

Literacy Leaders

The newsletter of the Kentucky Reading Association

www.kyreading.org

SPRING 2019



Greetings, KRA members and friends of literacy!

I hope everyone is keeping warm during these winter months! Across the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Reading Association (KRA) is continuing its work to be a voice for literacy throughout the year. This winter's *Literacy Leaders* newsletter provides information about all the amazing work our local chapters are doing, as well as current information for all educators and literacy lovers in Kentucky.

The 2018 Conference committee, led by President-Elect, Lisa Shaw King, put together a fabulous conference in November. Attendance was higher than it has been in years! The energy and excitement at the conference was invigorating, and I hope you all were able to attend and take away strategies from your fellow Kentucky educators, as well as our national literacy professionals. I would like to thank everyone involved in making our conference one of the premier events in our state! Inside this newsletter, you'll find more highlights from the conference. It was truly a remarkable event!

KRA has continued to work on our transition to its own entity due to the International Literacy Association's (ILA) reorganization. We have established a new business identity number and are finalizing our new by-laws. The new by-laws will be sent out to all KRA active members once finalized. KRA's new state awards have been established and disseminated to local chapter boards. The local chapters voted at our last meeting to be more aligned with the state organization by calling themselves, "Kentucky Reading Association: LOCAL Chapter". Again, I encourage you to reach out to your local chapter to find out about all of the events, programs, grants, and development being done throughout the state on the local level.

We announced our fall mini-grant winners at the KRA conference in November. Congratulations Eriauna Stratton, Miranda Jarvis, Kennita Ballard, and Hannah Stark on your KRA mini-grants! Spring mini-grants will be open by the end of January and will remain opened until March 1, so keep your eye on the KRA website, (www.kyreading.org) for more information about the mini-grants. Speaking of our website, the KRA website will be undergoing an upgrade and update this spring!

Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/kyreading) to stay abreast of all the KRA happenings this year.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to literacy and the children and citizens of Kentucky!

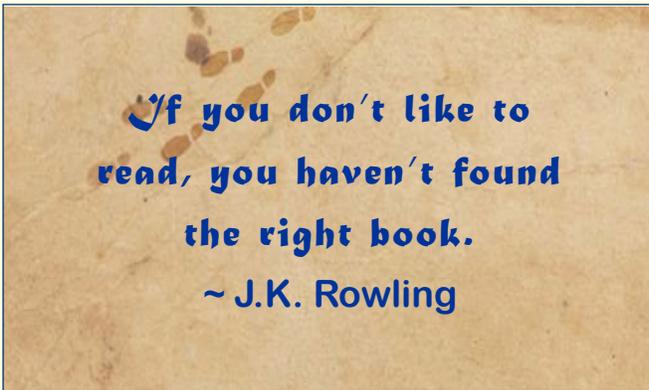
Erin Wobbekind

KRA President 2018-2019

KRA Mission

The Kentucky Reading Association is a professional organization of educators and individuals actively engaged in the development of literacy throughout the Commonwealth. KRA’s mission is to be a voice for literacy.

We are committed to encouraging lifelong reading for pleasure and learning, providing information related to literacy, increasing opportunities for professional growth, and promoting research-based instructional practices.



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KRA Notes: STATE COORDINATOR'S LETTER from Laura Smith Crafton

Dear KRA Members,

I am always excited to start a new year. I find the idea of the ancient Roman god Janus, depicted with two faces facing opposite directions, rather fascinating. Janus was the god of beginnings and transitions—hence the month of January begins the new year. I find it appropriate to look forward and backward, as we not only turn the page to a new month, a new term, and into a new year.

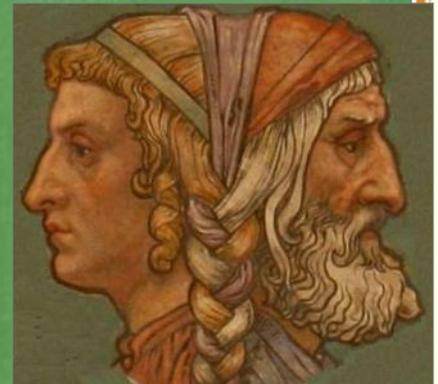
The start of a new calendar year and school term causes me to pause in the journey that I started as I faced a new school year in late summer. I look back to ask myself where I have been, if I have made the desired progress, and what I need to do differently, among other questions. I look forward, contemplating whether I will reach my destination before the school year runs out.

As educators, our school year follows a different seasonal calendar, originally aligned to harvesting crops and planting for the new growth; however, we are still conscious of the calendar year and look forward to our students' growth and maturation.

Sometimes a Janus word, or contronym, is a word having opposite or contradictory meanings, such as: before, commencement, or enduring. As literacy specialists, we cannot help but think of the multiple meanings of words we hear and use throughout the year. We are sometimes faced with contradictory circumstances in our classrooms and schools. How do we approach these instances and seek positive solutions?

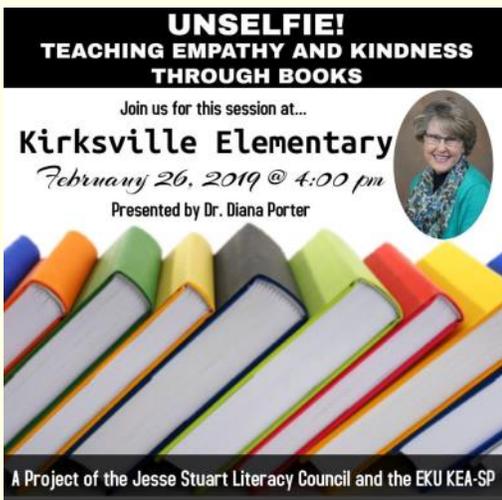
What has made you look both forward and backward this year? What are the accomplishments or building blocks you see over the course of this school year? What do you look forward to as the spring term progresses? Are you involved in a professional learning community (PLC) at your school? Have you attended valuable professional development workshops or webinars—and have you brought new skills to your classroom? How is your year progressing—how has it changed from your ideas at the beginning of the school year? Enjoy our look back at KRA's successful annual conference in October 2018, and be inspired by our local chapters continuing work as positive voices for literacy in Kentucky.

Laura S. Crafton
KRA State Coordinator



SPOTLIGHT

on Local Chapters



Dr. Diana Porter presented this book-fueled empathy and kindness tutorial at **Jesse Stuart Chapter** on February 26th.

Pennyrile Reading Council hosted an I Love Teachers event on February 28th at MCC-Madisonville Murray campus. We plan to have a teacher roundtable discussion for various stages of teaching.

We also plan to hold an author/illustrator event in late March or early April to coincide with recognizing young student author/illustrators in our district.

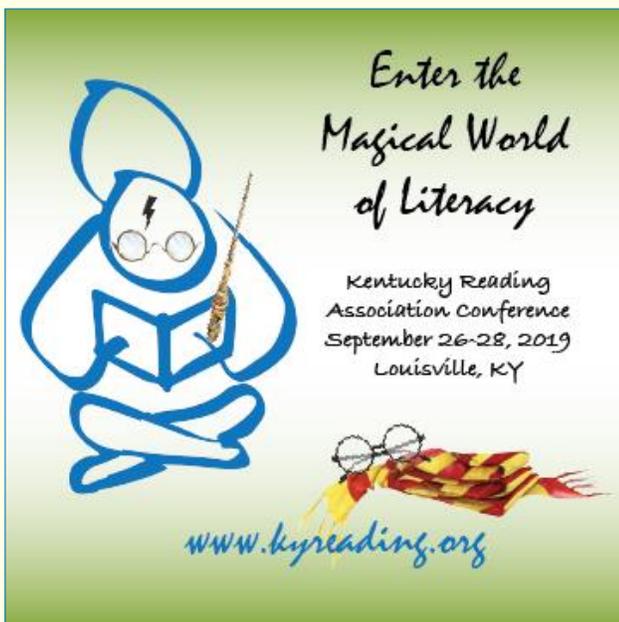


Lake Cumberland Chapter helped sponsor an awesome Family Literacy Night at Walker Elementary, "Reading is the greatest superpower!" Their next Family Literacy Night was March 15th, "Let's Get Revved Up for Reading" held at Bell Elementary School.

Western Kentucky Reading Council is working on birdhouse libraries for Stephenson Elementary School in Russellville. We also provided snacks for an author visit at the Beulah Winchel Education Library: Pura Belpré award winner Ruth Behar spoke about her first book for young readers, *Lucky Broken Girl*, to a few lucky literacy education students! 📖

What's Up & What's New at KRA?

In the Spring 2019 issue of The Kentucky Reading Journal, *Transformations through Literacy*, readers will discover articles that emphasize ways to transform literacy instruction for students and teachers. Featured Articles highlight the specific needs of students diagnosed with dyslexia and EL teachers. While the Teaching tips provide ways to engage students through literacy games and fluency instruction. Finally, start your summer reading list by browsing the In addition professional book reviews. As you wrap up your year in the classroom, KRJ can help you plan and prepare for the next school year!



KRA members, please vote for the KRA Board Officer position of Secretary by May 6, 11:59 p.m. CDT, here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRABallot-2019

Candidate for KRA Secretary:
Jessica Thrasher



Hi! My name is Jessica Thrasher, and I am married to Brad. I am a mother to three amazing children: Raegan, 14; Jacob, 8; and Charlee, 3. I have been teaching elementary students in the Wayne County School District for 18 years. In that time, I have taught kindergarten, first and second grade. I am currently teaching first grade. In my years of experience, I have found my passion, and it is teaching students how to read. Being a part of the Kentucky Reading Conferences and being able present my love of reading to others this past year, I found that I just want more....so I am running for KRA secretary.

I want to be a part of something bigger, something that will not only impact my students, peers and colleagues, but Kentucky teachers and Kentucky students! I would be honored to be a part of the Kentucky Reading Association family, to be able to assist in the continued successes of the annual conference and more.

Thank you,
Jessica Thrasher
First Grade, Bell Elementary



2018 KRA Conference Highlights



Murray State Kentucky Reading Project teachers enjoy a fan club moment with Janet Allen. Left to right: Tina Grant, Janet Allen, Holly Bloodworth, Taylor Underwood, Cathy Scruggs.



Keynote speaker Jan Richardson dazzles her audience with her talk "Next Step Forward in Reading Intervention."



Rockin' Readers! Left to right, Kevin Presnell, Stacey Korson, Kristyn Presnell.



A group of participants and leaders from the Adolescent Literacy Project at ECU presented on their summer program, including many of the literacy strategies they learned and discussed. Left to right: Hayden Westfall, Dorie Combs, Kevin Presnell, Jimmy Lynn Watson, Brandi Saylor, Stacey Korson, Sarah Robinson, Eileen Shanahan.



KRA Legislative Advocacy chair and past president Keith Lyons with award-winning Kentucky author Crystal Wilkinson.



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2018 KRA Conference Reflections: Greater Louisville Reading Council



Greater Louisville Reading Council at the KRA Annual Conference 2018:
Left to right: Synthia Shelby, Vicky Layne, Lonydea Todd, Analese Cravens,
Charity Garnett and Molly Hollister

Wide Variety

By Vicky Layne

As I reflect on this year's KRA Conference, I was struck by the array of choices of sessions. Our careers as literacy professionals span a wide variety of topics and the conference provided access to new learning in many. Strengthening classroom instruction is the core of my work as a literacy coach. Jan Richardson's work with guided reading and intervention frameworks

was refreshing and informative. Trying these in our building is a top priority. Increasing writing engagement is always a challenge for teachers and gave me some good strategies to share. The challenges of dyslexia and Kentucky's approach to addressing them gave me new insight into the future of advocacy for struggling students.

As a fan of the Kentucky Reading Journal, I was drawn to the session on publishing. Literacy professionals need to share

the work going on in classrooms and the presenters brought the process down to earth. The Saturday sessions on the Amazing Shake project and the Literacy Lab were inspirational and proved that literacy has no boundaries in schools or in the community. And the Beat Goes On was a wonderful conference. Thanks to KRA and Greater Louisville for enriching our perspectives and our purpose of sharing literacy with our children.

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2018 Conference Reflections (cont'd)



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Lessons in Action

By Angela D. Rogers

What I learned from this conference was priceless, for example, as someone in the literacy lessons training year has been great! It was right on time for me to attend because I saw the lessons in action for different perspectives.

There were several sessions I learned from. The Predictions of progress session was awesome. I learned techniques that I could use during my guided reading/literacy lessons. The Reading recovery session showed how schools can incorporate reading recovery strategies to use school wide and how it works at a school and how it increased student achievement. The opening session with Jan Richardson taught us tidbits for the next steps in guided reading. It was awesome to have met the authors of Danny books. In addition, I had the opportunity to meet some

amazing educators!

Thank you for the opportunity to have attended the Kentucky Reading Association annual conference.

Passion for Literacy

By Analiese Cravens

Wow! KRA 2018 was awesome!

This was my first year attending and can't wait to go back. One of the most exciting parts of the conference was getting to know people from our state who also have a passion for children's literacy and building a professional network.

I met a teacher from Northern Kentucky, Kerri Stanfield who works in Mason County Schools. She passionately works to motivate her students to increase their impact on their own community while also learning and implementing content. She has spread her expertise to other teachers in the building. I think that is so empowering! They have even sent kids to the Amazing Shake Competition

in Atlanta Georgia! Her focus was getting the classroom out into the community. Listening to her reminded me that teaching the standards in a way that allows students to practice their knowledge in the real world would have a much larger impact on both the student, teachers, and the community.

While there, my partner teacher Molly Hollister, and I presented our Literacy Lab to other teachers in the state. This is my first time presenting to an audience outside of our school building. It was inspiring to stand up, talk about what we created, and be able to share it. The teachers appeared to be engaged and excited, but they were also supportive. Initially we told everyone this was our first time presenting and at the end, some gave us great feedback as to how to make our presentation even better and how to make a "Part 2."

This experience at KRA really helped to build a community of motivated literacy teachers and build my professional network. I am excited to return next year, and learn even more! 📖