

Meet the 2014 MID-
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MID-State Reading Council

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2015

Greetings from the President

Although the obstacles to actually teaching have become increasingly more time-consuming, you have taken those challenges and honorably kept the best interests of your students at the forefront. Reflecting on fall 2014, one can find evidence of the many accomplishments educators were able to make. Establishing classrooms that support student learning – from routines to curriculum taught – you have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of your students and their families.

Your MID-State Reading Council Board made and continues to make commitments to offer support

to you and your students as you move forward through the school year. For teachers, MID-State partnered with the ROE#17 and Unit 5 to present Neal Shusterman followed by local teachers sharing strategies to engage students in deeper understanding of Mr. Shusterman's work. Mr. Shusterman offered insights to his stories and shared strategies for successful writer's workshop on November 19 at Kingsley Junior High School.

Family literacy was highlighted through MID-State's donations of bookshelves to three local families at Habitat for Humanity's house blessings on

November 15. A special thank you goes out to Northpoint Elementary School's student council for raising funds for many of the donated books. Other books were purchased with proceeds from our Barnes and Noble Bookfair October 18 and additional books were donated by STAR Literacy.

MID-State plans additional support for area teachers and students in 2015. We await information regarding additional Habitat for Humanity house blessings to get books in the hands of readers. A relaxing evening at White Oak Winery called Wine-a-Read is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, that will include light snacks and book talks for all [continued on next page]

Illinois Reads-Christa Hoder (Family Literacy Chairperson)

Illinois Reads is an exciting initiative sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council. Its aim is to promote literacy across the state of Illinois among all ages! The *Illinois Reads* concept is to encourage Illinoisans to read books by authors with ties to Illi-

nois. The books for 2015 have just been announced. (Please see the attached flyer to view the books listed for each category). Some exciting additions coming this year are close reading lesson plans created for books by literacy experts. To kick off this initi-

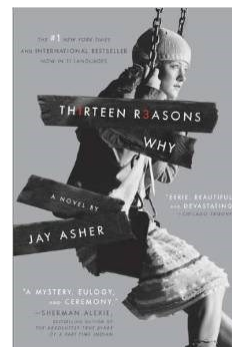
ative consider attending the launching party in Westmont, Illinois on Saturday, April 18th. At the launching party many of the authors of the IL reads books will be available for book signings. Be sure to visit the IL reads website for more information: www.illinoisreads.org.

...Greetings From the President —(continued)

ages of readers. We are in the beginning stages of organizing a book study using Jay Asher's, *Thirteen Reasons Why* for four one-hour sessions in May and June. Arrangements for professional development and a possible Skype session with the author are in the works. Congratulations on your

journey with your students so far! Your dedication has a positive impact and MID-State is here to help you. We look forward to your participation in the events coming to our area.

Sincerely,
Mary Current



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Great New Year's Events @ BPL —Georgianne Schau (Bloomington Public Library Liaison)

Mark those new calendars with fun events that you don't want to miss...

Mo Willems Party, Monday, February 16 from 10 am to noon.

Come celebrate with Elephant and Piggy, Leonardo, Knuffle Bunny and all the great characters from Mo Willems books on this special day. Drop in to make some great crafts and do fun activities, (in the Children's Room).

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss, Saturday, February 28 from 11 am to 1 pm
Beginning with a *Seussical Story Time*, this birthday celebration will include games, crafts, and fun as only Dr. Seuss can create.

Do you want to have some fun? Welcome, welcome, everyone!

In partnership with United Way McLean County, (in the Children's Room).

Storytimes for every age are scheduled regularly— check the website for details
www.bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Lapsits are for infants and their parents Tuesdays, 10 am and 6:30 pm.

Toddler Time for 19-35 months old with parents on Thursdays at 10 and 10:30 am and also on Mondays at 10 am.

Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 years who are independent listeners

- Wednesdays at 10 am.

2nd Monday Story Club for kids in grades 1 – 4 at 6:30 pm-monthly.

Beginning Reader Club for kids in grades K-2 Thursdays, 6:30 pm February 5, February 19, March 5, March 19.

Move and Learn for young learners ages 19 months to 5 years old, Fridays, 10 am- February 6, 13, and 20 and March 6, 13, and 20.



Join us for MID-State's Wine-a-Read!

This casual evening was planned with your love of books in mind. Enjoy snacks, door prizes, and drinks as you listen to Barnes & Noble experts share and suggest some great titles for your classroom and personal reading.

April 23rd, 2015 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM

White Oak Vineyards, Inc.

8644 County Road 2100 North | Carlock, IL

In order for us to plan accordingly, please fill out the registration form below. Be sure to invite a friend or two to join you!

Name: _____ Email: _____

\$5.00 Payment: Check # _____ enclosed

Please send the registration and check by mail to:
Meaghan Schiller

2808 Breezewood Blvd.

Bloomington, IL

For other payment arrangements, you may also email Meaghan Schiller at schillerm@unit5.org

Renew that MID-State Membership!

Do you see a Kindle in your future? If you do, and if you have renewed your IRC membership between March 31st, 2014 and March 31st, 2015, your name will be entered into a raffle for a

brand new Kindle! The raffle will take place during our Wine-a-Read event in April, with more details to follow.

Not sure when your membership expires? No worries! You'll receive an e-mail or a call from a membership team member as a friendly reminder.

Winter Events @ the Normal Library— Katrina Pollitt (NPL Liaison)

Be sure to check out the winter events at Normal Public Library by logging on to their website. The website is www.normalpl.org/calendar. There are events for all ages! Also, check out their Adult Winter Reading Program while you look around their website!



“GOOGLE
CAN BRING
YOU BACK
100,000
ANSWERS, A
LIBRARIAN
CAN BRING
YOU BACK
THE RIGHT
ONE.”
-NEIL
GAIMAN

ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND



Saturday, April 18, 2015

Westmont High School
909 North Oakwood Drive
Westmont, Illinois
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Everyone is invited to the launch of the 2015 Illinois Reads Program. Many authors will be present, bring your books, and have them signed at this event! Books will also be available for purchase from Anderson's Bookshops.

Visit our website for more information
www.illinoisreads.org

Birth-4

Classic Bedtime Stories
by Scott Gustafson
hello! hello!
by Matthew Cordell
If You Were a Panda Bear
by Florence Minor, il Wendell Minor
May There Always Be Sunshine
by Jim Gill, il Susie Signorino-Richards
Pugs in a Bug
by Carolyn Crimi, il Stephanie Buscema
Toes, Ears, & Nose
by Marion Dane Bauer, il Karen Katz

K-2

Ben Franklin's Big Splash
by Barb Rosenstock, il D. Schindler
Carnivores
by Aaron Reynolds, il Dan Santat
Edward Hopper Paints His World
by Robert Burleigh, il Wendell Minor
Little Lucy Goes to School
by Ilene Cooper
Lion, Lion
by Miriam Busch, il Larry Day
Tales for Very Picky Eaters
by Josh Schneider

3-5

Iggy Loomis, Superkid in Training
by Jennifer Allison
On the Wings of Heroes
by Richard Peck
Rump
by Liesl Shurtliff
The Sixty-Eight Rooms
by Marianne Malone
Star Wars Jedi Academy
by Jeffrey Brown
What the Moon Said
by Gayle Rosengren

6 - 8

33 Minutes
by Todd Hasak Lowy
The Art of Secrets
by James Klise
The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia
by Candace Fleming
Inhuman
by Kat Falls
The Mark of the Dragonfly
by Jaleigh Johnson
The Ugly One
by Leanne Statland Ellis

9-12

Boundaries
by Sally M. Walker
Fault Line
by Christa Desir
In The After
by Demitria Lunetta
Looking For Alaska
by John Green
Rotters
by Daniel Kraus
Wicked Girls
by Stephanie Hemphill

Adult

The Borrower
by Rebecca Makkai
The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted
by Elizabeth Berg
Heroes Are My Weakness
by Susan Elizabeth Phillips
Identical
by Scott Turow
Monsters: The 1985 Chicago Bears and the Wild Heart of Football
by Rich Cohen
While Beauty Slept
by Elizabeth Blackwell

Mark Your Calendars! —Christa Hoder-(Family Literacy Chairperson)

Read Across America

Oh, the Places You'll Go when you read! March 2nd, 2015 is National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day, and this year the theme book is the Seuss classic, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. NEA is calling America's children, both young and old, to reward their learning by celebrating the joys of reading on Dr. Seuss's birthday.

To get kids excited about

reading and encourage more adults to spend time reading with their children, the National Education Association launched the first Read Across America day in 1998. On March 2nd, 2015, NEA's Read Across America will mark seventeen years of celebrating reading and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. So from coast to coast, teachers, celebrities, community members, and parents are putting aside the

many hats they wear for work and play and donning their reading hats, the red and white striped stovepipe hat of the *Cat in the Hat*.

Let's all join together on March 2nd, and every day thereafter, to ensure that children have caring adults to share books and rich reading experiences.

Don't miss all of the incredible resources available for educators on the NEA website: www.nea.org.

Money, Money, Money! —Trisha Warner-(Grants Chairperson)

Have an idea to promote literacy in your classroom, but lack the funds?

The MID-State Reading Council annually awards a financial grant up to \$1,000 to individual council members for the purpose of promoting the literacy of children & teens in the classroom. Each applicant must be a current member of the MID-State Reading Council. A committee of

MID-State members will serve on the review committee using a blind review process. Grant recipients will be informed of their awards by email by the May 15, 2015.

Last year MID-State awarded two grants. One grant funded a Little Free Library in front of an elementary school to provide free books throughout the year in a commu-

nity without a public library. The second grant funded a boys' book club—targeting struggling and reluctant readers--over the lunch hour at a high school. MID-State is thrilled to support the literacy of its members' students, please consider applying for a grant this year. The form for grant requests may be found at <http://goo.gl/forms/DRRDK4gzaB>



MID-State Participates in an IRC-ILA International Literacy Project

—Carol Owles (MID-State Treasurer and IRC international Projects Chairperson)

Our MID-State Reading Council is supporting one of our International Projects from the Illinois Reading Council and the International Literacy Association (new name for the International Reading Association). Our local council is helping four teachers attend the Guatemalan Reading Conference on February 18-20, 2015, by paying their registration fees. Our State Council, IRC, of which we are an affiliate, is collecting the teacher sponsorships from Councils throughout Illinois and will send one check to the Consejo de Lectura de Guatemala to help support teachers attend this literacy conference. So far, our state is supporting about 20 teachers in this developing Central American country. Six IRC members will be traveling to Guatemala and

presenting at this conference, along with a total of about 70 colleagues from across the US.

Because teachers in Guatemala earn an average of only \$300 to \$400 per month, the cost of this conference—300 Quetzals or the equivalent of \$50—is very high for them. Their living expenses must take precedence over attendance at this event. Therefore, many teachers miss this opportunity to enhance their teaching. It is certainly not indifference that keeps these teachers from attending the bi-annual conference and taking advantage of this professional development opportunity.

Also, in December of 2014, IRC sent a little over \$1555 in Spanish books, in the form of mini libraries, to the

Guatemalan Reading Council to distribute to schools (teachers and children) in Guatemala. This money was raised from the sales of Guatemalan handicrafts at our annual State Conference. IRC members, including our own MID-State members, generously support this project by purchasing these articles. The profits from the sales paid for the mini-libraries. Books in Guatemala are much needed and are a very sparse resource. As **MID-State members** we are part of IRC and ILA, which gives us more power in supporting literacy, not only in our own community, but helping children throughout our world!

**“LITERACY
IS A BRIDGE
FROM
MISERY TO
HOPE.”
- KOFI
ANNAN**

Need professional development?

Check out IRC's website for Wired Wednesdays. Amazing researchers and useful ideas are yours! Visit http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/images/Wired_Weds_2014.pdf for more information!



MID-State Reading Council

E-mail: mid-state@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

MID-State Reading Council is your local chapter of the Illinois Reading Council. It is a productive organization that works to raise awareness of literacy and its uses throughout the area. It was founded 57 years ago and has a strong membership base. **MID-State Reading Council** sponsors literacy events for teachers, children, and their families in many different ways. Please check out our webpage at <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/localcouncils/midstate.html> for more information. The council is also on facebook and has a blog. **Get involved today!**

MID-State Calendar of Events 2014-2015

<p>February</p> <p>26th — MID-State meeting at Barnes and Noble @4:30 p.m.</p> <p>31st — Last day to renew your membership to MID-State Reading Council to be included for the April drawing for Kindle or similar device</p>	<p>March</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity house blessings (tentative)</p> <p>5th — MID-State meeting at Barnes and Noble @4:30 p.m.</p> <p>31st — Last day to renew your membership to MID-State Reading Council to be included for the April drawing for Kindle or similar device</p>	<p>April</p> <p>Barnes and Noble Bookfair (date TBD)</p> <p>9th — MID-State meeting at Barnes and Noble @ 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>23rd — Wine-a-Read at White Oak Winery in Carlock</p>
<p>May</p> <p>14th — MID-State meeting at Barnes and Noble @ 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>June</p> <p>Book study (more information in our spring newsletter)</p>	