

# GREATER BOSTON COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Massachusetts Reading Association  
International Reading Association

Jean Helstrom, President

Ruth Berg, Editor

Fall, 2011 Vol. XLVIII, No. 1

## Greater Boston Council Officers 2011-2012

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Ms. Laura Broach	Lexington Public Schools
Ms. Rosemary Cooper	Chelsea Public Schools
Ms. Allison Ockerbloom	Reading Public Schools

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference



## Common Core: Delving Deeper

Wednesday,  
November 2, 2011

**Burlington High School**  
123 Cambridge Street  
Burlington, MA

**\*\*We're back in Burlington!\*\***  
(1 mile off I-95/Rt. 128)

Co-Sponsored by:  
The Greater Boston and  
Phyllis Allen Smith North Shore Councils  
of the  
Massachusetts Reading Association  
and the  
International Reading Association

# Common Core: Delving Deeper

Sponsored by Greater Boston and Phyllis Allen Smith North Shore  
Reading Councils

In July 2010, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted the Common Core Standards and they have been incorporated into our MA Curriculum Frameworks for ELA and Literacy. The Common Core permits teachers to determine curriculum to provide students with knowledge to allow them to meet the goals embodied in these standards. Join us for a very informative session and leave with some instructional ideas and strategies.

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011**

**3:00-4:00 p.m. Registration, coffee and light refreshments**

**3:00-4:45 p.m. Educational exhibits sponsored by ESANE Inc.**  
(Educational Sales Association of New England)

**4:00-4:40 p.m. Dr. Lori DiGisi**

**Lori Digisi** is currently a Literacy Specialist at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, a position she began in August 2011. Prior to that, Lori was the Framingham District Middle School Literacy Specialist, a position she held since 1999. She was responsible for implementing the middle school literacy action plan, which provides for professional development to help content area teachers promote effective literacy instruction through research based strategy instruction, looking at student work, and using data to inform instruction. From 1994 to 2000, Lori was the Project Director of the Education Development Center in Cambridge. Lori earned her Ed.D in Reading, Language, and Learning Disabilities from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has taught students of all ages, as well as having taught at Lesley, Wheelock, Boston University, and Harvard. She has frequently presented workshops and is a sought-after speaker.

**4:45-5:25 p.m. Dr. James F. McDermott**

**James McDermott** is currently a professor at Clark University and a former member of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. He has more than 40 years of teaching experience, much of which was focused on improving public education for urban students. A classroom teacher for over 30 years, Jim is a former Massachusetts State Teacher of the Year, who has taught English, Writing, and Drama, and has coached championship teams in baseball. He is Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Central Massachusetts Writing Project, and has served as the English Language Arts Liaison for the City of Worcester, at which time he led the task force for developing a K-12, portfolio-driven curriculum. In addition, he is past Co-Chairman of staff development for the Foundation of California Community Colleges. Jim earned his Ed.D at Clark and has presented numerous workshops locally and nationally. His focus is on creating classrooms that engage even the most at-risk students to think deeply and to understand rigorous content.

**5:30 p.m. Questions and Answers with Lori and Jim**





# Greater Boston Council

## Shelter Project: A Gift from the Heart

Once again the Greater Boston Council is sponsoring its Shelter Project, which provides books to family shelters in the Boston area. The shelters need picture books, beginning reader books, informational books, as well as children's chapter books and adolescent literature. A bookplate will be placed in each book stating that it is a gift from the Greater Boston Reading Council.

We ask that GBC members donate your books to those less fortunate. Please bring your book to our

### Fall Conference

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

If you are unable to attend our fall conference, please send your book with a friend. We look forward to seeing you on November 2nd at our fall conference. Please don't forget that the conference has returned to Burlington.

Thank you.

*Deana Lew*  
Shelter Project Chair

## The Greater Boston Reading Council Presents:



# Books and Bagels!



Would you like the opportunity to meet with your colleagues and discuss professional literature? Once again, the Greater Boston Reading Council (GBC) is encouraging teachers to share ideas and opinions about professional literature within a book club format. This year, four groups will be selected to receive funds for the purchase of books and refreshments.

**Who:** Your book club may include four to six professional colleagues within your building or district.

**What:** GBC will provide reimbursement for books, up to \$25 per person or per book, upon completion of a final product. You will also receive a one-year GBC membership at no additional cost! Finally, each group will be offered \$25 for refreshments.

**Where:** Meetings are held at the location of your choice.

**When:** Groups meet for a minimum of ten hours. All hours should be completed by April 30, 2012. Meeting times are to be decided by group members. PDPs will be awarded to qualifying group members completing ten meeting hours (a maximum of 10 PDPs will be awarded).

**How:** Submit the enclosed application by February 1, 2012. Completed applications will be evaluated on an ongoing basis (as long as funds are available) and selected groups will be notified within 3 weeks of receipt of their application. Each group must submit a final product (group or individual) to GBC to demonstrate participation. Some options for the product include: summaries of discussions; ideas or examples of how the new information can be applied to your practice; and lesson plans resulting from the book club.

**Why:** Research has shown that effective teachers are the most important factor in children's learning. Come learn and enjoy with your peers!

# BOOK CLUB

## Application

Completed applications must be returned by February 1, 2012 to:

Jeanie Ferguson  
9 Summer Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938

1. Names, addresses, and phone numbers of all book group members. Place a star next to the chairperson. Continue on the back of this form if necessary.

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2. Title(s) and cost of book(s) to be purchased (not to exceed \$25 per person);

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3. Tentative schedule of meeting dates and locations:

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4. Please give a brief description of how your group plans to use the book. What is the goal of the book group? How do you think the book will contribute to your teaching experience?

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Questions? Contact [jferguson@colonial.net](mailto:jferguson@colonial.net)