

SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Literacy/Reading Association

SCIRA Board
2015-16
Fall Newsletter
2015

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Note from the Presidents

By Kris Patel & Kristin Kaczmarek
Co-Presidents of SCIRA

Dear SCIRA Friends,

Kris Patel and I (Kristin Kaczmarek) are excited to be your new co-presidents for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. As Kris heads back to the classroom, teaching 7th grade, and I head back to my first grade classroom we look forward to joining you throughout the year to improve our practice as educators.

As we look forward to our new students this year, Kris and I are keen to bring some new changes to SCIRA. Beginning with our winter 2016 conference, we will be moving forward with on-line registration only (no mail in registration). You can still use a PO, a credit card, or mail in a check to pay, but all registration will be done on-line. For our fall conference, with Georgia Heard, you can still register by paper (a form is included in this newsletter or you can go to our website and download a form). Here are some key points for registration beginning in 2016:

1. All registration will be done online beginning in 2016.
2. You can pay by credit card, check (mail in), or PO.
3. If using a PO, you will need to register online (click mail in check for payment).
4. Registration will close 2 days before the event – you can still attend the event but will need to pay at the door for \$10 additional (only checks can be accepted at door).

We are also moving forward with a paperless newsletter. This will be the last newsletter sent to you in the mail. We hope that by going paperless we can not only save paper and money, but also bring you a newsletter that contains links you can easily use to register for our conferences and to find out more about what's happening in Illinois and at the national level with literacy. You will receive our first emailed newsletter soon. Let us know what you think!

We both wish you a wonderful start to your school year and look forward to seeing you at our fall conference on October 28th with Georgia Heard.

Happy teaching,
Kris & Kristin

Apply for a SCIRA Grant

SCIRA supports the work of classroom teachers through grants that directly impact the literacy learning of their students.

Visit our website and go to the Grants page for details and deadlines.

Applications due by March 15, 2016.

Summer Conference Recap

"You can't write well without reading with a reader's eye." This was one of Lester Laminack's overarching themes during our first day of the summer conference. Lester constantly reminded us, writers ARE readers. In his lively, entertaining style he was able to give us a lot to think about. Lester has determined that the average college freshman is required to read 900 pages a week, and we aren't preparing students for this by the time they graduate high school. Students need to use texts from real authors in order to learn to write. Lester showed us many examples of how we could use read alouds to teach the Common Core standards in authentic ways to all grade levels. He also explained the importance of building schema in order for robust comprehension to happen.

The following day, Kelly Gallagher also discussed the importance of reciprocity in reading and writing. Gallagher reminded us of the declining scores, and much like Lester concludes that this is happening because children are not reading enough. He gave many suggestions for building reading lives that last in our students. Kelly also discussed how writing moves students into deeper levels of comprehension. Students should take time to stop in the middle of a novel to write what they are thinking. Gallagher gave many examples of ads, websites, texts, and news with biases and helping students become critical readers by noticing these biases. He also showed us three different ways of modeling writing, side by side, emulating the structure, and wide open. We walked away with so many ideas to implement in our classroom and help our students read like writers.

As always, the conference left us rejuvenated and excited for a new school year (after a much needed summer break)! Thank you to all who came for your energy and enthusiasm.

Looking Back... While Moving Forward

It's that time of year... when the old name tags get thrown out and we painstakingly print out new tags from our coveted class lists. We all look back and think back to last year during our clean out, but each August we also all begin that renewal cycle as we print out new tags, hang up new decorations, and look forward to new smiling faces.

SCIRA also continues to look back while looking and moving forward. This summer at the IRC summer board meeting we spent time preparing for our three 2015-2016 school year professional development conferences.

We look forward to bringing to you: Georgia Heard (fall), Dr. Camille Blachowicz & Dr. Char Cobb (winter), and Kate Roberts and Chris Lehman (summer). We continue to strive to provide you high-quality professional development at a reasonable price!

We also spent time looking back in the SCIRA archives (which we greatly thank Claudia Katz for lovingly keeping these archives for us). As we looked back, we realized what a truly amazing organization SCIRA has been; from donating to world literacy organizations, to funding grants to local teachers, and to always providing high-quality professional development. Paging through the archives inspired us to make a list of speakers from years past. As the list grew we were truly awed by the names.

So as we look forward to our presenters for the 2015-2016 school year, we also share with you just some of our past presenters!

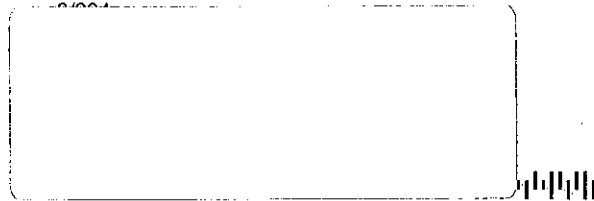
SCIRA SPEAKER HISTORY (how many did you attend?)

Winter 2015 - Troy Hicks
 Fall 2014 - Ralph Fletcher
 Summer 2014 - Ellen Keene & Dan Fegelson
 Winter 2014 - Tim Shanahan
 Fall 2013 - Sunday Cummins
 Summer 2013 - Doug Fisher
 Winter 2013 - Kristin Ziemke
 Fall 2012 - Junko Yokota
 Summer 2012 - Linda Hoyt
 Winter 2012 - Margaret McKeown
 Fall 2011 - Laura Belchenko
 Summer 2011 - Richard Allington / Peter Johnston
 Winter 2011 - Jerry Johns
 Fall 2010 - Taffy Raphael
 Fall 2009 - David Pearson
 Summer 2009 - Debbie Diller
 Winter 2009 - Michael Ford
 Fall 2008 - Mary Ann Poppard
 Summer 2008 - The Sisters
 Summer 2007 - Donna Ogle, Laura Belchenko, & Nell Duke
 Winter 2007 - Donald Bear and Shane Templeton
 Winter 2006 - Camille Blachowicz & Connie Obrochta
 Fall 2005 - Jack Prelutsky

Winter 2005 - Harvey Daniels
 Summer 2004 - Nancy Johnson & Bonnie Campbell Hill
 Winter 2004 - Tony Stead
 Fall 2003 - Steven Stahl & Margaret Richek
 Winter 2003 - Debbie Miller
 Fall 2002 - Dr. Richard Gentry
 Fall 2002 - Richard Peck
 Summer 2002 - Aileen Kennedy
 Winter 2000 - Junko Yokota & Susan McMahon
 Summer 1999 - Susan Davis Lenski
 Spring 1999 - Janet Wong
 Winter 1999 - Carol Avery (Panel: Tim Shanahan & Becky Barr)
 Winter 1999 - Sharon Taberski
 Summer 1998 - Linda Gambrell
 Spring 1998 - Donald Graves
 Winter 1998 - Joanne Hindley
 Fall 1997 - Dr. Michael Ford
 Summer 1997 - Darrell Morris
 Spring 1997 - Richard Vacca
 Fall 1996 - Camille Blachowicz & Peter Fischer
 Summer 1996 - Regie Routman
 Winter 1996 - Bob Barton
 Fall 1995 - Kathy Short
 Summer 1995 - Andrea Butler
 Unknown Year - Marie Clay

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SCIRA
Suburban
Council of the
International
{Literacy}
Reading
Association

Wonder & Nonfiction

SCIRA Fall Conference

(Suburban Council of the International Reading Association)

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

**NLU (National Louis University) – Wheeling Campus
1000 Capitol Dr. Wheeling, IL**

Featuring
Georgia Heard

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/>