



QUERY

The Saskatchewan Reading Council



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- Summer Literacy Camp
- Multiple Methods of Teaching Reading
- Reading Books to Babies
- Book Reviews:
If You Give a Dog a Donut Shoe - La - La
Read, Write, Think: Choices and Challenges in the Reading-Writing Workshop
- Saskatchewan Reading Conference

2014-2015
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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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A Special Subject Council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
A Council of the International Reading Association

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Editor's Message

Magi McFadden



Reading....It's a Lifestyle! is the theme of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's (SRC) annual conference being held in Regina at the Delta Hotel April 23-24, 2015. The Fall/Winter issue of *Query* focuses on reading as a lifestyle encompassing lifestyle elements of professional development, lifelong learning, recreation, spiritual growth

and personal fulfilment through related experiential, listening, speaking, writing or viewing endeavours. It focuses on professional perspective, professional endeavours and practical initiatives aimed at achieving success in literacy with children through leadership efforts of community members, policy-makers, educators, writers, librarians, parents and students at the global, national, provincial and local level. In *The International Reading Council Leadership Academy 2014*, Karen Koroluk describes the impact of professional development that emphasizes leadership occurring at the International Reading Association's (IRA) annual leadership academy which saw teachers from the world over learning together in Tampa, Florida for the betterment of childhood literacy. SRC president – Karen Koroluk, SRC treasurer – Pam Foy and SRC membership directors – Sherri Sieffert and Sherry Shumay enjoyed the Florida sunshine while enthusiastically networking to share innovative initiatives for increasing student literacy.

Highlights of the fall leadership meeting of the provincial SRC executive, discussed in *Multiple Methods of Teaching Reading*, delineates the International Reading Association's definition of a skilled teacher of reading as a professional who understands reading as a complex system of deriving meaning from print requiring motivation, strategic thinking, background information, vocabulary, fluency, phonics and decoding skills; and as a teacher who can assess students and adjust a balance of methods so that students are taught what they need to learn. Striving to achieve and maintain excellence in literacy throughout the province, the SRC devoted time and effort at their fall leadership meeting to revisit strategic goals, establish priorities to best serve the needs of SRC members and plan an exciting calendar of events for the school year. At the SRC fall leadership meeting, SRC executives revisited, updated and revised a strategic plan to shape the council's future direction, spearhead literacy initiatives and measure success. With an up-to-date 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. Check out the calendar of events, *What's Happening Around Saskatchewan?*, for dates and locations of SRC literacy events throughout the province!

Making literacy experiences available for children of all ages is a priority for the SRC. In *Reading Books to Babies*, Magi McFadden describes teen parent perspectives on the importance of baby read alouds. Teen moms reported that the most important thing about reading to their babies was realizing how much their babies liked to hear the stories read aloud in the voice of their mother. For these teen moms the experience of excitement and joy expressed by their babies during baby read alouds of SRC Read to Me Books was profoundly meaningful. They believed that by being a reading role model for their babies, their babies were happily developing language and reading skills, skills critical to successful lifelong learning. In *Summer Literacy Camp*, Karen Koroluk describes the benefits of literacy learning during summer months for children from struggling socio-economic circumstances as that of literacy-based language development and eradication of the reading achievement decline typically occurring during the summer months for children with few or no books in their homes. The summer literacy initiative provided fun-filled literacy experiences for a group of very happy young campers.

For *Query* readers seeking "good reads" for young children, *Shoe-La-La*, has been reviewed. This lighthearted, fun-loving, energetic story is about the real-life matter of shopping for the perfect pair of shoes. Author, Karen Beaumont's and illustrator Leuyen Pham's book will appeal to girls of all ages who love to go shopping accompanied, of course, by friends. Brimming with colorful fun-filled activity, this story has a constructive message that will appeal to young and old alike. Written in the exuberant "If You Give..." style, *If You Give a Dog a Donut* is another blockbuster success from the beloved partnership of writer Laura Numeroff and illustrator Felicia Bond who are well known for, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*. Another circular story with a definite boy slant, the action-filled pictures depict the lovable main character with demanding canine personality and boundless energy as he dances his way through the pages of this delightful book. For members seeking professional reading, this issue of *Query* includes a review of *Read, Write, Think: Choices and Challenges in the Reading-Writing Workshop* written by Linda Rief. Whether a veteran teacher or a beginning teacher, this book offers a multitude of ideas to enhance reading and writing instruction by giving students choice in what they read and write. Linda maintains that when students are offered choices, they are more likely to be actively engaged in their work.

continued on page 2

President's Report

Karen Koroluk



Welcome to another year full of learning and literacy! I am excited to serve as president for the 2014-2015 council year. There is so much talent among individuals on this council. Every time we get a chance to share the wonderful literacy events and projects happening in our various areas of Saskatchewan, I know

that all members come away energized and inspired to get out and do more.

This is a time of exciting change within our International Reading Association, soon to become the International Literacy Association. We look forward to the unveiling of this new name in St. Louis in July. In the meantime, we will be busy planning our own conference, spreading the importance of reading to young children, and participating in our own professional reading circles. Our councils are always looking for new members to share our passion. Spread the word and tap some shoulders of your passionate colleagues. Let's transform lives through literacy!

Past President's Report

Gisèle Carlson



We began this year with a meeting in Saskatoon in September. At this meeting, we were able to make some exciting, solid plans for the coming year concerning our budget, our annual conference in April, and our strategic plan. Our two-year strategic plan began in September 2013 and will be completed by July 2015. We are excited about the direction that this plan takes us and the opportunities for discussion it has provided us over the past year. We decided to continue with monthly conference calls in order to stay better connected and to reduce our costs for face-to-face meetings. I'm looking forward to seeing many members in Regina at our annual conference "Reading... It's a Lifestyle" on April 23-24, 2015.

Editor's Message continued

The value in this "good read" is in the practical information imparted about how reading and writing workshops are successfully set up for optimal student learning. Although a particularly good resource for teachers of students in middle years, this book is an easy read and guaranteed to add tools to any teacher's toolkit.

Remember to mark your calendar for the 2015 Saskatchewan Reading Council's annual conference. The conference, *Reading...It's a Lifestyle!* will be held at the Delta Hotel in Regina, April 23-24, 2015. Be sure to join us for the Saskatchewan Reading Council's annual festival of professional development!

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.

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 Emilie Wolfe at e.wolfe@locsd.ca.

Vice President's Report

Sherri Sieffert



This year I am moving into a new role, that of Vice-President. I have been the membership director for the past four years and feel it is time to move onto other roles.

I had the pleasure of traveling to Tampa, Florida for the IRA Council Leadership Academy with my colleagues, Karen Koroluk, Sheri Shumay and Pam Foy from July 10 to 12. At the academy we attended workshops on strategic planning, organizational management, effective leadership, membership, communication and role-alike sessions. As well we were given the opportunity to meet as a council to discuss areas that were an issue to us. I appreciated the chance to attend the academy and would like to thank the Saskatchewan Reading Council for funding the workshop.

On September 20, I attended the STF Special Subject Council Day. Many items were on the agenda. Some of the highlights for me were the Pathways to Learning, which has the goal of teachers deciding and identifying learning resources for Saskatchewan curriculums, the special project grants from other councils and the breakout session on finding value in membership.

I look forward to working closely with Karen and all the other members of the Saskatchewan Reading Council to promote literacy within the province of Saskatchewan and to provide professional development opportunities to teachers.

Communication Director's Report

Kira Fladager



The Saskatchewan Reading Council is continuing with the commitment to connect with our membership in many ways. Our website saskreading.com is undergoing development to better meet the needs of members and now provides direct links to support local councils, access information about the upcoming Saskatchewan

Reading Conference, and download past *Query* publications. We are also on twitter @SaskReading where we can share information about literacy and council events with the global community. Social media was effectively used at last year's reading conference with many people connecting on Twitter through #skread2014. It was a great way to share our learning and reflect on the conference. Six Saskatoon students from grades 8 and 9 called "The Athenians" (named after the goddess of wisdom, Athena) attended the conference to provide a 'student point of view'. They tweeted event details, interviewed speakers and guests, and wrote blog entries. This year, we will continue to expand our digital presence as a council in order to share our mission of promoting the development of literacy in our province.

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.

Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report

Joan Bue



We had another very successful year for our Young Saskatchewan Writers (YSW) in 2013-14!

We received writing from eight of our nine council areas (North Central was not able to submit any writing for a second year). Poems, stories, essays and personal narratives from Grades 1 through 12 were sent in.

A huge thank you to each council and their YSW reps – you all did an awesome job of formatting the writing and inserting pictures for the 2013-14 publication. This made my job as coordinator very easy. So thank you for that!

The writing, as always was a pleasure to read through. We have such talented young people in our province!

Writing is truly alive and well in Saskatchewan schools! So thank you to all the teachers that take the time to teach the craft of writing, choose those special pieces of writing to publish, thereby encouraging our next generation of writers. The publication was well received by writers, families and school libraries.

The 2014-15 Young Saskatchewan Writers has gotten off to a slow start this year. Information will be going out to all councils very shortly. The writing poster will be posted on-line along with each council's YSW representative's information.

I am looking forward to another year full of great writing from our students! Thank you to the Saskatchewan Reading Council, as well as all of the teachers who help make this project possible.

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.

- One bookmark about READING
- One booklet "For the Love of Reading" from the Saskatchewan Literacy Network
- LOVE OF READING bag

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

Read-to-Me Bags

To be given to children:

- 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.

Approximate costs:

- One book from Scholastic
- One letter to parents with information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council and ideas on how to read to children

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

Local Council Reports



Kewetin Nene Reading Council

Debby Noble, President

The Kewetin Nene Reading Council has had a busy start to the school year – as usual! We held our Annual General Meeting on

October 15, during the 2014 Northern Area Teachers Association (NATA) convention in Prince Albert. At our AGM we made plans for a number of literacy promotions, membership recruitment, and professional development activities for this school year.

All new teachers to Northern Lights School Division received a personal invitation to join the reading council. Again this year we want to focus on recruiting more members from First Nations band schools. We are also pleased to welcome new NORTEP student members to KNRC. To raise awareness about KNRC, and recruit new members, we had a display table and draws for 'Book Baskets', including Willow Books, at the NATA convention.

Some of the other activities planned for the year include promoting a Reading Challenge for Family Literacy Day in January 2015, as well as participating in the Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS) Northern Reading Program. KNRC is promoting participation in the Willow Awards program - a variety of fun activities are happening in the schools. We are making plans to sponsor a Spoken Word Poetry Workshop for teachers in March 2015 – stay tuned!

Again this year, we are encouraging teachers to support young authors by submitting student writing for the SRC Young Saskatchewan Writers program. The SRC Read-To-Me program is another way we promote literacy within our communities – our NORTEP student members help us with the important task of getting books into northern homes.

Our council is looking forward to the 2015 SRC Conference in Regina. We will be encouraging northern teachers to attend this wonderful conference.

Northwest Reading Council

Emilie Wolfe, President



The Northwest Reading Council has started up under a new Executive. We have been working hard to learn what the council offers its members and have been trying to promote the SRC in our region.

One way that we have been promoting the council is by hosting the 45th Annual SRC Conference 2014. The majority of our time has been focused on the conference and the planning that comes with it.

Through the planning of the conference our council has planned according to the SRC Strategic Plan:

- To encourage and support leadership at local and provincial levels;
- To provide members with professional development and knowledge of the latest research in literacy; and
- To promote and publicize the programs of the IRA/SRC;

Our council was involved in planning the annual SRC conference with local councils involved. The SRC was involved in the planning, the budget and any items that needed an executive decision.

Our council participated in the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* and submitted writing to the provincial coordinator and will be hosting a dessert and tea Author night at the end of May. We look forward to next year as we now have a better understanding of the SRC and strategic plan.

Thank you to the Northwest executive members Robyn Derenoski, Natasha Nichol, Jordan Lamon and Annette Jangula for their love of reading.



Moose Jaw and District Reading Council

Tana Arnott, President

The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council has a busy year ahead of us. 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. As well, we are expanding our Read to Me program to include children in daycares and a program for school-aged parents. It is important that all young children are read to and that we educate those parents on the importance of doing so. Due to the popular demand of the Paper Back Book Exchange in our council, many schools have now started hosting the exchange on their own during education week. This has been a great success and has given many books new homes.

We launched our first summer reading program within Moose Jaw, and we were pleased with the response we received. We had a bin of books at all of the playground program sites and youth activity centres in the city through a partnership with the City of Moose Jaw Parks and Recreation Department. This allowed books to be in the hands of students during the summer months and

allowed them to either read at the park or borrow the book to take home. We will continue to work with this program next summer.

We will also host a Professional Development Workshop for increasing interest in reading for pleasure for our students. We have partnered with the Moose Jaw Public Library to host events for teachers to learn more about reading in their classroom and to learn how the Public Library can support reading in their classroom. 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.

Our Council has taken on a large task with hosting the Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2015 in Regina on April 23-24 at Delta Regina. This year's theme "Reading ... It's a Lifestyle" incorporates the importance of reading every day and making it a part of our daily routine. We are extremely excited for this opportunity, and I would like to thank Amanda Hassen (Consultant with Holy Trinity) for helping me co-chair this event. I could not be doing this without her.

Our council continues to grow, and we continue to expand our ideas to match the goals of our division, as well as our council.

We look forward to an exciting year!

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



Southwest Reading Council

Jennifer Lundsten, President

Another school year is speeding away. The SWRC started the year by distributing over 1000 plastic book bags to K-3 students throughout southwest Saskatchewan. We were very excited to get such an overwhelming response from primary teachers. The response to the SRC liaison program was a surprise as well. We are happy to welcome a dozen new teachers to our local council area.

Through the year, members will be receiving information on our programs including:

- *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Publication
- Read to Me – books delivered to Pre-K students in our area to encourage reading at home
- Saskatchewan Reading Conference in Regina this spring

If you have any ideas to improve literacy in your school please share them with us. We are continually looking for ways to help teachers and students throughout the southwest. We can be contacted through our email at swrc@hotmail.ca.

Hope to see you all at the SRC conference this spring!



South Saskatchewan Reading Council

Gisele Carlson, President

The SSRC serves teachers in school divisions in and around Regina. I'm pleased to report that we have another full executive and exciting program this year. A special welcome to our new executive member, Michael, who has accepted the position of University Liaison. This has been a valuable position for us over the past few years as it helps us to make connections with Education students and with new teachers. Thanks for joining us, Michael!

Our program for this coming year includes a Christmas meeting and Social, Young Writers submissions and Young Authors Night, a professional book club discussion, Read to Me, and many others. One of our projects is the Get Well Soon Literacy Kits. We offer these kits to students who are needing to stay at home from school for extended periods of time because of illness. Teachers can request a kit for a deserving student and parents really appreciate the support when they have a sick child.

For more information on our council, please email me at gisele.carlson@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook at South Saskatchewan Reading Council.

Be Connected!

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



South East Reading Council

Joan Bue, President

Our council began the year with an author visit to our area during Saskatchewan Library Week, October 20-24, 2014. Linda

Aksomitis visited many schools in the South East area. She spoke to students from Grades 3-12 about her books and writing career. She enjoyed her visit very much to our area and wrote a great article about her travels in the South East. We enjoyed hosting her as well!

We have been recruiting new liaisons in our area and managed to sign up several 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 five very successful evenings last year and our council is hoping to get some funding from Raise a Reader to continue with this excellent program again this year.

There are other schools in our council area that are interested in Family Literacy Evenings, so hopefully this idea will spread to other communities and we can encourage literacy learning from an early age and include the whole family in the literacy experience.

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

Saskatoon and District Reading Council

Courtney Thornhill, President

The Saskatoon and District Reading Council is excited to start this year off with a bang! Our executive continues to expand, bringing fresh faces and new ideas to our council. This year we plan to focus on Professional Development for our teachers in and around the city. Our hope is to promote literacy, offer resources and suggest new and innovated teaching strategies. Although we are currently brainstorming, our hope is to offer a PD session this winter and another one in the spring that will focus on the needs and interests of our members and teachers in the area.

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday October 8 at Confederation Park School. We plan to continue to support the programs of Read to Me and Young Saskatchewan Writers this year. The AGM will also be used to gather information and ideas for our PD session in the winter and spring.

This year we will also focus on better ways to expand our membership and promote our council. Post cards have been made illustrating our goals and accomplishments. These postcards have been sent out to the Beginning Teachers' Orientation and to schools around the city. We will look into different forms of advertising and promoting our PD sessions throughout the year.

Our current executive council this year includes:

- President: Courtney Thornhill
- Vice President: Stephanie Ochitwa
- Treasurer: Najla Akl
- Secretary: Nikki Welder
- Membership Directors: Lee Jacobson, Paula Klein, Heather Robertson
- Members at Large: Barb Alberton, Shella Gonzales, Lindsey Bowkowsky

We are looking forward to this year of growth and learning.

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

The International Reading Association Leadership Academy 2014

Karen Koroluk

Karen Koroluk is a teacher at Sacred Heart School in Regina, Saskatchewan with Regina Catholic Schools and a member of South Saskatchewan local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC). Karen is currently serving as president of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, a special subject council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and an affiliate of the International Reading Council. The International Reading Association Leadership Academy was held in Tampa, Florida during July 2014. The academy offered two days of leadership training to assist councils with conference planning, effective leadership and strategic planning. According to our provincial SRC president, participants were also provided opportunities for networking with professionals from across North America, also committed to promoting literacy.

Four Saskatchewan Reading Council executive members Pam Foy, Sheri Shumay, Sherri Sieffert, and Karen Koroluk had the pleasure of attending the International Reading Association Leadership Academy in Tampa, Florida in July. The academy offered two very full days of interesting sessions on such topics as organizing councils, conference planning, effective leadership, and strategic planning. Participants were also given opportunity to meet in role alike sessions to network and idea share with professionals from across the United States as well as a few other provinces.

The intense-paced academy was informative as well as interactive. The members from the International Reading Association were very approachable and made themselves available throughout the academy to answer questions and discuss needs unique to different councils. One of the highlights was the Council Academy Awards Dinner and Ceremony to end the event. There, several American councils received recognition for projects promoting literacy in their communities. This inspired the participants to look at all of the great ways literacy is promoted in our province and discuss ways of having Saskatchewan acknowledged internationally.

After the academy, the attending members finally got a chance to experience the Florida sun by exploring the shops, outdoor lounges, and beaches. It was agreed that this was a phenomenal experience to learn, network, and bond with one another. The four ladies came back a little tired, a little sun-burned, but with a lot of enthusiasm for a new council year.



Left to Right: Sherri Sieffert, Sheri Shumay, Karen Koroluk, Pam Foy

Summer Literacy Camp

Karen Koroluk

Karen Koroluk is a teacher at Sacred Heart Community School in Regina, Saskatchewan with Regina Catholic Schools and a member of South Saskatchewan local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC). Karen is currently serving as president of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, a special subject council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and an affiliate of the International Reading Council. The Sacred Hearts Community School Summer Literacy Camp initiative spearheaded by a team of dedicated teachers was held for the third successive year in Regina during July/August 2014 for children in Kindergarten to Grade Three. Focused on empowering students from struggling socio-economic circumstances by providing literacy-based language development learning activities for Little Heart Campers Kindergarten-Grade 1 and at eradicating the reading loss typically occurring during the summer months for Big Heart Campers Grade 2-3, these dedicated Regina teachers provided fun-filled summer literacy experiences for twenty-three enthusiastic young Saskatchewan readers creating a group of very happy campers.

After attending the Saskatchewan Reading Conference in the spring of 2014, many teachers were inspired to get back to school and get into action. One particular speaker that hit home with the attending staff members from Sacred Heart Community School in north central Regina was Dr. Dick Allington, author of *Summer Reading: Closing the Rich/Poor Reading Achievement Gap*. Dr. Allington spoke specifically of ways to empower students from struggling socio-economic circumstances to keep them reading during the summer months. He spoke of the deficiency of books in the homes of these students and sparked ideas on how that can change. Principal Starla Grebinski wasted no time getting on the phone to spread the word that these students needed books for the summer, books to call their own. The word got out and literally hundreds of books, most very current and almost new, began to pile onto tables in the halls of Sacred Heart School. The last week in June, teachers brought their classes through with shopping bags and allowed each child to self-select 10-15 books. Words cannot do justice to the reaction from some of these students. "I have NEVER had this many books in my life" was heard more once.

Dr. Allington also spoke of the "summer slide" and the oral language experience piece in reading achievement. This got the attention of the Sacred Heart teachers as well, as summer literacy camps have been offered for the past three years. This summer was bigger and better thanks to funding from the United Way, support from Regina Catholic Schools and the North Central Family Centre. The SHCS Little Hearts Literacy Camp, for students entering Kindergarten or grade one, was July 21-August 1. The SHCS Big Hearts Camp, for grades two and three students, was August 4-15. Three teachers from Sacred Heart School; Lindsay Shaw, Amanda Heisler, and Karen Koroluk planned and ran the programs.

Fourteen Little Hearts Campers took part in language and literacy based activities. Some of the highlights of the ten days include: rock star day, learning about other countries, dressing up like superheroes with special powers, gardening, becoming bug experts, and digging for dinosaur bones. At the start of camp, a list of "big words" was started. As new vocabulary came up, the list grew and eventually filled a whole chalkboard. Campers sang, played, discussed, explored books, and created. Trips outside of the community expanded experiences on some of the themes. The Regina International Airport, the new Dinosaur Playground in Harbour Landing, and the Regina Community Gardens were a few of the much enjoyed outings. The relaxed environment and high teacher/student ratios gave each child great opportunity for self-expression.

The goal for the Big Hearts Camp this year was to recover the reading loss which typically happens to students during summer months. Therefore, the Big Hearts Camp included assessment and individualized, intense reading instruction, as well as a home reading assignment. Students were benchmarked at the start of camp and again at the end. The entry data certainly supports that summer slide exists. Morning lessons included all decoding strategies simultaneously and a focus comprehension strategy each day. These nine campers worked very hard and proved successful in meeting goals. Every other day included an afternoon adventure, purely for fun and friendship, to celebrate the dedicated reading time. These celebrations included DinoBouncers, the IMAX, Evraz pool, and discovering parks outside of the community.

The teachers say both camps exceeded their own expectations and credit the added support from the United Way for helping these programs evolve. Parents/Guardians also had very positive feedback and hope to see this remain a Sacred Heart School summer tradition. It is the feedback of the students themselves, however, that speaks the loudest. "I wish reading camp could go on forever", said one happy Big Heart Camper. Let the countdown to next summer begin!

Multiple Methods of Teaching Reading

Magi McFadden

Magi McFadden is a literacy numeracy catalyst 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 (SRC). Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, a special subject council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and an affiliate of the International Reading Council. The Saskatchewan Reading Council's fall executive meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon in September. Council president, Karen Koroluk, provided leadership as SRC executive members and local council presidents participated in strategic planning to clarify and prioritize council goals and establish the 2014-2015 SRC Calendar of Events. The Calendar of Events in this issue of Query promises yet another year full of opportunities in literacy for SRC members throughout the province.

Instructional Methods for Teaching Reading

Multiple methods are available for teaching reading. Controversy surrounding reading methods has oft been intense as reading is important for the school children who are its focus of concern. Reading ability influences academic success across the school curriculum, and parents, teachers, and policy makers are right to be intensely concerned. The International Reading Association (2014) has developed a position statement intended to clarify the Association's stance on methods for teaching reading. In this position, a reading method is defined a set of teaching and learning materials and/or activities often given a label, such as phonics method, literature based method, or language experience method. The essence of the position is this:

There is no single method or single combination of methods that can successfully teach all children to read. Therefore, teachers must have a strong knowledge of multiple methods for teaching reading and a strong knowledge of the children in their care so they can create the appropriate balance of methods needed for the children they teach. (p. 1)

An effective reading program incorporates a variety of activities in order to give children positive attitudes toward literacy, as well as the knowledge, strategies, and skills they need to be successful readers. Studies point to a number of instructional practices that can promote literacy learning. The effectiveness of best practices are dependent upon on how well they fit with student need in learning to read. For example, students who already know letter-sound



SRC Strategic Planning

correspondences are not likely to benefit from instruction in phonemic awareness. Students who can use predictable language to read a book are not likely to benefit from the teacher reading aloud, as in shared reading. More salient questions focus on how these activities are combined and how much time should be devoted to each method.

Content of Reading Instruction

As there is no clearly documented best method to teach reading, it is the professionals who are closest to the students that are called upon to make decisions about what reading methods to use and how to flexibility modify these reading methods when students are not learning. Broad mandates intrude on or even replace professional decision making, resulting in instruction that is least responsive to student needs. The effects of such



SRC Calendar of Events

mandates are to reduce the quality of instruction in schools and classrooms and to limit the potential for all children to be successful in learning to read. At the provincial level policy makers support balanced approaches to literacy and provide resources that allow school divisions to provide professional development in reading instruction and resources that enable school divisions to provide appropriate reading material. Policy makers also support research on successful practice, derived from a range of perspectives and feature an inclusive definition of reading, such as that offered by the International Reading Association. Policy makers provide funding for the purchase of books that students can read on their own and enjoy. School divisions develop reading programs that meet the needs of all students. School divisions provide guidelines that ensure that all students are allotted adequate time for reading. School divisions enlist the support of parents in developing teachers' knowledge of their children and involve them in the academic progress of their children. School divisions show, using multiple measures, how school division and school resources have been used to improve student reading. Clearly efforts aimed at improvement of reading instruction provide professional development for teachers of reading rather than focus on a panacea in the form of methods or materials. The purpose of the Saskatchewan Reading Council is to provide opportunities for professional development for its members, recognize excellence through awards, raise awareness of literacy throughout the province, and facilitate literacy projects of benefit to students and community as well as teachers.

Research Support for Multiple Methods of Reading Instruction

There is a long-standing research base supporting professional development for teachers of reading. Several

large-scale studies of reading methods have shown that no one method is better than any other method in all settings and situations. For every method studied, some students learned to read very well while others had great difficulty. Children learn to read by a variety of materials and methods. Students become successful readers in such vastly different programs as the Language Experience approach with its relative lack of structure and vocabulary control and through various Linguistic programs with their relatively high degree of structure and vocabulary control. Furthermore, students experience difficulty in each of the programs utilized. No one approach is so distinctively better in all situations and in all respects than the others that it should be considered the one best method and the one to be used exclusively. Prevalent thinking in the field has moved away from either-or points of view about one method or one set of books to a realization that children learn in different ways, and that the processes of learning to read and reading are complex, and that aspects of reading instruction are multifaceted. A great deal of research evidence converges on the following definition of reading offered by the International Association of Reading:

Reading is a complex system of deriving meaning from print that requires all of the following:

- the development and maintenance of a motivation to read
 - the development of appropriate active strategies to construct meaning from print
 - sufficient background information and vocabulary to foster reading comprehension
 - the ability to read fluently
 - the ability to decode unfamiliar words
 - the skills and knowledge to understand how phonemes or speech sounds are connected to print.
- (p. 3)

A skilled teacher of reading is a professional who knows what this definition means, can assess students in light of the definition, and then can adjust the balance of methods so that each student is taught what he or she needs to learn.

Reference

International Reading Association, (Retrieved September 27, 2014). Using Multiple Methods of Beginning Reading Instruction: A Position Statement of the International Reading Association, International Reading Association, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA, www.reading.org.

Reading Books to Babies

Magi McFadden

Magi McFadden is a literacy numeracy catalyst 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 (SRC). Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, an affiliate of the International Reading Council and a special subject council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The Baby Read Aloud has been accomplished by efforts of volunteer teen moms in Minahik Waskahigan High School. Enjoy the sheer delight shared by participating teen moms as they provide their perspective of reading aloud to their babies. You will discover why the Read to Me initiative of the Saskatchewan Reading Council is a popular one indeed!

Benefits of Baby Read Alouds

Reading aloud to your baby is a wonderful shared activity that can be continued for many years. Reading aloud (Saskatchewan Literacy Network, 2014; Read to Me, 2014):

- Teaches a baby about communication;
- Develops listening, memory and vocabulary skills;
- Introduces new concepts such as letters, numbers, colors and shapes in an enjoyable way; and
- Gives babies information about the ever expanding world around them.

By the time our child has reached their first birthday, they will have learned all the words needed to speak their native language. The more stories you read aloud, the more words your child will be exposed to and the broader their receptive and expressive vocabulary. When you read aloud to your child, your child hears you using a wide range of emotions and expressive sounds, which promotes social and emotional development. Reading aloud also encourages your baby to look, point, touch, ask questions and obtain answers to questions, all of which develop thinking skills. Language skills are developed by imitating sounds, recognizing pictures and learning words and their meanings.

The most important reason to read aloud is that it strengthens the bond between the things your baby loves the most, your voice and physical closeness to you and, of course, books. Spending time reading to your baby clearly demonstrates that reading is a valuable skill, a skill worth learning. Cuddling during read alouds and reading aloud with enthusiasm, joy, excitement and pleasure helps your baby associate books with happiness. This is how budding readers are created.



SRC Read to Me Books

When and How to Read

Reading aloud is a great opportunity for you to bond with your baby! It doesn't take special skills or equipment (Figure 1. Strategies for Baby Read Alouds). All you need is just you, your baby and some books. Read aloud for a few minutes at a time, but do it often. Don't be concerned about finishing entire books, simply focus on pages that you and your baby enjoy the most.

Set aside time to read to your baby every day, perhaps before naptime and bedtime. In addition to the pleasure that cuddling your baby before bed gives both of you, you will also be making life easier for yourself in the future by establishing a routine that will calm your baby and set expectations about when it is time to sleep.

You may also choose to read at other times during the day. Prepare for baby read alouds by making sure your

baby is fed, dry and alert. Books may also come to the rescue when you are stuck waiting, so tuck some books in the diaper bag to fill time sitting at the doctor's office or standing in line at the grocery store (Project L.I.F.T., 2014a; Saskatchewan Literacy Network, 2014).

What to Read

Books for babies characteristically have simple, repetitive text and vivid colorful pictures. During the first few months of life, your child loves to hear the sound of your voice, so you can read almost anything, especially books with a rhyming text. As your baby becomes interested in looking at things, choose books with simple pictures against solid backgrounds. When your baby begins to reach and grasp, choose vinyl or cloth books with faces, bright colors and shapes. When your baby begins to respond to what is inside of books, add books with pictures of babies, familiar household objects and toys. When your child begins to sit up independently or eat finger foods, simple stories about daily routines surrounding bedtime, mealtime and bathtime are good choices. When your child starts talking, choose books

that provide opportunities for your child to repeat simple words or phrases. Books with mirrors, pop-up/fold-out books and those containing a variety of textures (ie. fluffy, smooth, scratchy, feathery, spongy, bumpy, knitted, stubbly, ribbed, soft, sandy, etc.) are also terrific for this age group. Babies of any age like photo albums with pictures of people they know and love. You will also want to ensure your child has a collection of favourite nursery rhymes. Having books around your home will ensure that your child grows up to be a reader. When your child is old enough to crawl and choose toys from a toy box, make sure there are books included in the toy box. Mothers of newborn babies in hospitals and/or at wellness clinics in Saskatchewan are provided with a *Read to Me* book bag containing two books and information from the Saskatchewan Reading Council about the benefits of reading aloud to their babies from birth (Saskatchewan Reading Council, 2014a,b). In addition to the books you own and receive as gifts, take advantage of those you may borrow from the library. Many libraries have storytimes just for babies (Quick, 2014; Read to Me, 2014). Be sure to pick up a book for yourself while you are there! Reading for pleasure is another means of being your baby's role model.

Figure 1. Strategies for Baby Read Alouds (Project L.I.F.T., 2014b)



Baby Read Alouds

Teen moms enjoy baby read alouds! Never was this more apparent than during our Baby Read Aloud at our local high school teen infant daycare. Teen moms participating in the Baby Read Aloud initiative shared their enthusiasm for baby read alouds and their appreciation of Read to Me (Saskatchewan Reading Council, 2014a, b) books in their responses to the following interview questions:

1. What were the prevailing themes of the *Read to Me* books you read to your baby?
2. What were your favourite parts of the books?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest rating, how much did you enjoy reading the books aloud to your baby?
4. What is the most important thing you learned by reading books aloud to your baby?

Content analysis of teen mom responses to interview questions revealed themes of central relevance (Berg, 1998). Individual themes expressed in a single word, a sentence or an entire interview that formed expressions of relevant ideas were used as primary units of analysis

for subsequent content analysis. Themes prominent in the interview data determined through qualitative analysis and strengthened by their quantitative frequency revealed the perspective of teen moms summarized in Figure 2. Baby Read Aloud: Interview Questions and Participants' Perspective. Teen moms maintained that books for babies characteristically have simple, repetitive text and many pictures. Their favorite book features were cheerful real life plots, vivid colourful pictures, repetition and simplicity. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest rating, teen moms rated their enjoyment of baby read alouds as 9 of 10 commenting that their babies also enjoyed read alouds and became happily excited by hearing books read aloud and seeing the pictures. Teen moms reported that the most important thing about reading to their babies was realizing how much their babes liked to hear the stories read aloud in their voice. For these teen moms the experience of excitement and joy expressed by their babies during baby read alouds was profoundly meaningful. They believed that by being their baby's reading role models, their babies were happily developing language and reading skills, skills critical to successful lifelong learning.

Figure 2. Baby Read Aloud: Interview Questions and Participants' Perspective (2014)

Question	Participants' Perspective
What were the prevailing themes of the <i>Read to Me</i> books you read to your baby?	Teen moms commented that <i>Read to Me</i> books contain short stories that can be read aloud within a few minutes and contain huge amounts of happiness with cheerful plots about real life family activities, childrens' needs and wants, and healthy living practices or routines. Teen moms also commented on prevalent themes of simplicity, repetition and vividly colorful pictures.
What were your favourite parts of the books?	Teen moms indicated that young reader plots were their favorite parts of the book. Comments made by teen moms included: "I really liked the story plots.", "The stories are cheerful and funny." and "The books are short and easy to read." Yet another teen mom indicated appreciation of "colourful pictures".
On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest rating, how much did you enjoy reading the books aloud to your baby?	On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest rating aggregated results of teen mom ratings was 9 of 10. Comments included: "I love reading to my baby...", "My baby gets so excited when I read to her...", "My baby likes to play with the books after I read them aloud..." and "My baby just likes being read to so much!"

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Question

What is the most important thing you learned by reading books aloud to your baby?

Participants' Perspective

The most frequently cited learning occurring during Baby Read Aloud participation reported by teen moms was the importance of the sheer enjoyment that their babies expressed during read alouds. Teen moms reported that they were delightfully surprised by the continued enjoyment of read alouds unabashedly expressed by their babies. One teen mom commented that she read aloud to her baby because she wanted her baby to be smart! Other comments made by teen moms focused on the importance of early literacy so that their children would grow up to be good readers.

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- Beaumont, K. (2011). *Shoe-la-la*. Toronto: Scholastic Inc.
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- Masessa, E. (2012). *Travel-size pups around the world*. Toronto: Scholastic Inc..
- Numeroff, L. (2011). *If you give a dog a donut*. NY: HarperCollins.
- Remkiewicz, F. (2011). *Gus makes a friend*. Toronto: Scholastic Inc.
- Shannon, D., Long, L., & Gordon, D. (2008). *Jon scieszka's trucktown. Zoom! Boom! Bully*. NY: Aladdin.
- Shine, E. (2011). *Racing rivals*. NY: Randon House.
- Steele, M. A. (2011). *Brewster's little helper*. Toronto: Scholastic Inc.
- Yolen, J. & Teague, M. (2011). *How do dinosaurs say happy birthday?* Toronto: Scholastic Inc.

If You Give a Dog a Donut

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author: Laura Numeroff
 Illustrator: Felicia Bond
 Format: Hardcover
 Publisher: HarperCollins
 Publisher Location: New York, U.S.A.
 Publication Date: 2011
 ISBN: 978-0-06-026683-7

Written in the exuberant “If You Give...” style, *If You Give a Dog a Donut* is another blockbuster success from the beloved partnership of writer Laura Numeroff and illustrator Felicia Bond who are well known for, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*. Another circular story with a definite boy slant, the action-filled pictures depict the lovable main character with demanding canine personality and boundless energy as he dances his way through the pages of this delightful book. If you give a dog a donut, he’ll ask for some apple juice to go with it. When you give him the juice, he’ll drink it all up and want seconds. Then before you know it the canine’s spiraling free association leads to a day filled with energetic outdoor activities before he is reminded of apple juice. Of course when asking for a glass of apple juice, chances are he’ll want a donut to go with it!

Shoe-La-La

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author: Karen Beaumont
 Illustrator: Leuyen Pham
 Format: Paperback
 Publisher: Scholastic Inc.
 Publisher Location: Toronto, Canada
 Publication Date: 2011
 ISBN: 978-0-545-45406-3

Shoe-La-La is a lighthearted, fun-loving, energetic story about the real-life matter of shopping for the perfect pair of shoes. This humorous story will appeal to girls of all ages who love to go on shopping expeditions accompanied by friends. On their quest to find the perfect pair of party shoes, these four flamboyant friends try on every shoe in the store. They try on shoes with zippers, shoes with straps, shoes with buckles and shoes

with taps but they just don’t know which shoes to buy. After trying on so many they decide they just don’t want any! Then with some feathers, ribbon, glitter and glue and a whole lot of ingenuity, the girls create the best shoes of all! This book, brimming with colorful fun-filled activity, has a constructive message that will appeal to young and old alike.

Read, Write, Teach: Choice and Challenge in the Reading-Writing Workshop

Reviewed by Sherri Sieffert

Author: Linda Rief
 Format: Paperback
 Publisher: Heinemann
 Publisher Location: Toronto, Canada
 Publication Date: 2014
 ISBN: 978-0-325-05360-8

“Writers do their best work when they are given **choice** about what they write and what they read, **time** to craft their writing and time to read, and **models** or examples of the finest writing from a variety of genres, professional writers and their peers.” (p. 19) Whether you are a veteran teacher or just a novice starting out, Linda Rief’s latest book *Read Write Teach: Choice and Challenge in the Reading Writing Workshop* offers a multitude of ideas to enhance reading and writing classes by giving students choice in what they read and write. When students are given choice, they are likely more engaged in their work.

Her passion for reading and writing permeates the book. “We have forgotten that a person can read without writing, but she cannot write without reading. If we neglect writing while focusing our attention almost exclusively on reading, it is also at the expense of reading. Writers are readers. If we really want to teach kids to be the strongest readers, they need to be taught how to be the strongest writers.”(p. 20) While the book outlines how to set up reading and writing workshop, there are many ideas and activities to help teachers with beginning lessons in reading and writing. The activities are backed up with examples of student responses and student writing, both in the book and in the online resource that accompanies the book.

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Read Write, Teach . . . is a practical book that is underpinned by research, but balanced with practical ideas for the classroom. Each chapter has activities and suggested mentor texts. The suggested mentor texts save time by giving several texts for the activity without the teacher having to spend time searching for just the right text. Linda follows up with examples that she has done for students and examples of the student's own work. In her Chapter, "Getting to Know Our Students", Linda gives activities such as the **portfolio wall**, **marshmallow**

challenge and **poetry challenge** and then goes on to explain how she uses the information gained from these activities to get to know her students better so that she can plan instruction.

This book should be a must on any teacher's professional reading list. It can be a resource for all grade levels, but it is especially targeted for the middle years. The ideas and suggestions for mentor texts are usable right away. This is an easy read and is guaranteed to add tools to any teacher's toolkit.

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

Reading....It's a Lifestyle

Saskatchewan Reading Council Conference

April 23-24, 2015

Delta Hotel, Regina 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, 2014.
- You will be notified of your acceptance no later than January 15, 2015.
- Submit your proposals to:

Tana Arnott
arnott.tana@prairiesouth.ca

Amanda Hassen
amanda.hassen@htcsd.ca

Reading....It's a Lifestyle
Grant Application for
Registration
to the
Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2015

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 2015 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:

Sherry Shumay
Email: s.shumay@rcsd.ca

Applications must be received by January 15, 2015.

What's Happening Around Saskatchewan

September 2014

- 9 International Literacy Day/Saskatchewan Literacy Day
- 20 Special Subject Councils Meeting (STF / Saskatoon)
- 26 SRC Executive Meeting at the Radisson, Saskatoon
- 27 SRC Leadership Meeting at the Radisson, Saskatoon

October 2014

- 1 Deadline for SRC Local Council Grant information to treasurer
- 31 Deadline for *Query* Submissions for Fall Issue - All executive reports and local council programs should be in this issue

November 2014

- 1 Conference Call 9:00 – 10:00 am
- 15 Deadline for Exemplary Reading Program Application
- 27 Honour Council Application Forms Due (for accomplishments from July 1, 2012 to July 30, 2014)
- 30 Deadline for SRC Lifetime Achievement Nomination

January 2015

- 10 Conference Call 9:00 – 10:00 am
- 15 Deadline for SRC Administrators Award Nomination
- 27 Family Literacy Day

February 2015

- 1 Award of Excellence Entry Due
- 6 Possible SRC Executive Meeting in Regina
- 7 SRC Meeting in Regina or Conference Call 9:00 - 10:00 am

March 2015

- 1 SRC Yearly Membership Expires
Young Writers Deadline
- 7 Conference Call 9:00 – 10:00 am
- 15 SRC Annual Reports Due

April 2015

- 23-24 SRC Annual Conference in Regina
- 24 Annual General Meeting in Regina
- 30 Deadline for Spring Issue of *Query* – All local council presidents and provincial executive members must submit a report

June 2015

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

July 2015

- 1 Change of Officers
- 17-20 IRA Annual Conference in St. Louis

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
Sherry Shumay
s.shumay@rcsd.ca

School Saskatchewan 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 school year. This teacher will become the School Liaison for the SRC and local council.

Forms must be received by the SRC Membership Director by October 30

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 Yearly 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

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

Membership: Regular Student

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

SRC Membership
c/o Sherry Shumay
s.shumay@rcsd.ca

WANTED!

Student Writing

For the 2014-15

Young Saskatchewan Writers Publication

K-12

Short Stories ✎ Poetry ✎ Plays
✎ Essays ✎ Personal Narratives

Criteria for 2014-2015

1. The Saskatchewan Reading Council accepts writing in any language, from **Pre-K to Grade 12 students**. Genres include poetry, short stories, plays, essays and personal narratives. (Writing from February 2014-February 2015 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 (**Pre-K-12**) and select accordingly. Longer pieces must include an excerpt. (Please keep the excerpt to one page or less)
4. Please e-mail student writing to the YSW rep for each council area as listed on the SRC website. (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, 2015.**
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 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. Please submit this form to the SRC President by March 1.



Council: _____ Date Submitted: _____

President: _____ Email: _____

Requirements:

- Promotion of membership: (minimum of 3)
 - Postcard/brochure
 - Posters
 - Conference promotion
 - School liaisons
 - Social Media
 - Other: _____
- Fulfill Conference Committee responsibilities
- Provide representation at a minimum of 50% of SRC meetings/conference calls
- Participate in the Read to Me Program
- Contribution of local council news in *Query*

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: _____

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:

Gisele Carlson
SRC Past President
gisele.carlson@gmail.com

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:

Gisele Carlson
SRC Past President
gisele.carlson@gmail.com

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	2013	Gisèle Carlson

SRC Provincial Executive 2014-2015

Pam Foy – Treasurer

Karen Koroluk – President

Sherri Sieffert – Vice President

Gisèle Carlson – Past President

Emilie Wolfe – Secretary

Sheri Shumay – Membership Director

Magi McFadden – *Query* Editor

Shelly Galloway – International Reading Association Coordinator

Shelly Galloway – Read to Me Coordinator

Tana Arnott and Amanda Hassen – Conference Chairs

Joan Bue – *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Coordinator

Kira Fladager – Communications Director

Saskatchewan Reading Council

2014-2015 Provincial Executive



Karen Koroluk
President



Gisèle Carlson
Past President



Sherri Sieffert
Vice President



Emilie Wolfe
Secretary



Pam Foy
Treasurer



Sheri Shumay
Membership
Director



Kira Fladager
Communications
Director



Joan Bue
Young
Saskatchewan
Writers
Coordinator



Shelly Galloway
Read to Me
Coordinator
IRA Coordinator



**Tana
Arnott**
Conference
Co-Chair

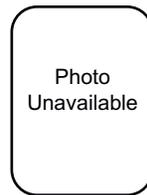


Photo
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**Amanda
Hassen**
Conference
Co-Chair



**Magi
McFadden**
Query Editor

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.

Reading....It's a Lifestyle

Feature Speakers

Dawn Reithaug
Kathryn Otoshi
Sheree Fitch

Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2015

Thursday Evening - April 23, 2015
Friday, April 24, 2015

**Delta Hotel
Regina, SK**

**The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council
is please to be hosting the
Saskatchewan Reading Council's
46th Annual Reading Conference.**

For more information, please contact:

**Tana Arnott:
arnott.tana@prairiesouth.ca**

**Amanda Hassen
amanda.hassen@htcsd.ca**

For more information please visit
<http://readingitsalifestyle.webs.com/>