

## Golden Heart Reading Council

Winter Newsletter

December 10, 2011

# Reflections From Juneau

### ASLA Conference Notes

Submitted by Mary Maisch, in gratitude for the travel stipend!

Marcia Invernizzi was a keynote speaker at the ASLA Conference. Coauthor of "Words Their Way" and "Vocabulary Their Way," Ms. Invernizzi presented several strategies for helping students learn the spellings and meanings of thousands of words. She described three layers of vocabulary learning and instruction:

- ✦ Immersion in rich oral language and wide reading and purposeful writing;
- ✦ Explicit teaching about

word structure and morphological awareness;

Deep, intense study of specific words from core academic vocabulary and from domain-specific academic vocabulary.

**"English represents in spelling what is left out in pronunciation."**

Ms. Invernizzi advises students to think of another word with a similar meaning rather than always "sounding out" a word to spell. She gave as examples the word pairs bomb/bombard, sign/signal, muscle/muscular, and compose/composition. The silent letters at the

end of each shorter word signal their relationship to the source word. Looking for similarities and differences among words and examining word sources builds awareness of the spelling-meaning connection, strengthening both spelling and vocabulary skills. A handy framework for word sorting can be created quickly by folding a sheet of paper in quarters, bending in the central corner, and then unfolding the sheet. This provides a central area and four adjoining spaces for grouping similar and different patterns. It is also a handy tool for notetaking.

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# Forget Me Not Award

Our own Golden Heart Member, Cherie Stihler was awarded the Forget Me Not Award for the state of Alaska. This award is given every year to an Alaskan author for their

contribution to children's literature. Pictured beginning on the left are: Sara Lee, outgoing president of ASLA, Cherie Stihler and Susan McIntosh.

Congratulations Cherie.

Not only did Cherie get honored at a luncheon, she was given a trip to Juneau to attend the reading confer-

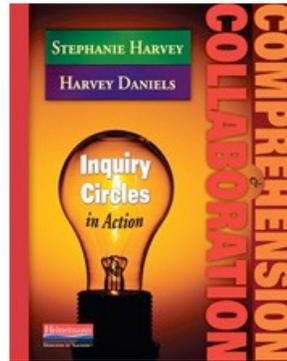




## Study Buddy

Salcha Elementary applied for a Study Buddy Grant. They purchased Comprehension Collaboration from Stephanie Harvey and Harvey Daniels. They also purchased the DVD which has lessons in it. Salcha teachers are in the midst of sharing this information with each other. More to come after

they have viewed the DVD. Our hope is to share our resource with others.



Golden Heart will offer more Study Buddy grants during the new year.

## Reflections continued...

**“Words are not learned in an all or none fashion, and not one at a time.**

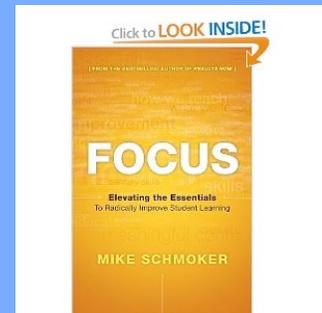
**The learning of words is gradual and chunky.”**

Building students’ awareness of word structures helps them to learn patterns they can apply to large groups of words, and is more efficient than study of ten or twenty words per week. Studying the building up and breaking down of words, looking at base words, prefixes, and suffixes, as in help/helpful/unhelpful, is helpful! Hundreds of thousands of words can be constructed and deconstructed.

Engaging students in word hunts and word games make spelling and vocabulary learning fun and exciting. Teachers need to be “word enthusiasts” who never miss an opportunity to teach about word sounds, meanings, and morphological structures, who read aloud daily, talk about hard words, and engage in word play. Visit [punoftheday.com](http://punoftheday.com) for a regular source of puns, an interesting device for word study. Play “Hink Pink” or “Hinky Pinky,” a game in which two rhyming words are paired, and then synonyms are used to create and ask a riddle that is answered by the word pair. For example, “winter sprinter” is the answer

## More Professional News

Are you looking for a professional book that is full of simplicity and good teaching? If you are, check out Mike Schmoker’s book [Focus, Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning](#). This book reminds us that kids will get better at reading and writing by reading and writing! Check it out!



to “What is a runner in the snow?” “Azure footwear” would be a blue shoe, and “an obese feline” would be a... As I play with words with my students, I keep Ms. Invernizzi’s words in mind:

**“Rules (including spelling rules) are great reminders of what you already know. They are not good teaching devices.”**