



SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

Spring Newsletter 2013

Suburban
Council of the
International
Reading
Association

President's Message

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SCIRA

Summer Conference

Thursday & Friday
June 26 & 27, 2013
Featuring

Doug Fisher

Information and
Registration
Questions--contact
Claudia Katz at
ckatz17755@aol.com or
847-236-1164
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NCE

***1 Hour Graduate Credit
National-Louis University***

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SCIRA Board



Note from the President

By Kathy Miller
Co-President of SCIRA

Dear SCIRA friends,

Education initiatives seem to produce both the exhilaration of hope and the angst of implementation. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are the initiative and I believe we should embrace the goals of the CCSS and instruct using researched practices, while resisting pressures to forsake the positive strengths that are already present. How do you lower anxiety and stimulate practice? Teacher Learning Communities within the schools have proved effective in offering support and creating a collaborative network to teachers. These communities, which include teachers across grade levels and disciplines, discuss the goals and implementation of ideas. Research has shown that these groups promote inquiry, collective efforts and a shared vision.

I think of SCIRA as a learning community. We offer quality professional development for teachers to our learning community. Using the goals of CCSS to "integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats" (anchor standard #7), SCIRA has offered presentations this last school year on digital literacy and iPad applications. Our February presentation by Kristin Ziemke offered literally dozens of ideas to facilitate instruction and engage our children.

SCIRA members are privileged to have Doug Fisher, PH.D., presenting during our Summer Seminar. The topics include high quality instruction, close reading and text dependent questions. These are hot topics as described in Anchor Standard #10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently. You may know about the three factors of text complexity, but are you thoroughly knowledgeable with all that these factors entail? How do you judge materials for complexity or approach teaching close reading? Join us this summer on June 27 and 28 with Doug Fisher to

2012-13

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investigate and reflect on many important topics related to Reading instruction.

At the June presentation we will also approve the new slate of SCIRA board officers. As my term as co-president will end, I must express my heartfelt appreciation to the extraordinary members of the SCIRA board who have coordinated our efforts these last two years. I also thank the SCIRA membership. You are there at the presentations; your presence validates our work. We are all a part of the SCIRA learning community, an active group of literacy advocates.

Kathy Miller, SCIRA Co-President

Do you want to expand your schema?

Are you interested in learning more about

High-quality instruction

Close reading

Annotation

and

Text-dependent questions?

Then you should register for the Conference Course!

The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how expert teachers use a four-part process to scaffold student understanding during small-group guided instruction. Course participation involves attending the SCIRA Summer Conference, which will demonstrate how to provide students with opportunities to assimilate new textual information with their existing background knowledge and prior experiences to expand their schema.

Attend the Doug Fisher conference and take the course – by participating in breakout sessions, keeping a journal, and reading and summarizing articles, you will be ready to create a multi-lesson unit, which you can take right back to the classroom in the fall.

See pages 6-8 for information about registering for the conference and the course!