



Highlights

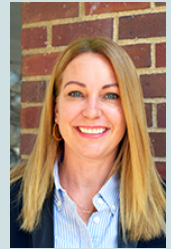
*of the Minnesota Reading Association,
an International Literacy Association affiliate*

Winter 2022

President's Message

Dear Esteemed Literacy Colleagues,

I was telling a friend that I was having a hard time sleeping with everything that has happened and is happening in our lives and world as 2022 gets underway. He said, "My trick is to close my eyes and think about all the things that I'm grateful for. It works better than counting sheep." As I'm taking a deep breath and thinking about all the things that I am grateful for, one thing that immediately pops into my mind is the gratitude I have for all of the mentors in my life. As you reflect on the mentors in your life, who comes to mind for you? Who took a chance on you as you started your career? Who has been there for you waiting to share sage advice, reminding you why you answered the call to teach, and engaging you in tough conversations? One person who has exhibited these qualities and more is my mentor and colleague at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Lori Helman. Throughout her career, Dr. Helman has inspired, taught, guided, wrote, led, and mentored many of us in Minnesota and beyond. Please join us at 4pm tomorrow, January 21st, on Zoom to celebrate Dr. Lori Helman's tremendous accomplishments. More information is included in the newsletter. As you are falling asleep tonight, think about the mentors whom you are grateful for and consider sending them a quick note tomorrow!



As you read through our winter newsletter, I hope that you will find inspiration and ideas as we learn alongside each other. Please check out the news about Celebrate Literacy - this is something to look forward to in 2022!

As members of the Minnesota Reading Association, we are here to join you along the way as we all work towards centering literacy, equity, and joy (the theme of this year's Leaders in Reading Network series). Please visit our website at mra.wildapricot.org if you are interested in joining us to continue learning about literacy, equity, and joy with Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul.

I am proud and honored to be serving as your MRA president for the 2021-22 academic year. If you have any questions, concerns, and/or ideas, I would love to hear from you. I also would love it if you would send me a quick email with what you have been reading, writing, listening to, and/or watching lately!

With gratitude,

Dr. Catherine Cavanaugh
Minnesota Reading Association President 2021-22
ccavanau@umn.edu

Research Articles & Resources

At our November and January MRA board meetings, we explored and discussed the importance of the connection between reading and writing. Here are some resources about this topic:



Graham, S., & Hebert, M. (2016) Writing to read: Evidence for how writing can improve reading. New York: Carnegie Corporation. [Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading | Adult Education and Literacy | US Department of Education](#)

This meta-analysis of current research shows the connection between writing and improved reading comprehension.

Check out this [YouTube video with Steve Graham](#). In this “Live With the Author” interview, writing expert Steve Graham discusses his special issue article entitled, “The Sciences of Reading and Writing Must Become More Fully Integrated.” He defines the science of reading and then considers the implications of this article for teachers.



Volume 55, Issue S1
Special Issue: The Science of Reading: Supports, Critiques, and Questions
September 2020
Pages S7-S16

Other resources that we discussed and shared with each other:

- ☐ [Peggy Flanagan hails \\$1.3 million investment to teach K–12 students the ‘full true history’ of Minnesota’s Indigenous people.](#)

[□ The Bdote Memory Map](#)

[□ Free Resources | The Art of Marlena Myles](#)

Celebrate Literacy

CALLING ALL READERS AND WRITERS!

During our board meeting, our discussion about how 'readers are writers and writers are readers' was infused into our conversations about one of our most cherished events of the year - **Celebrate Literacy!** Here is a [link to the flyer](#) and a [link to a slide deck](#) to use to share news about this event with your literacy communities. Please spread the word and join us in celebrating our readers and writers in Minnesota! If you have any questions, please contact Carey Seeley at cseeley@isd271.org



DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday, March 11th, 2022

Celebrate Literacy Recognition

When: Friday, April 29th, 2022, 6-8pm

Ridgeview Elementary School

9400 Nesbitt Avenue, Bloomington, MN

MAR: Minnesota Academy of Reading

Minnesota Academy of Reading

The pandemic has created a sudden unanticipated change to instructional strategies within educational institutions globally. During Spring 2021, the executive board of the Minnesota Academy of Reading (MAR) sent their members and members of the Minnesota Reading Association (MRA) a survey using Qualtrics®, focusing on the impact COVID-19 had on their teaching in their context, on their students, teaching practices, tools, and future instructional strategies. 138 respondents (largely P-12 literacy educators) participated by answering multiple choice and open-ended questions, identifying the resources and tools they utilized and expressing the ways their literacy instruction shifted, and what ways, if any, they plan to continue to integrate new tools or strategies they learned during the pandemic. Survey responses were influenced by the sudden fluctuation between online/distance learning, hybrid, and in-person instruction. Student access to technology and tools was limited. Teaching practices were supported, in part, by professional development, though some teachers expressed

needing more support. Respondents listed a myriad of technology tools, how they were used and speculated about how they will be used in the future.

Survey results are well aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Educators including specified roles and actions for effective teaching and learning using technology. The roles of Learner, Leader, Citizen, Collaborator, Designer, Facilitator, and Analyst connect with the change in roles educators needed to make with the pandemic. Secondly, the International Literacy Association's (ILA) Standards for Literacy Professionals (2017) address Foundational Knowledge, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment and Evaluation, Diversity and Equity, Learners and the Environment, and Professional Learning and Leadership which were areas identified within survey responses. MAR will be sharing more details about their findings including more details about the alignment with ISTE and ILA standards-alignments this spring.

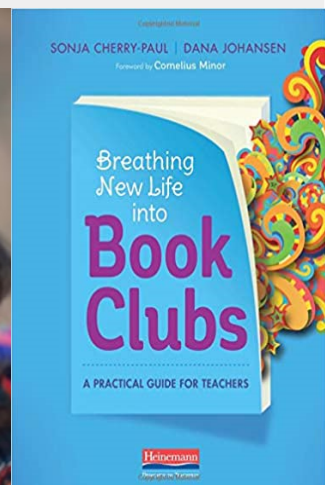
On behalf of MRA and MAR, we wish to offer our sincere thanks to each literacy professional – each participant who took the time to respond to the survey – to click the buttons and to tell parts of their story. We believe the survey was one way of connecting with each other through this strange and challenging pandemic season of isolation. We need to support and learn from one another across the miles, if even only through the ether, to strengthen our practices and keep our stalwart mindset, to stay the course and strengthen literacy learning in Minnesota and beyond!

MAR Executive Board Members Dr. Catherine Kelly, Dr. Deborah Peterson, Dr. Lisa Krall and Dr. Wendy Burgett-Richards collaborated on this research. Please stay tuned for news about current literacy research being conducted by MAR executive board member Dr. Joan Bendix.

LiRN: Leaders in Reading Network Events

There is still time to register for this year's Leaders in Reading Network (LiRN) workshop series "Literacy, Equity, and Joy". Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul will be speaking on Tuesday, January 25 and Monday, March 28 from 9:00am-12:00pm. These sessions will be recorded so you may access them in real time or watch later at your own convenience.

Dr. Cherry-Paul will share practical ideas for ways to plan literacy instruction that builds upon the equity framework presented in September by Dr. Gholdy Muhammad. Her new book *Breathing New Life Into Book Clubs* will be the basis for her presentations. Please visit mra.wildapricot.org to register!



Minnesota Department of Education Updates



MDE is currently accepting applications for the legislative funded Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training opportunity. All licensed MN educators, as well as literacy professors, are eligible to apply. More information and the registration link can be found on the [MN-LETRS](#) webpage. Registration ends January 31, 2022.

The Collaborative MN Partnership to Advance Student Success ([COMPASS](#)) initiative is a partnership between MDE, the Regional Centers of Excellence and the MN Service Cooperatives. COMPASS will offer support for schools in the areas of Literacy, Math and School Climate and Mental Health using the Minnesota Multi-Tiered System of Support ([MnMTSS](#)) framework with a focus on data and assessment literacy and evidence-based practices.



Local Council News

MAR Annual Symposium

The Minnesota Academy of Reading will be hosting the annual MAR Policy Symposium on [Zoom](#) on **Friday, January 21, 2022 at 4-5PM.**

We will be honoring Dr. Lori Helman and her tremendous work and leadership with literacy in Minnesota and beyond. The intended audience will be P-12 educators, P-12 administrators, pre-service educators, higher education faculty and any others interested in literacy.

Please register to receive the Zoom link for the Symposium.

Click the link below to register:

[Minnesota Academy of Reading Annual Policy Symposium](#)

We hope to see you online on January 21st at 4PM!

The MAR Executive Board

Two of Dr. Helman's latest publications are:

Helman, L. (2020). *Learning in a new language: A schoolwide approach to support K-8 emergent bilinguals*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.



Helman, L., Illner., A., & McMaster, K. L. (2020). Assessing language and literacy with bilingual students: Practices to support English learners. New York: The Guilford Press.

Come to learn from and celebrate the incredible work of Dr. Helman!

The [Twin Cities Area Reading Council](#) is excited to read and discuss Kyrene Beers and Bob Probst's newest book with you. This is a free event. Registration details are below.



JOIN US FOR THE
TCARC
Winter Read Along!

ALL are welcome to participate -
TCARC/MRA membership not required

Feb. 2nd
Feb. 23rd
March 23rd

REGISTER at www.tcarcmn.org

Don't miss the chance to win a
\$100 kids/YA book collection!

*Drawing open to all current
TCARC members who attend
the Winter Read Along event.

FORGED BY READING
THE POWER OF A LITERATE LIFE
BEERS & PROBST

Self, fantasy, comics/supernovels, non fiction, magazines, humour, fiction, children, mind/body/spirit, poetry, books

TWIN CITIES AREA READING COUNCIL

International Literacy Association Updates

There are a lot of resources and digital events to explore and discover at ILA!

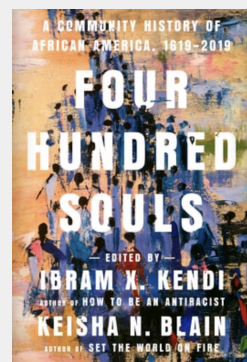
[ILA Digital Events | International Literacy Association](#)
[ILA Resource Collections | International Literacy Association](#)
[ILA Webinars | International Literacy Association](#)



Optimistic Closure

When we gather as MRA members, our discussions always involve talking about texts! One of our board members is reading:

[Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019](#)



As we ended our board meeting with an optimistic closure, we discussed the following question:

What are local bookstores/libraries that you go to? How can we get diverse books into the hands of teachers & students and support local bookstores?

Here is a short list that we generated:

[Bookshop](#)

[Babycakes Book Stack](#)

[#MarginsBookstores | The Word](#)

[Wild Rumpus](#)

[Social Justice Books in SPANISH](#)

Locally-owned indigeneous owned

[Birchbark Books](#)

[Zenith Bookstore](#) - Duluth



Please email me at ccavanau@umn.edu with your ideas!

Sending gratitude to each and every one of you,

Dr. Catherine Cavanaugh