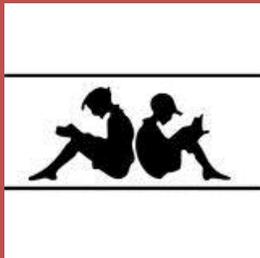


Rutgers Center for Literacy Development Newsletter



Spring 2018 Edition



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we come to the end of this school year, we wanted to reflect on the work done at the Center for Literacy Development. We began with the **50th Annual Rutgers Reading and Writing Conference** that drew over 1,000 educators to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick. The conference featured outstanding presentations by keynotes Lester Laminack as our Early Bird Special, Nell Duke as our morning keynote, and an inspirational presentation by author Henry Winkler.

Our **2017-2018 Speaker Series** had excellent attendance. We began with Cathy Collins in December, then Kate Roberts, Matt Glover for the National Writing Project conference, and on June 5th our series will end with Doug Fisher. In between, we took our show on the road and did a Current Issues presentation in Bergen County on *“Breaking Through The Language Arts Block: Organizing and Managing an Exemplary Literacy Day”*.

The **Rutgers Reading Club** is carried out in many districts that have continued the program and for those that have just started. Children are continuing to improve reading scores and their engagement in reading.

Our **Onsite Coaching** in schools has expanded to 25 districts in 42 schools this year. We coach to improve guided reading, reading workshop, writing workshop, vocabulary, word study, fluency, and managing literacy throughout the school day. We have already been asked back to continue our work in many of these districts and

new ones as well. We are proud of the excellent evaluations our coaches receive.

Finally we continue our work with **Reach Out and Read (ROR)**, the Pediatric Organization that promotes literacy development in their well child visits. Pediatricians discuss language and literacy development with parents during the children's exam. We bring books to one of the Rutgers pediatric clinics from books donated by those who attend our conferences.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2018-19, and some of our events are outlined at the end of this newsletter.

Best wishes for a relaxing, productive and reading of books you have been longing to read but were too busy to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley".

Dr. Lesley Mandel Morrow, Ph.D.
Center Director

“Good Books for Middle School” by Dr. Carmen Gordillo

As summer vacation quickly approaches it is important for educators to have students create reading plans to help prevent summer reading loss. To promote summer reading, schools should advertise books, provide access to books, and continue celebrating literacy as the end of the year wraps up. In addition, teachers and students should conduct “booktalks” to build excitement for summer reading. Below are some “hot books” suggestions for students in fourth through eighth grade:

Pink is for Blobfish by Jess Keating (4th grade and up) This inviting informational text describes pink rare creatures

and provides information about each creature through fun facts, cartoons, and vivid images.

A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day by Andrea Davis Pinkney (all ages) This heartwarming picture book is a biography told through verse about the life of Ezra Jack Keats and explains how a photograph in *Life* magazine of an African American little boy inspired his award winning book, *The Snowy Day*, into creation.

Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story by Nora Raleigh Baskin (4th grade and up) This book tells the story of four kids, Sergio, Will, Naheed, and Aimee, who reside in different parts of the United States and whose lives are forever changed on September 11, 2001, but this day has not happened yet as the book starts on September 9, 2001.

The Last Fifth Grade in Emerson Elementary by Laura Shovan (4th grade and up) This book is a collection of poetry written by eighteen diverse students who are getting ready to say goodbye to Emerson Elementary School because it is closing at the end of the school year. This book describes the changes the students are going through as they prepare for middle school and how they make their voices heard through a peaceful protest.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier (4th grade and up) This delightful graphic novel is the true story of the author's experience in sixth grade when she suffers a bad fall and injures her teeth. The main character deals with painful orthodontist visits, an earthquake, boys, and evolving friendships.

Refugee by Alan Gratz (5th grade and up) Three young kids: Josef, a Jewish boy who lives in Germany during the 1930s, a Cuban girl, Isabel, in 1994, and a Syrian boy, Mahmoud, in 2015, all go on different journeys with their families to escape the turmoil in their respective countries and hope to find refuge in another place. This book is one of the choices for the 2018 Global Read Aloud.

Crossover by Kwame Alexander (5th grade and up) Twin brothers and basketball phenoms, Jordan Bell and Josh Bell, are inseparable until one meets someone special and tests their bond. The twins' parents, assistant principal, mother and former basketball player, father guide them in basketball, education, and life. This book won the Newbery Medal in 2015.

Rebound by Kwame Alexander (5th grade and up) This is a companion book to the *Crossover* and gives the reader the background of Jordan & Josh's father, Chuck "Da Man" Bell, and his journey to becoming a basketball star.

Sunny Side Up by Jennifer L. Holm (5th grade and up) Sunny spends her summer vacation with her grandfather in a retirement home in Florida. She develops a new friendship, finds a love for comic books, and discovers a family secret.

March Series by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin (7th grade and up) The award winning March series is a graphic novel trilogy, which tells the story of Congressman John Lewis's upbringing and incredible life as a young boy in Alabama, his role in the Civil Rights Movement, and witnessing the inauguration of the first African American president.



Dr. Carmen Gordillo has been in public education for twenty years. She is a literacy specialist, middle school teacher, presenter, and teacher consultant. She taught in the New York City public school system for six years. Since 2004 she has been a middle school teacher in the West Orange School District in New Jersey. She completed her first Master's in education at Teachers College, Columbia University and her second Master's in Reading Specialization at New Jersey City University (NJCU). Carmen was one of the recipients of the 2014 Edward Fry Fellowship at Rutgers University. She completed her doctorate degree and graduated from Rutgers University in May 2015. Furthermore, she has taught literacy courses at NJCU and Rutgers University. She has lead professional development in school districts throughout the state of New Jersey. Carmen now serves on the board of directors of the New Jersey Literacy Association (NJLA) and the Center for Literacy Development. Her research interests are: adolescent literacy, student engagement, African-American and Latino boys and literacy.

Keep Kids Reading This Summer!

by Joanne L. Emery

After our extended winter, it is hard to imagine that warm weather, lemonade, and beach days are waiting eagerly on our horizons. But surely summer will be here before we know it! As teachers, we also know how important summer is for students to practice and improve their reading skills in order to avoid the "summer slide." In order to battle the "summer slide," many schools, libraries, and websites develop lists of books to engage young readers. These lists are a good starting point for exposing students to a wide variety of genres: fantasy/science fiction, historical fiction, realistic fiction, biography, information, and poetry. As novelist

Joyce Carol Oates has said, “Read widely, and without apology. Read what you want to read, not what someone tells you you should read.” By adhering to Oates’ suggestion, we encourage students to pursue their own passions, pique their curiosity, and set them on the road to become lifelong readers.

Many studies have shown that when students read widely, they increase their vocabulary, comprehension, and background knowledge on a variety of experiences. Reading widely also strengthens a student’s understanding of the writing process, enhances curiosity, stimulates creativity, and helps readers to connect emotionally to characters.

Some ways for parents to encourage children to read voraciously over the summer are:

1. Encourage children to read at least 20 minutes per day depending on their age level. Children become more invested in books they choose themselves. Reading in small increments throughout the day builds stamina and leads to long-term gains.
2. Provide a quiet, cozy place to relax and read. Readers need to know they have a reading spot to retreat to in order to concentrate and imagine.
3. Reading is both a private and a social activity. Allow time for family read alouds and discussions about books everyone is reading. By doing this, parents become important reader role models for their children.
4. Start a book club! It can be a neighborhood or parent/child book club. Gather together friends or family who all agree to read the same book, and then get together to discuss your thoughts and opinions once everyone has read the book. For more information on book clubs, check out: <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/book-clubs-for-kids/>
5. Connect summer reading to family adventures. If children are reading about a historical event, science concepts, or interesting animal, plan excursions to a museum, aquarium, zoo, or other historical places to deepen their thinking and make knowledge come alive.
6. Reach out digitally. Create a blog with your child reviewing books you’ve both enjoyed over the summer. Share your blog with friends and family. This is a great way to sharpen writing skills too!

Here are some great websites that support reading widely!

Young Readers: <https://zero-to-eight.blogspot.com/>

Eclectic site with reviews on a variety of genres: <http://bookaunt.blogspot.com/>

Literary mom, Zoe Toft’s reviews and resources: <http://www.playingbythebook.net/>

Esme Raji Codell: <http://www.planetesme.com/>

Donnalynn Miller: <https://bookwhisperer.com/>

Kate Messner: <http://www.katemessner.com/>

Nonfiction: <http://inkthinktank.org/>

Poetry: <http://www.poemfarm.amylv.com/>

Suggested Summer Book Adventures:

Pre-K - Kindergarten

A Perfect Day by Lane Smith

A Greyhound, A Groundhog by Emily Jenkins

I see a Cat by Paul Meisel

The Book of Mistakes by Corinna Luyken

You Can Read by Helaine Becker

1st and 2nd Grades

After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up by Dan Santat

Alfie: The Turtle That Disappeared by Thyra Heder

Charlie and Mouse by Laurel Snyder

When A Wolf is Hungry by Christine Naumann-Villemin

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes

3rd and 4th Grades

Bellyache: A Delicious Tale by Crystal Marcos

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

Lighter Than Air by Matthew Clark Smith

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets by Kwame

Alexander

Waiting for Pumpsie by Barry Wittenstein

Joanne Emery has worked in private education for more than three decades.



Currently, Joanne is an ELA curriculum coordinator at the Kent Place School. She has a B.A. in English from Douglass College, a Master’s degree in Creative Arts Education from Rutgers University, and has done extensive doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania in Reading, Writing, and Literacy. Joanne has been a member of the Advisory Board at Rutgers University Center for Literacy for several years. Her article, “Fostering Curiosity and Imagination” was recently re-published on the Education Closet website:

https://educationcloset.com/artsedlab/ Joanne is a poet, photographer, and artist. She was an original member of Judy Chicago’s Birth Project, in which she created needlework for one of Chicago’s quilts, which toured the country and Canada. She has published several academic articles as well as poetry, and her photography has been on exhibit throughout the United States.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE EVENTS

Speaker Series



Doug Fisher
June 5, 2018
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Busch Student Center
Registration Fee: \$150
<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1956860>

RCLD's Summer Literacy 2018

Children's Literature in Early Childhood and Elementary School

(For course credit leading to a Reading Specialist certification see Rutgers University Summer Schedule for course 300:299:509 to register)

Schedule for Authors and Literature Experts:

Monday, June 25, 2018 Speaker: John Farrell

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 Speakers: Janet Wong & Carmen Gordillo

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 Speakers: Jill Mills and Rachel Harrington

Time: 9:30am-3:30pm

Place: Rutgers Graduate School of Education
10 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, NJ

REGISTRATION is \$40 per day or \$100 for all 3 days!

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1949898>



OCTOBER EVENTS

51st Annual Conference on Reading and Writing

October 26, 2018

Hyatt Regency

2 Albany Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Register at:

<https://RutgersCenterforLiteracyDevelopment.cvent.com>

2018-2019 SPEAKER SERIES



Donalyn Miller
December 6, 2018
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Douglass Student Center
Registration Fee: \$150
<https://RutgersCenterforLiteracyDevelopment.cvent.com>



Penny Kittle
January 15, 2019
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
College Avenue Student Center
Registration Fee: \$150
<https://RutgersCenterforLiteracyDevelopment.cvent.com>

Kylene Beers & Bob Probst February 27, 2019

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Douglass Student Center
Registration Fee: \$150
<https://RutgersCenterforLiteracyDevelopment.cvent.com>



Harvey "Smokey" Daniels
March 22, 2019
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Douglass Student Center
Registration Fee: \$150
<https://RutgersCenterforLiteracyDevelopment.cvent.com>

WHAT'S NEW AT THE CENTER?

New Faces at the Center



Kelly Clarida
Program Coordinator

Prior to joining the Center, Kelly worked temporarily at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education in support of the Office of Local-Global Partnerships and the Office of Strategic Alliances & Online Education. Kelly was a Substitute Teacher in Bound Brook, and worked as a Communication Director at Prudential Financial. Kelly earned her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Stockton University.

RCLD's Website: <http://rutgersliteracycenter.org/>



If you would like to contribute a story or article pertaining to literacy development to the RCLD Newsletter, please send your email to sharon.mass@gse.rutgers.edu.

All submissions will be reviewed by Lesley Mandel Morrow, Center Director.



Sharon Masso
Program Coordinator

Sharon joined the Center 2 months ago and is helping out while Lisa Mullin is on maternity leave. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Rutgers University and has completed her certification in Human Resources from Middlesex County College. Sharon has 31 years of service at Rutgers University, as well as a wide range of experience and expertise in administrative functions at the University.