



Greater Washington Reading Council

Spring 2015



Message from the President

Dear GWRC Literacy Leaders,

Spring is upon us! This time of year is very busy for students, parents and teachers alike. The days are getting longer, ballgames are a nightly event, and SOL tests are in the very near future. It seems reading takes a backseat in some of our students' lives. We don't want to forget and lose sight of

our purpose and the importance of our roles as literacy leaders in our schools. You are valuable and make a difference in the lives of the children you serve. You are important! It has been an amazing experience to serve as your GWRC

president! I am proud to have been a part of your literacy network and look forward to seeing the exciting future and growth of our council.
Sincerely,
Stephanie Fidler

GWRC Board Members

- Stephanie Fidler, President
- Lisa Hughes, Vice-President
- Teresa Blondin, Membership
- Cyncy GWRC Board Members
- Stephanie Fidler, President
- Lisa Hughes, Vice-President
- Michelle Picard, Vice-President Elect
- Teresa Blondin, Membership
- Jen Hedary, Membership
- Cyndy Armehin, Treasurer
- Barbara Rohr, Corresponding/Recording Secretary
- Jeannie Lambert, Immediate Past President
- Tanya Jones, Immediate Past-President

Annual GWRC Conference, October 21, 2015: Save the Date!

GWRC Presents Dr. Nell K. Duke

Nell K. Duke will present her work on project based learning highlighted in her text *Inside Information: Developing powerful readers and writers of informational text through project-based instruction*. Following a presentation from Nell Duke, educators from the Greater Washington area will participate in a poster session sharing their independent work with project based learning K-12. Nell Duke will provide feedback and entertain a panel and audience discussion for later portion of the

day.

Nell Duke is the professor of literacy, language, and culture and a faculty affiliate in the combined program in education and psychology at the University of Michigan. She is the author and coauthor of numerous journals, book chapters as well as books: *Reading and Writing Informational Texts in the Primary Grades; Research-Based Practices; Literacy and the Youngest Learner; A Parents' Guide to Promoting Reading,*

Writing, and Other Literacy Skills from Birth to Five; Reading and Writing Genre with Purpose in K-8 Classrooms. She is also the editor of *The Research Informed Classroom* book series and co-editor of the *Not This, But That* book series.

Date: October 21, 2015

Time: 8:30 to 3:30 PM

Location: Hyatt Fair Lakes, 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, VA 22033

Inside this issue:

Grant Opportunities	2
GWRC is Recruiting	2
News in Education	3
GWRC Call for Presenters	4
GWRC 2015-2016	5
GWRC International Proj	6



GWRC Grant Opportunities

As part of its commitment to promote literacy and literacy development in Northern Virginia, GWRC has three grants that are available to members. Members who wish to enhance literacy learning in their schools and communities can apply for the Community Outreach Grant. The Nancy King Professional Growth Grant is open to members who wish to continue

their study of literacy, present at a conference, or participate in other professional growth with a focus on literacy. Teachers who want to form a book group that concentrates on a study of literacy can apply for the Teachers-as-Readers Grant to help fund their reading materials. All of these grants are awarded twice a year. The fall deadline for applications is

December 15 and the spring deadline is April 15. To apply for one of these grants, you must have been a member for at least one year prior to the current membership year. For applications and more information about these grants, click on "GRANTS" on our home page.

Linda Kimmel, Grants Chairperson

**Do you want to
take a more
active role in
GWRC?**

GWRC is Recruiting

The GWRC board is looking for interested persons to fill open positions on our board.

The current open positions are:

- Member-at-Large
- Legislative
- IRA Liaison
- Alexandria Liaison
- Fauquier Liaison
- Manassas Park Liaison
- Manassas City Liaison
- Administrative Liaison

If you or someone you know is interested in more information about any of these positions, please contact Stephanie Fidler at:

Stephanie.Fidler@lcps.org



GWRC Grants in Action!

Dear GWRC Board Members:

Our six third grade classes have enjoyed reading the book collection purchased by the "Thirst for Reading" Grant you provided. You have expanded our Independent Reading Library by 100 books of all types. We can only be successful with Independent Reading if we have plenty of books, and you've given us quite a boost in achieving that goal.

Tolbert third grade students, third grade teachers, administrators, and Carol and I are truly grateful for your generosity and support in helping us meet our reading goals.

Sincerely,
Barbara Sieren



"You have expanded our Independent Reading Library by 100 books of all types."

News in Education

The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Innovation Committee (Committee) was created by legislation approved by the Virginia General Assembly and signed by the Governor on June 11, 2014. The legislation charges the Committee, under the leadership of the Secretary of Education, with making recommendations to the Board of Education and the General Assembly on SOL

assessments, individual student growth measures, alignment between Standards of Learning assessments, School Performance Report Cards, and ideas of innovative teaching in the classroom. The Committee worked to explore the efficacy of the number of SOL assessments required at the elementary level and made recommendations to re-

duce that number. The Committee is now exploring assessments at the high school level.

Check the website of the General Assembly to be aware of Committee recommendations. <https://education.virginia.gov/media/3475/final-full-reportmrk.pdf>



GWRC Call for Presenters

The Greater Washington Reading Council (GWRC) invites you to consider presenting at the annual conference where Dr. Nell Duke will be featured. Following Dr. Duke's morning presentation, she will facilitate a project fair based on the book *Developing powerful readers and writers of informational text through project-based learning*. Selected teachers will be invited to share a poster session of their work with project-based learning based on their reading of the text and classroom experience. GWRC will provide a limited number of copies of the book to interested educators.

The poster session will be conducted in the afternoon project-based learning fair. Presenters will also be asked to submit an electronic overview of their work to post on the GWRC Website to share with conference attendees. This may include PowerPoint or PechaKucha style videos.



Dr. Duke will spend the last hour sharing her

Dr. Nell Duke

observations on the work shared across the conference and facilitating a panel and audience question and answer session.

Interested presenters should contact Michelle Picard at michelle.picard@apsva.us and your GWRC liaison for more information and to complete a commitment form. Presenters are expected to register for the conference.

Greater Washington Reading Council website: <http://gwrc.net/>

Annual GWRC Conference
Date: October 21, 2015

Location: Hyatt Fair Lakes,
12777 Fair Lakes Circle,
Fairfax, VA 22033

Time: 8:00-3:30 PM Feat-
uring: Dr. Nell Duke

Please include in your
email:

- Name
- School System
- School Grade level assignment(s)
- A brief description of your experience and interest in this project presentation.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Michelle Picard at michelle.picard@apsva.us or your GWRC liaison.

Local liaisons:

Arlington—Lara Macdonald Lara.macdonald@apsva.us

Fairfax—Kristi Johnson and Maria Privitera
Kajohnson2@fcps.edu

mzprivitera@fcps.edu

Fauquier—Brooks Spencer

bspencer@fcps1.org

GMU—Seth Parsons
Sparson5@gmu.edu

Loudoun—Kate Shuffleton
Katherine.shuffleton@lcps.org

Manassas Park—Lisa Stohlman & Maria Mancuso
lisastohlman@gmail.com

maria.mancuso@mpark.net

Prince William—Cheryl-Joy Carrington
carrincj@pwcs.edu

VA Reader's Choice 2015-2016



Primary (Grades K-3)

The Cart That Carried Martin—
Eve Bunting, Don Tate (Ills.)

Eat Like a Bear—April Pulley
Sayre, Steve Jenkins (Ills.)

Hi, Koo! A Year of Seasons —John
J. Muth

The Invisible Boy—Tracy Ludwig,
Parice Barton (Ills.)

Lion vs. Rabbit—Alex Latimer

The Most Magnificent Thing -
Ashley Spires

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild—Peter
Brown

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote—
Duncan Tonatiah

The Snatchabook—Helen Doehrty
and Thomas Doeherty

Sparky! - Jenny Offhill and Chris
Appelhans

Elementary (Grades 3-5)

Arnie the Doughnut—Laurie Keller

*Charlie Bumpers vs. The Teacher
of the Year*—Bill Harley, Adam
Gustavson (Ills.)

Elvis and the Underdogs— Jenny
Lee

*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's
Library*—Chris Grabenstein

Flight of the Honeybee—Raymond
Huber, Brian Lovelock (Ills.)

Gone Fishing—Tamara Will Wis-
singer, Matthew Cordell (Ills.)

Hoop Genius—John Coy, Joe

Morse (Ills.)

Mountain Dog—Margarita
Engle

*Three Ring Rascals: The Show
Must Go On* —Kate Klise, M.
Sara Klise (Ills.)

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

The Boy on the Wooden Box—
Leon Leyson

Counting by 7s—Holly Gold-
berg Sloan

Half a Chance—Cynthia Lords

“The President Has Been Shot”
- James L. Swanson

Prisoner B-3087—Alan Grantz

Seeing Red—Katheryn Erskine

Shadow—Michael Morpugo

Twerp—Mark Goldblatt

Under the Egg—Laura Marx
Fitzgerald

Zero Tolerance —Claudia Mills

High School (Grades 9-12)

Eleanor & Park—Rainbow
Rowell

Fake ID—Lamar Giles

*Forgive Me, Leonard Pea-
cock*—Matthew Quick

I Am Malala—Malala
Yousafzai

March: Book One—John Lew-
is, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell

Out of the Easy—Ruta Sepetys

Reality Boy—A.S. King



CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS: Making Literacy Connections

Can you tweak your Smart Goal into an article? Did you participate in a successful literacy program? Are you involved in action research? Are you using technology to enhance your literacy instruction? Deadline for Submissions is July 1, 2015. Go to the GWRC Website for more information.

Spring 2015

Newsletter Design by:
Dr. Karen Banks & Laura Gray

Visit us on the web!
<http://www.gwrc.net>



The Greater Washington Reading Council sets its mission as promoting literacy and literacy education in this Northern Virginia region. A local affiliate of the [Virginia State Reading Association](#), the Greater Washington Reading Council members are committed to supporting teachers, administrators, and the general public in the best practices of literacy instruction, pre-K to college and beyond. Through professional conferences, an online newsletter, an evolving website, and a members-only journal, the Greater Washington Reading Council works to support the goals of the [Virginia State Reading Association](#) and the [International Reading Association](#). Through these professional opportunities and continuing education events we, the members and literacy leaders in our region, assist the children of Northern Virginia in reaching the literacy standards set by the Commonwealth and the robust literacy objectives of the 21st century.

GWRC International Project

We are looking for contributions from members!

If you have a program, instructional strategy, or news item you would like to share, please email us:

Karen.Banks@lcps.org
Laura.Gray@lcps.org

Since 2011, GWRC has co-sponsored a literacy project in the rural highlands of Guatemala. The Centro Educativo William Botnan is located in Santa Avelina, San Juan Cotzal, Quiché, Guatemala. The school serves as an educational headquarters for the Ixil Triangle and as a model for expansion of educational initiatives throughout Guatemala. GWRC provides partial funding for the purchase of materials for guided reading instruction. GWRC members are invited to join a group of educators every July for a week of on-site teacher training in best practices for literacy instruction.

In July, seven volunteers from Northern Virginia joined educa-

tors from Michigan and New York in the rural highlands of Guatemala to participate in Reading Week 2014. Representing Northern Virginia on the trip were: Kelly Dalton, and Rose Winston (all from George Mason University), Jennifer O'Looney (Prince William County Public Schools), Marnie Garnier and Sarah Hinshaw (Fairfax County Public Schools), Nikki Irving (LocumTenens.com), and Kathy Davin (Arlington County Public Schools). The U.S. team conducted workshops for local teachers that focused on reading instruction in a bilingual setting, early childhood education, formative assessment, and the implementation of the Reading A-Z.com resources that are funded by a

grant from the GWRC. While staying at the school, participants took side trips to visit the local waterfall and a museum in the nearby town of Nebaj that features pre-Columbian artifacts recently discovered in the region. On the return trip to the capital, the team spent a couple of days of well deserved R&R in the lakeside village of Panajachel and the colonial city of Antigua, Guatemala.

Currently, GWRC is working with the Ashburn, VA chapter of Rotary International to establish a partnership as we seek to sustain and augment this project. For more information, please see the International Tab at the GWRC web site (www.gwrc.net) or contact Kathy Davin at Key School, Arlington (Kathleen.Davin@apsva.us)