



## January 2016

### Happy New Year to all our PARC Members!

Our Fall event with Paul Solaz was a huge success. Those of you who were fortunate enough to hear Paul, “Learn Like a Pirate & Creating a Student –Led Classroom,” went away with several ideas or concepts that hopefully you have been able to implement.



On January 28th our 2nd event- “Book Gossip with Kathleen March from Anderson’s Bookstore” will be at Emmett’s Ale House in Downers Grove. Be ready for an amazing evening with Kathleen while she introduces you to some new books in an engaging way. At the end of the evening you will want to purchase a few to take back to your classroom to share with your students. This event is also an opportunity for collaboration among colleagues from different districts. A buffet dinner will be provided. I encourage everyone to sign up early so that we can have an accurate count when ordering the food, thanks. To register click on the following link <http://goo.gl/lo6bui>.

PARC will be co-sponsoring our last event with Fox Valley Reading Council. We are fortunate to have Pam Allyn as our speaker. This event will take place on April 14th, “A New Story for a New Era of Readers: 10 Best Practices for Readers & Writers.”

Remember to take time to visit the Illinois Reading Council website at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org). Here you can find out about so many opportunities made available to you such as Wired Wednesdays, Angel Funds, 2016 IRC conference information, other councils’ events, etc.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your council please speak to anyone on your PARC board at our upcoming event. We hope to see many of you there and be sure to bring a friend.

Sheila Tucker  
PARC President



## PARC Board Members

President: Sheila Tucker [sheila\\_tucker@ipsd.org](mailto:sheila_tucker@ipsd.org)  
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Past President: Mary Klepper [mary.klepper79@gmail.com](mailto:mary.klepper79@gmail.com)

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## PARC Building Representatives

Please consider adding your name to this list. It's easy just spread the word around school to join PARC and attend our professional development opportunities. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email us at [prairieareareadingcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prairieareareadingcouncil@gmail.com)



Melissa Love-Meadowview Elementary, Woodridge 68 ([lovem@woodridge68.org](mailto:lovem@woodridge68.org))  
Chris Kipp – Western Trails School, Carol Stream ([kippc@ccsd93.com](mailto:kippc@ccsd93.com))  
Greg Micek- Robinson Elementary School, Lyons School District 103 ([micekg@sd103.com](mailto:micekg@sd103.com))  
Heather Lopez - Prairieview Elementary, Downers Grove ([hlopez@ccsd66.org](mailto:hlopez@ccsd66.org))  
Sheila Ruh – Westmont Junior High, Westmont ([sruh@cusd201.org](mailto:sruh@cusd201.org))  
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**Join Us On Facebook! Search 'Prairie Area Reading Council' on Facebook to join our page get updated event information and participate in literacy discussions.**

## Welcome New PARC Members

Prairie Area Reading Council wants to welcome our new members and invite you to enjoy the many benefits being a member of the Illinois Reading Council provides. Go to [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org) for more information.

Jean Demas

Janice Dewolf

Erika Eckart

Nicole Edmeier

Christina Ensign

Carrie Frank

Catherine Gordon

Kristin Kolodziej

Tammy Kozar

Lesli Langel

Malia Lee

Hayley Mason

Lauren Miller

Mary Ann Missak

Jane Most

Nadine Norris

Kristi Piatek

Leslie Redmond

Laura Riley

Linda Robinson

Asif Uddin

Judi Van Erden

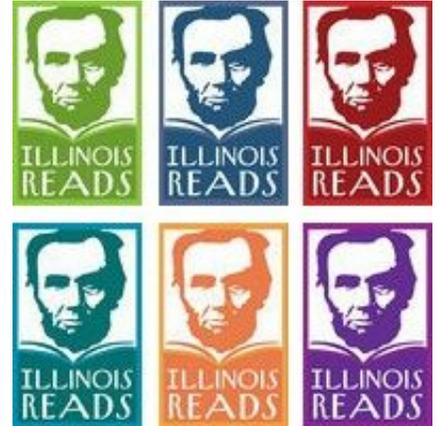
Danielle Zaccariello

Catherine Yaniz

## Illinois Reads - Submitted by Jennifer Burisek

### Illinois Reads! Do You?

Illinois Reads book selections are out! Are you looking for a great read? Need a recommendation for your class or book club? The Illinois Reads titles are a great place to start! Up for an adventure this spring? Plan to carpool and join us for the Illinois Reads! Launch. The official launch of the 2016 ILLINOIS READS campaign will be in Mt. Sterling, IL on April 2 from 10:00-1:00. (An abbreviated list follows. View the complete list: <http://illinoisreads.org/> )



#### **Birth-Age-4**

*Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann

*Bike On, Bear!* by Cynthea Liu

*Steam Train, Dream Train* by Sherri Duskey Rinker

#### **Grades K-2**

*My Grandfather's Coat* by Jim Aylesworth

*Yum! Yuck!* by Linda Sue Park and Julia Durango

*The Noisy Paint Box* by Barb Rosenstock

*Mama Built a Little Nest* by Jennifer Ward

#### **Grades 3-5**

*The House That George Built* by Suzanne Slade

*Stick Dog* by Tom Watson

*Wanderville* by Wendy McClure

#### **Grades 6 - 8**

*Bird* by Crystal Chan

*The Keepers: The Box and the Dragonfly* by Ted Sanders

*Fantastic Fugitives* by Brianna DuMont

#### **Grades 9-12**

*Me Being Me is Exactly as Insane as You*

*Being You* by Todd Hasak-Lowy

*Oblivion* by Sasha Dawn

*Pirate Hunters: Treasure, Obsession and the*

*Search for a Legendary Pirate Ship* by Robert Kurson

#### **Adult**

*Dollface: A Novel of the Roaring Twenties* by Renée Rosen

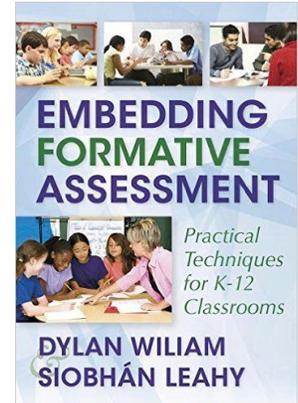
*Made in America* by Chris Chelios

*Turn of Mind* by Alice LaPlante

## Professional Book Review

Submitted by Kelly Neylon

Teachers make instructional decisions multiple times a day. They need to know if their students are learning and formative assessment can tell us. Am I moving too quickly, too slowly, or at just the right pace? Do my students know what we are learning and why? Are my students ready for the next step in the learning progression? Answers to these questions can be found in the book *Embedding Formative Assessment: Practical Techniques for K-12 Classrooms* by Dylan William & Siobhan Leahy.



This is a book that will help you as you embark on the journey of adding formative assessment into your daily routines.

The book is divided into five key instructional strategies:

- Clarifying, sharing and understanding learning intentions and success criteria;
- Engineering productive discussion and activities that elicit evidence of learning;
- Providing feedback that moves learners forward;
- Activating students as learning resources for each other;
- Activating students as owners of their own learning.

Each section provides readers with practical techniques and examples of how to implement each instructional strategy. There are also forms that can be used for each of the sections.

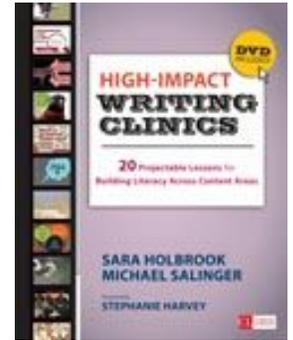
While some of the examples may have been seen before by teachers, the authors discuss how these can be used in different ways and for different purposes. The forms and questionnaires in the book can also help to develop a culture of learning in the classroom.

## Professional Reading Tip

Submitted by: Morgan Heckscher Aiello

### Adding in More Poetry

Last summer I was lucky enough to attend the [Reading Is Thinking 2.0](#) conference hosted by Stephanie Harvey. Sara Holbrook and Michael Salinger were presenters and spent much of the two day conference giving ideas for how to incorporate more poetry writing and reading into our curriculum. Many of their ideas can be adapted for various age levels and content areas. Michael and Sara wrote a fabulous book called “High-Impact Writing Clinics” that gives the teacher a slew of step-by-step writing lessons aimed at making kids more word conscious. They have three other books that I have not yet read, but am sure will help any teacher light the path toward loving writing!



One of the best ideas I took away from the conference was birthday poems. Such a simple idea and I'm now in my second year. To celebrate birthdays in my classroom, I give each student a poem. This may sound boring, but by the third birthday of the year they're counting down the days until the next one - and giving me topic ideas to help find “the perfect poem.” I have a variety of books that I pull my poems from, as well as unpublished and more eclectic online poems. Each poem is picked to represent the child - something they love (like a sport, activity or hobby) or one that captures their general spirit. For a silly boy last year I picked “We're Fearless Flying Hotdogs” by Jack Prelutsky, which made the whole class giggle for weeks. One of my students was obsessed with dirt bike racing, and I found a narrative poem detailing a rider's first ever competition. His parents emailed me that it was the most thoughtful gift he had received and that he immediately hung it on his wall. After I pick the perfect poem, which for most kids takes about 15 - 20 minutes, I use a simple publishing program to add a funky font, text, pictures, etc. I print two copies in color - one to be laminated as a gift and one for our class poetry book. No matter how reluctant the reader, they are so excited to hear their birthday poem. The kids read the class poetry book over and over again....immersing themselves in the written word. Last year, my fabulous students spent all of indoor recess writing me a birthday poem so that I wouldn't be left out. Numerous parents have commented on how special it is and the students have written about it in their reflections. It's cheap and easy, but it gives my students a chance to see how words can have a huge impact! A word of caution though: I left last year's poetry book out for my kids to read this year...and now I cannot use any of those poems again. I would highly suggest that you start fresh each year to give yourself a little more leeway.

For those of you who have more than one class of students, that might not be an option for you. In that case, may I suggest another Holbrook and Salinger idea - finding poetry to embed into your lessons. I have used "The Poetry Friday Anthology" and the matching science version, as well as internet searches, to find poems that fit with my science and social studies units. You can find poems that relate to an essential question or theme. Or have your students fill out an exit card using poetry to review. They can write a quick haiku about the important steps in solving a type of math problem, or a couplet about a science unit. They can write metaphors that bring the abstract into their world. Whatever you have them do, make sure you celebrate their learning and risk-taking. Don't make this a writing assignment, but merely an opportunity to share knowledge in a different way.

I'll end this with one of my very favorite poems:

Bring me all of your dreams,  
You dreamer,  
Bring me all your  
Heart melodies  
That I may wrap them  
In a blue cloud-cloth  
Away from the too-rough fingers  
Of the world.  
- Langston Hughes

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### ***Prairie Area Reading Council reaches out to help others.....***

Prairie Area Reading Council has been involved in various outreach endeavors at the end of 2015!

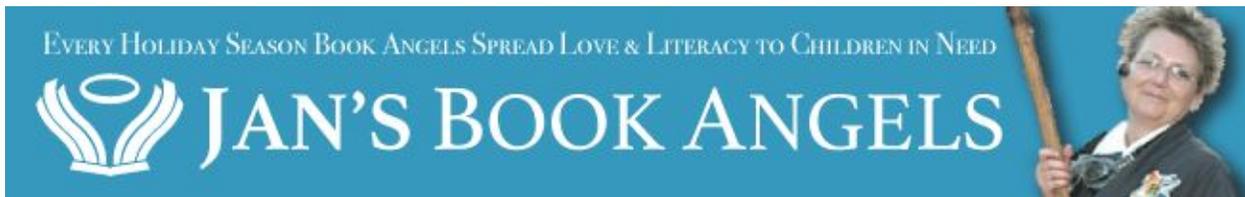
In November, Prairie Area donated Spanish books to the Nicaraguan International Project and delivered them to Carol Owles, chair of this project.

In December, Prairie Area donated to Jan's Book Angels in conjunction with Anderson's Bookshop.

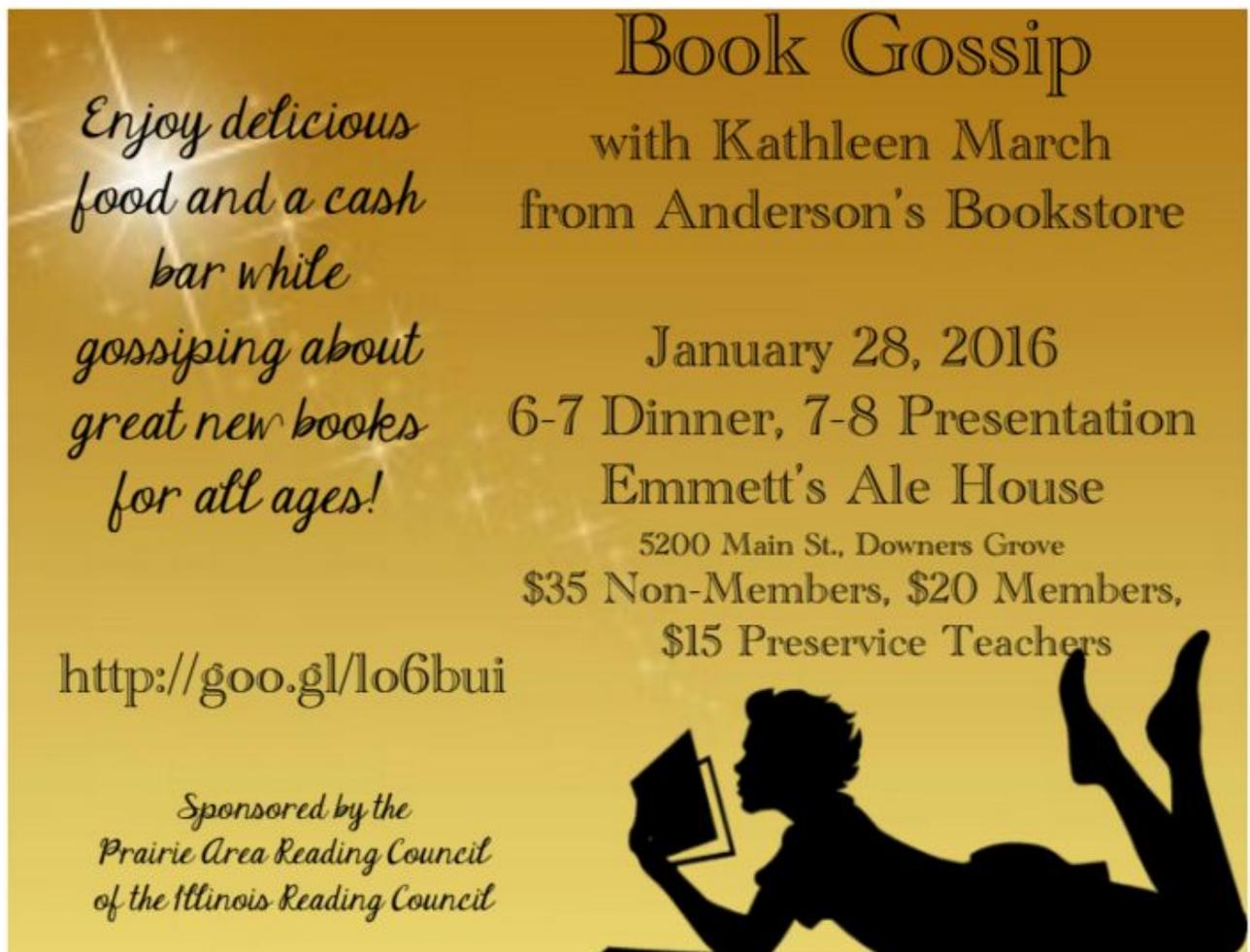
Also, in December, Prairie Area agreed to donate to a fund for Past President Cindy Gerwin's literacy trip to Ghana.

If you have a suggestion for an outreach endeavor, please let one of our officers know, we'd love to work with you!

## Prairie Area Supports Jan's Book Angels



Each holiday season Anderson's Bookshops sponsors the Book Angel Project, putting books in the hands of children throughout the communities in the Western suburbs. Prairie Area donated \$100.00 to this cause providing new books to children. To learn more about this program, visit Anderson's Bookshops website at: <http://www.andersonsbookshop.com/jans-book-angels>.

The poster has a yellow background with a subtle starburst pattern. The text is arranged in a vertical layout. On the left, there is a block of text in a cursive font. On the right, there is a block of text in a serif font. At the bottom left, there is a URL. At the bottom right, there is a silhouette of a person reading a book.

*Enjoy delicious food and a cash bar while gossiping about great new books for all ages!*

**Book Gossip**  
with Kathleen March  
from Anderson's Bookstore

January 28, 2016  
6-7 Dinner, 7-8 Presentation  
Emmett's Ale House  
5200 Main St., Downers Grove  
\$35 Non-Members, \$20 Members,  
\$15 Preservice Teachers

<http://goo.gl/lo6bui>

*Sponsored by the  
Prairie Area Reading Council  
of the Illinois Reading Council*