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Happy New Year 2011

Hello to NSTALL members. NSTALL is growing! The membership is now over 500 members and counting. In this newsletter, Conference Chairperson and newly appointed NSTALL President Ann Hulford reports on a very successful professional development day. Mentors from the SSRSB share some of their favorite websites. Ann has included two book reviews which were from the "Great Book Giveaway in 2009". NSTALL Executive 2010-2011 welcomes Glenna Lecco Griffith to the position of "Member at Large". I hope you enjoy the news ahead and look forward to upcoming newsletters from NSTALL. Feel free to send your comments and feedback to:

NSTALL@nstu.ca

- Tami, NSTALL Newsletter Editor

Conference 2010 Report

Our annual conference was held on October 22, 2010 at Sir John A. MacDonald High School in Upper Tantallon. This conference had 657 people in attendance; 593 were NSTU members. The registration numbers were our largest numbers to date and we were thrilled that "*Multiliteracies Across the Curriculum*" provided the quality professional development sought by Nova Scotia educators.

Teachers attended from all parts of the province and the tremendous amount of positive feedback acknowledged the hard work of a small committee, as well as many dedicated and highly knowledgeable presenters. Many positive comments were made on the evaluation forms and we also received many emails and letters stating that this

conference was well organized, had a great location, provided lots of learning opportunities, and met the expectations for those in attendance. Despite the difficulties with the on-line registration, we were also able to help many teachers register through mail-in registrations. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through the many glitches; there were many long, late nights and frustrating moments but it all came together in the end.

Thank you for your interest in and support of NSTALL as we continue to work on your behalf to ensure that NSTU members continue to receive professional development opportunities and resources.

Ann Hulford
NSTALL President
Conference 2010 Coordinator and Registrar

NSTALL Annual Conference 2011 is on the move...

NSTALL is looking forward to providing another quality conference on October 28th, 2011 at Northumberland High School, just outside New Glasgow. The theme will be ***“Guiding Students Through Literacy”*** and promises to be an outstanding conference day. We will keep you updated with accommodations, presenters and registration news in upcoming NSTALL newsletters....

Executive News

NSTALL has a new president. Welcome to Ann Hulford! After planning a very successful conference in October, Ann has taken over the role as President of NSTALL from outgoing President Sonya Purdy. Ann is a familiar face to NSTALL members and colleagues in the South Shore Regional School Board. She is presently teaching Grade 4 and is a Literacy Mentor at Chester District Elementary School. Congratulations Ann!

Welcome to Glenna Leeco-Griffith

Glenna joined the NSTALL Executive after the annual meeting in October 2010. Glenna's contact information is:

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2010-2011

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BOOK REVIEWS BY ANN

Practice with Purpose: Literacy Work Stations for Grades 3-6

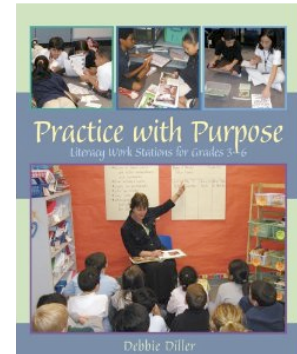
by Debbie Diller

If you are thinking of organizing and utilizing Literacy Stations in the intermediate/upper grades then this book is a must read. The book is jammed packed with step-by-step instructions to get you started and also explains how to establish routines and manage the stations, utilize easily accessible materials, assessment and troubleshooting, and is filled with excellent ideas to use at the literacy stations.

Debbie begins by explaining the purpose and value of Literacy Stations in grades 3-6. We know they work so wonderfully in grades P-3 and she will convince you they will work just as well in the per

grades. In addition, Debbie dedicates individual chapters based on each of the literacy stations and offers great visuals and charts. All of the ideas have come from classrooms in which Debbie visited or worked.

Whether you want one literacy station or multi literacy stations, this professional book is an easy read that will get you excited and anxious to begin.



ISBN# 1-57110-395-3
Stenhouse Publishers

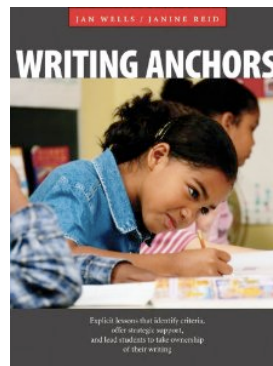
Writing Anchors

by Jan Wells/Janine Reid

This professional book is an excellent resource for grades 2-7. If you are looking for a book to read about improving your writing program and using lessons on *writing anchors*, then this book is a must read.

The book begins with suggestions for establishing writing workshops and routines and the importance of teaching anchor lessons. The authors discuss writing in the four major genres: personal recounts, writing nonfiction, poetry, narrative; also included is a chapter on the use of read-alouds to motivate young authors. Each genre has a writing profile, a rubric for assessment, a list of the anchor lessons for that genre and a list of the skills focus. Also included with each genre are blackline masters/graphic organizers and a wealth

of visual charts and supports. The anchor lessons are designed to help students unlock their personal voice. I liked the way the anchor lessons are part of the year-long writing program and are each focused on a particular skill that is easily incorporated in the daily writing program. Each anchor lesson begins with the purpose clearly stated, how to do it, student reflections and evaluation.



This is a book you will pick up time and time again. It is an excellent support and resource for your writing workshops.

ISBN# 1-55138-180-X
Pembroke Publishers

Recommended

WEBSITES

by *Literacy Mentors SSRSB*

www.biography.com

Re: Site for teaching Biography genre/writing exemplar
~submitted by Anglela Gladwin

<http://www.iq.poquoson.org/index.htm>

Re: Interactive Language Arts site. This site can be used with a Smart-board. It is organized by Grade level.~submitted by Paula MacIsaac

<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

The website is called **Read, Write, Think**. It's an American site that is produced by the International Reading Association (IRA) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). It provides an overview of literacy in "Literacy Engagements"; under "Student Materials" there are online interactive tools to use with students; there's a wide selection of literacy resources in "Web Resources Gallery" and there's a lesson plan index which is alphabetized but there's also "Lesson Plan Selector" where you can choose the grade and literacy strand.
~ submitted by Julia Moule

www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/writers/index.html

Writers' Workshop P-6 ~submitted by Ann Hulford

www.teachingideas.co.uk/english/contents06writingnonfiction.htm

Writing ideas and resources list
~submitted by Ann Hulford

www.guysread.com

For some great ideas for hooking boys with reading, you may like to have a look. ~submitted by Connie Smith

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=8904>

Do you have any students who are having difficulty coming up with writing ideas? Do you need some new suggestions for creative writing? I found this site and thought they would be great writing prompts. ~submitted by Beth Ann Norwood

<http://www.kerpoof.com/>

This site has a simplified movie making activity as well as story writing and card making choices.
~submitted by Joanne Uhlman

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=795

Word Sorts- Beginning / Struggling Readers ~submitted by Stephen Jamieson

www.learningtoday.com/corporate/reading-games

Reading Games ~submitted by Ann Hulford

www.sillybook.net

Interactive site –animated children's books, musical stories, stories by children.~submitted by Ann Hulford

www.literacyconnections.com/WordStudyActivities.php

Creative word study activities
~submitted by Ann Hulford

www.professorgarfield.org/toon_book_reader/index.html

Online books/cartoons to read
~ submitted by Ann Hulford

With Thanks...

These sites were submitted by various Literacy Mentors in the SSRSB to share with teachers. As a Literacy Mentor in this Board, I would like to share them with our NSTALL membership.

– Ann Hulford, NSTALL President