

October 1, 2011



General Membership Meeting September 29, 2011

Dr. Nell Duke from Michigan State University was the featured speaker at the September meeting of the Alamo Reading Council. In her presentation, "Helping Students Learn to Read and Write Informational and Procedural Text: Five Principles for Instruction at Any Grade Level," Dr. Duke discussed genre and what educators needed to do to help students be successful in working with various genre. She encouraged teachers to provide meaningful environments and experiences to students as well as explicitly teaching genre features and genre-specific and genre-sensitive strategies. Importantly, she told teachers that students needed ongoing coaching and feedback as they are working with informational and procedural texts.

President's Message

Being an educator is an awesome responsibility. We are charged with the task of helping children become competent and confident lifelong readers and writers. We motivate, model, encourage, engage, affirm, and praise the work our students do. We work hard so that our students become risk-takers, problem-solvers, and word-lovers. Our batteries periodically need to be recharged so that we have the tools and energy necessary to help students be successful. I encourage you to keep your battery charged by participating in the Alamo Reading Council and in other local and state literacy events. This newsletter will not only keep you up-to-date on what the Alamo Reading Council is doing, but we will also inform you about what else is going on in the city. This is an exciting year for literacy in San Antonio and in Texas! We have a new state literacy organization in the planning stages and several outstanding conferences right here in our own back yard. Participating in them will give you opportunities to network and to learn and share ideas and strategies. We need to work together and learn from each other in order to prepare our students not only for testing but also for the real world. I look forward to seeing you at some of the many events planned this year in San Antonio.



Jeanne Cantu recognizes Carolyn Denny, outgoing board member, for her service to Alamo Reading Council.

Literacy Summit: What's Hot in Literacy for 2012

This Literacy Summit is sponsored by the Specialized Literacy Professionals (An IRA Special Interest Group), The Texas Association for Literacy Education, and the University of the Incarnate Word. It will be held at the Incarnate Word campus February 3-4, 2012. Featured and keynote speakers include: Dr. Jack Cassidy, Dr. Jerry Johns, Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Dr. Jill Lewis-Spector, Dr. Richard M. Long, Dr. Barbara A. Marinak, and Dr. Misty Sailors. More information can be found at

<http://www.literacysummitwhatshot2012.com>



Stephanie Grote-Garcia invites council members to attend the Literacy Summit and to support the formation of the Texas Association of Literacy Education.

New State Literacy Association in Texas

After learning that the Texas State Reading Association had closed its doors, a committee led by Dr. Jack Cassidy met to consider the formation of a new state literacy association in Texas tentatively named the Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE). A survey developed by Dr. Jim Hoffman and a subcommittee will gather data to construct a vision statement and an organizational structure for the new association. Membership for the first year will be free thanks to proceeds from the Literacy Summit (see flyer attached). Please be a part of the development process of our new literacy association. Follow this link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3HCKPWH>

Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts

The TCTELA Conference will be held in San Antonio January 20-22, 2012. This 47th Annual Conference has as its theme, "Nurturing Lifelong Learning." Featured speakers include Naomi Shihab Nye, Harvey "Smokey" Daniels, Katie Wood Ray, Gretchen Bernabei, Jeff Anderson, and Victoria Young. More conference information can be found at

<http://www.tctela.org/>

Welcome to Our Newest ARC Member!

The Alamo Reading Council is honored to welcome Dr. Jack Cassidy as a member. Dr. Cassidy is a former President of the International Reading Association and the College Reading Association and is the recipient of the A.B. Herr Award for outstanding contributions to the field of reading. He was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame in 2010 and received the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Laureate Award that same year. In addition to receiving many other awards in the field of reading, literacy education, and gifted education, Dr. Cassidy is widely published. He is known for his work on literacy trends and issues and his yearly column in *Reading Today*, "What's Hot and What's Not in Literacy." Dr. Cassidy moved to San Antonio from Corpus Christi where he was Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. We are proud to have Dr. Cassidy and his wife, Drew, bring their wide literacy backgrounds, knowledge, and experiences to San Antonio. Welcome!

2011-2012

Alamo Reading Council Board

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Photo Gallery September 2011

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