
PRAIRIE READER

A Newsletter of the North Dakota Reading Association

Letter From the President

Where are you in your learning journey?

Self-reflection is something we don't often take time to do, but a practice that is vital in growing as a professional. Today I ask a favor. Will you take a few minutes right now with me to ask yourself this question; Where am I on my learning journey?

Abigail Adams said "Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence".

Here are some musings to get you started...

What kind of learning do I seek?

Am I learning with colleagues in a book study, or attending school provided professional development?

Am I deep in the trenches of working on a Master's Degree?

Do I tuck in at night with a book to help me with that one student I just can't figure out?

Is my learning embedded in my job as I watch others and learn from mentors and co-workers?

Am I approaching learning with diligence?

Is my learning intentional, and how am I using my new skills in my classroom?

As I ask myself these same questions, I am filled with gratitude for the people who help me grow and learn. My fellow Instructional Coaches motivate me to read books pertinent to the needs of our teachers. I'm so thankful for the mentoring of my principals as I completed my administrative degree. Without the hard work of our ELA coordinator, my understanding of our new Reading Resource would be dismal at best, and the encouragement from our Math coordinator gives me courage to explore deeper into the subject of math where my confidence is severely lacking.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate your learning journey with an invitation. Please join us at our state conference this April in Bismarck as we celebrate 50 years of NDRA. This article of the Prairie Reader showcases the speakers and events that will take place during our time together. Your NDRA Board and many members are working diligently to make this path on your journey not only one of great learning, but also one jolly good time! I sincerely hope to see you all there!

Warmest regards,

Melessa Bosch, NDRA President 2017-2018

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Chautauqua News

By Brenda Seehafer, President

The Chautauqua Reading Council was busy during the fall and will be getting busy now again in February. Our fall activities included trying to get some of our student members from Turtle Mountain Community College to our meetings. We promoted the “Jumpstart Read for the Record” program in October; the book was *Quackers*. We gave away some copies of the book at our October meeting, and then this book was shared with many students at our schools around the date of the event; we had guest readers come into some of the classrooms to read to the students. Our topic for November was to focus on our college student members, so our theme for that meeting was to share any favorite activity(ies) that we as educators do with our students. Our upcoming Community Literacy Project takes place in February and it is called “Keep Them Reading”; it is a book drive where we collect new or gently used books for service agencies in our different areas. We are also participating in the same International Literacy Project as NDRA, which is connected with the HART program for “Girl Power”; we want girls to have the same education and literacy rights as boys.

We are busy preparing for the Silent Auction at the State Conference in April. Some of our basket themes include NDSU, UND, Burt’s Bees products, baby basket, game night, men’s travel, etc. We will keep adding to this list. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let me know ASAP at Brenda.seehafer@k12.nd.us

We will be doing bidding sheets for the Silent Auction, so be prepared to outbid your friends, if you want a basket!

Silent Auction at the NDRA Conference

Friday, April 27th, 2018 All Day during the State Conference at Legacy High School

There will be several baskets to bid on including themes such as **NDSU, UND, baby basket, men’s travel basket, game night basket, Burt’s Bees basket, ND products, etc.**

Be Prepared to have some fun and outbid your friends!!!!

WE HOPE TO POST SOME PICTURES ON THE WEBSITE OF SOME OF THE BASKETS AS THE CONFERENCE GETS CLOSER!!!

If any council or individual would like to donate a basket, please let Brenda Seehafer know at Brenda.seehafer@k12.nd.us

(Sponsored by the Chautauqua Reading Council)

South Central Reading Council News

By *Julie Frank*

At first glance South Central Reading Council's year of events looks a little quiet, but behind that seemingly empty looking schedule is a year of active learning and refining literacy instruction! Our fall kick off event included an evening of engaging learning with guest speaker, Kari Yates, author of *Simple Starts*. Her talk was entitled, *Simple Starts: Nurturing Reading Lives with Joy and Intention*. Attendees left feeling refueled and encouraged to bring the best literacy experience to learners. Some attendees even walked away with a free copy of Kari's book!

Many SCRC members are participating in the state wide book study opportunity- *Discovering Mindsets and Moves to Amplify Passionate Learners*. This study is offering a unique opportunity to connect statewide with other teachers while reading and practicing new classroom strategies offered in one of three books: *Amplify*, *Mindsets and Moves* or *Passionate Learners*. Each of these books represent the work of national speakers that members will be able to experience and hear first hand at the North Dakota Reading Association's 50th Anniversary Reading Conference.

We have a fantastic board again this year and it is always necessary to recognize already busy educators who go an extra mile: Tara Heydt, Susan Mock, Chris Detlaff, Melissa Cournia, Tina Pletan, Brit Liepitz, and Greta Delparte. This group represents teachers from kindergarten to high school, instructional coaches, a district curriculum developer and tons of passion and expertise!

We need that passion and expertise as we pursue bringing in Jason Lefebvre, author of *Too Much Glue*, to provide a learning experience for elementary students during the day and local families in the evening. In addition, Bismarck is the host site for the 50th Anniversary Conference so the SCRC board will be diligently preparing with the incredible support and contributions of the reading councils across the state.

All in all, there is NOTHING quiet about this year- incredible opportunities for educators to connect, learn, celebrate and bring the best of literacy into their classrooms.

North Central Reading Council News

By *Kristin Hall*

North Central Reading Council has finished up their fall reading connections course. We had a large turn out at each event. As part of our reading connections course we completed a service project where we collected food and donated it to Backpack Buddies, an organization that makes packages of food to send home with children in five local schools over the weekend. These children would otherwise have limited food over the weekend.

NCRC is getting ready to put on their annual Book Club. During our book club, we will be reading two children's picture books and a chapter book that is geared more towards 5th-8th grades. This year, we will be trying out an online format through Facebook. We will wrap up the book club with one day face-to-face where participants will share out lesson plans for a book of their choice.

NRCR is looking forward to our celebrating NDRA's 50th Anniversary at our state conference. We can't wait to see you all there!

Girl Power: An NDRA International Literacy Project

By Sara Medalen

girl power

noun

used in reference to an attitude of independence, confidence, empowerment, and equality among women



Girl Power Project Goals:

- To promote global literacy for all children, especially girls, to fulfill their potential and improve their future.
- To empower girls to make a difference in their lives and in the lives of others.

According to the World Literacy Foundation, an estimated 67 million children do not have access to primary school education and boys are more likely to have access than girls. Thus, girls are more likely to be illiterate than boys even furthering poverty in countries such as Haiti. Globally, violence against women and girls affects 1 in 3 women in their lifetime. The North Dakota Reading Association wanted to do something about that.



Sunnyside Elementary teachers, Amber Sluke, Jamie Hanson and Sara Medalen, took on the International Literacy Project in hopes of providing awareness of the inequalities to girls. The second grade girls learned that many girls from other countries don't have an opportunity to go to school or learn to read. They learned about gender inequalities across the globe including right here in the United States.

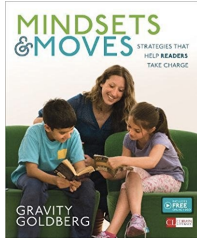
Sluke, Hanson and Medalen worked with Gwen Booth who volunteers for HART. HART's mission is to love, feed, clothe, medically treat, and meet the needs of people in Haiti and Africa. Power of 1, a local non-profit organization, heard about the project and provided funding for Girl Power - Pouvwa TiFi (Girl Power in Haitian Creole) t-shirts for the Sunnyside girls and their Girl Power friends in Haiti. The Sunnyside girls Facetimed their Girl Power friends and learned about their lives.



Thanks to the North Dakota Reading Association, North Central Reading Council and Chautauqua Reading Council, over \$200 in books were purchased specifically for girls in Haiti. This project led to an increased awareness of the importance of literacy, and the power we have to help girls in other countries and in the US bridge the gap of gender inequality and illiteracy because we believe that Strong Girls lead to a Stronger World! GIRL POWER!

Messages From Our Book Study Authors

Mindsets and Moves



Hi There-I am so excited you will be reading *Mindsets and Moves* and discussing it here. My goal is always to support teachers and help you gain ideas about how to help students become more independent and gain more ownership of their reading lives. As you read and discuss, carry a growth mindset into the process with yourself, too. It takes time to make shifts. I also created this book study guide that may help you focus and take away even more from the book. You can access the guide here http://resources.corwin.com/sites/default/files/Book_Study_Guide_o.pdf. I can't wait to see what you take away from the book.

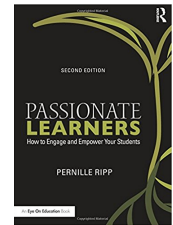
All the best,

Gravity

Passionate Learners

Dear passionate educators,

Thank you so much for being willing to spend some time with my book. I hope the words of my incredible students will help you be proud of your own choices, give your things to reflect on and also give you some practical ideas to implement right away. I wish I could be there to hear your discussions, but please know that you have the best professional development sitting right in your own classrooms; your amazing students. Please reach out if I can help in anyway!



Best,

Pernille Ripp

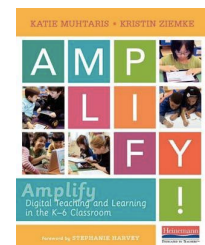
Amplify

Hi everyone! Thank you so much for reading *Amplify: Digital Teaching and Learning in the K-6 Classroom*. I can't wait to hear what you try with students! Please note: each chapter ends with 3 Things You Can Try Tomorrow. These suggestions are easy to access tools that require little set-up in order to capture big thinking from students. If you're looking to try something right away, start here! Also, throughout the book you'll notice a series of QR codes with short links. You can scan the code or enter the short link into your computer to watch videos of student work or Katie and I teaching a lesson. We hoped these videos would help teachers build an idea of what's possible, but also serve as a #MentorTech model for students in order to help them get an idea for what this type of learning looks like.

Finally, feel free to reach out to me on Twitter with questions you may have @KristinZiemke. I'm so excited to see you in April! Enjoy your book club and see you soon!

Love,

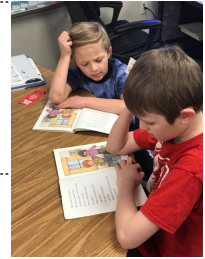
Kristin



The Importance of Independent Reading & Book Talks

By Greta Delparte

In my First Grade classroom, you will meet students who are at the very beginning stages of reading. Kids blending and chunking each word to kids that are reading fluently at a Fourth Grade level. Each child is reading at a different level, comprehending different material, and applying what they read in daily conversation. While I am working with my small groups each day, some of my kids are listening to books online, reading with a partner, working on writing, and finally reading to self. This last choice is something that sometimes gets pushed to the side in classrooms, when in reality it is the most important time for a child to begin to love reading. This is the time they get to choose a book from their interest and spend time enjoying it at their pace. Sometimes people come into our rooms and look at kids sitting and reading and think, "When does this teacher teach? My kid can read at home." The reality is that not every kid will read at home, not every child has access to good fit books, and some have much harder struggles to deal with in the evenings. It is our job as educators to foster that passion for reading.



One simple way I have started to excite my children in my classroom about books is by having weekly book talks. I take a book series that is sometimes pushed aside by the new colorful books from the book orders and read a portion to my kids. I might leave the ending out and make a comment such as, "If you want to know how this ends you will have to read the book." Immediately the entire bin of whatever book I decide to showcase for that week is empty and my kids are requesting these books from the library. Some of my favorites to do book talks on are *Henry and Mudge*, *Frog and Toad*, *Fluffy the Classroom Hamster*, etc. My children check out books from me as well as the library weekly and I have had kids tell me their goal is to re-read every book I read to them. So many of the books I read show up in their backpacks.

Teachers are role models not only by how they act, but what they promote. Taking the time to promote a good book may just create a lifelong love of a series. Allowing the time in the classroom for children to read independently might foster our overall goal of promoting lifelong readers.

Independent Reading

By Chris Detlaff

Every child needs an opportunity to read independently in school. If we give students this time and embrace it, we can show students that our belief in them being well developed readers is strong.



Independent reading is a big part of my student's day. When my students come in the morning, they do their daily routines and then they do Independent Reading. They do this while I do attendance and check in on kids coming in. During reading, every student gets an opportunity to read to self during our reading block. When students finish something we are working on early, they get an opportunity to do some more independent reading. I want my students to love reading and giving them this opportunity is one way to do this, even in Kindergarten.

The Book Whisperer

By Abbie Taylor

In June 2014, I was thrilled to accept a fourth grade position in Bismarck. There was just one tiny hiccup. Due to the structure of my last job, I hadn't taught reading in over four years. Turns out, four years is plenty of time to forget what little you thought you knew about helping young minds learn to read. Enter: *The Book Whisperer*.

The Book Whisperer was like no other "teacher book" I'd ever picked up; it read like a novel, and I flew through it in two days. Donalyn Miller was a genius: give the kids choice, choice, and more choice. Expose them to all genres early on so they can find and connect with books they'll love. Get to know your students as people and readers, then find books that will bring their real and reading worlds together. I honed in on the most important components I wanted to bring to my kids, and in our first 30 days, we jumped in to the world of books together.

Donalyn's reading survey is crucial. It told me how the kids felt about reading as well as what they loved in their own lives. When they came in to find book stacks on their desks picked specifically for them, they were amazed. Precious faces lit up as they read the backs of books and realized how many connections they already had to the stories. After conducting a few genre studies, the students knew what to expect and it was an exciting day if they came to the carpet and saw "the stack" next to my chair. They would pass around the books and discuss what the stories had in common to ultimately guess the genre...oh the mystery! When their guess was correct? So exciting. And without fail, we never left the carpet without a few sweet people coming to me to say, "I'm putting this on my to-read list!" or "Can I put this in my book box?" Insert teacher-happy-dance here. Genre studies expose young readers to books they may not even realize are out there for them to enjoy. Once this happens, student buy-in shoots up. That first year, I heard from many parents about the change in their children as readers. Their kiddos were bringing books home *by choice*, they were actually asking to order from Scholastic book flyers and go to the library. In short, their children were falling in love with reading.

Many of my students came to me with strong, negative feelings about reading. Some I knew about, some I didn't. One student my second year started reading the Harry Potter series pretty much from day one. I'm a Harry Potter nerd, so he decided to check it out. This kiddo was flying through the series and I never saw him with any other book. Fast forward to his IEP meeting in January. We're reading his form which has a section about what he enjoys and I wrote "Johnny* loves to read, especially Harry Potter". His mother responds with, "I can't believe how into those books he is. We can never get him to read. I think he read three books all of last year. We had to buy the series so he could know he wouldn't have to wait for the next one!" I had zero idea there was a time when this child didn't love to read. In fact, he'd hated it. This was the moment I realized how powerful Donalyn's strategies are.

Call For Submissions

Submissions to Prairie Reader must be original, unpublished work not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Prairie Reader publishes manuscripts that highlight innovative and research based practices for literacy instruction in the k-12 classroom. Manuscripts should not exceed 500 words.

Written permission to use any copyrighted material must be obtained beforehand and included in your submission. Ensure that your references are correct and complete. We require electronic submissions, in Word format, only. To submit articles, please email melissacournia@gmail.com. If you have any questions, contact melissacournia@gmail.com.

Spring Issue: Reflection Moves Us Forward, Submissions Due: May 11, 2018

From Your ILA State Coordinator

Literacy Leaders,

I hope you were able to stay warm over the winter break! I found myself staying inside and enjoying much needed family time.

NDRA is still in the process of transitioning to full affiliation with ILA. We are looking forward to learning more from ILA. We will keep members informed as information becomes available.

Council Officer Reports:

The council officer reports will be due by June 30, 2018. Soon after councils hold their elections in the spring and officers are selected, the current President for this year is required to file this report online to the ILA office. I will keep you posted with new information and the link to complete this requirements as I receive it from ILA.

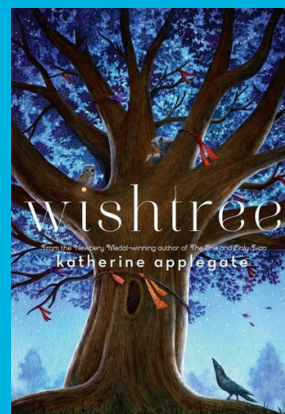
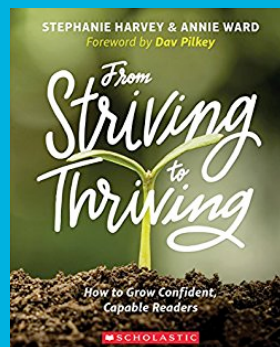
NDRA 50th State Reading Conference:

Please join the state in celebrating 50 years of commitment to literacy at the 2018 NDRA State Conference, April 26-28th in Bismarck.

Respectfully,

Tara Jordan

Recommended Titles



ELECTIONS:

NDRA is searching for a new Vice-President

Qualifications:

* You have been a local council officer for at least two years.

* You are a current member of ILA.

Four Year Commitment

One-Year Terms:

Vice-President
2018-2019

President Elect

2019-2020

President
2020-2021

Past President
2021-2022

Contact ILA State Coordinator, Tara Jordan if you are interested or know of someone who would make a great leader for literacy.

lavachekjordan@gmail.com

DEADLINE:

February 23, 2018

Elections will take place at the NDRA State Reading Conference in April, 2018

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

ILA INFORMATION



International Literacy Association Conference

July 20-23, Austin, TX

Please consider attending the International Literacy Association Conference.

For more information visit the ILA Website:

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/>

~ NDRA ~
Celebrating Our Past,
Inspiring Our Future ~

Thursday -- Evening:
Registration at The Vault
Event Center & Downtown
Book Crawl

Friday -- Legacy High
School -- Daytime Sessions
with Featured Speakers:
Kristin Ziemke, Pernille
Ripp, Marvin Terban &
Renee Houser
Evening: Cheers to 50
Years Social at Sixteen03
Main Events

Saturday -- Lace Up for
Literacy 5K Walk/Run,
Continental Breakfast &
Keynote Speakers: Pam
Muñoz Ryan & Mr. Schu

JOIN US

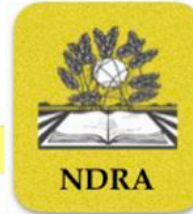
APRIL 26-28, 2018 • BISMARCK, ND

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
NDRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
DURING THE NDRA 2018
CONFERENCE





NDRA 2018 50th Anniversary Conference
 • April 26-28, 2018 • Bismarck, North Dakota •
Agenda



Downtown Bismarck		Thursday, April 26, 2018	
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm		The Vault Event Center — Registration	
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm		Book Crawl - Local Businesses Open for Your Dining Pleasure	
Legacy High School		Friday, April 27, 2018	
Beginning at 7:15 am		Registration	
8:00 am to 8:15 am		Welcome/Announcements: NDRA	
8:15 am to 8:30 am		Opening Welcome: NDDPI	
8:30 am to 9:30 am		Keynote Address: Marvin Terban, "My Favorite Teacher"	
9:30 am to 10:00 am		Break/Exhibitor Visits/Silent Auction/Collaboration Time	
10:00 am to 11:30 am		Concurrent Breakout Sessions — Featured speakers will present different topics during each session —	
		Renee Houser	
		Pernille Ripp	
		Marvin Terban	
		Kristin Ziemke	
11:30 am to 1:00 pm		Lunch on Your Own (Food Trucks Available) & Exhibitor Visits	
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm		Concurrent Breakout Sessions — Featured speakers will present different topics during each session —	
		Renee Houser	
		Pernille Ripp	
		Kristin Ziemke	
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm		Break/Exhibitor Visits/Silent Auction/Collaboration Time	
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm		Concurrent Breakout Sessions — Featured speakers will present different topics during each session —	
		Renee Houser	
		Pernille Ripp	
		Kristin Ziemke	
4:30 pm to 5:00 pm		Exhibitor Visits & Collaboration Time	
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm		Sixteen03 Main Events — Cheers to 50 Years Social (with Appetizers)	
Legacy High School		Saturday, April 28, 2018	
7:00 am		Lace Up for Literacy 5K Walk/Run — Location TBD — Open to Public	
8:30 am to 9:30 am		Continental Breakfast/Collaboration Time	
9:30 am to 10:45 am		Keynote Speaker: Pam Munoz Ryan — Open to Public	
11:00 am to 12:15 pm		Keynote Speaker: John Schumacher "Mr. Schu" — Open to Public	

North Dakota Reading Association

Conference Registration Online Only:

<https://ndra.wildapricot.org/State-Conference>

- ◆ Bismarck Public Schools – \$75.00 [Registration code required]
For BPS employees who would like to attend the full conference.
- ◆ NDRA Regular Members – \$150.00
For current educators and administrators who are members of NDRA.
- ◆ Non-Member – \$200.00
For individuals who are not members of NDRA.
- ◆ Retired Educator – \$50.00
For retired teachers and administrators who are members of NDRA.
- ◆ Student Member – \$50.00
This is for students who are currently full-time undergraduates. You will be asked to identify your institution (university/college) and provide an estimated graduation day.
- ◆ VIPs – \$50.00
This is a special group for people who have been invited since this is NDRA's 50th anniversary.

Celebrating

1968

NDRA 50 Years

2018

Inspiring Our Future



**North Dakota Reading Association
2018 50th Anniversary Conference
• April 26-28, 2018 • Bismarck •
Celebrating Our Past, Inspiring Our Future**

Featured Authors, Speakers, Presenters, Bloggers:

- Pernille Ripp
- Kristin Ziemke
- Marvin Terban
- John Schumacher “Mr. Schu”
- Renee Houser
- Pam Muñoz Ryan



Conference Hotel Information



Radisson Hotel Bismarck

PO Box 2718 - Bismarck, ND 58502

Phone: (701) 255-6000

Website: <https://www.radisson.com/bismarck-hotel-nd-58501/ndbisdt>

Rate: Single: \$83.70 Double: \$95.10



Expressway Suites

180 E Bismarck Expressway - Bismarck, ND 58504

Phone: (701) 222-3311

Website: <http://www.expresswayhotels.com>

Rate: Flat: \$83.70



Wingate by Wyndham Bismarck

1421 Skyline Blvd. - Bismarck, ND 58503-

Phone: (701) 751-2373

Website: <http://www.wingatehotels.com>

Rate: Flat: \$81.90



Sleep Inn & Suites

1402 East Century Ave. - Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: (701) 751-4860

Website: www.northridgehospitality.com

Rate: Flat: \$89.00



LACE UP FOR LITERACY 5k Run / Walk

**Saturday, April 28th, 2018
7 am
The State Capital - Bismarck, ND**

To register, go to:

<https://ndra.wildapricot.org/event-2692204>

\$25 Entry Fee before April 6th - \$30 After
Same Day Registration \$30 from 6:30-7:00 am

For more information, contact sara.medalen@gmail.com

Sponsored by North Dakota Reading Association and North Dakota United