

News from the **EERC Listserv – TheLiteracyList**

(This is a closed listserv. Replies will go only to Karen Antikajian)

Please share this information with others.

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EERC’s February Shout-Out Award was given to Eileen Thomoas, K-5 Title I teacher at Meadow View School. Look for her picture in the next May/June issue of the Literacy Line Newsletter.

Here is what her principal has to say about her:

- Serves over 100 Title I students
- Coordinates our universal screening assessments in reading K-8
- Provides both push in and pull out instruction
- Collaborates with her K-5 colleagues
- Understands the importance of foundational skills and ensures students have access to the instruction they need
- Knowledgeable about curricula and carefully places students in intervention programs to accelerate and/or remediate literacy skills
- Oversees and implements RTI procedures and practices for struggling readers
- Progress monitors students to track individual student progress
- Participates on our district RTI and Title I team
- Has exceptional depth and understanding of best practices in literacy instruction
- Is passionate and dedicated to creating systems where all students have access to quality instruction

In addition to her extensive reading knowledge she is ethical, dependable, inspirational and kind. She is in the top 5% percent of educators. I am honored to have her on our Meadow View team.

Coming Events and Opportunities:

Professional Development Workshops:

Next Tuesday, **April 21, 2015**, Angie Johnson and Karren Timmermans will present *Close Reading as a Habit of Mind*. They will help us to understand what it means to be a close reader as we explore ways to access complex text. Attendees will explore ways to access complex text by attending to specific text features and also identify ways to help students develop a life-long habit of close reading. This is the last workshop for this school year. Credit participants will meet on June 2, 2015.

This workshop will be held at the UO Baker Downtown Center at 10th and High,

Eugene. They are free for ORA/EERC members and students and just \$10 each for nonmembers so bring a friend. **If you would like to attend and have not already registered, please do so by emailing Karen: kantikajian@cvcable.net.**

Conferences/Institutes:

ORA Summer Institute, August 7, 2015 at the Valley River Inn in Eugene with nationally acclaimed writing expert Ruth Culham. She will present ideas from her new book, *The Writing Thief*. More information available soon on the ORA website and our calendar page: http://www.literacylane.org/calendar_programs.html.

Our Annual B.E.A.R. (Be Excited About Reading) Faire will be held at the Springfield Public Library on **April 18 from 1–3**. Each child can choose a new book from a large selection (2 if they come in book-character costume) and participate in many book-related activities. Author Bob Welch and Illustrator Tom Pennix will be there to share their two new picture books. Flyer attached.

Retired librarian **Linda Ague** will be our guest presenter at EERC's **Whine & Wine** program on May 15th from 4:00–6:00 at the Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1250 W. 18th Avenue, Eugene. Plenty of parking. Come to chat with colleagues and learn about great summer reads. Refreshments and door prizes from 4:00–4:30. Program begins at 4:30. Free for all. Bring your friends. Flyer attached. Lots of door prize books. Win a pizza gift certificate from Coburg Pizza Company.

EERC's \$100 Literacy Leader Award: Deadline for nominating is April 30, 2015

In 2009 The Emerald Empire Reading Council established its Literacy Leader Award to honor a literacy leader in Lane County. This person will be recognized with a monetary award of \$50, a one year EERC/ORA membership, and a commemorative mug at the annual Whine and Wine in May 2015. We know there are many deserving individuals who promote literacy in our communities and we would like to do our part to recognize their contributions. So please nominate a person you feel is worthy of this award. The nomination form is available at www.literacylane.org/Awards_Grants.html.

Patricia Gallagher Award: Deadline for turning in votes is May 1, 2015.

We have books and packets available for your use. Just let me know. Don't wait until the end of the year when they might not be available. You can email the votes to me. Please include school and grade level. Take advantage of this wonderful program before it is too late. **If your students have already voted, please email your votes to me now.** (kantikajian@cvcable.net) To read the article that was printed in the Winter ORacle with some comments from some of the illustrators and authors of this year's Gallagher books (Aaron Reynolds, Henry Cole, and David Elliott), click on this link: http://www.literacylane.org/PG_Info%20from%20Authors_Illustrators1_2014.pdf. Read comments from Carol Buckley, Eric Kimmel, and Floyd Cooper in the article

published in the Spring ORAcle by accessing this link: http://www.literacylane.org/PG_Info%20from%20Authors_Illustrators2.pdf.

If you have any suggestions for great books for next year's Gallagher Award, please send them to me (kantikajian@cvcable.net). We will choose the new titles in June. Here are the criteria:

- Original copyright date (usually hardback) no later than 2007
- Readily available in paper (from Amazon, Baker & Taylor, etc.)
- Quality text and illustrations
- Innate appeal to children
- Will work well as a read-aloud

Read a recent article about Patricia Gallagher as she shares *Back of the Bus* by Aaron Reynolds:

<http://www.polkio.com/news/2015/apr/01/literature-lover/>