



September 12, 2010



Bringing the Outdoors In

This spring and summer offered some excellent classes on how to expand place-based curriculum, outdoor writing and science into the already busy literacy classroom. This bibliography is gleaned from Sondra Porter's writing seminar in Denali Park this July. Sondra's ability to find and share relevant, intelligent and accessible resources is legendary. So, I couldn't resist this

chance to post her suggestions. The books listed range from primary to university level instruction. The binding elements in all of these books are a strong focus on generating useful and thoughtful process-writing (lessons, sessions, themes, and more) with the natural world as our guide. So, bundle up and explore the world with your pen and journal. And don't forget to bring your writers along.

- After the End: Teaching and Learning Creative Revision by Barry Lane (Paperback-Dec. 1992)
- I Love Dirt by Jennifer Ward (Paperback -2008)
- Alaska Reader: Voices from the North by Anne Hanley and Carolyn Kremers (Paperback - Aug 22, 2005)
- Denali: A Literary Anthology by Bill Sherwonit (Paperback - Oct 2000)

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A Note from our ASLA President

This is the new website for the Alaska State Literacy Association:

<http://bit.ly/alaskareading>

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great excitement and pride that I greet you as the new President of the Alaska State Literacy Association. Your membership demonstrates your commitment to literacy and support for our professional organization.

The theme for my leadership for ASLA in 2010- 2011 is Voice, Vision, and Visibility. My vision is that ASLA will be a leader for literacy in our state, and the essential

voice influencing the lives, the education, and the well being of children and adolescents of Alaska.

My vision is that ASLA will be recognized and respected as the reliable and expert resource for literacy leadership and offer support through grants and conferences to those seeking to enrich and promote literacy in the classroom and community. Through the projection of our voice, vision, and visibility my vision is that ASLA will help us honor our commitment to literacy in our state.

Your membership will enhance your awareness of issues impacting literacy in our state services not only in your school but also across the state or nation. You will learn the value of advocacy and being politically active, opening you up to a new scope of service and skills. Your membership will foster new friendships and networking opportunities with professionals from nearby and afar. As a member of ASLA, you will also be supported by the work of the

ASLA President Continued...

ASLA board of directors, advocacy by the ASLA legislative team, communication via our online newsletter and contact emails, and educational opportunities at professional development programs and meetings sponsored regionally or state wide, as well as grant opportunities.

Please explore the ASLA website, where you will find the latest activities and information about the ASLA organization and communication about issues and events involving literacy in Alaska. Please invite a friend or colleague to join ASLA, and consider participating actively toward the successes of ASLA at the local and

state levels.

Thank you again for your membership in ASLA. I invite you all to join me in supporting ASLA and literacy across Alaska with promoting our voice, vision, and visibility.

Best wishes for a rewarding school year,

Sara Lee
ASLA President

We're on the WEB!

A big thank you goes to Barb Ragan and her husband Clint for designing and orchestrating a webpage for Golden Heart Reading Council. To view this page, please go to: www.goldenheartreadingcouncil.com

Barb's CAFÉ Reflections

I flew into Seattle/Tacoma on Wednesday, June 30th to attend the Choice Literacy CAFÉ Workshop facilitated by The 2 Sisters (Gail Boushey and Joan Moser). The workshop was on July 1st, so I spent Wednesday afternoon touching base with teaching friends from Kodiak, Alaska and exploring the sites of downtown Tacoma. We enjoyed the Glass Walk that is part of the Tacoma Art Museum and the downtown Farmer's Market. Washington cherries were in season along with all other delicious fruits and veggies. Yummy!

The days were a great balance of learning and fun! I met a lot of great teachers from around the world, even as far away as Russia. The CAFÉ workshop was a refreshing change from other workshops I've attended. The environment was relaxed and the participants were truly pampered. Brenda Power showered us with free goodies for the classroom almost every hour, and we always came back from our lunch break to a tasty dessert waiting at our tables.

The discussions were rich and very supportive of literacy learning. The 2 Sisters shared stories from their current teaching experiences and emphasized the fact that their practices are still evolving as they learn more about students, literacy, and what it means to be strategic, independent, and thoughtful readers. The CAFÉ system reflects their belief that different children have different needs as readers, but that all readers of any age need instruction and support that helps them become more independent and self-reflective in their work. This is my fourth year implementing the Daily 5 and my second year implementing the CAFÉ system. The Daily 5 and CAFÉ represent a system of choice, and students and teachers love it!

I would strongly encourage any educator to attend the CAFÉ, Daily 5, or any of the Choice Literacy Workshops. I'm looking forward to attending another one as soon as possible. I want to thank the Golden Heart Reading Council for helping me attend this amazing workshop. I will be facilitating a book study course on the CAFÉ system beginning in October. There is an optional one credit available if you complete the course. I'm including a course flier in the GHRC newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested.

Barbara Ragan

Golden Heart Reading Council Members

2-\$500 Stipends

Alaska State Literacy Conference in

Girdwood, Alaska, October 15-16, 2010

Conference information and registration can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/alaskareading> or www.goldenheartreadingcouncil.com

Deadline for stipend applications: Sunday, September 26, 2010

Obligations:

- 1.) Confirm leave from your school for the conference dates
- 2.) Submit a written summary of a conference event such as a sectional presentation, speaker summation, author/book discussion. Photos are welcome. The written summary may be published in the Golden Heart Reading Council newsletter and/or the ASLA newsletter.
- 3.) Within one month of the conference submit a copy of your receipt(s) totaling stipend amount to GHRC treasurer, Sue McIntosh through school mail to Sue McIntosh, Curriculum Dept. Admin Center or mail to: 1851 Blackburn Way, North Pole, AK 99705

Stipend Request Information:

ASLA Fall Conference

Those of you who are new to our great state may not be aware that every year our state organization, the Alaska State Literacy Association hosts a state-wide literacy conference. The place for the conference changes annually.

Mark your calendars for October 15-16 and enjoy the retreat style conference in Girdwood, Alaska. The presenters for this conference are Hector J. Ramirez and D. Ray Reutzel. For more information, speaker bios and conference registration visit <http://bit.ly/alaskareading>.

Register early! This conference is limited to the first 200 participants!

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- Geography of Childhood (The Concord Library) by Gary Paul Nabhan (Paperback [April 30](#), 1995)
 - Field: A Guide to Locally Focused Teaching (Nature Literacy Series Vol. 3) (Nature Literacy Series No. 3) by Leslie Clare Walker
 - Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv (Paperback – [April 2008](#))
 - Moon Journals: Writing, Art, and Inquiry Through Focused Nature Study by Gina Rester-Zodrow and Joni Chancer (Paperback - [Jan 30](#), 1997)
 - Natural Sense of Wonder: Connecting Kids with Nature through the Seasons by Rick Van Noy (Paperback - [Jun 1](#), 2008)
 - Nature All Year Long by Clare Walker-Leslie (Paperback - [Jul 1](#), 2002)
 - Nature Drawing: A Tool for Learning by Clare W. Leslie (Paperback - [April 1,2002](#))
 - Nature in a Nutshell for Kids: Over 100 Activities You Can Do in Ten Minutes or Less (Paperback) by Jean Potter Jan. 1995No •
 - Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms & Communities (Nature Literacy Series Vol. 4) (New Patriotism Series, 4) (Paperback)by David Sobel
 - Sharing Nature With Children by Joseph Bharat Cornell (Paperback revised and expanded Jan. 1998)
 - The Art of Writing: Lu Chi's Wen Fu translated by Lu Chi (Paperback 2000)
 - The Revision Toolbox Teaching Techniques that Work by Georgia Heard (2002)
 - Taking Inquiry Outdoors: Reading, Writing, Writing and Science Beyond the Classroom Walls by Barbara Bourne (Paperback-[Nov 1999](#))
 - Writing Naturally: A Down-To-Earth Guide to Nature Writing by David Petersen (Paperback - [Jul 2001](#))
 - Writing About Nature: A Creative Guide by John A. Murray (Paperback - [Dec 15](#), 2003)
- All titles are currently available at [Amazon.com](#)*

You're cordially invited to a
**Golden Heart Reading Council
Luncheon**



SAVE THE DATE

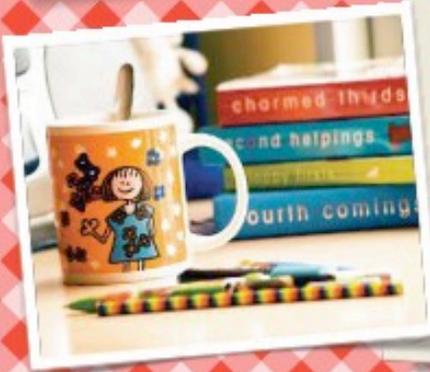
Come celebrate a new school year!
Drawings for a Flip Camera, books, and much more.
Renew membership at luncheon and eat for free!

DATE: Friday, October 1, 2010

WHERE: Princess Riverside Lodge
(4477 Pikes Landing Road)

TIME: 11:30-1:00pm

*Cost of lunch is \$13.95 for non-renewing members.





Our Focus

Golden Heart Reading Council is dedicated to supporting teachers with professional development. To do this, the council offers stipends to attend conferences, supports professional book clubs, offers fast cash for teachers, Flip Cameras and books for classrooms.

Please help us network and grow as a council. Invite new members and gather with us at our fall luncheon on October 1 at the Princess. Let's work hard this year to hold those professional conversations that enhance our teaching and touch our children.

Thank you for choosing Golden Heart as a place to love literacy. Please let the board members know how we can support you and your teaching profession.

This year's board members are: Molly Sherman and Ronda Schlumbohm– Co-Presidents,
Sue McIntosh-Treasurer

Lesa Meath –Recording Secretary

Barb Ragan– Membership

We welcome new members!

-Ronda Schlumbohm

Are you curious and want to know more about the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System? Visit the following website to learn more.

<http://www.heinemann.com/fountasandpinnell/default.aspx>

**Don't forget to visit Golden Heart's new website! In October there are many deadlines for ALSA grants.
www.goldenheartreadingcouncil.com**

