

# South Suburban Reading Council

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2009

- Illinois Reading Council
- International Reading Association

## A Message from the President.....

Dear Members,

Thank you for making our first meeting such a success. We had a record number of 187 educators listening to Debra Coet-Hannah share with us the best of the current children's books. All my nephews are going to be receiving "Chicken Cheeks" by Michael Ian Blake for Christmas which will not make their parents very happy. If you were not able to attend our first meeting, then I need to fill you in that this book features the hind quarters of animals, complete with silly names for them. A great book for every young boy!

I encourage you to join us at our next get together which is a Share Fair. Both Jill Liapis and I coordinated this type of event, statewide for Reading First. It received such rave reviews, that we decided to try something similar which would showcase our local educators. This type of event is something new for SSRC and we hope to make it an annual experience. So bring a friend, member or not, and be prepared for a fun and informational evening.

As we know, not all good stories are written by famous authors. Some of the best stories are told, by people like you and I. Did you know that there is a National Day of Listening which celebrates and promotes the documentation of our stories, memories and histories? The day after Thanksgiving, November 27th,

StoryCorps would like to encourage you to make a new tradition by sitting down with a loved one and recording a meaningful conversation to preserve for years to come. Their hope is to give people another way to connect with one another and to assist families and communities in creating new and meaningful traditions during the holiday season. A guide for families and educators can be found at the following website: <http://www.storycorps.org/diy>.

As I write this note, I am taking time out from attending a Community College Conference. The last session I attended focused on the number of students needing developmental reading and math classes before they can even begin taking college credits. Here in the South Suburban area that number exceeds the national average. We have a huge job ahead of us, insuring that all our students are literate by the time they get to college. Our goal at SSRC is to help make your job a little easier by providing you with the most current and up-to-date information in reading so that you can meet the needs of our existing and upcoming readers. I thank you for the sometimes thankless job you do helping our children not only enjoy books, but enjoy reading them.

Kathleen Doyle

## Hold These Dates

- November 1—*Illinois Reading Educator of the Year and Parents and Reading Award grant applications due*
- November 7—*Secondary Reading League Conference in Tinley Park*
- November 16—*Share Fair at South Cook ISC4*
- November 19—*Illinois Family Reading Night*
- January 14—*Book Match at Silver Lakes Country Club*
- March 10—*Foldables at Balagio*
- March 18-20—*IRC Conference in Springfield*
- April 25-28—*IRA Annual Convention in Chicago*
- April 29—*An Evening with Author Jerry Pallotta at Dinolfos*



### Officers:

President:  
Kathleen Doyle  
kdoyle@s-cook.org

President-Elect:  
Jill Liapis  
jliapis@s-cook.org

Vice President:  
Megan Wrzesinski  
meg\_wrzesinski@hotmail.com

Treasurer:  
Peggy Gannon  
pgannon@district146.org

Secretary:  
Rita Queeney  
rqobblue@comcast.net

Immediate Past President:  
Kathy Puchkors  
klpuchkors@comcast.net

Next Board Meeting:  
December 1, 2009  
4:30 p.m.

### Inside this issue:

Letters about Literacy	2
Scholarship	2
Success in the Middle Act	2
Reservation Form	3
Award	3
Share Fair	4



## Books for Shelter by Ginny Koepel

Do you have overflowing bookshelves, or books that everyone has read and you don't know what to do with them? Why don't you bring them to our next SSRC meeting in October. We will take them and donate them to "Neat Repeats" or to another charitable organization that will give the money to our local Women's Shelters. So clean out those bookshelves and check out your closets and bring the books to our next meeting. There are people who will benefit from your generosity. Thank you.

# Letters About Literacy

by Kathleen Doyle

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion for children and young adults sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. The program invites 4th-12th grade students to read a book that interests them and write a letter to the author explaining how the book changed their view of the world or themselves.

The contest consists of three competition levels - Level I for grades 4 - 6, Level II for grades 7 & 8 and Level III for grades 9-12.

One state winner is chosen for each level. State Level winners receive a \$50 Target gift card, a check from the Illinois Center for the Book and a plaque at an awards ceremony. State level winners' letters are forwarded to the National competition where six national winners (two at each level) and twelve national honorable mentions (four at each

level) are selected. Each of the six national winners receive a \$500 Target gift card along with a \$10,000 grant for their school or community library for reading promotion for children and young adults. The national honorable mentions will receive a \$100 Target gift card and a \$1,000 grant for their school or community library.

If you have questions or want to be included on the mailing list, please contact Bonnie Matheis at the Illinois Center for the Book at

bmatheis@ilsos.net.

The website is: <http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects/projectse.html>



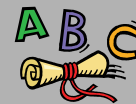
## Peggy Williams Scholarship Applications

by Kathleen Puchkors

Did you know South Suburban Reading Council offers scholarships for members who are pursuing a graduate degree in reading? Last year, two of our members were each awarded \$500.00 scholarships. SSRC is proud to support those members who have made the commitment to learn more about best practices in the field of reading by

enrolling in a master's degree in reading program. Any SSRC member interested in applying for the scholarship may do so by writing a letter of interest to me. The letter should include your present position, where you are enrolled for graduate school, expected date of graduation, your reasons for pursuing the advanced degree, and your

goals for your future in the profession. Send the letter to me at 11437 W. 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Saint John, IN 46373 no later than January 15, 2009.



## Success in the Middle Act

(H.R. 3006/S. 1362)

by Dominique Morgan

*Success in the Middle Act* would authorize federal investments in improving the education of middle grades students in low-performing schools. This bill is currently in legislation and fully supported by the International Reading Association. Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and Phil Hare (D-IL) are cosponsors of this bill.

States and districts would invest in proven strategies, such as:

- Providing professional development and coaching to school leaders, teachers and other school personnel in

addressing the needs of diverse learners and in using challenging and relevant research-based best practices and curriculum;

- Developing and implementing comprehensive, school-wide improvement efforts in eligible schools (schools containing middle grades (5-8) from which more than 50% of students go on to attend a high school with a graduation rate of less than 60%, or schools containing middle grades in which more than 25% of students who finish their first middle grades year in the school exhibit key risk factors and early

warning signs, including attendance below 90%; a failing grade in English or math or two failing grades in any courses; suspension or other evidence of poor behavior; or schools containing middle grades in which more than 50% of students in middle grades do not perform at a proficient level on state NCLB math and reading tests);

- Implementing student supports, such as extended learning time and personal academic plans that enable all students to stay on the path to graduation.

In order to show support for this bill you can telephone and/or e-mail your congressman. Visit [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) to find the contact information for your congressional members. It includes telephone numbers, and also gives you the ability to send an e-mail through an online form.



**South Cook ISC-4 and the South Suburban Reading Council are pleased to sponsor:**

The South Cook ISC-4  
253 W. Joe Orr Road  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411  
(708) 754-6600

**South Suburban Reading Council Share Fair  
Monday November 16, 2009 from 5:00-8:00 P.M.**

Assorted Appetizers will be served.

Mail this form and  
payment to:  
Gail Prindle  
17203 Parkside Ave.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Reservations are due November 2, 2009 Late reservations cannot be honored.

We're considering sending our newsletter online. Would you like to receive yours via Email? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT clearly and make check payable to SSRC.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Member (\$15.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member (\$20.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Service Teacher (\$10.00)

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive 2  
CPDU's for attending this event.

**Adult and Family Literacy Award**

The IRC Adult and Family Literacy Committee will award up to \$750 to IRC Local Councils to develop and implement projects to help address adult literacy issues. Literacy projects that involve adults or adults with their children will be considered for funding. Proposals must be postmarked by November 1, 2009. Grantees will be notified by December 15, 2009.



**Parents and Reading Award of the Illinois Reading Council**

By Mickey Tebelman

This award recognizes an IRC member who promotes and supports parent involvement in children's reading. **Deadline for nominations is November 1, 2009 and submission of materials is November 24, 2009. A nomination form can be found on the IRC website.**

[http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/images/Parents\\_Reading\\_Award\\_2010.pdf](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/images/Parents_Reading_Award_2010.pdf)

South Suburban Reading Council  
Gail Prindle  
17203 Parkside Ave.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

## Share Fair

Please join us in our first ever “Share Fair” that will showcase local educators sharing a strategy/practice that has accelerated student reading achievement. Participants will rotate through a different session every half hour while enjoying a wide array of appetizers. The topics of presentations will include some of the following: guided reading carts; Parent Involvement bags; vocabulary strategies; intervention activities just to name a few. Presenters will receive a “token” of appreciation for their work. (The registration form is on page 3).

