

August 2007

Dear SVRC Members,

Where has the summer gone? It did not seem that long ago I was making my "to do" list for all the things I needed to get done this summer. After taking a look at my list last week I have not crossed off too much. One thing that I did accomplish was to attend the IRC conference at Bear Lodge in June. The IRC programs at this conference were very helpful and inspiring. It was a refreshing and enjoyable three days. I made many new friends which will be future contacts within our Illinois councils this year. Many of the councils in Illinois are just like us. They too are small but dedicated to the promotion of literacy and becoming a better teacher. There are many common threads of stress with all of us too. One of those stressors is not **enough time in the day**. We are pulled so many ways in just a 24 hour period. Trying to make time stretch between family, work, and self can be an impossible task some days. What I am asking this school year is to not only join and become a member of SVRC and IRC but to actively take part in our council. Find that time for self. Make your involvement in our council a self priority. Being a member of SVRE and IRC gives us the opportunity to share with others and to be in the forefront in helping spread literacy in our community. Please email us your ideas on how to make our council stronger, on requests for programs/speakers you are interested in, and how to be come more involved in SVRC.

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Lisa, I didn't know how you want to display this agenda. The more I worked with it the crazier it looked! HELP! I have a lot of TBA, is that okay?

Tentative ? Agenda for the 2007-2008

August 13, 2007 SVRC officers and school contacts Planning Meeting, Behrens Coffeehouse 1:30, Rock Falls

September 20, 2007, Thursday, NIRC Conference at Kishwaukee College in Malta

October 2007 SVRC Fall Meeting Day and Time TBA

October 2007 Atwell's Book Discussion NIRC TBA

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November 2007 SVRC officers and contact's Planning Meeting, Lighthouse Restaurant, Dixon

January 2008 SVRC Winter Meeting Day and Time TBA

March 13-15 IRC conference held in Springfield. The theme this year is “Literacy: Unleash the Power!”

May IRA conference will be held in Atlanta this year!

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Officers for SVRC for the 2007-08 year

Kathy Morrison, President: kmorrison@dps.k12.il.us, Washington School, Dixon

Heidi Palmer, Vice President: hpalmer@dps.k12.il.us, Lincoln School, Dixon

Janet Payne, Treasurer: jpayne@dps.k12.il.us, Washington School, Dixon

Judy Fane, Secretary: jfane@dps.k12.il.us, Washington School, Dixon

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Websites

SVRC website: www.saukvalley@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

IRC website: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Membership forms can be found online:

<http://wwwillinoisreadingcouncil.org/images/IRCMembershipForms.pdf>.

Book Look!

Janet’s children’s book.....

Lisa GK’s Two Sisters Book.....

Atwell, Nanci’s (2007) **“The Reading Zone: How to Help Kids Become Skilled Passionate, Habitual, Critical Readers.”** Nanci teaches 7th and 8th grade reading, writing, and history at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Nanci founded this K-8 demonstration school in Maine in 1990. The premise of this book is that “frequent, voluminous reading” is the single most important factor for student success in school. Nanci Atwell and her colleagues at CTL have one of their goals for their students to become “smarter, happier, more just, and more compassionate people because of the worlds they experience”. This book offers practical guidance on how to create the ideal situation for students to enter “the reading zone”. A review by Paula McMillen, an Associate Professor at Oregon State University states, “The Reading Zone” is the right length for the practitioner—informative and inviting, not overwhelming. She offers lots of pragmatic tools for someone who wants to try out her approach and enough research to satisfy those who want to follow up on the ideas.”

Judy Cox's, **"Don't Be Silly Mrs. Millie!"** (2005) is a delightful and humorous book for the lower grades (K-2). The teacher, Mrs. Millie loves to mix up words making the directions very silly. Here is an excerpt from this book: "Good Morning Class, please hang up your goats." The picture of course shows the students hanging up goats on the coat hooks. Then the student's reply "Don't be silly, Mrs. Millie! You don't mean goats, you mean our coats!" Children will enjoy joining in on each page using the catchy phrase and guessing ahead of time what the teacher means to say. Many phonological games with the key words can be used before and/or after the reading of this book. Making a class book from this story would further draw out rhymes and patterns.

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The End!