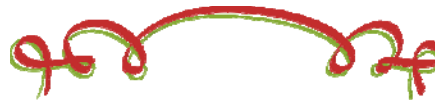


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President's Message

By: Beryl Rogers, FLCA President
Menendez High School Reading Coach/teacher
St. Johns County Public Schools

Celebrate Literacy Week in Florida is scheduled from January 12 – 16, 2009. The Just Read, Florida! office and the Florida Literacy Coaches Association are sponsoring a statewide literacy celebration. The goal is to promote literacy and the enjoyment of reading for all ages. Schools are asked to participate with activities that can range from inviting local authors to speak, students writing their memoirs, donating books to local charities, or providing blogs for students to comment on their favorite book.

In addition, the Just Read, Florida! office is sponsoring a public service announcement (PSA) contest. Students from around the state are asked to design a 26-second PSA to promote and celebrate literacy in Florida. Visit the Just Read, Florida! website for more information.

Here at Menendez High School, we're promoting literacy with a month-long celebration entitled "For the Love of a Book." Students in every grade will be asked to choose a book that has made a difference in their lives and create a video book trailer explaining the significance and impact the book has had.

Let us know how you plan to Celebrate Literacy Week at your schools. Please send us photos for our website. Enjoy the holidays.

Beryl Rogers, President

Budget Blues...

Reading Coaches,

The state legislature is convening a special session, January 5th – 16th to address the \$2 billion shortfall in this year's fiscal budget. The shortfall encompasses the entire budget, and we are hopeful that any cuts to public education will be minimal. We are confident that reading coaches, and other personnel, will not be affected during this special session. I'll you updated as the session progresses.

Regular legislative session begins in March. NOW is the time, Coaches, to visit your local legislators! New legislators were elected during November, and they may not be familiar with the critical role reading coaches play in our schools. Coaches, you need to meet these legislators – let them put a face with a name – and impress upon them your role in the success of our students. Remember, it's much easier to vote against a program when you don't personally know anyone involved.

Happy Holidays!

Jan

Jan Russo
Foundation for Florida's Future and
Foundation for Excellence in
Education
P.O. Box 10691
Tallahassee, FL 32302



More Budget Blues...

Due to state-wide budget cuts, we regret to inform you that the 2009 Just Read! Florida conference has been cancelled.

For additional information, please contact the Just Read! Florida office.



States: Pennsylvania &
South Carolina

Upcoming FLCA Events

Jan. 12, 09 Celebrate Literacy Week

By The Numbers

559 Current membership
61 Districts Represented
2 Other states represented

Bit's N' Pieces...

BLOGGERS (STILL) WANTED

By Pamela Donehew



If you are a fellow BLOGGER, please send us your blog address so that we can share it with FLCA members on our website. Those of us that love to blog also love to share our blogs with others. FLCA is providing an outlet for us to share our BLOGS with fellow reading professionals. Even if you are a fledgling blogger, submit your blog address. There is no better way to improve your blogging than to get input from other enthusiasts. Now, more than ever, it's important to stay connected to one another.

Interested bloggers can send their information to Heather Henderson, Newsletter Coordinator, hhender@volusia.k12.fl.us

Share a Strategy?

Have a strategy to share? A great communication tip? Send them along to Heather Henderson, Newsletter Coordinator, hhender@volusia.k12.fl.us



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November 26, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
K-12 Principals

FROM: Evan B. Lefsky, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Just Read, Florida!

SUBJECT: "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest

The Just Read, Florida! Office in the Department of Education (DOE), in partnership with other DOE offices and numerous other state organizations and agencies, is planning a statewide "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" event, scheduled for the week of January 12-16, 2009. Mark your calendars now for this important week of events!

The goals of "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" are to promote literacy throughout the state by raising awareness of the programs and projects offered by the DOE and its partner agencies and organizations, and most of all, to promote the enjoyment of reading for children and adults of all ages. Education Commissioner Eric Smith will also be hosting a "What's Working in Reading" event on January 14, 2009, which will be webcast on January 15, 2009.

As a part of the week's events and activities, there will also be a statewide contest asking students to create a 26 second public service announcement (PSA) that celebrates and promotes the importance of literacy in the state of Florida. Students in elementary, middle and high schools in all school districts are invited to participate in the PSA contest. Only one team from each school may enter. Each school's PSA must be mailed to the Just Read, Florida! Office and postmarked no later than

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Letter continued from page 3...

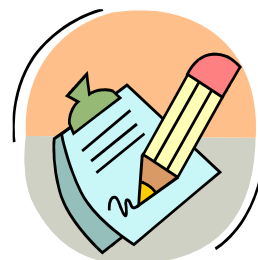
Friday, December 19, 2008, to be eligible for the contest. First, second and third place winners will be chosen for each of the elementary, middle and high school level entries that are submitted. Each first place winning school will be awarded a \$1,000 gift card, each second place school will be awarded a \$500 gift card and each third place school will be awarded a \$250 gift card. Winners will be notified during the first week of January 2009.

Memorandum to K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan Contacts
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For more information on the contest, a complete list of contest rules, deadlines and the list of prizes, please visit the Just Read, Florida! website at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/> and go to the "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" link. This website will also include information about the "What's Working in Reading" webcast and exciting daily suggestions for promoting literacy within every school and school district in the state.

We look forward to your participation in this literacy event. Thank you for your commitment to making literacy the highest priority every day in your district and schools!

EBL/jmj



Don't Forget About the Petition Drive!

Go to the FLCA website (<http://floraliteracycoaches.org>) and download a petition packet TODAY. This file contains background information on the petition, instructions for gathering and submitting signatures, an "About Reading Coaches" page to explain what reading coaches do and why they need support, and a page with the support statement and lines for signatures. Support reading coaches around the state. Sign up!

Book Review: *Hands-On Literacy Coaching* by Dr. Nancy Boyles

By Diana Triplett,
Reading Coach
Osceola County

Dr. Nancy Boyles' book, *Hands-On Literacy Coaching* (Maupin House, 2007) is a brief, but powerful description of effective literacy coaching. Boyles says, "We need coaches who can support teachers in the same way we want teachers to support kids: through the gradual release of responsibility until they achieve independence." Her book is a perfect example of gradual release of responsibility. She provides coaches with basic literacy knowledge and specific tools for coaching, scaffolded by questions to use with teachers and useful forms for observations, planning and reflection.

In Part I—Understanding Literacy Instruction, she lays the foundation by clearly describing the elements of quality literacy instruction including classroom environment, student motivation, classroom management and instructional practices. She also addresses ways that good teaching may go awry. In addition to her descriptions, she includes questions coaches can ask teachers to stimulate discussion and reflection about their practices. For example, "What's the purpose behind that great-looking word wall—and how do students use it?"

In Part II—Understanding Coaching, she addresses recurring problems typically experience by literacy teachers. Possible interventions are presented in easy-to-read charts which include possibilities for professional dialogue, classroom support and resources to meet the teachers' needs. Coaching resources include forms for needs assessment and reflection guides. Specific ideas are provided for working with teachers with varied backgrounds and teaching styles.

Study guide questions are included at the end of each chapter, making it a good choice for professional study groups. This book is likely to be a valuable resource for both new and experienced literacy coaches. It certainly made me rethink some of my own coaching practices.



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Florida 
Literacy Coaches
Association



November 13, 2008

Senator Evelyn Lynn

212 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lynn:

Thank you for forwarding Mr. Kavanaugh's comments on the ESOL in-service requirements for Reading teachers. The Department is currently engaging in rule development to fashion appropriate ESOL training for Reading endorsed and certified teachers. Our goal is to ensure that reading teachers have the skills necessary to make reading courses accessible to English Language Learners without redundant or unnecessary training. Toward that end, the Department is currently seeking input from experts and stakeholders, and public workshops have been scheduled for December in various parts of the state. Mr. Kavanaugh can obtain more information about the proposed rules and the rule development workshops by contacting our Bureau of Student Achievement through Language Acquisition at (850) 245-0417.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner

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ATTENTION!!!

Encourage your fellow coaches to join!

MEMBERSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE ON THE
FLORIDA LITERACY COACHES
ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
WWW.FLORIDALITERACYCOACHES.ORG