

The Reader

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MESSAGE FROM THE SARA PRESIDENT, KATHY DAVALOS

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Dear SARA Members:
Now that the year 2009 has come to an end, get ready to begin an exciting new year of SARA events. The best way to become acquainted with SARA is to get involved and join the fun. As we begin 2010, I would like to acknowledge and thank the SARA officers, members of the Board at large and committee members who dedicate their time and effort to make each event a success. **THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!**

In this day of limited resources and professional development the opportunities SARA and the San Juan Teachers' Association gave administrators and teachers at our reading conference on November 7th at Del Dayo Elementary School was remarkable. To think that publishers and noted researchers would fly and drive to Sacramento to fill the void was heartwarming and inspiring. The conference was a lot of work and required extensive coordination efforts, but it was well worth it. All in attendance were excited when they left and could not say enough about their experience on that day. It was a wonderful experience for us working as a team and it definitely exceeded our expectations.

Let us all work together in 2010 to reach out to new members and invite them to join us as we continue to

follow our mission to increase literacy through service to our fellow teachers, parents and children. I personally ask that everyone participate in these exciting New Year SARA events:

- **March 1st 6:30 – 8:00 Read Across America celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday (Mission Oaks/Gibbons Community Center)**
- **April 22nd 5:30 – 7:00 Writers Showcase (Smyth Academy)**
- **May 20th 5:30 - 8:00 Dr. Barbara Schmidt Light House for Literacy Awards (Casa Gardens Restaurant)**

As we plan new events for the 2010-year, please call me to share your ideas (916) 487-6527 or e-mail me at daval95608@aol.com. In addition, there are positions on the Board for members who would like to participate as Council Officers. Call Joanne Arellanes (916) 635-6007 to help as a Board member.

TOGETHER WE CAN!

Kathy Davalos



Events 2010

Dr. Seuss' Birthday

Monday March 1
Mission
Oaks/Gibbons
Community Center
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Writers Showcase

Thursday April 22
Smythe Elementary
North Sacramento
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

SALO Author Symposium

Saturday April 24
Turner Public Library
9:30 – 4:00

Barbara Schmidt Lighthouse for Literacy Awards Banquet

Thursday May 20
Casa Garden
Restaurant
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

SARA Literacy Conference

Saturday May 15
Del Dayo Elementary
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



SARA Literacy Conference – November 7, 2009

“Vocabulary and Writing Making The Connection”

The November 7th Conference was a smashing success. Total registration was approximately 220 teachers and administrators from surrounding school districts, the California Department of Education and our friends in the private school arena. We reached our registration capacity two weeks before the conference and were not able to take any walk in registrations.

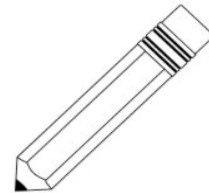
Given by SARA, and held at Del Dayo Elementary School in San Juan Unified School District, the conference was certainly well supported by the San Juan Unified School District, the San Juan Teachers Association, Houghton/Harcourt Publishers, Scholastic Publishers and Terry and Penny Kastanis. All of these supporters helped with the cost of the breakfast and by sponsoring speakers for the conference.

The speakers- Dr. Armin Schulz, Dr. Kathy Perez, Dr. Isabel Beck, Dr. Candy Dawson Boyd, Dr. John Shefelbine, Francie Alexander and author Milly Lee were wonderful. Each of them delivered fabulous sessions about new research and strategies for teaching vocabulary and writing. Needless to say, the

evaluations were all very positive and the question asked was, “When is the next conference?”

May 15th Writing Conference

A follow up conference is planned for May 15th at Del Dayo Elementary School. So far the speakers will include Robert Marzano, Dr. Candy Dawson Boyd, Dr. John Shefelbine, Francie Alexander, hopefully Kate Kinsella and three more well-known educators, as well as author Ashley Wolff. As plans are solidified for the May 15th conference, flyers will be sent out to school districts, the county office and all SARA members. Register as soon as you can because we will be limited to the 220 registration number. No registrations will be accepted the day of the conference.



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2010- 2011 SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW.

The only requirement is that any nominated individual is a SARA member. Positions are as follows: president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, membership, and members-at-large. Please call or e-mail Joanne Arellanes at (916) 635-6007 or arellanesr@csus.edu to make a nomination.



WRITERS SHOWCASE 2010!

The Sacramento Area Reading Association (SARA) will once again be conducting our annual spring writing event to showcase excellent examples of creativity, inspiration, or style in writing. We will exhibit poetry, mysteries, creative writing, historical fiction and other pieces of “published” writing by individual elementary school students.

To Participate in the Writers Showcase:

Start saving work now and set aside some staff meeting or collaborative time to choose your school’s six entries. The showcase and reception will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Smythe School cafeteria at 2781 Northgate Boulevard in Sacramento. Entrants, their teachers and family members, as well as school administrators are all invited to this SARA event designed to acknowledge talented students.

In addition to being honored with an award and recognition, every student entrant will receive a book by local children’s author Jeri Chase Ferris, a multi-award

winning author of eleven biographies on women and minorities. Ms. Ferris will make a presentation and personally hand an autographed book to each of the showcase authors. Cookies and juice will round out the festivities.

Questions? Send Veronica Schwalbach, event chair, an e-mail at veronicaschwalbach@yahoo.com or call her at 916 966-3497. Entry blanks and participation certificates are on the SARA web site.



THE AUTHORS ARE COMING!

The Sacramento Area Library Organization, (SALO), will hold its Annual Author Symposium on Saturday, April 24th at the new Turner Public Library in West Sacramento. Five children’s authors will present the wonders of literature in the classroom and the library. Our special guests will include Ashley Wolff, Morrie Turner, Kiyō Sato, Christopher Steele, and Michael Troyan. Hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with lunch included for only \$30. For more information, get in touch with Penny Kastanis, at (916) 455-5682 or pkastanis@comcast.net.

LIGHTHOUSE ALERT!

Light up some worthy educator’s life in these days of gloom and doom, budget cuts, and increasing class sizes. Do you have a colleague or friend who works magic with children? We are looking for nominations for SARA’s Dr. Barbara Schmidt Lighthouse for Literacy Awards to be presented in May. Awards will be presented to those educators who inspire the love of reading and writing in children. The nominator can be a principal, teacher, or other staff member. Let’s spread some sunshine by rewarding a deserving teacher, librarian, or... Nominations are due April 6 and may be sent to Joanne Arellanes at arellanesr@csus.edu. or 2317 Pinturo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Call with questions: 916-635-6007.

