

Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

I am pleased to once again sponsor Illinois' annual Family Reading Night on Thursday, November 17. Family Reading Night is a statewide event designed to encourage families to spend quality time reading together. This year's theme is "Reading Takes You Places," and page 3 offers ideas for activities related to travel and outer space. I challenge your family to take this night off from your normal routines to spend the evening reading and playing together. Whether you choose to stay home or attend one of the many Family Reading Night events being held at local libraries or literacy programs, I hope you take this opportunity to show your children that reading is fun and create lasting memories as you explore far away places.



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Secretary White awards \$6 million to literacy projects

Secretary of State Jesse White recently awarded nearly \$6 million to 167 literacy projects in Illinois. Following is a breakdown of the funding along with personal success stories resulting from literacy projects funded last year.

ADULT VOLUNTEER LITERACY — More than \$3.8 million was awarded to 85 programs to provide training for volunteers who tutor adults over age 16 in basic reading, math, writing or language skills.

FY11 Success Story – Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora

When Sagrario Ramirez arrived in the United States she knew only 20 words of English. She was unable to read simple signs or have a casual conversation in English. She wanted to improve her English so she sought help from the Dominican Literacy Center where she was matched with Florence Kress, a volunteer tutor. At first, Sagrario was very shy and nervous, but in two short years she has learned to speak, read and write English very well. More importantly, she communicates with confidence. She now has a full time job as a bilingual teacher's aide in a local elementary school and is thinking about starting a tutoring program for children.

FAMILY LITERACY — More than \$1.5 million was awarded to 50 programs to provide parents and children, both individually and together, instructional services to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Grants are awarded to partnerships that include an adult literacy provider, a child-at-risk organization and a public library.

FY11 Success Story – Universidad Popular, Chicago

Ruby Ambriz was only one year old when her mother started attending Families Learn to Teach at Universidad Popular's site in Chicago Lawn. Little by little, Ruby began to integrate into the daily routine of the program while her mother began to learn English. When they sing the song, "clean up, clean up," Ruby starts cleaning up right away and tells the others to clean up too! Meanwhile, her mother has improved her English so when Ruby goes to school she will be able to help with her homework and speak to her teachers. During PACT activities, Mrs. Ambriz practices reading to Ruby and does art and craft activities, thereby gaining confidence as Ruby's first and best teacher.

WORKPLACE SKILLS ENHANCEMENT — About \$387,500 was awarded to 32 businesses and educational providers to offer employees on-site instructional services to enhance their basic

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Adult learner Sagrario Ramirez, and her tutor, Florence Kress, at the Dominican Literacy Center.

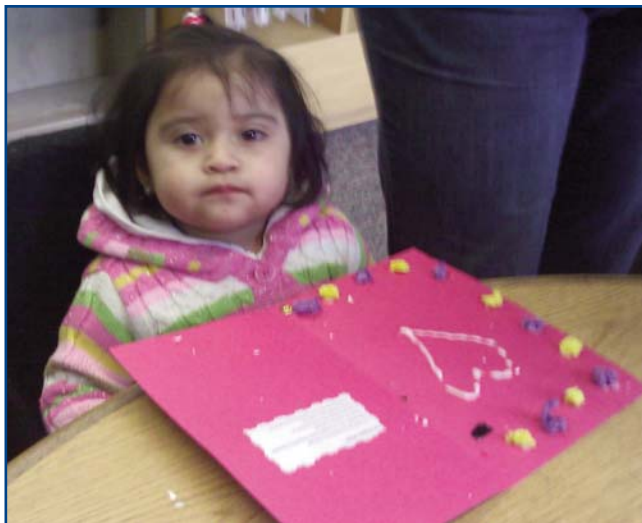
Literacy projects (continued from page 1)

reading, math, writing or language skills, maintain their employment and increase their eligibility for promotion. Grants are matched by the businesses at least one-to-one.

FY11 Success Story – Q Center, St. Charles, with The Center as educational provider

Housekeeping employees at the hotel learned to use computers in the English as a Second Language class. They

learned to use Word for word processing and Google to find Web sites. They used Google Images to create a picture reference for problems in the rooms they cleaned. The hotel laminated the images and gave copies to each room attendant for their cleaning carts so they could understand how to deal with each problem. The employees have gained confidence in their own learning capabilities as a result of the class.



Ruby Ambriz proudly displays her completed PACT project at Universidad Popular.



Hotel employees in the computer lab at Q Center in St. Charles.

Valuable staff development activities

Want to get the best training with your limited professional development dollars? In last year's literacy program reports, the Literacy Office asked literacy practitioners to reveal the activities that were most useful to them. Following is a synopsis of the report.

Overwhelmingly, programs highly recommended the COABE/ProLiteracy/IACEA joint conference that took place in Chicago. This national conference gave literacy programs a chance to see what other states were doing to challenge the problem of illiteracy. Other highly recommended annual conferences were the Northern Region Adult Education Fall Conference; Central Illinois Adult Education Fall Conference; Southern Illinois Professional Development Center Fall Conference; Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration; On the Road to Literacy Conference; Southern Illinois Literacy Conference at Rend Lake; and the Illinois Reading Council Conference.

Practitioners are very aware of topics they need to study to improve their services. They recommended the following workshops as particularly useful to adult literacy program-

ming: Collaborating for Success, Building Bridges and Supporting Transitions to College Success; Textbook Tools to Make and Take with the theme of "Turbulent Sixties"; How to Teach the Three Types of Learners (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic); Identifying Types of Learning Disabilities and Who Holds the Pencil?; Students Writing: Interactive Writing Activities that Work and Get Students Writing. They also valued training with the Illinois Dyslexia Association.

Practitioners were looking for more information on evidence-based reading research. They learned from STAR workshops as well as workshops on alphabetic and phonetics instruction. They also recommended doing a thorough re-reading of "Applying Research in Reading Instruction for Adults" and having tutors use the information. Practitioners also value information on how to serve the English-language learner appropriately, so training programs on immigration and citizenship were helpful.

As you make decisions this year on your professional development goals, keep these recommendations from your colleagues in mind.

Family Reading Night is Thursday, November 17

"Reading Takes You Places" is the theme for this year's Family Reading Night. Take your families to destinations unknown this November 17. Following are a few ideas to help get your creative juices flowing for Family Reading Night 2011.

Travel the World — Issue passports to your world travelers as they check-in. Have destination stations for each country you are highlighting. Children could play a game, have a snack, and/or make a craft at each station then get their passports stamped. Decorations could be flags (made or purchased) from around the world.

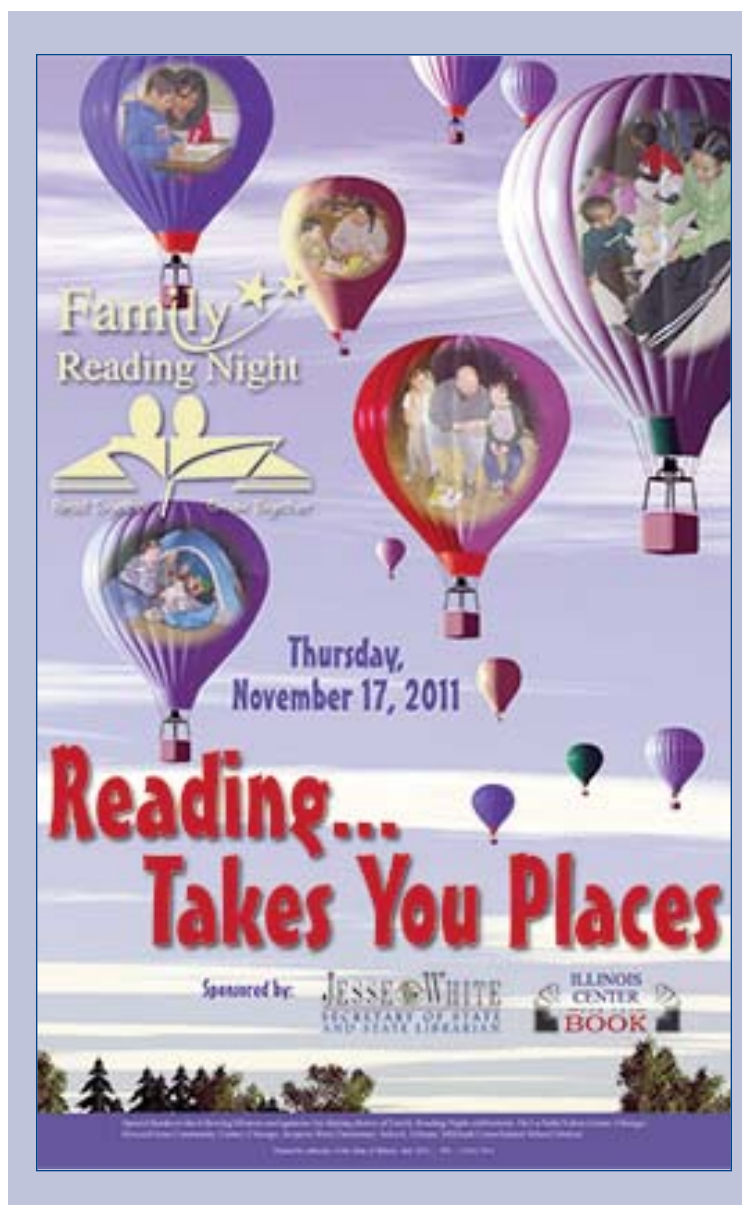
Have story time and meet children from across the globe in the picture book *Children Around the World*, by Donata Montanari. National Geographic tells of children around the world going about their daily routines such as eating breakfast, going to school and playing in *One World, One Day*, by Barbara Kerley. *Nine O'Clock Lullaby*, by Marilyn Singer and Frane Lessac, describes what time it is in all the different time zones around the world and what friends in other countries are doing when it is 9 p.m. in New York.

For craft ideas, check out *Around the World Art & Activities: Visiting the Seven Continents through Craft Fun*. For easy-to-make recipes from around the world explore *The Kids Multicultural Cookbook*, which includes international games.

Visit Outer Space — Have an astronaut and alien check-in station as families enter their space experience. Read *Max Goes to the Moon* and *Max Goes to Mars*, written by Jeffery Bennett, which tell of an adventurous dog, Max, traveling the solar system and exploring new worlds. For older children, these books feature sidebars explaining the science behind the stories. The Cat in the Hat along with Thing 1 and Thing 2 teach about the solar system in *There's No Place Like Space: All About Our Solar System*, by Tish Rabe.

Younger children can make flying saucers out of paper plates, decorating them with stickers and crayons, or gluing on beans and covering with foil (think moon rocks and craters). Older children will enjoy learning space facts from *DK Space Encyclopedia* then creating Alka Seltzer Film Canister Rockets (visit www.stevespanglerscience.com). Consider renting a bounce house to teach a gravity lesson. Simple snacks could be Honeycomb cereal (moon rocks) or star-shaped cookies.

Literacy Story Kits — The Illinois State Library offers Story Kits free



on loan that contain ready-made, literature-based activities for family groups. The kits include several copies of book titles and a facilitator's guide. Review the list of Story Kit titles at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/who_we_are/literacy/storykits.html.

Please send us your pictures of families participating in "Reading Takes You Places" activities on Family Reading Night to dmanning@ilsos.net.

ILLINOIS ADULT LEARNING HOTLINE

To locate a literacy program or volunteer as a tutor, call 800-321-9511.
You also may register at www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/hotline/index.html.



Resource Bins as tutor training resources

Well-trained, adequately prepared volunteer tutors are key to a successful literacy program. We owe adult learners the best-trained tutors possible. We owe volunteer tutors training and resources that make them both comfortable in the tutoring role and effective as tutors.

The State Library Literacy Office offers a **Volunteer Tutor Training Resource Bin** to aid in this effort. The plastic tub is filled with valuable resources, including samples of tutor-training manuals from literacy programs around the state. There also is a great DVD from LVA DuPage called "Real Tutors, Real Learners: Practical Techniques for Basic & ESL Literacy Instruction," which demonstrates practical strategies for working with adult learners. Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley shares their Tutor Training Workshop manual, which contains many good strategies for tutoring learners with different learning

styles. Highland Community College shares exercises and activities for working with all different levels of adult learners as well as lesson plan tips.

These are just a few of the many items that are useful for your tutor training. To borrow the Volunteer Tutor Training Resource Bin, please contact Jo Anne Hughes at jhughes@ilsos.net. A complete list of Resource Bins is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/who_we_are/literacy/litresourcebins.html.

If you have developed or found tutor-training materials that would be helpful to practitioners around the state, please send samples and recommendations to Literacy Program Manager Cyndy Colletti at ccolletti@ilsos.net.

October 30-November 4 — American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, Indianapolis, www.aaace.org

November 7-8 — National Refugee & Immigrant Conference, Chicago, www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/refugee.html

November 9-12 — International Dyslexia Association Conference, Chicago, www.interdys.org

December 2 — Northern Region Adult Education Fall Conference, Bloomingdale, www.thecenterweb.org (click Adult Learning Resource Center)

February 22-25 — Learning Disabilities Association Annual International Conference, Chicago, www.ldanatl.org/conference/index.asp

February 24-25 — Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Bilingual Education Annual Conference, Lisle, www.itbe.org/convention.php

March 7-9 — Illinois Adult & Continuing Educators Conference, Springfield, www.iacea.net

March 15-17 — Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference.html

March 25-27 — National Conference on Family Literacy, San Diego, CA, www.familit.org

More literacy event information is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Programs, Literacy, Calendar of Literacy Events).



<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ozideas/index.html#Links>

Free instructional resources that tutors/teachers can use with adult learners. Online videos help with sounds, letters, words, spelling and reading.

<http://ugeton.com/weblinksLVNB/>

Numerous links to get help with instruction and can be organized by type of instruction, level of instruction and subject area.

<http://wonderopolis.org>

Daily "wonders of the day" with related video, activities and other resources for families, caregivers, literacy programs and teachers.

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