

Southeast Regional Reading Council

Affiliate of MRA and IRA

Council # 24920

February 2012

President's Message

Over recent years we have seen bullying reach new heights and dimensions within our schools and communities. Bullying not only leaves permanent scars, but can elicit even more devastating results when the victim's life is taken by either suicide or physical harm inflicted by bullies. The gravity of this situation prompted the adoption of a new state law which mandates school districts to develop and adopt a bullying prevention and intervention plan. School administrators, teachers, and even students have spent many hours discussing, planning, and intervening within their individual school districts and communities.

A group of students from Parker Middle School in Taunton have taken their concerns one step further. They have authored a book on bullying: *No One Stands Alone*. At our March dinner meeting we will host some of those student authors, the administrator, and the staff member from that school who were instrumental in this making this extraordinary idea become a reality.

We will not only be celebrating those remarkable students, but the educators that offered the foundational support to authenticate a vision. These amazing students and educators will also have copies of their book on sale at the dinner meeting.

Don't let your professional development stop at our dinner meeting. The Massachusetts Reading Association (MRA) is sponsoring their annual conference, entitled *Comprehension - Imagine That!* on April 12th and 13th at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. You can find more detailed information about the conference on the MRA website: www.massreading.org.

Lastly, we are getting VERY excited about SERRC's 25th anniversary event coming up this May. The SERRC board members have been working very hard to put together a special evening of literacy nostalgia and a promising presentation from Ian Wallace, a renowned local author and illustrator.

Please come and join us as we celebrate our 25th year as the Southeast Regional Reading Council!

Sincerely,

Jan Standing

Executive Board 2011-2012

Jan Standing.....President
Vacancy.....President-Elect
Linda Lindsey.... Vice President
Shirley Rebello..... Cor. Secretary
Jennifer Chiocca..... Secretary
Dalila Mendoza.....Treasurer
Marie Peixoto.....Membership
Ronnie Zusman.....Program Chair
Susan Bergstrand....Celebrate Literacy
Elaine Bukowiecki.....Mini-Grants
Bonnie StandingMRA Service Award
Marie Peixoto..... Newsletter
Shirley Rebello.... Hospitality
Shirley Rebello..... Scholarship
VacancyTechnology
Bonnie Standing.....Honor Council
Patti Texeira.....Historian
Jane Eastep.... Past President



SERRC HAS GONE ELECTRONIC!!



The SERRC newsletter will now be mailed electronically. If you know of any current SERRC member that did not receive the newsletter, please email the member's email address to serrc@yahoo.com. If you have anything that you would like in the newsletter, please email it to the same address. Please remember to print out and complete the reservation page and mail it to **Linda Lindsey**. The reservation page must be received by **February 24, 2012** to ensure your reservation. **Late reservations may be returned!**

FYI – Important Information – FYI

Please note that your reservation is due Friday February 24, 2012. This is during February vacation, so please plan accordingly. Also the reservation page is now being mailed to Linda Lindsey, our Vice President. Please note the new address on the reservation page!

SERRC Board Meeting Notes....

*The SERRC board met on January 31, 2012. The board met at Bennet School where several topics were discussed. The SERRC board is currently working towards meeting the goals of the Honor Council. This includes any members who are new IRA members this year. If you are a new member of IRA, please let us know! (A special thanks goes to Bonnie Standing for all of her hard work on behalf of SERRC!)

We are continuing our sponsorship of Head Start in Taunton, which was the MRA Mini-Grant. We will be accepting donated books for the Head Start program at the next meeting. If you have any ideas to promote literacy in the community, please let us know.

The board is also discussing possible speakers and locations for next year. If you have an idea, please share them! Come find a board member at the next meeting, or even better, please join us at the next board meeting. Hope to see new faces there!

Just a reminder, please be considerate when saving seats for colleagues. The facility will only set up a certain number of seats. Please also be considerate during the presentation. **Speakers are invited to share their time and talent with us, so let's be sure that we give them our full attention!**

There is still time to nominate someone for the Patti Teixeira Scholarship. Please see page 5 of the newsletter for details. In this economy, every bit helps!

The next SERRC board meeting is **March 27, 2012 at El Mariachi's (Olé!) in Taunton**. Please feel free to join us and bring a friend! We are currently looking for a President-Elect. If you would like to get involved, please come to a board meeting and check it out!!! ☺

Dinner and Professional Development
“No One Stands Alone”
John F. Parker Middle School
March 14, 2012

The John F. Parker Middle School of Taunton has taken a stand against bullying. The school has published an anthology on bullying entitled “No One Stands Alone; Middle School Scholars Reflect on Bullying. The anthology was released at the school’s 3rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Potluck Dinner celebrating Diversity and Anti-Bullying on Jan. 27th 2011.

Principal Manuel J. Fernandez conceived of the idea for the project. “We addressed the issue of bullying from the first day of school. Beyond the rules and consequences, we chose to reinforce our commitment to Anti-Bullying at Parker through our ELA curriculum by having all 600+ scholars read articles, passages, view videos and listen to presentations about bullying. As a culminating task, we asked every scholar to write a reflection on some aspect of bullying. We wanted our scholars to hear the voices of other young people speaking about the deep impact of bullying on an individual and a community”

The anthology is a collection of some of the best reflections written by Parker Scholars. 7th and 8th grade English teachers Christine Dever and Michael Logan edited the anthology. It was so well received by the community that is on sale at Readmore Books in Taunton. Officials at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education were so impressed with the book that they have a special exhibit of photos from the book on display at their Malden headquarters.

Come to network at **4:30 p.m.** Dinner will be served at **5:15 p.m.** at **Benjamin’s Restaurant**, 698 Bay Street, Taunton, MA 02780. Program will end at 8:00.

Please make your dinner reservations now: **Checks are due by February 24, 2012.** Reservations must be in writing. **No phone reservations can be accepted.** Please do not call the restaurant to make reservations for the dinner. These will not be honored.

Name _____ IRA# _____ Email address _____

Address _____ Phone# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please check all that apply: my information has changed my information is the same
 I am a past president of SERRC

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY February 24, 2012

Meal Choices: _____ Broiled Fresh Haddock (with seasoned crumbs)
 _____ Chicken Marsala (with mushrooms in a delicate marsala wine sauce)

The meal also includes soup, a salad, vegetables, mashed potatoes, and a dessert

Amount enclosed: _____ \$29 for members _____ \$40 for non-members
 (price includes 18% gratuity)

Note any food allergies, please! _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Checks payable to: SERRC

Mail to: **Linda Lindsey, 69 Summer Street, Medway, MA 02053-2126**



Books For Sale!!!!!!!!!!!!

The book, *No One Stands Alone*, written by the students of John F. Parker Middle School in Taunton, MA will be available for purchase at the March dinner meeting. It is an effective tool for educating children about bullying since it was written by middle school students! The books are \$10.00.

Professional Books will also be available for purchase from Alran Books. Purchases can be made in the form of cash, check, or credit card, so be prepared!

**Massachusetts Reading Association
Annual Conference
April 12 - 13, 2012**



Fellow SERRC members.....

We need representation at the MRA Conference!

To fulfill Honor Council needs, we need SERRC members that are attending the conference to

- Volunteer at the IRA table
- Volunteer to greet presenters in the hospitality room
- Introduce speakers at the conference

If you are able to help, please let either Marie Peixoto or Jan Standring know!!!!



Door Prizes



A very special thanks to the members who donated items for the door prizes at the December meeting!! If you would like to donate items for door prizes, please bring them to the dinner meeting!!



Patricia Teixeira Scholarship



Do you know someone that is currently in a reading program? Nominate him or her for the Patricia Teixeira Scholarship! Each year SERRC grants a \$300.00 scholarship to person pursuing higher education in the reading field. All nominations are due to Shirley Rebello by February 21, 2012. The criteria/nomination process is as follows...

- *candidate must to be enrolled in a degree program in an accredited college (literacy is preferred, but not required) and a member of SERRC (which can be done at the time of application)
- *nominator contacts Shirley Rebello via e-mail or in person at the next meeting! Shirley.rebello@tauntonschools.org
- *application includes 1 additional letter of recommendation which can be sent via e-mail.



Celebrate Literacy Award Winner

This year's Celebrate Literacy Award winner is Mrs. Nancy Gagliardi, principal of the Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School. Nancy Gagliardi was nominated by several members of her faculty. She is recognized for her continuing commitment to educational excellence and to the improvement of literacy instruction. Under her leadership Aitken School was awarded the International Reading Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award in which the school was recognized for having "a culture of reading" .Mrs. Gagliardi has been an advocate of reading and was instrumental in reinstating the positions of reading specialists which had been lost prior to her tenure and she advocated for the implementation of the Reading Recovery program. Mrs. Gagliardi has been a presenter at many conferences including MRA and IRA. She also led the school in becoming one of the few elementary schools in New England to be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Mrs. Gagliardi has chaired many accreditation teams both in New England and internationally. In 2006 Mrs. Gagliardi was the recipient of the Thomas C. Passios Outstanding Principal Award and the National Distinguished Principal Award. Mrs. Nancy Gagliardi will be presented with her award at our March meeting.

Come congratulate the winner at the next meeting!



This May, SERRC will be turning 25!

We will be celebrating at the May dinner meeting. We will have a very special speaker, the award winning author and illustrator Ian Wallace. We will also be holding special door prizes!

Most importantly, we will be taking a very special moment to recognize the past presidents of SERRC. So many people have contributed so much of themselves in order to make SERRC as successful as it is today. On May 24, 2012, we will ask those special people to stand and take a bow!

See you this May!