



QUERY

The Saskatchewan Reading Council

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- Saskatchewan Reading Conference



2013-2014
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Deadline for Submissions
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INVITATION TO WRITERS: You are invited to submit your writing to be considered for publication in the *Query*. Articles, reports and essays are welcome.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Manuscripts and related correspondence should be addressed to the SRC.

SRC MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone having a professional interest in the teaching of Language Arts. *Query* and other communications from SRC are automatically sent to current members. Potential members are encouraged to join one of the nine local councils in Saskatchewan. For no extra cost one can participate in local council activities as well as receive the benefits of an automatic provincial membership. Student memberships are also available.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Membership correspondence, changes of address, and requests for back issues should be directed to:

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Editor's Message

Magi McFadden



Learning to Read, Reading to Learn, is the theme of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's (SRC) annual conference being held in Saskatoon at the Radisson Hotel April 3-4, 2014. The Fall/Winter issue of *Query* focuses on literacy matters inherent in this year's SRC conference theme emphasizing "learning",

albeit through experience or by listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. It focuses on professional perspective, professional endeavours and practical initiatives aimed at achieving literacy success with children through leadership efforts of educators, writers, librarians, parents and students at the global, national, provincial and local level. In *Celebrating Teachers Making a Positive Difference*, Gloria Antifaiff describes the impact of professional development occurring at the International Reading Association's (IRA) annual convention which saw teachers from around the world learning together in San Antonio, Texas to acknowledge literacy achievements and share innovative initiatives for increasing student literacy. Revealing an underlying convention theme as, "...deep reading, deep thinking and deep discussion", IRA convention presentations placed emphasis on teaching comprehension as a way to facilitate the "deeper" level of student thinking, speaking and reading. The positive influence of perseverance with quality instruction, an emphasis declaring that through persistence "...it is possible to change the life of a child" prevailed throughout the IRA convention. Gloria describes international emphasis on quality reading materials, optimal teaching strategies and child-focused activities. According to this enthusiastic international convention delegate, all learners deserve the best quality education delivered by the best quality educators. In *IRA Council Awards 2013 - San Antonio, Texas*, SRC President Gisele Carlson, describes the pride of accomplishment she experienced as she accepted the IRA Award of Excellence on behalf of dedicated SRC members throughout Saskatchewan. Giselle also writes of the Gold status received by the SRC in the Student Membership Achievement Award and of the IRA Honor Council Awards received by the Kewatin Nene Reading Council and by the South East Reading Council.

Striving to achieve and maintain excellence in literacy instruction, the SRC devoted time and effort at their fall leadership workshop to revisit strategic goals and establish

priorities that best serve the needs of SRC members. At the leadership workshop led by Gloria Antifaiff entitled, *Celebrating the Leader in You - Questions Every Leader Should Ask*, SRC executives developed a strategic plan to shape the council's future direction, spearhead literacy initiatives and measure success. Acquiring big ideas inspires, sets direction and setting specific objectives ensures tasks get done. With a strategic plan in place, provincial executives are ready to assist special subject council members as they work toward advancement of literacy in their local communities, schools and classrooms.

Making reading experiences available for children in need is a priority for the SRC. Making reading experiences available to children in need at home and afar is the focus of Saskatoon and District Reading Council. In *Saskatoon and District Reading Council Project Love*, local council president Courtney Thornhill describes Project Love which undertakes to provide much-needed stationary supplies to teachers and children in developing countries and within local communities. The article that follows, *Lifelong Reading for Learning, Devotion, Work and Recreation: The Gift of Reading Literacy Initiative*, imparts an authentic account of one school's Gift of Reading used book exchange during which teachers, educational assistants, librarians, parents and students banded together to collect, sort and disseminate donated books throughout their community. The Gift of Reading initiative invites community members to donate used books for children, their parents and significant others to read. Through this simple act, community members take action to: obliterate illiteracy, encourage young people to focus on academic endeavours required of school and prepare literate adults of tomorrow. No longer is reading viewed as an activity performed only at school. A culture is being built around realizing benefits of reading from an early age. A belief in lifelong reading for learning, devotion, work and recreation is strengthened and sustained. By participating in the Gift of Reading, a community is giving far more than a book to a child, their parents and significant others. They are collaborating to open the door to the discovery of the benefits of reading and to give children the best chance of doing well at school and in life. The Gift of Reading is a unifying school-community literacy initiative aimed at preparing adults of tomorrow by regifting a book today.

A recent visit to Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan, made by renowned Saskatchewan children's author Peter Eyvindson, charmed young readers with poignant tales of love, respect for individual differences and the importance of "caring" for self and others. In *"I Don't Care": An Interview with Peter Eyvindson on the Value of Caring*, this beloved

continued on page 2

Saskatchewan writer tells *Query* readers that it is really a very difficult question for himself, as an author, to identify which of the books he has written is indeed his favorite because, according to Peter, the question is akin to asking a parent of many children who their your favorite child is. Peter says he likes equally all of his published books but he likes them each for different reasons. When asked to recommend three books for a "must read list", Peter indicated: *The Wish Wind*, *Red Parka Mary* and *Kookum's Red Shoes*. In recommending these titles, Peter added that most of his titles are designed to impart meaning to every age, not only for Grade One and Two but for everyone. In *Steven Layne's Writing Tips*, Gisele Carlson focuses attention on student writing, providing *Query* readers with a description of Steven Layne's teaching strategies for achieving success with students during writing instruction. According to this writer, the top five writing tips are: write with the students, discuss a writing topic thoroughly before putting pen to paper, provide writing samples, establish an emotional connection by writing for an authentic audience and write in response to literature.

For those among you searching for "good reads" for older children, Courtney Thornhill has reviewed, *Bite of the Mango*, a heart-wrenching story about the author, Mariatu Kamara's, journey from war victim to UNICEF Special Representative. Readers of all ages will enjoy the "feel good" book, *Dancing in My Bones*, written by Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton and reviewed by Shelly Galloway. Rich in colourful illustrations and full of life this book, written in English and in Michif, is one that both children and adults will appreciate. For readers seeking professional reading, this issue of *Query* includes a review of *Wiring the Brain for Reading: Brain-Based Strategies for Teaching Literacy* by Marilee Sprenger. Using current neuroscience research to enhance literacy instruction, *Wiring the Brain for Reading: Brain-Based Strategies for Teaching Literacy* introduces teachers to neural connections necessary for learning to read. Marilee provides practical, brain friendly strategies for teaching essential skills like phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension strategies designed to enhance student motivation for and enjoyment of reading. The value in this "good read" is in information imparted about human brain anatomy, brain physiology during reading and how brain research can inform teachers' instruction of reading.

Remember to mark your calendar for the spring SRC conference. The next annual conference, *Learning to Read, Reading to Learn*, will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon, April 3-4, 2014. See you there!

Submissions to Query are welcomed at any time. Readers are encouraged to share this issue with colleagues to inform them of the benefits of an SRC membership.

President's Report

Gisèle Carlson



I am pleased to be serving as President for the Saskatchewan Reading Council this coming year. I have been a member of my local Reading Council and of the provincial council for over nine years and treasure the individuals I have had the pleasure of meeting who share my passion for literacy and the

many professional development opportunities that have been offered to me.

The Reading Council has provided numerous opportunities for its members over the years. These opportunities have included professional development, the annual conference, networking opportunities and involvement in service projects. As we move into the next year, I would challenge our executive to look ahead to examine how we might meet the needs of our future council members. The challenge of inspiring students' passion for reading in a highly visual world will be an integral part of meeting the needs of both teachers and students in the coming years.

The executive is excited about our upcoming plans to review our mission and goals and create a strategic plan that will direct our efforts for the next three or more years. We are looking forward to many professional discussions and renewed ideas and plans.

I would invite you to reflect on how the Reading Council can best meet your needs and would encourage you to share these thoughts with our executive.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Saskatchewan Reading Council has a professional library available to its members.

Check out our selection at our website:
www.saskreading.com

To borrow materials contact Heather Hobbs at
hobbs.heather@prairiesouth.ca

Past President's Report

Lynda Gellner



Welcome to the new school year and to the new schedule of events and activities with the Saskatchewan Reading Council. I truly enjoy the change of pace during the summer months but I always look forward to starting the new school year and rejuvenating my love for literacy through interactions with members of the Reading Council.

A special thank you to the literacy leaders in our community who volunteer their time to support programs such as the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* publication, Read to Me, *Query* and our annual conference. We are blessed to have your commitment, expertise and leadership!

As you plan for the instructional needs of your students, I encourage you to plan for your own professional learning needs. Seek out colleagues to talk about instructional strategies, seek out the latest publications to build your understanding and capacity and finally seek out time to reflect and set goals for your own learning outcomes for the 2013-2014 school year.

Communication Director's Report

Kira Fladager

I am happy to be joining the Saskatchewan Reading Council Executive as the Communications Director. I look forward to informing and engaging the members of the Saskatchewan Reading Council through the website and exploring the multiple ways that social media can be used to connect our organization. As we move forward with using technology to support the work that we do in the SRC, we look forward to your feedback of how we can stay connected.

Read to Me Coordinator's Report

Shelly Galloway



The purpose of the Read to Me project is to raise awareness of the importance of reading to children in the home and to provide parents of children with a book and pamphlets full of information concerning the benefits of reading to their children from an early age.

Read to Me bags

To be given to children:

a. **Read to Me bags** will include:

The program is designed to address the needs of young children having access to books and literacy activities before they start school.

- One book from Scholastic
- One letter to parents with information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council and ideas on how to read to children
- One bookmark about READING
- One booklet "For the Love of Reading" from the Saskatchewan Literacy Network
- **LOVE OF READING** bag

b. Individual councils are encouraged to add any items they wish to their bags.

c. Each council will take the following:

Council	Bags	Books	Bookmarks	Letter	Booklets
East Central	100	100	100	100	100
Kewetin Nene*	200	200	200	200	200
Moose Jaw	100	100	100	100	100
North Central	100	100	100	100	100
North West	100	100	100	100	100
Saskatoon*	200	200	200	200	200
South East	100	100	100	100	100
South Sask	100	100	100	100	100
South West	100	100	100	100	100
Total	1100	1100	1100	1100	1100

This is a very worthwhile program that students love and parents appreciate.

International Reading Association Coordinator's Report

Gloria Antifaiff



IRA Updates

Award of Excellence and Honor Council for 2012-2013

The Award of Excellence is presented annually by the International Reading Association to state and provincial councils that have distinguished themselves through organizing and implementing a wide range of programs and activities in their state or province that (a) serve and support councils and members, (b) contribute to education, and (c) coincide with and support the programs and goals of the Association. As IRA Coordinator, I will submit the documentation by November 27, 2013.

The Honor Council Program annually recognizes local councils that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the council members, the community, the provincial council, and the International Reading Association. Councils are being recognized for accomplishments of the previous year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013). All documentation must be sent electronically to IRA Headquarters by November 27, 2013.

IRA Awards

The IRA offers a variety of awards with various deadlines. Visit www.reading.org for a complete list. Two awards that may be of interest to members are:

- The IRA Maryann Manning Outstanding Volunteer Service Award is an annual non-monetary award given annually to four (4) dedicated volunteers within North America and one (1) dedicated volunteer outside of North America. Deadline for submission is November 15, 2013.

Eligibility Guidelines:

1. A dedicated volunteer who has made a lifelong commitment to a local, state or provincial council within North America or to a local or regional council, or international affiliate outside of North America.
2. Candidates must have contributed significant volunteer service and been active for at least ten years.

3. Candidates must be nominated by an IRA council or affiliate president or coordinator.
 4. Candidates must be IRA members.
 5. Preference will be given to those candidates who have not already received major recognition from IRA (i.e. elected to the IRA Board, received the Special Service Award).
- The Steven A. Stahl Research Grant is to honour the memory and the work of Steven A. Stahl through encouragement and support of promising graduate students conducting classroom research in reading. This is an annual monetary award of US\$1,000. The grant will be awarded to one recipient annually.

Eligibility Guidelines:

1. Graduate students who have at least three years of preK–12 teaching experiences who wish to conduct classroom research in reading and literacy instruction. The research must be conducted in the classroom(s), it must be focused on improving reading instruction and children's reading achievement, and it must be empirically rigorous.
2. All applicants must be current members of the International Reading Association (IRA). Applicants may apply for more than one IRA research grant. However, applicants are limited to one research award per year.
3. Deadline. Proposals must be received by November 1, 2013; 4:00 PM EST. Electronic submissions are required.
4. The research must be completed within two years.

IRA Council Transformation Program

IRA has been undergoing changes to their organizational structure including: centralizing council requests, updating IRA bylaws, reviewing financial practices, sharing of information, and council and IRA accountability. As part of the transformation program they are developing a new strategic plan that will include in-depth training around priority areas such as membership, governance, finance.

The Leadership Development Associates (LDA), who are the direct contacts for state and provincial councils have undergone a title change. Their new title is Council Advisor. Council Advisors will be available on a limited basis for council visits. In order to provide ongoing

support to all councils a suite of council resources will be developed that will include videos, webinars and templates.

IRA Membership Summary

I encourage all educators interested in literacy to visit <http://www.reading.org/> to find more information about the International Reading Association and to consider becoming a member. Basic, online, and student membership rates are available as well as special rates for those that are retired and have had an IRA membership for 10 continuous years.

	Sept., 2012	Jan., 2013	Apr., 2013	Sept., 2013
Total Number of Current IRA Members	111	110	96	116
Total Number of Current Regular IRA Members	81	83	78	84
Total Number of Current Online IRA Members	29	26	17	30
Total Number of Current Student IRA Members	1	1	1	2

Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report

Joan Bue



2013-14 was another successful year for YSW! Some of our councils were unable to submit writing this year and hopefully we can change that for 2013-14.

At our spring 2011 meeting, it was decided to move the due dates for writing to an earlier date so that books would be delivered in time for Young Writer Celebrations. This has worked well the last two years and so we will continue with the earlier deadline this year as well. I contacted the STF, and they have once again reserved a spot for our publication for April 1, 2014. I put February 1, 2014 on the poster for writing to be in to the YSW reps for each council. March 1, 2014 is when all writing needs to be emailed to me with the permission slips and book orders following by March 15. This gives me a month to get everything together to send into the STF publishing unit. Permission slips (Writing and Picture) must accompany each piece of writing or it cannot be published. It is a big job to get all the writing into

Grades, edited and formatted to send into the STF. I would appreciate it if the timelines are met. Thank you to all of last year's YSW reps for getting the writing to me in a timely fashion!

Each council will be allotted eight pages and 16 pieces (two per page) once again this year. I would encourage all of the councils to start promoting the publication ASAP, and hopefully we can get writing submitted from all nine councils this year. Thank you to everyone who submitted writing to the project last year. I know it isn't an easy job choosing the writing, gathering up permission slips and collecting money for the books ordered. The SRC couldn't do a *Young Writers Book* without your help, so thank you and keep up the great work!

I will be communicating directly with the YSW reps in each council and will send the forms for this year directly to them. Thank you for all the dedication and hard work that goes into making this an amazing publication year after year!

Submit articles, lessons, units, in-services plans, book reviews, local council updates, pictures, and reviews of programs to *Query*, YOUR journal for the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

mcfaddenm@hotmail.com

Local Council Reports



Northwest Reading Council

Emilie Wolfe, President

The Northwest Reading Council is still looking for members to become active in our area. You are welcome to join the Saskatchewan Reading Council at any time. We are based in the northwest of Saskatchewan; our school divisions are Lloydminster Public School Division, Lloydminster RCSSD, Northwest School Division, Living Sky School Division and Light of Christ RCSSD Please look at our website saskreading.com/membership/ for membership information and how to become involved.

Upcoming Events:

- SRC Conference, Saskatoon – April 3&4
- AGM and Recruitment – April 2014
- Used Book Sale – March 2014
- Young Authors Night – June 2014
- Ongoing Collaboration and Professional Development

Local Executive Members

- President: Emilie Wolfe
- Vice President: Robyn Derenoski
- Treasurer: Jordan Lamon
- Secretary: Natasha Nichol

Membership

Your membership provides you with:

- One year subscription to *Query*, professional journal of the Saskatchewan Reading Council
- *Young Writers' Publication*
- Professional growth, collegiality, promotion of literacy and a chance to enhance the love of reading with your students and community

Consider renewing your membership or becoming a member with the ECSRC.

Membership is \$25/year for individuals; \$10/year for students.

Please let us know if you are in our area and not receiving information and would like to be involved so that we can be sure to get that to you, you can email Emilie Wolfe at e.wolfe@locd.ca.



Kewetin Nene Reading Council

Debby Noble, President

The Kewetin Nene Reading Council has had a busy start to the school year. We held our annual General Meeting on October 16, during the 2013 Northern Area Teachers Association (NATA) convention in Prince Albert. Over coffee and treats we made plans for a number of literacy promotion, membership recruitment, and professional development activities for this school year. We were very pleased to receive the IRA Honor Council award again this year.



Debby Noble,
Kewetin Nene President



From left to right: Debby Noble,
Harriet Roy at Duck Races

To begin the year all new teachers to Northern Lights School Division received a personal invitation to join the reading council. KNRC also partnered with Pahkisimon Nuye?ah Library System (PNLS) in a free Book Give-Away at the La Ronge Fire Dept. annual Duck Race event in celebration of International Literacy Day on September 8th. Then, to raise awareness about KNRC, we had a display table and draws for 'Book Baskets' at the NATA convention. We also sponsored an engaging 'Growing Up Wild' workshop at the teachers' convention.

Some of the other activities planned for the year include promoting a Reading Challenge for Family Literacy Day in January, as well as participating in the PNLS Northern Reading Program. Also, several of our schools participated in the Willow Awards with a variety of

creative activities. We are making plans to offer a fun hands-on PD workshop for teachers in March 2014.

Again this year we are encouraging young authors to send in their writing for the Young Saskatchewan Writers program. The Read To Me program is another way we promote literacy within northern communities - we believe in the importance of getting books into homes!

Our members come from communities across northern Saskatchewan, including NLSL Literacy-Numeracy Catalyst teachers and student members from NORTEP. This year we want to focus on recruiting more members from First Nations band schools.

Our council is looking forward to the 2014 SRC Conference in Saskatoon. We will be encouraging northern teachers to attend this wonderful conference.



Southwest Reading Council

Jennifer Lundsten, President

The South West Reading Council is feeling optimistic as another school year begins. Our continuing goal is to build and organize our executive. We are still looking for a couple more teachers to join our executive this fall. If you are interested in helping us to build our local council, please contact us.

This year, we will continue to support the following programs in the SWRC:

- Read to Me – providing books for new babies
- *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Publication – a writing contest open to all Saskatchewan students

One of our past programs, Project Love, is no longer available to us so we have chosen to support teachers a little closer to home. After the extreme flooding in Southern Alberta, we have chosen one school in High River to provide some support too. As teachers, we all give so much of ourselves to our students and classrooms. It is shocking to think of what the teachers in Alberta lost outside of their homes. Our local council executive doesn't have much to give but we hope what we send will help energize the teachers as they put their personal and professional lives back together.

The SWRC executive hope you, your staff and students continue to have a fantastic school year. See you at convention in the spring.



South East Reading Council

Joan Bue, President

Our council began the year with an author visit to our area during Saskatchewan Library Week, October 14-18, 2013. Marie Donais Calder, from Estevan Saskatchewan visited several schools. She spoke to Grades K-2 about her children's book, *Little Miss Muffet Isn't Afraid Any More*, and she spoke to Grades 3 and up about her *Other Side of War* series. Her message is one of hope and sharing. The students enjoyed her visit very much.

We have been recruiting new liaisons in our area and managed to sign up three new people to our council. That is progress!

We will be promoting *Young Writers* again very soon, hoping to get more schools involved this year. Our *Young Writers* Celebration is always well attended and appreciated by the young authors and their families.

Carlyle Elementary School is hoping to continue their Family Literacy Evenings for Pre-K and K families. They had 5 very successful evenings last year and are hoping to get some funding to continue this year.

As always, we continue to look at ways to increase our membership and move ahead with promoting literacy in our area.



Moose Jaw and District Reading Council

Tana Arnott, President

The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council continues to stay strong as we work towards building our numbers. We continue to keep the programs alive in our schools and community that benefit the literacy of our children. We will be continuing our Read to Me program – all babies born in the Moose Jaw Union Hospital will receive a package with a new book and information about the importance of literacy and reading to children. We continue to expand our Paper Back Book Exchange in both the city and the rural communities. We will host a Paper Back

Book Exchange in both the fall and the spring in our Rural Schools, as well as a school in Moose Jaw in both the Public and Separate School Systems. This is a great way for students to bring in their old books that they are done with and exchange it for a new-to-them book. We will also host a Professional Development Workshop for increasing interest in reading for pleasure for our students. Family Literacy Day in January will continue to be a focus for us, as well, as we provide our schools

with information about how to incorporate celebrating the day in our schools.

I would also like to thank the other members of our executive council: Amber Pladson and Amanda Hassen. We are hoping that the large number of teachers who supported our Conference last year in Moose Jaw will become permanent members of our Council and help us to deliver literacy opportunities to our students. We look forward to an exciting year!

Project Love

Saskatoon and District Reading Council

Courtney Thornhill



School supplies for Project Love

Courtney Thornhill is president of the Saskatoon and District Reading Council. Courtney is currently teaching Grade 8 at Confederation Park Community School with the Saskatoon Public School Division in Saskatoon.

Last June, two school divisions in Saskatoon came together to donate gently used school supplies for Project Love. Project Love is organized and managed by the Saskatoon and District Reading Council. Under the auspices of the local SRC council, markers, pencils, pens, books, notebooks and paper was collected and sent to charity. Two classrooms at Confederation Park Community School spent time sorting and packing these supplies to send to The Boys and Girls Club of Saskatoon, The YWCA and Access International which is a charity that will send much needed supplies to a community in South America. We would like to thank everyone for their donation as it will definitely benefit these communities.

Celebrating Teachers Making a Positive Difference

IRA Award of Excellence for Saskatchewan Reading Council

Gloria Antifaiff

Gloria Antifaiff is superintendent of education in Prairie Valley School Division and International Reading Association Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

The 58th Annual International Reading Conference was held on April 19-22, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for the conference was “Celebrating Teachers Making A Difference.” Thousands of educators gathered to hear a variety of keynote speakers and small group presenters. The excitement in the air was evident as educators eagerly hurried to the opening session. The conference opened with the introduction of IRA Board members. Board member Heather Bell reminded educators that “all learners deserve the best quality education delivered by the best quality teachers.” Maryanne Manning, Vice President, reminded educators to not only “give but take support when needed.”

A highlight of the opening exercises was the introduction of the Teacher Advisory Panel (TAP) members where SRC President, Gisele Carlson, was introduced as a member of the panel. She was successfully nominated by the Saskatchewan Reading Council to be a member of the TAP committee. In the past, TAP members have served on IRA Task Forces, written articles about classroom issues for Reading Today, presented at the annual conference, and provided guidance on any number of items for board discussion. TAP members serve a three year term, and perform most of their duties through conference calls and electronic mail. The SRC is pleased to have a Saskatchewan teacher representing the interests of Canadian teachers on an international committee!

A particularly memorable session was provided by Regie Routman. Routman’s practical and down to earth presentation style makes her a popular speaker at IRA Conferences. She commented on being in education



Left to Right – Gisele Carlson, SRC President and Gloria Antifaiff, IRA Coordinator

for such a long period of time that she has been able to experience the pendulum swing in education as policy makers, the public, and educators seems to swing from one belief to another about the best way to teach children how to read and write. For Routman, she has survived the pendulum swing by being well grounded, using common sense, and maintaining a “students first” attitude. She challenged the audience to self-reflect by asking “What do you stand for?” and “What do you believe?” Her deep commitment to education is evident and she stated, “My work is connected to my life.” She also acknowledged that there is no quick fix to improve student achievement but with perseverance and quality teaching, it is possible to change the life of a child. She cautioned that too much structure and focus on data can take away valuable teaching time from the child. Quality reading materials, optimal teaching strategies, and a focus on the child need to be at the forefront. To follow Routman’s blog, visit: <http://www.regieroutman.org>.

A variety of other speakers provided food for thought and seeds of ideas for consideration in Saskatchewan. Fountas and Pinnell promoted rigour and excellence in learning through reading, talking, and writing. They

stated that “we need students to know how to use language in an academic way.” This is accomplished through deep reading, deep thinking, and deep discussion. They introduced a new series of “Comprehension Clubs,” published by Scholastic, as a way to facilitate the deeper level of thinking, speaking, and reading that we need students to engage in.

The mayor of San Antonio, Julian Castro, at first seemed an unlikely candidate for inspiration but his commitment and passion to improve learning for citizens in San Antonio was inspiring. He believes that brain power is the new currency of success and his mission is to ensure all citizens have the opportunity to develop and utilize this currency. Upon his election he worked with citizens of San Antonio to imagine what kind of city they want to be in 2020. He believes their biggest challenge to improve schools is to improve neighbourhoods. As the city is working towards achieving the goals for 2020 a number of public service programs to improve literacy have been developed. They introduced high quality, full day kindergarten programs. He stated that citizens chose to increase their taxes in order to create opportunity for every young child to learn. They introduced a Café College for inner city citizens to learn more about college and they developed a free SAT preparation program. The city of San Antonio is a shining example of going above and beyond to create a spark for learning. Perhaps it also helps that the mayor’s wife is a teacher!

Another unexpected source of inspiration was a session provided by a group of Australian educators from Tasmania. They talked about Tasmania’s Literacy and Numeracy Framework Plan (2012-2015) with a focus on “Learners first, connected and inspired.” The work closely parallels the work being accomplished in some Canadian school districts with the implementation of literacy coaches, collaborative time for teachers, and the use of data to make decisions. The framework can be found at: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>. It was interesting to learn that the work of Fullan and Sharratt (Putting the Faces on Data) is influencing school districts across the globe.

The International Reading Conference is a once in a lifetime conference that all educators should put on their “bucket list.” The opportunity to network with educators from around the world and attend sessions delivered by literacy experts and those passionate about literacy are sure to leave lasting memories for all educators.



Kewatin Nene IRA Honor Council Award



Saskatchewan Reading Council IRA Award of Excellence

IRA Council Awards 2013

San Antonio, Texas

Gisele Carlson

I am proud to say that I had the privilege of accepting a number of awards for our provincial and local councils at the Council and Affiliate Awards Ceremony during the IRA Annual Convention on April 19, 2013.

The Saskatchewan Reading Council received the Award of Excellence. This award is presented to those state and provincial councils that have distinguished themselves through organizing and implementing a wide range of programs and activities that serve and support local councils, contribute to education, and coincide with and support the programs and goals of the IRA.

The SRC also received a Gold status in the Students Membership Achievement Award for growth in student IRA memberships.

Kewatin Nene Council (Debby Noble, President) and the South East Reading Council (Joan Bue, President) both received the Honor Council Award. This award recognizes local councils that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving both the council and the community. 2013 marks the 13th year that Kewatin Nene has received this award and the 15th year that the



IRA Convention 2013 San Antonio, Texas

South East Reading Council has received this award. Congratulations to both councils!

The members of the Saskatchewan Reading Council are very proud of these accomplishments and the recognition our province received at the international level last spring. I would like to commend and encourage the executive and members of our councils at the local and provincial levels for their dedication to supporting and advancing reading education in Saskatchewan.

*Please visit www.saskreading.com
for more information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
A Special Subject Council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.
A Council of the International Reading Council.*

SRC Fall Leadership Workshop

Celebrating the Leader in You – Questions Every Leader Should Ask

Magi McFadden

Leadership training at the Fall Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) business meeting chaired by Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) president, Gisele Carlson, focused on strategic planning for success. International Reading Association Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC), Gloria Antifaiff, through an energizing and motivational power point presentation coupled with interactive participant activities, masterfully led SRC executives from across the province through a rigorous regime of exercises designed to develop participant leadership skills for strategic planning, council planning that maintains council stability and maximizes council goal attainment. During the workshop the SRC explored factors indicative of long term stability and examined objectives that would streamline governance, management and overall operation. Discussions were centered on five key questions: What is our mission? Who are our members? What do our members value? What are our results? What is our plan for success? Answers to these questions provided a foundation for development of a strategic plan to sustain and increase membership and provide greater support to our members to implement our mission. With a strategic plan in place, SRC executives are ready to assist special subject council members as they work toward advancement of literacy in their local communities.

Targeting Success

Developing and maintaining a successful reading council requires SRC leaders to ask about their strategic plan and vision for the future (Daily Nuggets: Blog, 2013; Drucker Institute, 2006; Muth, 2002). Time devoted each year to revisit strategic goals, indicators and activities make it possible to establish priorities and serve the needs of SRC members. A strategic plan developed to shape the council's direction, develops



Gloria Antifaiff,
SRC IRA Coordinator

literacy initiatives and measures success. Acquiring big ideas inspires and sets direction. Setting specific objectives ensures tasks get done. Combining these ensures success (International Reading Association, 2013a, b)!

Inspiring Professional Networking

Networking occurring during professional development opportunities builds cohesion among literacy advocates (International Reading Association, 2013c). Skills put into practice

during the SRC leadership workshop equip council leaders with strategic vision and tactical knowledge that the provincial council needs to prosper. Intensive discussion during the workshop led to unveiling of the SRC plan for strategic improvement and subsequent discussion of how the SRC plan will impact the work of SRCs network of local councils (Saskatchewan Reading Council, 2013).

Strategic Planning

The Saskatchewan Reading Association in their commitment to literacy endeavours to help council members by participating in an operational assessment; learning strategies for turning challenges into opportunities; gaining insight into effective ways to utilize social networking; discovering new ways of thinking about governance; improving organizational management, advocacy and communications; recruiting and retaining members; and advancing leadership development for "unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes...but no plans." (Brainy Quote, 2013: 1; Drucker Institute, 2006; International Reading Association, 2013c; Wikipedia, 2013).

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SRC Executive Members
Conference Planning



SRC Executive
Members Meeting



SRC Executive
Committees



SRC Executive
Members Goal-Setting



SRC Executive Members
Strategic Planning



SRC Executive Members
Establishing Priorities

Lifelong Reading for Learning, Devotion, Work and Recreation

The Gift of Reading Literacy Initiative

Magi McFadden

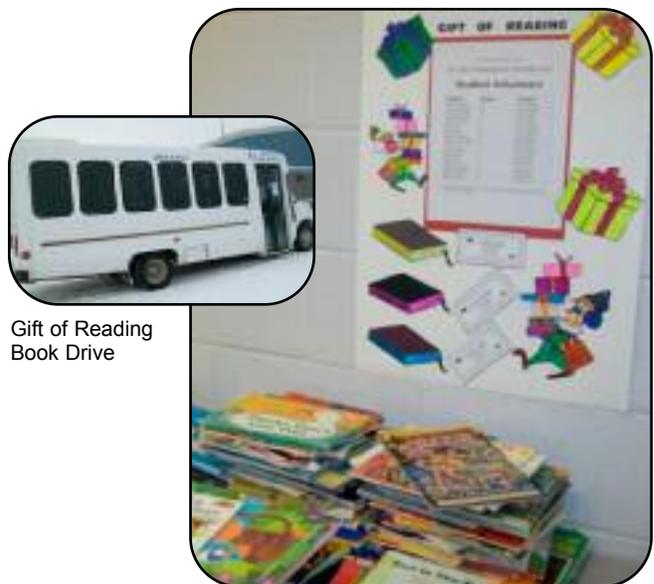
Magi McFadden is a resource teacher at Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake Saskatchewan with Northern Lights School Division 113 and a member of Kewatin Nene local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The Gift of Reading school-community initiative at Minahik Waskahigan School has become a tradition honored by efforts of volunteer high school students and facilitated through commitment of the following committee of dedicated teachers, educational assistants, parents and librarians: Magi McFadden (Chairperson), Curtis Chandler, Joel Durocher, James Iron, Alana Boyd, Leona Lariviere and Dianne Natomagan. Enjoy this authentic account of our school's Gift of Reading used book exchange during which teachers, educational assistants, librarians, parents and students collaborated to prepare for evenings filled with benefits of reading. Many thanks go to participating Minahik Waskahigan School students, parents, teachers, librarians and educational assistants who collected books, sorted books and created artistic book displays for dissemination of donated books.

Engaging Children, Parents and Significant Others in Literacy

Parents, teachers, educational assistants, librarians and significant others play a major role in the relationship children have with reading. The Gift of Reading used book exchange makes it possible to reach children, parents and significant others by providing an opportunity for them to engage actively in the literary process. The Gift of Reading is a means of raising parents' awareness of their importance in the acquisition of reading proficiency, a means of engaging families in helping children achieve in reading through increased practice and a means of helping children discover varied lifelong benefits of reading.



Used Book Donations



Gift of Reading
Book Drive

Gift of Reading Book Display

Unifying Book Drive

The Gift of Reading Book Drive is truly a unifying experience! High school students volunteering to blitz their neighborhood collecting gently used books demonstrate zeal as they carry out their literacy mission. Announcement of the neighborhood book drive is made on the local radio station and over school intercoms. Parents, teachers, librarians, educational assistants and students cheerfully volunteer to canvas local homes to collect donations for the used book exchange. Each donating household receives coupons enabling them to obtain free books at the used book exchange held in conjunction with a school concert (Figure 1. The Gift of Reading Coupon). Volunteers also receive coupons to obtain free books. The unifying action of the book drive elevates community spirit and stimulates community interest in attending the book exchange.

Book Exchange

The 775 books collected during the book drive by volunteer students are disseminated to children, their parents and significant others through coupons received at the time of donation. Donated used books organized according to hardcover and paperback categories: children's books, chapter books, novels, anthologies, poetry, reference books, how to books, religion and magazines are artfully displayed with banners created and displayed by volunteer high school students. Each book collected during the neighbourhood book drive blitz is redeemed by a child, parent or significant other from the community at the school concert using a *Gift of Reading* coupon. Exercising higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation by strategically previewing text features of categorized books children, their parents and significant others judiciously select books to read at home for self/home/career development, learning, religious devotion, reference or recreation. No need for a special trip to redeem the Gift

of Reading coupon – books are chosen by children, parents and significant others during the night of the school concert. After coupons are redeemed, the Gift of Reading book exchange is opened-up for all attending the concert to have an opportunity to obtain a book and return home with the Gift of Reading. Books remaining following the book exchange are donated to local non-profit organizations including: high-school parenting class, teen-infant daycare, community daycare, health clinic reception and preschool.

Lifelong Reading for Learning, Devotion, Work and Recreation

The Gift of Reading initiative is all about inviting community members to donate used books for children, their parents and significant others to read. Through this simple act, community members are taking action to: obliterate illiteracy, encourage young people to focus on academic endeavours required of school and prepare literate adults of tomorrow. No longer is reading viewed as an activity performed only at school. A culture is being built around realizing benefits of reading from an early age. A belief in lifelong reading for learning, devotion, work and recreation is strengthened and sustained. By participating in the Gift of Reading, a community is giving far more than a book to a child, their parents and significant others. They are collaborating to open the door to the discovery of the benefits of reading and to give children the best chance of doing well at school and in life. The Gift of Reading is a unifying school-community literacy initiative aimed at preparing adults of tomorrow by regifting a book today!

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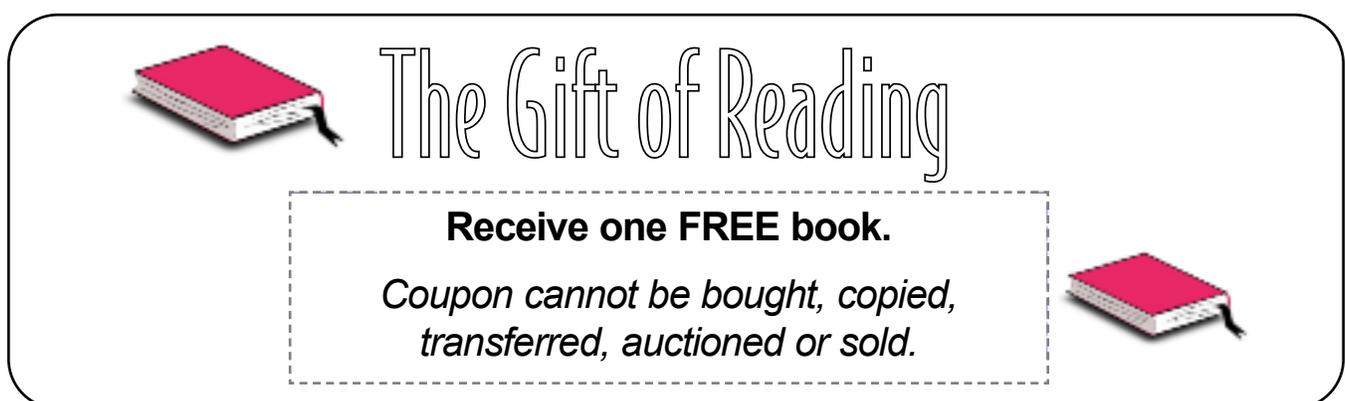


Figure 1. The Gift of Reading Coupon

“I Don’t Care”

An Interview with Peter Eyvindson on the Value of “Caring”

Magi McFadden

Humanitarian, librarian, children’s story book writer and story teller Peter Eyvindson is enjoying retirement with his wife in “shining” Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Peter and his wife have recently relocated to the city from Clavet, Saskatchewan. Originally from Manitoba, Peter became a teacher-librarian after completing Bachelor degrees in Arts and Education. While teaching at Snow Lake School in northern Manitoba, Peter began writing for children to realize his passion for books and for teaching children about books. In 1983 Peter decided to indulge his passion full-time and since has written many popular children’s books, all of them best sellers - all of them listed in “good reads” (www.goodreads.com). Peter’s picture books include: Kyle’s Bath (1984), Old Enough (1986), Wish Wind (1987), Chester Bear, Where Are You? (1988), Chubby Champ (1989), A Crow Named Joe (1990), Backward Brothers See the Light: A Tale from Iceland (1991), The Yesterday Stone (1992), Sir Thomas A. Cat (1998), The Missing Sun (1993), Red Parka Mary (1995), Kookum’s Red Shoes (2010), The Night Rebecca Stayed Too Late (2011), and Jen and the Great One (2012). In this interview Magi McFadden, Query Editor, talks to Peter Eyvindson about his passion for reading, writing, and publishing works for young readers. Peter is a writer and storyteller who gives numerous booktalks yearly to children across Canada. He uses a high energy presentation to stimulate children’s interest in reading and to introduce children to the writing and publishing process. Mesmerizing young audiences with emphasis on “caring” and energetic play with cuddly stuffed toys, Peter is quick to capture children’s interest with his gentle enthusiastically entertaining approach to storytelling. During a recent visit to Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan, Peter Eyvindson charmed young readers with poignant tales of love, respect for individual differences, and the importance of “caring” for self and others.

Query Editor: You have written many children’s books. Tell us about your favorite publication(s).

Peter Eyvindson: This is really a very difficult question for an author to answer as it is kind of like asking a parent who is your favorite child. I like equally all three of my sons but I like them each for different reasons. It is the same with my books, as their creator I like them all but for different reasons.

Query Editor: What specific readership did you have in mind when you write your books? Peter

Eyvindson: Long ago, a wise teacher told me that the E on picture books stood for the term “Everybody” books. I hope I write for everybody. Most of my titles are designed to impart meaning to every age. I really do get upset when someone decides to “categorize” my books by indicating that they are only appropriate for one particular age group. They are not meant just for Grade One and Two... I wrote them for everyone.

Query Editor: What was your first publication?

Peter Eyvindson: My first publication was *Kyle’s Bath* which was released in 1984 and is still in print.

Query Editor: If you had to recommend three books for Saskatchewan children to put on their “Must Read List” what would those books be?

Peter Eyvindson: There are so many books I enjoy but I think instead I will suggest three of my own titles:

- *The Wish Wind*. Of my own books, I think that this one is probably the best written. It does capture the essence of what I was trying to achieve.
- *Red Parka Mary*. Accepting people for who they are rather than for what they look like is a lesson we all need to comprehend.
- *Kookum’s Red Shoes*. The residential school era was a devastating era for our native community

in Canada and it is extremely important that everyone learn and comprehend its' impact. We are all treaty people.

Query Editor: What is the focus of your writing research right now?

Peter Eyvindson: I've always considered it to be in poor taste to talk about my present writing. If I tell you all about it then there is no reason why I should put my ideas down on paper. I will just say that I am presently working on a couple of novels. The process is very different from the other writing I have used to this point.

Query Editor: What useful advice have you received as a writer?

Peter Eyvindson: Keep trying. I had thirteen years of letters of rejection before my first book was published. The only thing that kept me going was knowing that the *Guinness Book of World* record for the most letters of rejections for one particular work was something over 400.

Query Editor: What involvement do you have with the illustrators of your books?

Peter Eyvindson: None! Long ago I discovered something about the illustration process. It is a unique art... just as writing is a unique art. The illustrator has never asked me to change any of my words so why should I think I have the right to insist on a particular type of illustration. By giving the illustrator the freedom to create, I think I have ended up with a wonderful batch of illustrated books.

Query Editor: What advice do you have for motivating young student writers regarding planning, researching, editing, illustrating and publishing one's work?

Peter Eyvindson: We are definitely entering a different era. The proliferation of computers, iPads, and cell phones is creating all kinds of possibilities unknown to me when I began my writing career thirty years ago. When I hear that libraries are putting books 'away'... I worry. With the unending possibilities of online books, I worry. The ability given to us to research is simply mind boggling. But I also am concerned that the need to edit will disappear as the 'need for speed' brings us more poorly written material.

Query Editor: When can our readers expect to purchase your next book in the bookstores?

Peter Eyvindson: I can't commit to a particular date. Your guess is as good as mine!

What's Happening Around Saskatchewan

January 2014

- 11 Conference Call at 9:00 am
- 15 Deadline for SRC Administrators Award Nomination
- 27 Family Literacy Day

February 2014

- 1 Possible SRC Meeting in Saskatoon
Award of Excellence Entry Due

March 2014

- 1 Possible SRC Meeting in Saskatoon
SRC Yearly Membership Expires
Young Writers Deadline
- 15 SRC Annual Reports Due

April 2014

- 3-4 SRC Annual Conference in Saskatoon
- 4 Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon
- 30 Deadline for Spring Issue of *Query*

May 2014

- 9-12 IRA Annual Conference in New Orleans

June 2014

- 1 Change of Officers
- 1 Deadline for Prairie Lily Award
- 30 Deadline for submission of officers to IRA

Steven Layne's Writing Tips

Gisèle Carlson

I attended the International Reading Conference in San Antonio, Texas in April 2013. This was one of the best professional development opportunities I have ever had. I met some of my instructional "heros" such as Fountas and Pinnell, Stephanie Harvey, and Regie Routman.

Steven Layne is a full time Professor of Literacy Education at Judson University in Elgin, Illinois and serves on the IRA Board of Directors. He led a writing session at the conference that I found particularly useful for students of all grades and writing levels. He explained that writing is about good pedagogy – not just about the “what”, but the “why” you are doing it.

His top five writing tips are: write with the students, don't ask them to write a complete piece, write and use samples to target what you are teaching, write for authentic audiences, and write in response to literature.

1. Write with them – Write on the data projector while they are writing. Explain where you are stuck, for example, on Word Choice, and work through it with them. Write a class letter to someone regularly during the school year.
2. Don't ask them to write a complete piece – Target an area and do substantial teaching, thinking, and discussing before assigning any writing.
3. Write and use samples to target what you are teaching – Samples can be obtained from the Internet or past or present students.
4. Write for authentic audiences – Students put much more effort into their work if they know that someone else will be reading it, especially if they have an emotional connection to their writing.
5. Write in response to literature – Students can write letters, poetry, journals, evaluations, etc., as a response to a situation that they read about in a book, or to or from a literary character.

Sample Lesson: Thesis Work

- a. Have students look at a piece of writing that has no focus. Assist in a discussion about what is wrong with the piece. Then introduce the concept of the thesis or topic sentence that provides the focus of the paper. Be sure the students do not confuse the “hook” with the thesis.
- b. Provide students with a writing prompt and ask them to discuss what would be a good, clear thesis. Then provide them with a list of 4-5 possible thesis sentences with varying degrees of quality.
- c. Decide on the best thesis sentence and discuss why it's the best.

Please visit stevenlayne.com for a more complete handout on this session, including examples, and for more information concerning Steven's powerful teaching strategies.

Calling all Language Arts and English Teachers

Contribute to *Query* your favourite lesson plan involving any aspect of literacy.

Send all submissions to:
Query Editor
mcfaddenm@hotmail.com

The Bite of the Mango

Reviewed by Courtney Thornhill

Author: Maratu Kamara with Susan McClelland
 Format: Young Adult Novel, Paperback
 Publisher: Annick
 Publisher Location: Buffalo
 Publication Date: 2008
 ISBN: 978-1-55451-158-7

The *Bite of the Mango* is a heart-wrenching story about the author, Mariatu Kamara's, journey from war victim to UNICEF Special Representative. We meet Mariatu at the beginning of the novel in her home village in Sierra Leone, where she lives peacefully with her family and friends. Although there are rumors of rebel attacks around Sierra Leone, her village for the most part has been left alone.

When she is twelve years old the rebels attack her village and her entire world is turned upside down. This is where Mariatu takes the reader on a detailed journey of her life, her survival of the attacks and her journey to Canada. This novel was interesting, fast paced and very hard to put down. Through all the hardship Mariatu endures she constantly portrays a passionate and fearless young woman. Due to the horrific detail of the war, this novel would be best for older teens and adults. It definitely makes you question and think about the consequences of war, however, then inspires you to create positive change within your community and the world. With all the hardships Mariatu has endured in her life, she continued to stay positive and look out for her family and friends - a desire that would resonate with many.

Dancing in My Bones

Reviewed by Shelly Galloway

Authors: Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton
 Illustrator: Sherry Farrell Recite
 Format: Hardcover
 Publisher: Gabriel Dumont Institute
 Publisher Location: Regina
 Publication Date: 2009
 ISBN: 978-0-920915-89-9

This is the sequel to the book, *Fiddle Dancer*. It returns us to the story of a young Metis boy named Nolin as he continues to discover his Metis heritage. Lovingly written by Regina, Sask. Authors: Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton and vividly illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette.

I found this book insightful, engaging and entertaining. It is a good read for young people and adults as well. It takes you into a young boy's life and shows you how his culture plays such an important part in his upbringing. The images are big, colourful and full of life, making the imagination 'dance'. I greatly admired the supper scene or the scene where Uncle Bunny is sitting and starting to play his violin as his foot taps the floor.

The CD, in English and Michif-Cree has actual music from this culture which makes you live the story. Play the tunes as you read and the imagery becomes that much more vivid.

Wilfred Burton will be presenting at the Saskatchewan Reading Council annual conference, April 3-4, 2014 at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

continued on page 20

Be Connected!

Visit the Saskatchewan Reading Council online at:
www.saskreading.com



Wiring the Brain for Reading: Brain-Based Strategies for Teaching Literacy

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author: Marilee Sprenger

Format: Paperback

Publisher: Wiley, John & Sons, Inc.

Publisher Location: San Francisco, CA

Publication Date: 2013

ISBN: 9780470587218

Marilee is an independent educational consultant who presents nationally on topics of learning, memory, differentiated instruction and brain-based teaching practices. A former teacher, Marilee is Adjunct Professor at Aurora University and is the author of several books on the brain and learning. Known as the “Brainlady”, Marilee is affiliated with the American Academy of Neurology and the Learning and the Brain Society. Using current neuroscience research to enhance literacy instruction, *Wiring the Brain for Reading: Brain-Based Strategies for Teaching Literacy* introduces teachers to neural connections necessary for learning to read. Marilee provides practical, brain friendly strategies for teaching essential skills like phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension strategies designed to enhance students’ motivation for and enjoyment of reading. The book is filled with instructional strategies, games and activities designed to be easily implemented by teachers. The value is this “good read” is in information imparted about human brain anatomy, brain physiology during reading and how brain research can inform teachers’ instruction of reading.

Ask the Experts

The Saskatchewan Reading Council is made up of individuals committed to quality literacy education. These individuals are teachers, administrators, literacy specialists, learning resource teachers, librarians and consultants. Let these “experts” help you! If you have a question about literacy or about the council we would love to hear from you.

Please email questions to:

saskatchewanreadingcouncil@gmail.com

WANTED!

Student Writing For the Young Saskatchewan Writers Publication K-12

Short Stories ✎ Plays ✎ Essays
✎ Poetry ✎ Personal Narratives

Criteria for 2013-2014

1. The Saskatchewan Reading Council accepts writing in any language, from Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. Genres include poetry, short stories, plays, essays and personal narratives. (Writing from February 2013-February 2014 may be submitted) **Not all writing submitted will be published.**
2. All selections must be proofread and typed when submitted. (Arial font/size 12/single space)
3. **Whole classroom submissions of the same title will not be accepted.** Please select the best writing selections to be considered. Please consider the audience to which the book will be going out to (K-12) and select accordingly. Longer pieces may be excerpted (please try to keep writing to one page or less)
4. Please email student writing to: *(Insert contact information for your council here)*. (word documents only please) Make sure to include the information at the bottom of this poster.
5. **Illustrations** may accompany written selections but should be placed on a separate sheet (8 ½ x 11). A **Photograph** of the writer may be added to the writing (scanned or inserted onto the piece of writing)
6. Each **published author** and his/her resource center will receive a complimentary copy of the Young Saskatchewan Writers publication.
7. Each piece of writing **must be submitted to your local council by February 1, 2014.**
8. Please identify each piece of writing with the following information:

Student Name: _____

Title of Writing: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

School Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Teacher: _____ Phone/Fax: _____

**Saskatchewan Reading
Council**

*45th Annual Reading
Conference*

Learning to Read, Reading to Learn

Keynotes include:

Richard Allington

Debbie Silver

Eric Wilson

**The North West Reading Council
is pleased to be hosting the Saskatchewan
Reading Council's 45th Annual Reading
Conference.**

**More information will be available on the
Saskatchewan Reading Council Website @
<http://saskreading.com/>**

April 3&4

2014

Radisson Hotel—Saskatoon

Saskatchewan Reading Council Conference
April 3-4, 2014
Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, SK

Presentation Proposal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone (H): _____ (W): _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Target Audience: _____

Last conference and date
at which this session
was presented: _____

AV Needs:

- _____ (If possible, please bring your own laptop)
- Please attach presentation description and presenter's background.
- Presentations should be one hour in length and should be appropriate for an audience of 20-35 people.
- An honorarium of \$100 will be awarded to a maximum of two presenters per session, A discounted rate of \$80 (student rate), if registering for the full conference, is also available. Additional expenses shall be absorbed by the presenter, however out of province presenters will have their hotel room covered.
- Please provide an electronic copy of your presentation for publication in *Query*.
- Deadline for proposals is November 30, 2013.
- You will be notified of your acceptance no later than January 15, 2014.
- Submit your proposals to:

Emilie Wolfe
e.wolfe@locbsd.ca

Grant Application for Registration to the Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone (H): _____ (W): _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____

School Division: _____

Years of Teaching Experience: _____

Signature: _____

This grant is available to beginning teachers in their first two years of teaching. The SRC will pay the cost of your SRC registration for the 2014 Conference. Three people will receive the grant by random draw.

To be eligible for the grant you must:

1. Be a current member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
2. A first or second year teacher.
3. Write an article for the SRC's publication *Query* by the Fall of 2014.

Submit your applications to:

Sherri Sieffert
Box 682
Melville, SK S0A 2P0
Email: ts.sieffert@sasktel.net

Applications must be received by January 15, 2014.

Membership Application

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Invites you to renew before March 1 (To receive a full year of benefits!)

Benefits of SRC membership includes:

- Professional journal *Query*, featuring many literacy articles and bonuses
- Opportunities for Professional Development
- *Young Saskatchewan Writers'* publication of K-12 writings
- Literacy programs such as "Read to Me" and other local programs
- Informative speakers and exciting author visits
- Additional savings in SRC conference fees



Please check your choice

- Regular \$25.00
- Student \$10.00
- Institution \$20.00

Send Your Membership Application/Renewal Form Today

The following information is required to register as a member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out newsletters and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information. The information will be kept on file for a period of two years past expiration date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____ First Time Member Renewal Membership

If renewal, any information changes (eg. address): _____

School Division: _____ Local Council (if known): _____

Type of Membership: Regular \$25.00 Student \$10.00 Institution \$20.00 Amount Paid: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) Please return your form along with payment to:

SRC Membership
Sherri Sieffert
Box 682
Melville, SK S0A 2P0
ts.sieffert@sasktel.net

School Reading Liaison Form

The SRC invites each school to select one enthusiastic literacy teacher on staff to receive a **FREE** Saskatchewan Reading Council membership for the 2013/14 year. This teacher will become the School Liaison for the SRC and local council.



The SRC is an awesome professional growth opportunity for teachers interested in the areas of language arts, reading instruction, and the promotion of effective literacy in schools. Become a member today!

Your 2013/14 Membership Benefits include:

Professional journal *Query* featuring many literacy articles and bonuses
Opportunities for Professional Development *Young Saskatchewan Writers' Publication* of K-12 writings
Literacy programs such as "Read to Me" and other local programs
Informative speakers and exciting author visits as well as additional savings in SRC conference fees.

We ask that the teacher who receives this membership be a literacy leader in your school by displaying local council promotional posters and literacy information.

The following information is required to register as a member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out journals or newsletters and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information. This information will be kept on file for a period of two years past expiration date.

School Name and Principal: **(REQUIRED!)** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____ First Time Member Renewal

If renewal, any information changes (e.g., address): _____

School Division: _____ Local Council (if known): _____

Membership: Regular Student Institution Amount Paid: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) Please return your form along with payment to:

SRC Membership
c/o Sherri Sieffert
Box 682
Melville, SK S0A 2P0
ts.sieffert@sasktel.net

Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards

Support SYRCA with your membership donation. Choose your level of support!



Make cheques payable to:

SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc

Mail to: 2832 WASCANA ST., REGINA SK S4S 2G8

Please indicate amount enclosed. A tax receipt will be issued.

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone (h.): _____ Phone (w.): _____

Email Address: _____

SRC Prairie Lily Award

The Prairie Lily Award will be presented annually to local councils who choose to participate, and fulfill all requirements of the award prior to the Annual General Meeting.

A certificate and a monetary award, to be determined by the yearly budget, will be presented to all eligible councils at the year-end meeting or the Fall Leadership meeting.

Requirements:

- Maintain 60 per cent of membership or increase membership by 20 per cent.
- Fulfill Conference Committee responsibilities
- Provide representation at all Executive Meetings
- Participate in the Read to Me Program
- Contribution of local council news in *Query**
- Report of local council officers to the IRA Coordinator by AGM*

AND at least 5 of the following:

- A professional development event
- A community service event
- A special event for students
- Participation in an International Project
- An Image Brochure (please attach)
- Honor Council participation
- International Literacy Day Project
- Submit contributions to *Young Saskatchewan Writers' Publication*
- Other:

**Please note that these are now a requirement of the Prairie Lily Award*

Submit this form to the SRC President before the Annual General Meeting – deadline May 1 – Presentation at Fall Meeting.

International Reading Association Application Deadlines for Awards & Programs

Information about these awards is carried each year in an issue of *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, *Lectura y vida*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, and/or *Reading Today*. Also, see the IRA website at www.reading.org for further information.

*Advocacy Award	October 15
Albert J. Harris Award	September 15
Arbuthnot Award	October 15
*Award of Excellence	March 1
Broadcast Media Awards for Television	January 7
Constance McCullough Award	October 1
Developing Country Literacy Project Support Fund Grant	October 1
Dina Feitelson Research Award	September 15
Eleanor M. Johnson Award	November 15
Elva Knight Research Grant	January 15
*Exemplary Reading Program Award	November 15
*Exemplary Reading Program Intent to Participate Form	June 1
Gertrude Whipple Professional Development Program	Open
Helen M. Robinson Grant	January 15
Honor Council Award	March 1
Honor Council Intent to Participate Form	October 15
International Citation of Merit Award	October 15
IRA Children's Book Awards	November 1
IRA John Chorlton Manning Public Service Award	December 15

IRA Presidential Award for Reading & Technology	November 15
Jeanne S.Chall Research Fellowship	January 15
Leen Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award	December 1
Local Council Community Service Award	October 31
Nila Banton Smith Award	November 15
Nila Banton Smith Research Dissemination Support Grant	January 15
Officer Report Form for Councils	April 15
Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award	October 1
Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award	October 15
Paul A. Witty Short Story Award	December 1
Print Media Award	January 15
Reading/Literacy Research Fellowship	January 15
Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Award	November 1
Special Institutes, Seminars and Conference Proposals	Open
Special Service Award	October 15
Teacher as Researcher Grant	January 15
William S. Gray Citation of Merit	October 15

**Provincial Council Only*

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Lifetime Achievement Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to honour an individual who has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

1. Qualifications

- Nominee must have been an active member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and/or literacy development in Saskatchewan and/or Canada through active participation or innovative ideas and/or directive organization.

2. Nominations

- Nominations will be received until November 30.
- Nominations from local councils or the provincial executive will be accepted.
- Two Saskatchewan Reading Council members must support nominations.
- A concise written presentation about the nominee will accompany the nomination form.
- A committee, chaired by the past president, will be formed to examine the nominations.
- Nominations will be brought before the provincial executive at the January meeting and be voted on only by the provincial executive board.

3. Presentation of Award

- The recipient of the lifetime achievement award will publicly receive a plaque and corsage as well as a free lifetime membership to the SRC. All arrangements are to be made by the past president.
- The award will be presented at the annual reading conference at a time and place to be decided upon by the conference chairperson and past president.
- The recipient's family will be invited to attend.

4. Follow-Up

- The name of the recipient, picture and a short biography will be published in *Query*, the *Saskatchewan Bulletin* and the SRC website.
- The past president will confirm with the membership director that the STF maintains an up-to-date membership list of lifetime achievement award recipients.

5. General Considerations

- The entire management and presentation of the award will be the responsibility of the past president.
- There is no obligation to present the award each year.
- The past president will invite lifetime members to the conference each year. They will receive a free conference registration.

Saskatchewan Reading Council Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee:	_____
Address of Nominee:	_____ _____ _____
Phone Number of Nominee:	_____
Fax Number of Nominee:	_____

Please provide a written rationale as to why the above stated person should be considered for the Saskatchewan Reading Council Lifetime Achievement Award. Rationale should not exceed one page in length.

Name of Nominators:	1) _____	2) _____
Address of Nominators:	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Phone Number of Nominators:	_____	_____
Fax Number of Nominators:	_____	_____

Applications must be received on or before November 30 and should be sent to:

Lynda Gellner
SRC Past President
lynda.gellner@rbe.sk.ca

The above information will only be used for the stated purposes of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and will follow the guidelines of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Privacy Policy as stated on our website (www.saskreading.com).

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Administrator's Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize and foster school based, professional and academic literacy support given by a Saskatchewan educational administrator.

1. Qualifications

- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the growth, support and development of school-based literacy in Saskatchewan through active participation or innovative ideas and/or directive organization in an administrative role.

2. Nominations

- Nominations will be received until January 15.
- Two nominators must be current SRC members and the nomination must be supported by the local reading council.
- A concise written presentation about the nominee will accompany the nomination form.
- Nominations will be brought before the provincial executive at the January meeting and be voted on only by the provincial executive board.
- A nomination form will be displayed in *Query*, and will be available on the SRC website. Forms are also available by contacting a Local Council President or an Executive Member of the SRC.
- All those nominated will receive recognition of their nomination.

3. Presentation of Award

- The recipient of the Administrator's Award will be awarded a plaque at the annual SRC conference. They will also receive a free conference registration and one year SRC membership.

4. Follow-Up

- The name of the recipient, a picture and a short biography will be published in *Query*, the *Saskatchewan Bulletin* and the SRC website.

5. General Considerations

- The entire management and presentation of the award will be the responsibility of the president.
- The Award recipient will be notified by the President of the SRC.
- There is no obligation to present the award each year.

Saskatchewan Reading Council Administrator's Award Nomination Form

The purpose of this award is to recognize and foster school based, professional and academic literacy support given by a Saskatchewan educational administrator.

Name of Nominee: _____

Academic Institution Information

Name of Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Please provide a written rationale as to why the above stated person should be considered for the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Administrator's Award. Rationale should not exceed one page in length.

Nominator Information (2 persons)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Applications must be received on or before January 15 and should be sent to:

Lynda Gellner
SRC Past President
lynda.gellner@rbe.sk.ca

The above information will only be used for the stated purposes of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and will follow the guidelines of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Privacy Policy as stated on our website (www.saskreading.com).

Does Your School Receive the Recognition It Deserves?

Do These Statements Describe Your School
and Its Reading/Language Arts Program?

Exemplary Reading Program Award

- The reading program is consistent with sound theory, research, and practice
- The reading program facilitates student learning.
- Students have access to a wide variety of reading materials.
- Students demonstrate success in reading.
- Comprehension strategies are taught and applied across the curriculum.
- Listening, speaking, viewing, and writing are being integrated into the reading program.
- Administrators provide leadership and vision for the building and/or district reading program.
- The school and/or district offers support services to the program.
- Literacy activities occur outside of school.
- The community is involved in the reading program.

Through its Exemplary Reading Program Award, in cooperation with state/provincial councils, the INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION honors schools for outstanding service to reading and literacy education.

Call 302-731-1600, extension 236,
for more information.

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Have you applied for the Local Council Community Service Award?

You should if you can say “yes” to these questions about your community service project.

Local Council Community Service Award

- Is it unique and creative?
- Does it have impact on your community?
- Are your council members involved?
- Could it be replicated by others?

Help Your Council Receive the Recognition It Deserves

The INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION, through its Local Council Community Service Award program, will honour councils for outstanding service to their communities and to literacy. Monetary prizes are sponsored by SCHOLASTIC, INC.

Call 302-731-1600, extension 236, for more information.

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Past Presidents of the Saskatchewan Reading Council

1969	R.E. Stephenson	1992	Leona Burkhart
1970	David Lockerbie	1993	Marilyn Keerak
1971	Karen Holm	1994	Connie Tenaski
1972	Sr. Juliana Heisler	1995	Ramona Stillar
1973	Marie B. Spate	1996	Connie Watson
1974	Howard Klein	1997	Dianne McLeod
1975	Carol Caswell	1998	Gloria Antifaiff
1976	Ron Gruending	1999	Leslie Widdifield-Konkin
1977	Joan Ball	2000	Adele Oway
1978	Dennis Strauss	2001	Kim Stewart
1979	Bill Prentice	2002	Donna Humbert
1980	Ken Holliday	2003	Andrea Hnatiuk
1981	Lee Warkentin	2004	Karen Lind
1982	Lynn Taylor	2005	Pat Selvig
1983	Louisa Kozey	2006	Pam Foy
1984	Shirley Magdalin	2007	Sharon Conner
1985	Joanne McCabe	2008	Tammie Latimer
1986	Agnes Rolheiser	2009	Shelly Galloway
1987	Eleanor Vogeli	2010	Nicole Lefebvre
1988	Neville Hosking	2011	Lynda Gellner
1990	Amber McLeod	2012	Gisèle Carlson
1991	Norm Waters		

SRC Provincial Executive 2013-2014

Pam Foy – Treasurer

Gisele Carlson – President

Karen Koroluk – Vice President

Lynda Gellner – Past President

Heather Hobbs – Secretary

Sherri Sieffert – Membership Director

Magi McFadden – *Query* Editor

Gloria Antifaiff – International Reading Association Coordinator

Emilie Wolfe – Conference Chair

Joan Bue – *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Coordinator

Kira Fladager – Communications Director

SRC Annual Conference Coordinators – Tana Arnott and Amanda Hassen

**Saskatchewan Reading
Council**

*45th Annual Reading
Conference*

Learning to Read, Reading to Learn

Keynotes include:

Richard Allington

Debbie Silver

Eric Wilson

**The North West Reading Council
is pleased to be hosting the Saskatchewan
Reading Council's 45th Annual Reading
Conference.**

**More information will be available on the
Saskatchewan Reading Council Website @
<http://saskreading.com/>**

April 3&4

2014

Radisson Hotel—Saskatoon