

# GWRC Newsletter

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Fall 2008

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## Letter from the Presidents

Greetings Everyone,

We are very excited about all the happenings with the Greater Washington Reading Council. If you have not done so already, check out our updated website which will give you all the latest news and upcoming events.

Our fall conference with Katie Wood Ray was a huge success. Katie was a wonderful speaker with a bundle of energy who motivated us all to try the many great ideas she presented. Thanks to Kate McLaughlin for all her hard work in organizing such a super conference!

The after-school special with Fred Bowen was very entertaining. Fred writes sports books for children that not only entertain, but also teach character lessons and provide some histories of the sports. He also writes for the Kids Post. We are very fortunate that he lives in the area. If you want to have Fred visit your school, check out his website at [www.fredbowen.com](http://www.fredbowen.com). Thank you to Patti Waters for arranging our first after-school special!

Looking ahead, we want to remind everyone that the Virginia State Reading Conference will be held in Crystal City this year. The dates are Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22. This is the weekend after the long Presidents' Day weekend. Our own David Red is the conference coordinator and he is promising a very worthwhile experience. As we are the host council, we will be looking for volunteers, so if you are able to help in any way, please let us know or email David at [Davidred1@msn.com](mailto:Davidred1@msn.com).

As additional reminder, we are planning another after-school special in the spring for our members. We'll keep you posted with more information.

Regards,

Lori and Cathy

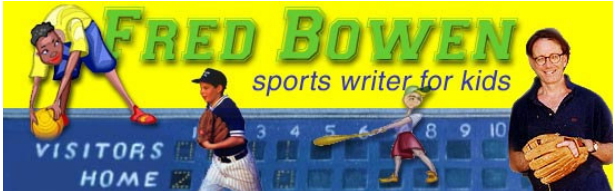
Co-Presidents

## After-School Specials

Fred Bowen  
December 3, 2008  
(See right)

Dr. Edwards  
*Literacy Techniques*  
April 2009

**Thanks To All Who Attended!**



**“Turning Sports-Crazy Kids Into Lifelong Readers”**

His book *Winners Take All* was a Virginia Young Readers Book

## 2008 GWRC Conference - Katie Wood Ray



*Katie Wood Ray shares her ideas on understanding the craft of writing.*

On November 6, 2008, teachers from around the region gathered at *The Waterford at Fair Oaks* for the Greater Washington Reading Council's Annual Fall Conference. Featured guest speaker, Katie Wood Ray, shared her insights and wisdoms of the writing craft. Through her research and classroom experiences, Katie Wood Ray has clearly identified a valuable link between reading and writing.

Katie began the day with a read aloud of Cynthia Rylant's latest book, *Snow*. As she read the story aloud, she explained the importance of reading aloud to students and in doing so; the authors became co-teachers of writing. There are two kinds of readings that writers need according to Katie. First, she stressed the importance of reading immersion in order for the students to get a sense of the genre. It is critical for the students to be immersed in reading the type of writing you want them to create. Katie suggested reading a lot of one author or tracing a "life columnist" over time. Then the students will begin to craft like that author. Katie said "reading helps you figure out what you are going to do as a writer." It is equally important to look closely at the texts with the students and through explicit conversations; the students will begin to and think about the writing sample.

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed stories and video clips from classrooms in which Katie has worked.

*"People write about the things they are in love with," said Katie. This is true for both well-known authors and students authors. According to Katie, before there can be revision, there needs to be vision. We, as teachers, tend to focus on the writing process and not the vision. Crafted writing is the result of vision and the students need to know what they are making."*

GWRC 2008

**" Kids can and should be reading during writing workshop. You don't learn to write unless you are doing the reading behind it"**  
**-Katie Wood Ray-**  
**GWRC 2008**

### Administrator of the Year Award 2009-Dr. Dianne Kinkead

Dr. Kinkead has been an administrator for Loudon County Public Schools for the past 20 years where she served as an assistant principal and principal prior to becoming a central office administration supervising the reading instruction of over 57,000 students. She is an advocate for outstanding reading instructions and employs a tremendous amount of time researching best practices in reading instruction, collaborating with colleagues and experts in the reading field, and supervising 115 reading specialists as well as classroom teachers to ensure that students receive first-rate reading instruction. Her vision of providing the best possible reading instruction to students is clear to all who know her

### Mark Your Calendars NOW!

**2009 Virginia State Reading Association Conference**

**February 20-22, 2009**

**Crystal City Hyatt Regency**

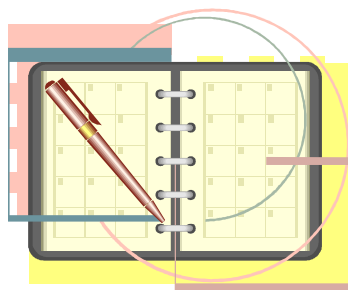
**Arlington, Virginia**

**To register and reserve a room visit their website**

**[www.vsra.org](http://www.vsra.org)**

### Literacy:

The Cornerstone of Success  
 42nd Annual Conference



## Benefits of Membership

The mission of GWRC is to promote literacy and literate education, and all that literacy encompasses, in the Northern Virginia region (Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Manassas, Manassas Park, etc.) to professionals and the general public.

- GWRC is a sister organization with VSRA so when you join GWRC you are also a member of VSRA.
- Reduced rates for conference, GWRC and VSRA as members of both organizations
- GWRC and VSRA publications
- Eligibility for GWRC and VSRA scholarships and professional development grants
- Other professional opportunities such as After School Specials, Family Literacy Events, and Teacher Research Support Groups
- Supports outreach programs at daycare centers, hospitals, and in developing countries

***Promote  
literacy and  
literate  
education.***

***Join  
GWRC  
TODAY!***

***[www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net)***

## GWRC Grants

Are you interested in furthering your professional development in reading and writing? Would you like to study or present your ideas at a conference? Do you have a special literacy project you would like to do with in your school's community? The Greater Washington Reading Council may be able to help you achieve your professional goals with a grant.

Three grants are available to GWRC members:

- Teachers-as-Readers Grants offer assistance to members to study professional books and children's literature.
- Community Outreach Grant provides funding for projects to enhance the literacy work of GWRC members with their school communities. Two grants of up to \$1000 each are available.
- Professional Growth Grants support members who participate in professional activities.

The deadline for the applications is December 15th.

For more information see our website-[www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net)

**The Greater  
Washington Reading  
Council may be able  
to help you achieve  
your professional  
goals with a grant.**

## Recipe for Literacy

Combine the knowledge of reading instruction, assessment and research.

Mix thoroughly.

Stir in the ability to communicate with adults,

The ability to provide professional development,

And the ability to articulate a reading philosophy.

Keep at a warm temperature.

Blend energy and a positive attitude, even in difficult situations.

Shape into a ball.

Sprinkle with sensitivity to children with reading difficulties.

Wait one school year (maybe longer).

Enjoy the results!



Recipe for Literacy

Written by Beth Cipriano,

Reading Specialist

Sanders Corner E.S. LCPS