

The Reading Edge

The Newsletter of the Duval County Reading Council

October/November 2009

duvalreadingcouncil.org

Duval County Reading Council 2009-2010 Meeting Calendar

General Membership Meetings: Please visit the website for updates on the upcoming programs.

Thurs., September 24th

William Brozo
Location: Schultz Center
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Sponsored by Mary Farley Cox
Pearson Scott Foresman Publishing

Thurs., October 22nd

Jeanette Beninati
Location: Schultz Center
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Sponsored by Mychelle Williamson
Pearson School

Thurs., November 19

Marjorie Y. Lipson
Location: Schultz Center
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Sponsored by Joan Warrick
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Let's Celebrate.....100% Schools

Abess Park , Wayman Academy, Rutledge Pearson, Henry F. Kite,
Brookview,
Sea Breeze, Sallye B. Mathis, Lone Star, Sheffield

DUVAL COUNTY
READING COUNCIL
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DIRECTORS
2009 - 2010

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS LIAISON
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BY-LAWS
Cathy Davis

FRA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD
Anne Draper

NOMINATING &
FRA DISTRICT DIRECTOR, AREA V
Denise N. Pedro

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
Katy Kearson

PAST PRESIDENT
Sue Lauzon

October's Guest Speaker Jeanette Beninati

Jeanette Beninati has a B.S. in Elementary Education and is a certified teacher, grades K-5. Jeanette holds a M.Ed. in Mathematics Education, with a specialty in Problem Solving (all degrees from Boston University). She has co-authored several mathematics supplemental materials for publishers such as Dale Seymour Publications, creative Publications, and DLM (Developmental Learning Materials). Jeanette taught learning disabled students for seven years in Massachusetts, before moving to Florida in 1991. She has been working with instructional technology for the last 15 years.

November's Speaker Marjorie Y. Lipson

MARJORIE LIPSON is Professor Emerita at the University of Vermont and principal investigator of the Vermont Reads Institute, a consortium of research and development projects focused on improving the literacy achievement in Grades K-12. She is the author of the recently published "Teaching Reading Beyond the Primary Grades" and co-author of "Assessment & Instruction of Reading and Writing Difficulties: An Interactive Approach."

Scholarships Available

Each year the Duval County Reading Council provides scholarships to members who are pursuing a graduate degree or to members who have a child who is at the junior level or above in college. These Harrold-Charbonnet scholarships of \$250 are awarded in the spring. You may find the application online at the Reading Council Website. Eligible applicants may only receive the scholarship once.

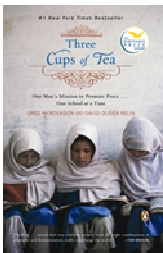
Bring your pennies to the next meeting!!



The Florida Reading Association and the Duval County Reading Council are launching a new service project for the 2009-2010 school year-**Pennies for Peace**.

Pennies for Peace, a program of the 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Central Asia Institute, was founded by Greg Mortenson. Greg is the co-

founder and executive director of Central Asia Institute, and co-author of the #1 NY Times Best-seller, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace, One School At A Time*. This story recounts the journey that led Greg Mortenson, from a failed attempt to climb Pakistan's K2 mountain to successfully establish dozens of schools, and promote girls' education in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Pennies collected are used to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan to give children access to education where it never existed before. The foundation has successfully built 78 schools. To read more about **Pennies for Peace** and to review classroom curriculum visit <http://www.penniesforpeace.org>

Holiday Bags for Hubbard House

We know that reading soothes the soul. There are many families living on the brink these days. With the economy the way it is and the lack of jobs, it makes it more difficult than ever for many of our children's families. We touch those children every day at school, but many are being forced into shelters because their families cannot cope with the stress. Hubbard House comes to the aid of women and children each day. To escape abuse, they flee in the night with only the clothes on their backs.

This is a plea for a medium sized bag containing toiletry items such as a toothbrush and toothpaste and a brush and a very small plush toy to snuggle with. A few school supplies + a word game or word puzzle and of course, a book. Books are cherished items for children who have little else to call their own. The bag you provide will be of great comfort to a child. Hubbard House tells us that children arrive daily, even on their birthday. Please make your bag under \$10. This makes it equitable for all. Boys and girls of all ages need books and the bags will be used as needed throughout the year!

If you'll bring your bag to either the October 22nd meeting or the November 19th meeting, I promise to get them to Hubbard House. Just knowing that others care can give a little piece of mind to a mother with a child or children. You care every day in your classroom. Please support this worthy project.

Candy Cole

Looking for a professional book to read?

One of the most powerful tools every teacher possesses is language – the structured use of words. Peter Johnston's *Choice Words: How Our Language Affects Children's Learning* shows that bringing awareness to our choice of words greatly impacts student responses, and ultimately student achievement. Johnston utilizes realistic classroom experiences to demonstrate teachers using language intentionally to cultivate a child's sense of agency and internal motivation. He provides examples of questions that provoke thought, extend meaning, and generate narratives about problem solving. By making strategic language decisions, teachers relinquish the action of learning to the student and allow them flexibility to approach new learning situations. This book is recommended for teachers and administrators alike. After reading *Choice Words*, it is apparent that we should all think twice the next time we speak to children and choose our words carefully. We are shaping the future one word at a time.

Robert Kelly, District Literacy Coach



Duval County Reading Council will be a decorating sponsor for the Festival of Trees. The trees will be on display November 16, 2009 through January 7, 2010 at the Main Library of the Jacksonville Public Library. The Junior League of Jacksonville is the host of this event. They believe that "not only does the Festival of Trees promote literacy, but also provides holiday spirit for many children and families in our community who otherwise may not experience it."

Trees are decorated around book themes and our tree will be based on *The Happiness Tree*. This book is featured on the Florida Reading Association's Children's Book Award List. The book celebrates the gift of trees we treasure; from a seed of hope to a forest of happiness. Members, Kelli Heath and Kelley Dunwoody will be decorating the tree. Be sure to visit the library during the holidays and see all of the beautiful trees.

President's Message for October

Ahhh...October... I can hear the sound of fallen leaves crunching under my feet, smell the aroma of warm apple cider...Wait a minute! This is Jacksonville and I think it was 91 degrees yesterday! No leaves, no cider. What we do have that's akin to a "normal" autumn is the extreme busyness that comes with this time of the school year. We are still immersed in FAIR assessments and looking for ways to guide our readers to the next stage of their literacy development. If you attended our September meeting with Dr. William Brozo you now have a few more techniques to call upon in this journey of literacy. With our theme this year, Literacy: the Final Frontier, I am able to see my job as truly a "mission". I am surrounding myself with a trusty crew (DCRC board of directors and membership) and though we don't have the Starship Enterprise we do have an amazing year of programs planned that will be our vehicle through which we accomplish mission goals. I look forward to seeing you next time. Until then, you might picture Spock as I encourage you to "Live Long and Prosper" in your individual missions this year.

Jill Newhouse
President
Duval County Reading Council

Newspapers in Education!

Interested in additional resources for your classroom? Newspapers in Education is a great resource for classroom teachers. You can find more information by visiting <http://jacksonville.com/nie/> for all of the necessary forms.

The Reading Edge Duval County Reading Council

**Make your membership count!
Help us keep track of important FRA and IRA membership
information for Honor Council. Bring in your FRA or IRA
membership information to the sign in table at the next
meeting for an additional door prize opportunity.**



Did you know you can access Reading Council newsletters and other council information on our website at duvalreadingcouncil.org? It's worth checking out.