Read To Them Newsletter

January 2013

The IRA Connection.....

International Reading Association 58th Annual Convention
April 19-23, 2013 - San Antonio, Texas
Featuring Read ToThem Symposium
Promoting Family Involvement “One Book” At A Time

Registration Link:  http://www.reading.org/annual-convention/2013/registration/

Read To Them has a huge presence at this year’s IRA convention, starting with the symposium, “Promoting Family Involvement One Book at A Time.” Lori Posch, from Sauk Rice-Rapids, Minnesota will present a ODOB workshop. And RTT will have it’s first booth at an IRA Convention, right next to Penguin Books. Betty G. Birney, author of the Humphrey series, will be signing books right next door!

Featured Symposium speakers:

John Micklos, former editor of Reading Today (IRA newsletter), Freelance Writer, Children’s Book Author and Read To Them Consultant.

Debbie Anderson, Newport News Public Schools, will speak of her experience as a longtime participant in One School, One Book.

Patricia A. Edwards, Professor, Michigan State University, and IRA Past President, will speak about OSOB as a longtime family literacy proponent.

Gary Anderson, School Psychologist and Director of the One District, One Book program.

Michele Dimnik, Lethbridge, Alberta, School District who will enthusiastically tell attendees about her first hand experiences spreading OSOB in Canada.

Pamela Winsor, Professor, University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada will tell of her college-level course which requires students to plan their own One School, One Book programs.

Betty G. Birney, author of the Humphrey books, will describe her interactions with OSOB schools.

See how to expand One School, One Book throughout your school division; and don’t forget to send your friends to the IRA Workshop entitled “One District, One Book: Creating a Community of Readers, One Book At A Time,” a look at how one district implemented a powerful family literacy project and how you can too!

Stop by the RTT booth; say hello to the staff; see what’s new and have your Humphrey book autographed by Betty G. Birney. Mention this newsletter to get a special prize!
The World Connection
One School, One Book on Marine Base in Japan

Killin Elementary, Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan

OSOB is a perfect fit ....
for teaching military families. Marti Fisk, Killin Elementary Reading Specialist tells us, “The Marine military mentality is to work together for each mission. Every individual is important to the mission. They (kids) are taught to be respectful and hard working. Families are felt to be part of the mission as well, as they make sacrifices also. Kids are told they are serving our country when their parent has to deploy and be separated from the family. So, having the whole school on a military base participate in reading the same book, was further practice in working together for a single mission.” Assistant Principal Michelle Jones reports, “This program will improve family bonding and show that families can spend time together. We are working together as a community to accomplish this goal.” Principal Toquero added, “Our vision is that everyone can be lifelong readers.” This is a good step towards that end! With PTO supportive funding and participants’ enthusiasm it will be an annual event!

Literacy Night Kick Off Event
Killin introduced OSOB to their families with an evening kickoff in October 2012. They read Frindle by Andrew Clements. It began as other OSOB programs have with a skit by the teachers, passing out the books, and the Assistant Principal Jones reading the first chapter aloud. The “twist” here is the additional reading of the first chapter in Japanese by staff member Kaoru Uza. Volunteers read the book in both English and Japanese to show families the cultural differences between the two adaptations of the story. Understanding how American literature is interpreted and read in Japanese is important for families on Okinawa.

Military Family Reading Time....
is challenging. While finding read aloud time at home can be an issue in most homes, Marines spend a lot of time away from home, which further challenges military families. One father commented that, “it’s good (OSOB) because I get to read with my kids after deployment.” (Skyping has been successfully used in the USA with grandparents and would be an effective alternative for military parents as well.)

Replication on Other Military Bases....One School, One Book can easily be replicated on any military base in the world where servicemen and women and their families are stationed! That’s the best part....when families get reassigned, they can share the program with their new base school administrator or school librarian, plug in the procedures, and a new program is borne! (If the program is announced in the base newsletter, even home schooled dependents can participate.)
RTT Summer Reading Program....Reading Sequels

RTT is sponsoring a Summer Reading Program in which students read sequels to their OSOB selections. For example, families reading Betty G. Birney’s Humphrey series can help establish a pattern of reading throughout the summer months. Why not partner with your local public library’s summer reading program? Offer incentives for kids reading sequels over the summer. Click the book title for a synopsis to decide which Humphrey book will start your kids off this summer!

Surprises According To Humphrey
Trouble According To Humphrey,
Friendship According To Humphrey
The World According To Humphrey

Mysteries According To Humphrey
School Days According To Humphrey
Summer According To Humphrey
Adventure According To Humphrey

.....And Other OSOB Authors’ Books

Families can always read more books by their OSOB author. For example, Kate DiCamillo is the author of The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, a great OSOB selection. Try these other titles by DiCamillo: Because of Winn Dixie, The Magician’s Elephant, The Tale of Despereaux, and The Tiger Rising. Check out other books by Roald Dahl, Richard Peck, E.B. White, Sharon Creech, and C.S. Lewis, to mention a few of RTT’s recommended authors. OSOB is a springboard for a lifetime of reading pleasure. It may be a beginning, but it could be the most important step!
Powerful Connections in New Mexico, Connecticut and Beyond...

Musical Connections
Holly Deuel Gilster, Elementary Music Specialist at the Eubank Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico, thought it was important for kids to be able to hear all the melodies referenced in The Trumpet of the Swan. She supplemented RTT’s existing song list with her own complete and inclusive list of songs mentioned in the book. She also placed, on the school server, mp3 samples of all the actual melodies mentioned in the book. Holly stated, “since they are from a distant era most of the kids (and I dare say, their parents) have never heard these tunes.” You can now find this list and listen to the music using this link http://eubank.aps.edu/parents-and-vounteers. And Eubank used talented 8th grade trumpeter, Holly Partis, to play Reveille, Mess Call, and Taps at their “Trumpet of the Swan” kick off assembly!

Parent Connections
Teachers who experience OSOB are eager to recruit other schools, especially when they want their own children in another school to have the same experience. Cindy Herman, teacher at Booth Hill Elementary in Connecticut, recruited Fawn Hollow Elementary, where she is a parent. She shared her OSOB experience with her child’s teacher at a Parent Teacher Conferences. That’s all it took! Principal Kosisko of Fawn Hollow School reports that using the RTT materials for Booth Hill’s first Big Read in March 2012 made implementing OSOB easy for them. They created a website where key events and chapter recordings were available for parents and classroom SMART board are used before dismissal for students who needed to be read to. AND it all started at a Parent Conference Teacher Conference!

Social Media Connections
Read To Them is trying to maximize its presence on social media and is devoting greater efforts to beef up and utilize its presence on Facebook, as well as actively communicating and spreading its message via Twitter. If you use either of these platforms please make sure to ‘Like us’ on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter. You can use the links below to do so. Remember that Social media is all about expanding one’s network. Please help RTT expand the Community of Readers. You’ll also want to visit the RTT blog, “The Counterpane.” The most recent entry is about the value of reading picture books to young children. It’s entitled: “Watch A Child’s Face.”

Lyman Coffey @1school1book

The Counterpane

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In Heathsville, VA Northumberland Elementary School families have engaged in One District, One Book since 2001. So when these elementary students became middle schoolers they were well rehearsed in family read aloud time. Stacy Lee, Northumberland Middle School Reading Specialist, decided to capitalize on this well trained population by implementing a Middle School version ODOB. What happened was amazing! Homeroom class competitions sprung into action, and students were overheard saying, “I’ll help him buy it. We have to get everyone..!” Kids were chipping in with one another to insure that no one was left out! The result was 100% of the new sixth grade class reading Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko. Mrs. Lee said, “it was an easy sell as the habit of reading had already been established”.

Middle School RTT Members
RTT has fourteen middle schools registered as members, represented in Arkansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia. We know that other schools have made this leap and found it beneficial. Why not keep it going? After all, the purpose is to create a community of readers of all ages. It’s inconceivable that the OSOB elementary school success should end there! We encourage other middle schools to join RTT. If you are already a OSOB middle school participant, please email RTT with the books you have found to be successful (jan.bates@readtothem.org). This will help RTT collect information for other middle schools who wish to be expand OSOB at the middle school level.