

THE CONNECTION

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

SPRING 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1: Student Teacher
Grant Applications Due

March 10: Spring Dessert
Meeting

March 14: Short Stories Due

April 26: Spring Celebration

SPRING DESSERT MEETING

Excellent Literacy Instruction in Domain 3

Presented by: Gail Huizinga

March 10th 6 p.m. – 8p.m.

Starview Winery

5100 Wing Hill Road, Cobden, IL 62920

The presentation will focus on the elements of Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Effective Teaching: Domain 3 and strategies to support best practice in literacy. Participants will be given specific strategies that will enhance literacy instruction and assessment.

This is a FREE event! Clock hours will be available. Please invite your fellow colleagues to attend. An RSVP is appreciated. Please send plans of attendance with your name and school affiliation to: krussell@mhs.org.

Please plan on joining us for a wonderful evening!

SHORT STORY CONTEST

We are excited to be hosting the Short Story Contest for students in 2nd through 8th grades again for 2016. Please consider having your students take part by submitting their stories! For more information see the entry form found in this newsletter. Stories will be judged on creativity and organization. **The deadline for entries is March 14, 2016.**

Please contact Kathy Stegle at kwstegle@gmail.com or 618-614-4227 with any questions.

READING
gives us
SOMEPLACE
to go when
we have to
STAY where
we are

ATTENTION!!

Please make sure your email address is up-to-date with SIRC! In an effort to save on postage, only one newsletter will be mailed a year. If you are not receiving email from SIRC please email krussell@mhs.org with a current email address!
Thank you!

SPRING CELEBRATION

On April 26, 2016 at the Carbondale Civic Center the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be recognized and awarded. Teachers, principals, parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to attend this special evening where our young people are honored. There is no cost for the event. Refreshments will be served following the recognition of our talented young people, their families and their teachers.

STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

Do you have a student teacher in your classroom or building? Please share information on our \$250 SIUC Student Teacher Scholarship! Each semester SIRC awards a \$250 scholarship to a SIUC student teacher who is an SIRC member. For more information visit our facebook page!

Contact Us

Southern Illinois Reading Council

Katie Russell, President
608 Belle Avenue
Pinckneyville, IL 62274
(618) 967-2334
krussell@mhs.org

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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

Katie Russell, President
608 Belle Avenue
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

2016 Short Story Contest

How to enter: Up to three stories per classroom may be submitted, postmarked by **March 14, 2016**. There will be three Southern Illinois winners per grade level. *(See back.) To be eligible, **all entries must have an entry blank attached.** (Master on back.) Identifying information is to be only on the entry blank; only the title may be on the story. Entries will not be returned, so please keep a copy. **First place winners are asked to read their stories at the awards celebration.** Stories must be typed and on the front and back of the pages.

Judging Criteria: Stories will be judged on the *creativity and organization* of the short story. *Appropriateness of language, theme, and message* will also be considered. *Conventions* will be considered, but to a lesser extent. Emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. There is a word limit of 1500 words. Illustrations are optional and will not influence the outcome.

Awards for 2016: A first, second, and third place winner will be chosen in each grade, second through eighth. The 21 winning stories will be compiled into an *SIRC 2016 Short Story Contest Yearbook*. **Each first, second, and third place winner will receive a copy of the yearbook, a certificate, and a book of the winners choice.**

Winners will be notified by April 7, 2016. All winners will be invited to attend Southern Illinois Reading Council's **Spring Celebrations Program and Reception on Tuesday, April 26, 2016**, at the Carbondale Civic Center, where they will receive their awards. First place winners will read their winning stories.

Attention busy teachers: Writing short stories supports PARCC preparation! Students develop writing fluency and learn in a most meaningful way as they write and edit their stories: story terminology (plot, moral, theme), spelling, punctuation (even dialogue), capitalization, paragraphing, and more.

Send entries to:

Second Grade: Concetta Lamendola, 1308 N. 14th St., Murphysboro, IL 62966

Third Grade: Kathy Merz, 506 Cambridge Dr., DeSoto, IL 62924

Fourth Grade: Barbara James and Gail Webb, 410 S. Green St., Anna, IL 62906

Fifth Grade: Nyla Montgomery, 3508 Creek Nation Blacktop, Mulkeytown, IL 62865

Sixth Grade: Pat Searcy, 405 Oakwood Dr., Carterville, IL 62918

Seventh Grade: Johanna Tolbert, 5268 Park St., Mulkeytown, IL 62865

Eighth Grade: Cindy Pender and Hope McFarland, 33964 Wilderness Retreat Rd., Jonesboro, IL, 62952

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 14, 2016

Questions? Contact Kathy Stegle, 614-4227, kwstegle@gmail.com

SIRC Short Story Contest Entry Blank
(Entry blank required; attach to front of story)

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's full name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

School phone number: _____

Teacher's email address: (optional) _____

Story title: _____

Total word count _____

Verification:

We verify that:

_____ this story is original work of this student

_____ this story meets the word count limit of **1500 words**

_____ the author of this story lives or attends school in Illinois Reading Council
Region 9. Please check which county:

_____ Alexander _____ Franklin _____ Gallatin _____ Hardin _____ Jackson

_____ Jefferson _____ Johnson _____ Massac _____ Perry _____ Pope

_____ Pulaski _____ Randolph _____ Saline _____ Williamson _____ Union

Student signature: _____

Teacher signature: _____

Entries failing to meet the above criteria will be disqualified.

Notes:

Three stories may be entered per classroom. If a teacher has more than one section of a class, three may be sent from each section.

Someone other than the student may type the entry. However, no changes in content, spelling, etc. may be made. Double spacing, size 12 font is preferable. Please include page numbers. Story on front and back of page to save on recopying.