

SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

**SCIRA Board
2014-15
Fall Newsletter
2014**

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Note from the Presidents

By Debbie Shefren & Sarah Weisberg
Co-Presidents of SCIRA

**“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy
creative expression and knowledge.”** Albert Einstein 1940

Welcome back! As we reflect on the outstanding SCIRA summer conference, where 250 educators attended and learned together from Ellin Oliver Keene and Dan Feigelson, we share highlights of what we learned from our esteemed speakers. Ellin Keene discussed and demonstrated that comprehension occurs when real understanding occurs. To accomplish this...

- Teach a few concepts
- Of great import
- In real depth
- Over a long period of time
- And give children an opportunity to apply these concepts using a wide variety of texts and contexts

Dan Feigelson spoke about the importance of teaching the writer not the writing. He reminded us that conventions are a craft tool. Conventions are there “to serve the meaning of the piece”. He also emphasized that conferences are the heart of the writer’s workshop. He said we should ask, “How’s it going?” and be sure to listen to students before we answer.

As we continue to explore writing, our focus for the upcoming school year, we are delighted that Ralph Fletcher, Troy Hicks, Lester Laminack and Kelly Gallagher have agreed to share their expertise and knowledge with the SCIRA community. Make sure to add the following SCIRA dates to your calendar:

Fall Conference on September 29, 2014 featuring Ralph Fletcher

Winter Conference on January 27, 2015 featuring Troy Hicks

***Summer Conference on June 18 and June 19, 2015 featuring
Lester Laminack on June 18th & Kelly Gallagher on June 19th***

Wishing each of you a wonderful school year and look forward to seeing you at Lions Park Elementary School for the Fall Conference as we welcome Ralph Fletcher.

Also make sure to visit the SCIRA website at scira.weebly.com often for updates on the upcoming conferences!

Sarah & Debbie

Looking for more information? Would you like to see pictures and get up to the minute information about SCIRA? Looking to register for a course or a conference?

Look no further!!

Check out SCIRA's amazing web site!

<http://scira.weebly.com/>

You will find:

- **Online registration for our conferences**
- **Registration and information about National-Louis University's graduate courses aligned to our conferences**
- **Up to the minute information about upcoming SCIRA events**
- **Pictures from SCIRA events**
- **Grant application guidelines**
- **Our SCIRA blog**
- **And SO MUCH MORE!!**

**Interested in applying for a SCIRA literacy grant?
SCIRA grants have the same guidelines, but we have an all
new application process!**

SCIRA grants will now be submitted via our new online form. Log on to <http://scira.weebly.com/scira-grants.html> to view and fill out the online application. Our updated grant brochure with more detailed information is also available there. We have also added a sample grant exemplar to the site for applicants to view.

As in previous years, the following guidelines still apply:

- Grants are available to help teachers further the literacy goals they have for their students and can be funded up to \$500.
- You must be a SCIRA member to apply.
- Individual or group proposals are accepted.
- The deadline for grant applications is **March 15, 2015**.
- If you have questions, email Natalie Biancalana, SCIRA grants coordinator, at dreamcatcher_15@yahoo.com. Please use SCIRA Grant as the subject line.

*Calling all SCIRA Past
Presidents!*

We are constructing a historic list of all SCIRA past presidents. We know that Bob Hillerich and Lil Stevens chartered SCIRA in the 70's.

If you were a SCIRA past president, please send your name and the dates of your presidency to Camille Blachowicz at cblachowicz@nl.edu.

**Help us document the
history of our vibrant
and important
organization!!!**

SCIRA FALL CONFERENCE
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2014
4 pm-8 pm

Ralph Fletcher

Writing and the Common Core

Lions Park Elementary School
300 E. Council Trail
Mount Prospect, IL

Ralph Fletcher has been a mentor to teachers and young writers everywhere. Ralph's latest Heinemann books continue this tradition. *What a Writer Needs, Second Edition* mentors teachers and writers in the elements and craft of writing. *Mentor Author, Mentor Texts* brings inspiration to teachers and students by sharing Ralph's own writing across numerous genres plus writer's notes that reveal his thinking. Ralph frequently works with young writers in schools, and speaks at education conferences in the U.S. and abroad, helping teachers find wiser ways of teaching writing. Ralph is the beloved author of many bestselling teacher professional books including *Writing Workshop: The Essential Guide*, *Craft Lessons*, and *Breathing In, Breathing Out* as well as the author of firsthand classroom materials such as *Teaching the Qualities of Writing* and *Lessons for the Writer's Notebook*. Students know Ralph as the award-winning author of more than 20 books for children and young adults, including *Fig Pudding*, *Twilight Comes Twice*, *The Writer's Notebook*, and *Marshfield Dreams: When I Was a Kid*.

One Form for EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION. Please type or print. Form may be reproduced.

Name _____

Preferred E-Mail (for confirmation and information) _____

Preferred Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ School Name _____ District _____

\$45.00 Fee ___ SCIRA Member

\$85.00 Fee ___ Non-SCIRA Member (includes one year SCIRA and IRC membership)

\$25.00 Fee ___ Student, Paraprofessional & Associates

On Line Registration and payment by credit card go to <http://conta.cc/1mRop3H>

Mail in registration

Check payable to SCIRA enclosed

Purchase Order # _____ Please Attach

CPS Purchase Orders use SCIRA Vendor Number 99566

Questions? Contact Brittany at Scirareg@gmail.com or 847-207-4914.

Additional Conference Information visit <http://scira.weebly.com>

Return this form with payment to Brittany Plath, 810 Highland Place, Highland Park, IL. 60035

Teachers working toward CPDUs and CEUs should be assured that the materials presented in this conference will address the needs of students with disabilities, including adapting and modifying the general curriculum related to the Illinois Learning Standards and serving such students in the least restrictive environment. This conference will count for 4 CPDU's.

<p>AT THE DOOR REGISTRATION</p> <p>\$10 ADDITIONAL</p> <p>\$55.00 Member \$95.00 Non member \$35.00 Student</p>
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<p>SCIRA Suburban Council of the International Reading Association</p>	<p>SCIRA Fall Conference (Suburban Council of the International Reading Association)</p> <p>Writing and the Common Core</p> <p><i>Ralph Fletcher</i></p> <p>September 29, 2014 Lions Park Elementary School, 300 E. Council Trail, Mount Prospect, IL</p>
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Please visit the *Illinois Reading Council* website for valuable information on upcoming SCIRA conferences. Additional registration forms may be downloaded there as well. Please visit <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/>