

News from the Two Rivers Reading Council November 2011

Greetings Two Rivers Members and Friends!

I would like to start off by wishing you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season. There are so many exciting reading events coming up in the new year and I hope you all get involved. First of all, beginning December 3rd, the Kankakee Historical Society is hosting the Gallery of Trees. Please take time to bring your classes, or your friends and family by to see the Two Rivers Reading Council Christmas Tree with the theme "The History of Christmas Around the World". After you walk through and view the trees, you can vote for the tree you like the best. Please vote for our tree and help us win the competition this year!

After the holidays have passed and you are back in the swing of things, stop by Aurelios Pizzeria in Bourbonnais, IL, on January 26th from 5 to 8 p.m. to enjoy a presentation by IRC members Gail Huizinga and Sue Johnson. Picture Storybooks: A Hidden Treasure is geared to teachers of grades 4 through 12 and will show you how to use story books in your classroom, with older students. We will be sending out a flier with registration details before Christmas, so you can get your colleagues together for this event. We will have raffle prizes and of course, you will receive a raffle ticket toward the Kindle drawing, in May, by coming to the program and if you bring a new member, you will get two tickets. Pizza dinner is included in the price of registration. More details to follow soon!

Other 2012 events include a Pampered Professionals event, a visit from Prairie State Award Winner, Robert Burleigh and a Teacher Resources garage sale. We are so excited for the new year! I am also looking into the possibility of partnering with the Daily Journal to sponsor a Newspapers in Education Parent/Child Workshop. Spread the word and get your colleagues excited about these upcoming events. Of course one of the BIGGEST events of 2012 will be the Illinois Reading Council's Annual Conference "Literacy in the Land of Lincoln". March 15th through the 17th in Springfield, IL. Many of our members will be presenting at the conference and your district's money would be well spent sending you to this conference. You get a discounted registration fee by being a member of IRC and Two Rivers Reading Council. Be sure to keep your membership up to date! To register for the conference go to www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

In the most recent issue of the IRC Communicator, there is an article on Newspapers in Education. I know many of you use this program through The Daily Journal, and I wanted to point out some useful websites that will help you

make the most of using newspapers in your classroom. Here are the links:
www.instantserials.com, www.naafoundation.org (click on the curriculum page)
and at www.illinois-nie.com there is an article on 300 ways to use newspapers in
your classroom. Check it out!

Remember if your school or school district is having a program or open house,
where you would like TRRC to come and pass out books or share information on
literacy with parents, please give us about a month's notice and all the details
and we would be more than happy to help out.

As a final note, I would like to congratulate you on helping increase our
membership by 14.5% since July, 2011. If we continue to increase to 20% our
council will receive \$200 to help continue our work with literacy.

Happy Holidays to you and your families! I hope you have time to share love,
laughter and a good book with the ones you love.

Happy Reading,

Priscilla Dwyer
President Two Rivers Reading Council