

## **Pre-Conference Literacy Institutes 2017 VSRA Conference**

**\$40 Each**

### **Early Morning Literacy Institutes 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM**

- 1) Laura Vaccaro Seeger: *Reading Words, Reading Pictures*  
Concentration is on visual literacy as an integral part of the reading, writing and illustration process. Attendees are shown the creation of a picture book from the initial idea, sketches in the journal, storyboarding, narrative, image choice, design, revisions, through completion. Picture books for all ages are explored. A strong foundation in reading pictures will instill confidence and encouragement as students use these skills to decipher words, concepts, and story, and create their own narratives using words and pictures.
- 2) Cathy Collier: *Using Your PALS Data to Support Interventions*  
Interventions are necessary in today's classrooms. Come learn about how 1 school used their PALS data to create strategic learners and successful students. Interventions for K-2 will be discussed during this 90-minute session. All participants will take home samples of the interventions that can begin in their school immediately.
- 3) Beth Estill: *Understanding Learning Progressions for Fiction and Non-Fiction Text*  
Based on W. James Popham's book Transformative Assessment, teachers need to understand that a learning progression consists of a sequenced set of subskills which lead to the understanding of a more distant curriculum objective. For example, what do students need to know and understand before they are able to "Describe how the choice of language, setting, characters, and information contributes to the author's purpose" or "identify the main idea?" In this session, participants will be provided with strategies and materials to be used formatively through their instruction. These procedures will support the teacher in making instructional decisions on when and how to gradually release responsibility to their students.
- 4) Jeradi Cohen: *Science, and Centers, and Books – Oh MY!*  
Participants will engage in science-literacy centers that include artifacts, technology, and books. The centers are designed for replication in early childhood classrooms. Cross-curricular connections will include literacy, technology, and science.

- 5) Michelle Duffy and Lisa B. Cipolletti: *Implementing Effective Word Study in the Elementary Classroom*

Are you wondering about word study? Do you need ideas on how to “sort” it all out? Join us for an engaging workshop on best practices for implementing word study.

**Mid-Morning Literacy Institutes**  
**9:50 AM – 11:20 AM**

- 1) Steven Layne: *Successful Strategies for Building Lifetime Readers*

Energetic author and educator Steven L. Layne promises a session to delight, empower, and motivate every educator with a concern for reaching students who are disenfranchised when it comes to text. This session is based on his bestselling professional book *Igniting a Passion for Reading*.

- 2) Joan Kindig, Ed.D: *Best Bets for the Classroom 2017*

This annual offering is an extended overview of the best children's books published in 2016, K-8. An in-depth look at the books will be offered and handouts will be provided.

- 3) Ruth Culham: *Burn the Worksheets and Fire Up Student Writers*

No one ever learned to write from a worksheet. We all learned to write from a teacher who took the time to show us how writing really works. Explore new ways to teach writers without worksheets--ways that really work. Learn how to create and manage a **Writing Wallet** that you can use right away as you help students understand writing process--especially revising, and editing. There will be secrets revealed at this workshop—secrets that are simple, easy to implement, and will save you time while improving student writing by leaps and bounds.

- 4) Alisha Demchak and Kateri Thunder: *Integrating Math & Literacy into the Pre-K Classroom*

How can math and literacy be taught together in the PreK classroom? In this workshop, we will answer this question by exploring the ways literacy can be a context for mathematical problem solving.

- 5) Isabel Sawyer: *Shared Reading: The Root of All Reading*

Shared reading builds classroom community, develops a love of reading, and supports the acquisition of essential aspects of early literacy. Participants will explore this important instructional practice.

6) Wiley Blevins: *Navigating Nonfiction*

With the increased emphasis on informational text in the Common Core State Standards, this session examines how authors help readers organize their thinking when reading, understand new vocabulary, and increase their overall comprehension. It also examines how these techniques can be used by students to improve their writing about a nonfiction topic. Participants will explore the major text structures (along with the associated signal words and graphic organizers) and text features (including when to read them in a longer text and how to use them in writing), as well as general tips for navigating this type of text--using both print and technology--and increasing students' independent reading of nonfiction.

7) Dr. Ernest Morrell: *New Directions in Teaching English*

This talk highlights the changing nature of literacy and what that means for teaching language arts in the 21st century. I focus on engagement and socially, culturally, and digitally relevant practices that develop academic literacy, reading identities, and agency in the world. The classroom practices I highlight are: 1) Globalizing and Digitizing Literary Study 2) Writing the world in the digital age and 3) Developing social action projects in response to literature.