org

**ILLC Board and Committee
Members
2015-2016**



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**NEXT BOARD MEETING
Saturday, March 4, 2017
Hillcrest School, Downers Grove
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**All members welcome. Before
attending, please contact Sharon Ball
at sharonb277@aol.com for updated
information.**