



Spotlight

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Co-Presidents' Messages

Thinking Beyond Reading & Writing Pedagogy When It Comes to Literacy Instruction

By Ashlee Campbell

Welcome to a brand new school year! The start of the school year has always been my favorite, not only because I love the common fall themes of apples, pumpkins, and cooler weather, but because the beginning of school, really the beginning of anything, is fueled by great hope. As educators, we have great hopes for our students' academic development. We know how much they can achieve and we strive every day to ensure they succeed.

Last year was a difficult year, to say the least, for most educators, administrators, parents, and students. Not surprisingly, the vast changes over the past 18 months or so have led to a greater need to focus on social-emotional learning (SEL). We know that social and emotional health supports academic success. With this in mind, NFRC chose to focus our fall programming on SEL. First, throughout October, a school psychologist with over 20 years of experience will provide virtual and in-person sessions to help us learn hands-on, classroom approaches for addressing SEL at the elementary, middle, and high-school levels. Secondly, in late October, we will discuss high-quality SEL literature that can be used to initiate important classroom discussions and activities.

This fall, we invite you to join us as we think beyond typical reading and writing pedagogy and we explore how to use activities and literature to encourage our students' social-emotional development as a way to support their academic development.

Welcome to a New Year

On September 25, 2021 I attended the virtual meeting of the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA) Assembly of Delegates. During this meeting, representatives from across the state reported on the various events that local councils have planned for the coming academic year. What an amazing lineup of speakers and professional development opportunities! As a member of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council, you are a member of NYSRA. Most of the events hosted by local councils are open to all members of NYSRA as well. Some councils are planning in-person events again, but many are virtual, so the opportunity to connect with experts and like-minded colleagues are numerous! These events will be posted on the NYSRA website, nysreading.org. The website also has details about this year's NYSRA Conference. Even though it is all remote, it is sure to be a wonderful experience! The keynote speakers are Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, Pam Allyn, and Penny Kittle. I hope to "see" you there!

Also, at the meeting of the Assembly of Delegates, the annual NYSRA awards were presented. I would like to congratulate long-time NFRC board member Jack Agugliaro on receiving the Council Service Award! Jack is a self-proclaimed "worker bee", and he holds several important roles in our organization and helps to keep the business of the council running smoothly. He holds the office of Secretary, skillfully taking notes and minutes for our meetings and completes the necessary correspondence. He is also the editor of this newsletter. His creativity, editorial skills, and dedication to our council's mission is evident in the articles, editorials, and reviews that he contributes to the newsletter. Jack is also active in our Professional Book Discussion Group, and serves as a leader and facilitator during these meetings. Jack is respected by his colleagues for his reliability, dedication, and professionalism. His service to the NFRC is greatly valued. Congratulations, Jack!

Finally, I want to thank you who are reading this for continuing your membership in the NFRC. It is my pleasure to serve as Co-President with Dr. Ashlee Campbell this year, and I hope to meet you either in person or virtually at an NFRC or NYSRA event!

Best regards, Heidi Clarke



Heidi Clarke



Ashlee Campbell

The Superpower of Neuroscience

Creating a Resilient Classroom in the Post- Pandemic World

Hyperactive? Easily distracted?
Super sensitive? Irritable? Hood
up and head down?

Destructive? Maybe this
describes a student you know.

These four training sessions will teach
you theory and classroom interventions
to "hack" into your students' nervous
systems to bring them into a calm, ready-
to-learn state.

**Presented by
Lauren Etu, MS
CAS RYT**

a 20-year veteran school
psychologist. She has worked
with preschoolers to high
school students across
WNY

*On Wed. Oct. 27 from 6:30-8:30, the NFRC
Professional Book Discussion Group will meet
virtually to discuss outstanding children's books with
various SEL-related themes.
2 additional CTLE credits

3 Virtual Sessions*

Wed. Oct. 6, 13, & 20
6:30- 7:30 p.m.

1 in-person session

Saturday, Oct. 23
1:00-3:00 p.m.
at CLaRI
(UB North Campus)

5 CTLE Credits

\$40 NFRC Members
\$60 for non-members

Registration Required:
<https://www.thenfrc.org/>

Sponsored by:



**Niagara Frontier
Reading Council**

Council #60225

 **University at Buffalo**
**Center for Literacy and
Reading Instruction**
Learning to Read, Reading to Learn

Fall 2021 Programming

Join us during the month of October for four sessions on social-emotional learning (SEL). Lauren Etu, a 20+ year school psychologist, will present “The Superpower of Neuroscience: Creating a Resilient Classroom in the Post-Pandemic World.” We know that social-emotional health is linked to academic health. Let’s help support our students’ academic health by also supporting their social and emotional needs.

The first three sessions will be virtual and will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays: October 6, 13, 20 from 6:30-7:30pm. (These sessions will be recorded so that if you need to miss one session you can catch up at home during the week.) These virtual sessions will present neuropsychology theory related to SEL.

The fourth session will be a two-hour, in-person session on Saturday, October 23rd from 1-3 p.m. This session will allow participants to learn about classroom activities and interventions that support SEL. Participants will leave with activities that can be used immediately in the classroom to support SEL.

Cost is \$40 for NFRC member and \$60 for non-members. Registration is required. Participants must register for the entire event. [Register here](#). 5-CTLE credits are available for participants that attend all 4 sessions.

This event is brought to you in collaboration with the Monkey See, Monkey Do Bookstore & the Center for Literacy and Reading Instruction (CLaRI).

Professional Book Discussion Group focuses on SEL in Year 9

It has been a pleasure working with Dr. Ashlee Campbell, co-president of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council, over the summer coordinating the Professional Book Discussion Group study with the “Superpower of Neuroscience” Fall Event to explore social-emotional learning in-depth.

To that end, an extensive list of children’s books and adult resources related to SEL was compiled and will be distributed to participants attending the Fall Event program. In addition, Kim Krug, owner of Monkey See, Monkey Do arranged for a dedicated NFRC link on Bookshop (<https://www.monkeysread.com/> <https://bookshop.org/shop/monkeys-read>) where books featured on this list can be purchased by interested NFRC members at a discount.

We will use this SEL resource to begin our Professional Book Discussion Group for Year 9 on **October 27th from 6:30-8:30** (virtual) with a discussion of outstanding children’s books with SEL-related themes. Prepare in advance for the meeting by familiarizing yourself with books on the list and choosing those you’d like to highlight in our discussion. Two CTLE credits will be given. Note: Members do not have to attend the Fall Event to participate in the PBDG discussion; however, pre-registration is necessary in order to receive the secure link. Find more details and sign-up here: https://www.thenfrc.org/professional-book-discussion-group.html#. As a perk of membership, the NFRC Professional Book Discussion Group is open to members of any NYSRA chapter.

In the spring semester the PBDG plans to read and discuss a professional resource on the topic of SEL. The committee met over the summer and chose the following title:

All Learning Is Social and Emotional: Helping Students Develop Essential Skills for the Classroom and Beyond by Nancy Frey and Doug Fisher.

Here is a link to the book on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/All-Learning-Social-Emotional-Essential/dp/1416627073/ref=asc_df_1416627073/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=331954598292&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=1522328670292177977&hvpo ne=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1022764&hvtargid=pla-637153278160&psc=1.

Questions? Contact Judy Bradbury at judybradburywrites@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity

NFRC continues to partner with Habitat for Humanity to provide books and bookcases to families receiving a Habitat for Humanity house. This is a wonderful partnership that allows NFRC to give new books and a new bookcase to each family as they move into their new home. Everyone at NFRC loves books and we want all children to have access to books, not only at school and the library, but at their home.

In 2020-2021, NFRC donated books, bookcases, and book baskets to 11 families (22 children total). So far this year, NFRC has donated books and a bookcase for one family in August 2021. There are typically one to two house dedications each month. This year, both the bookcases and many books have been graciously donated to NFRC from two NFRC board members. Thank you to Susan Busch for serving as the past NFRC liaison. Ashlee Campbell will serve in this role for the 2021-2022 year.

THE NFRC WANTS YOU!

***IF ANY MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MORE
ACTIVE ROLE IN THE NFRC, PLEASE EMAIL
HEIDI CLARKE AT heidiread@yahoo.com.***

Join NFRC

NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL

Become part of a community dedicated to promoting literacy education, encouraging professional development, and providing community service to the WNY area.



NFRC members include

Educators
Administrators
Parents
Education Students
Library Media Specialists
Community Members

Register at
<https://www.thenfrc.org/>

Membership Includes

- Complimentary membership to the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA)
- opportunity to attend other NYSRA events
- Reduced pricing for NFRC events
- Reduced registration for NYSRA's annual conference
- Digital newsletters from NFRC and NYSRA
- PD/CTLE credits
- Professional Book Discussion Group
- Professional Networking

Questions- contact Ashlee
ashleeeb@buffalo.edu



New Little Free Library Installed

The Niagara Frontier Reading Council has added another Little Free Library to our area! Built by friend of the NFRC, Paul Lyons, and installed by board member Dr. John Strong, it replaces a privately-owned library that was destroyed by a car accident. Visit our website (<https://www.thenfrc.org/little-free-libraries.html#/>) to view a gallery of the LFLs that the NFRC oversees as a part of our local literacy outreach.

If you would like to build or support a Little Free Library for our WNY area, please contact Judy Bradbury at judybradburywrites@gmail.com.



Pandemic Effects and Beyond

Tom Vander Ark is the CEO of Getting Smart and an advocate for innovations in learning. His article, *5 Changes, Shifts, and Implications for What's Next in Education*, appears in the September issue of Educational Leadership, Volume 79, Number 1. As we know, the pandemic forced innovations upon us (i.e., necessity is the mother of invention).

Vander Ark listed these pandemic changes:

- (1) The lockdown forced schools to give students device access. Students needed to connect with instruction. As we have discussed amongst the NFRC members, there were a lot of pluses and minuses apparent in attempts at delivery of instruction.
- (2) We found that internet access had been a victory in schools, but the “weak link” was access in student’s homes. “One in five teens didn’t have reliable internet access at home” and, in a number of cases, neither did some teachers!
- (3) Suddenly learning management systems became the norm. Some platforms of widespread use were Google Classroom and Schoology, and communications systems like Zoom.
- (4) Hybrid and online learning protocols were developed with schedules to allow student access. However, disadvantaged students were often confined to online learning only.
- (5) Team teaching became a necessity. Working together with new strategies increased collaboration, but took getting used to, especially for the many teachers who usually teach individually and had autonomy in the classroom.

The five shifts in progress are somewhat more nebulous as delivered by Vander Ark. He suggests that narrow conceptions of achievement are expanding. There are some movements by companies to promote skills and project development to show students have certain competencies. As to what those competencies are, the article lacks specifics. Vander Ark says these movements are positive, but as they begin, he believes most school districts have returned to traditional operations.

Suggested implications for the future?

- (1) Be learner-centered.
- (2) New teachers will need collaboration to develop more social-emotional learning components into instruction.
- (3) Teachers need to lean toward rich learning experiences. (I felt, here, an example would have gone a long way to promote the suggestion.)
- (4) He suggests new agreements to offer updated learning goals (“portrait of a graduate”) and new learning models (project-based units).
- (5) He also suggests looking beyond the old framework of standards and testing.

I see we have learned a lot from our Covid disaster. My feeling is that we pick up from what we learned and get the system running again first. We also need to be prepared for stoppages. Adding SEL into the mix seems to be a necessity as we note the social-emotional effects on culture on TV and in other media. We need to engage the whole student. In the process, we must be sure to base much of instruction and learning on facts as well as approach.

Jack Agugliaro

Thanks to Our Liaisons!

One of the ways we get our information about reading out to the educational masses is to enlist the help of our liaisons, our contact people out in districts and institutions. I send relevant information about our events as well as other reading happenings and they disburse the news to other teachers and educational leaders. The NFRC really appreciates this effort. I thank all the liaisons who currently help as well as those who have left the position. Some of those who recently left who have helped spread the word are Dr. Barbara Godshall (Lew-Port) who just retired, Kirsten Smith (Buffalo State College and Lockport), past president and current NYSRA president, Patty Oliphant (Starpoint) who retired in 2020, Aimee LaRosa (Orchard Park) and Diane Rappolt (Newfane).

Again, thanks to these educators who have put forth a much needed effort in the promotion of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council!

Jack Agugliaro, Liaison Chair

Judy Bradbury's Book 2 in the Cayuga Island Kids series, *The Adventure of the Big Fish by the Small Creek*, comes out this week! Included in the link below is a short summary, a book trailer, and links to several activities, a bookmark, and an Educator Guide, available for download for free!

<https://www.judybradbury.com/cayuga-island-kids-adventure-big-fish/>



International Outreach

In July, Judy Bradbury provided copies of photos from Renny Staples of the Spanish books the NFRC donated to the Dominican Republic mission (our international outreach) being received. This is wonderful that we can continue to encourage reading in the world.





NFRC 2021-2022 Slate of Officers & Board Members

NFRC Officers 2020-2021

- Co-President - Heidi Clarke
- Co-President for Programming - Dr. Ashlee Campbell
- Secretary - Jack Agugliaro
- Treasurer - Dr. John Strong
- Director of Membership - Carol Bush

Board Members 2020 - 2022

- Judy Bradbury
- Pamela Garabedian
- Patty Oliphant
- Lindsey Buck

Board Members 2021 - 2023

- Elizabeth Bystrak
- Dr. Tiffany Karalis-Noel
- Christine Woodcock
- Mary Beth Scumaci

Chairperson Positions

Editor of Spotlight- Jack Agugliaro

Web Designer & Editor- Mary Beth Scumaci

Social Media Chair- Dr. Tiffany Karalis-Noel & Dr. Christiana Kfour

Council Awards Chair- Elizabeth Bystrak

Professional Development Chair- Judy Bradbury

Outreach Chair- Pamela Garabedian; **Co-Chair:** Judy Bradbury to oversee Little Free Libraries project

CTLE Chair/ Mini Grants Chair- Patricia Oliphant

Finance / Budget Chair-

Nominating Chair - Comprised of the Board

Liaison Chair- Jack Agugliaro

Audit Chair -

Western Regional Director 2018-21, NYSRA - Cherie Gerych

About the NFRC:

- We are non-profit educational organization chartered by The International Literacy Association since 1958.
- We are dedicated to the professional development and enhancement of literacy in our community.
- We are involved in professional issues affecting literacy.

NFRC Mission:

Our mission is to promote literacy education, encourage professional development, and provide community service, which fosters literacy within Western New York. We hope to instill a passion for lifelong learning and encourage readers to build a vision of the future.

Thank You!

On September 25, 2021, I was invited to join the New York State Reading Association's Assembly of Delegates meeting. At this meeting, I was one of the recipients of NYSRA's Service Award. I want to thank NFRC not only for the local Service Award this past year, but for the nomination for the state award. I got to speak and I verbalized what I was thinking, that I was doing a job without ever thinking an award could be on the way. It was a surprise and I actually asked Kirsten Smith if it was for real. Of course, she said it was. Thank you all ever so much for such surprising recognition.

Jack Agugliaro

Upcoming Events

- SEL event – 3virtual Wednesday sessions October 6, 13, 20 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- in-person event October 23, 1-3 p.m. at UB Reading Center - CLaRI
- Fall PBDG meeting -Wednesday, October 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- NYSRA Conference 2021 - November 11-12