

READ 3

Read, Read, Read!

December 2011



Steeped in History,

Focused on the Future

Dr. Jim Ray,
Superintendent

Dr. Eric Levitt,
Assistant
Superintendent for
Instruction

Jean Brewington,
Director of Elementary
Education

Inside this issue:

Literacy Course	1
Daisy's Pink Coat	
Coaches Corner	2
Inferring	
Young Adult Book Pick	
Conference Update	3
Professional Book Pick	
Web Site	
Non Fiction by Routman	4
Christmas Books	5-6
Calendar	7
Daisy's Pink Cape	8-12
Literacy Workshop	13

Literacy Courses Offered

Spartanburg School District 3 is fortunate to be able to offer the graduate course EDU 521, Instructional Strategies for Reading, in partnership with Converse College. This is a yearlong course that looks closely at the strategies proficient readers use in all content areas and all grades.

Thirty teachers are looking closely at what it means to comprehend text and the impact this has on a student's success in school. Using the text, Strategies That Work; Teaching Comprehension for Understanding and Engagement by Harvey and Goudvis, teachers

will deepen their understanding of meaning, strategy lessons, and comprehension across the curriculum. Through professional reading and group discussions they will study current research and theory in the area of reading strategies and instruction.

Pending interest, Teaching Reading in the Content Area, will be offered in the summer of 2012. This course is designed to familiarize teachers with strategies, techniques, and materials that will enhance reading and overall literacy in content area classrooms.

This course examines current practices in content area instruction and explores the critical relationships among language, content literacy, and learning. Teaching reading in the content area will help learners make connections between what they already know and new information presented in the text. As students make these connections, they create meaning and comprehend what they are reading.

Both of these courses are part of an Educational Specialist Degree in Literacy offered through Converse College.

Daisy's Pink Cape

In last month's issue you read where Patsy Brown's LEAP class wrote to author Michelle Dufresne asking that Daisy gets to be Super Girl and wear a pink cape they made and sent to her.

Dufresne responded by writing a book, Daisy's Pink Cape after receiving the letter and cape. The students at Pacolet Elementary are enjoying reading the book written for their school. You can find the

entire book on pages 8 -12. your class.

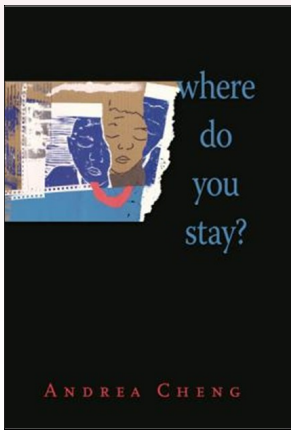
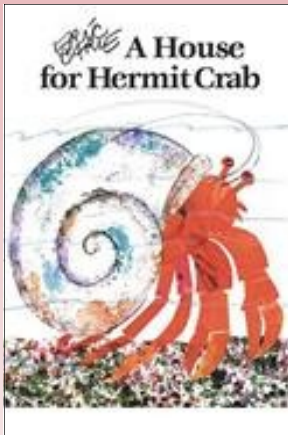
Please feel free to print Special thanks to the author the book and share with for allowing us to print.



Daisy's Pink Cape

“There are many ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”

Jacqueline Kennedy



Coaches Corner

Fifth grade students at Clifdale Elementary are taking part in Book Buddies, a year long activity which pairs up a child from kindergarten with a child from fifth grade. Each week, these buddies meet to read, write and talk about books. The fifth grade buddies select a book to read aloud and discuss with their kindergarten buddy. In this way, our kindergartners are able to access books that are appealing and interesting to them that they could not read on their own, while the fifth graders are able to practice reading accurately and fluently. Our fifth grade students are coaches when their partner

needs help and they check for understanding after they read. The kindergarten buddy also has one of his or her books from their book bag to read aloud to the fifth grade buddy. In this way, our kindergartners have an extra opportunity to use and practice the strategies they’ve learned in LEAP.

In Book Buddies, not only do these students learn about each other and strengthen the sense of a literacy community in the school, each buddy has an opportunity to share his or her love of reading. Their most recent project involved reading an informational text

and then completing their own writing. They read and studied the format and content of how to write, focusing on sequencing and nonfiction text features. Then the pairs made a winter craft, a snowflake ornament. Each pair of students wrote their own how to article, complete with nonfiction text features such as headings and captions, for their ornament. Their articles will be proudly displayed in the school for others to read and use.

It’s “snow” secret our book buddies enjoyed their time together working on their how to articles.

Comprehension Strategy— Inferring

Definition of Inferring: Use prior knowledge and textual information to determine meaning and unique interpretations that are not explicit in the text.

When you infer, you use logical reasoning to explain events and make conclusions.

Strategy Checklist:

- * Go back and reread
- * Determine the meanings of words you don’t know by

thinking about you already know

- * Look at the picture for clues
- * Talk to friends and see what they think
- * Make a prediction and then see if it is confirmed or contradicted

Books for teaching inference:

- * A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle
- * Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young
- * My Lucky Day by Keiko Kasza

- * Tuesday by David Weisner
- * The Stray Dog by J Prelutsky
- * Window by Jeanne Baker
- * Howie Bowles by K Banks

Poster illustrating inferring :

[http://www.readinglady.com/index.php?](http://www.readinglady.com/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=13)

[mod-ule=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=13](http://www.readinglady.com/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=13)

www.enchantedlearning.com

A site of online curriculum material with over 30,000 web pages.

Young Adult Book Pick: Where Do You Stay?

After his mother’s death, 11-year-old Jerome moves across town to live with his aunt, Miss Geneva, and her sons: younger, clingy Monte and older, angry Damon. Escaping the newness and tension with his relatives, Jerome takes refuge with elderly Mr. Willie, who lives in an abandoned carriage house behind an empty mansion down the block. Jerome misses the

piano he had to leave behind at his old house, and as he helps Mr. Willie with odd jobs around the crumbling estate, he finds in his new friend a fellow music lover and a kind listener who gives him space to grieve.

As in *Where the Steps Were* (2008), Cheng writes about the people and places of her Ohio childhood in a quiet, poetic

story that resonates with authentic voices, here belonging mostly to African American characters. In eloquent, accessible language filled with the interior thoughts Jerome wishes he could say out loud, Cheng captures a child’s uneven passage from the impossible shock of losing his mother to his gradual reentry into life without her.

South Carolina Reading Conference Update

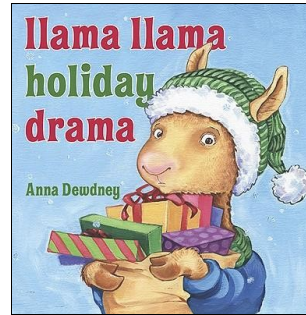
The 35th South Carolina Reading Conference will be held February 23—25, 2012 at the Myrtle Beach Sheraton Convention Center. Come join educators from across South Carolina as they *Surf the Waves of Literacy*. Key note speakers are Don Leu, nationally prominent specialist in reading and internet technologies and Dr. Steven Graham, expert in reading and writing. Luncheon speaker for Friday

is author Anna Dewdney, Llama Llama series and Jerry Pallotta will be the Friday night banquet speaker.

Featured speakers include Michael Dahl, Kathy Bumgardner, Crystal Campbell, Adrian Fogelin, Fred Bowen, and Lynn Floyd Wright.

Thursday's preconference sessions feature Donna Whyte, Shane Templeton, Cheryl Ellis and Aiken Tech-

nology Instructional Specialist. You can visit www.scira.org to get registration and hotel information.



You can visit www.scira.org to get registration and hotel information.

tion twice as likely to stick, foster students' real-world connections to their learning, and allow you to meet the common instructional goals shared by both areas.

Chapters are filled with hands-on, math-focused activities organized around reading, writing, oral language, and visual literacy skills. Classroom samples from all grade levels K–6 are interspersed throughout the book to demonstrate students' abilities and learning.

A room without books is like a body without a soul.

Marcus Cicero

Research is a process, not a product, and the most important skill is thinking.

Eileen Simmons

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

Fusselman

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

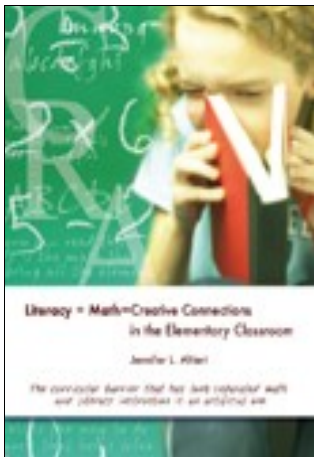
Edmund Burke

Professional Reading Pick Literacy + Math by Jennifer L. Altieri

This innovative, groundbreaking text will help you creatively connect two of the most valued and tested content areas

in our elementary schools while working within the constraints of your already busy schedule. Gone are the curricular barriers that have long separated elementary math and literacy instruction!

Literacy + Math demonstrates how standards from both areas can be simultaneously introduced, understood, and reinforced through engaging lessons. Connecting these content areas—and allowing children to see these connections—will make your instruc-



Super Web Sites

Lots of Kid's Writing Games and Primary Teacher Writing Resources: http://www.netrover.com/~kingskid/writing/Kids_Writing.html

Yodio - Students can create mobile Digital storybooks with this Free audio recording/podcasting site. No phone number is required to use the

site, and teachers can create one account for all students: <http://Yodio.com/>

WatchKnow gathers and organizes educational videos for students ages 3 to 18., features more than 20,000 videos across 3,000 categories. And filters out everything except quality educational videos.

<http://www.watchknow.org>

Dumpr - This free online suite of tools allows you to edit your Flickr Photos in order to turn them into coloring book images, makes them look old, turns them into globes, or add reflections. <http://www.dumpr.net>

Reading Non-Fiction Summarized from Conversations by Regie Routman, Chapter 11

- * 85% of the reading done by middle, high school, college and postgraduate students is non-fiction. However, exemplary non-fiction remains too far uncommon in literacy classes. (p440)
- * Non-Fiction books help students increase their knowledge about, and make connections with, the world around them. Well-written non-fiction provokes close observation, questioning, and investigation. Reading non-fiction affects the ease and skill with which students write non-fiction. (p441)
- * Reading non-fiction also includes decoding and interpreting visual elements - graphs, charts, timelines, tables, maps, diagrams, photographs-increasing being used in electronic information media - as well as brochures, directories and catalogues. (p441)

Non-fiction must have **conceptual hooks**. We *remember* and *understand* key information in the text because it *connects* with concepts we already understand. (p442) As teachers, before we ask students to read or write non-fiction, we must give the students opportunities to hear non-fiction read aloud, discuss attributes, observe reading techniques, and browse through a wide-range of information material. *Browsing is a skill we need to model and teach all students in all genres.* (p443)

Student conversations about non-fictional is critical. We must give students the opportunity to read and share observations, ask for clarification, test ideas among peers, and argue positions. We need to monitor students' learning and check their understanding and conclusions. Otherwise, students will continue to have difficulty in reading non-fiction...they will fail to read with a critical questioning stance. (p444)

Selecting Good Non-Fiction (p442) Characteristics to look for:

Accurate	Interesting	Illustrations/photos	Valid generalizations	Background information
Vocabulary	Summaries	Essential details	Ability to read, interpret, and conclude	
Cohesive	Clearly organized	Multiple perspectives	Attractive layout	

Reading the News

Being able to read, analyze, and interpret the news is part of being an informed and responsible citizen. Students need these skills and know how current events (local, national, international, political, economic, and scientific) affect lives. It is OUR JOB to TEACH. News articles are excellent models for nonfiction writing. Feature stories and editorials can be used to demonstrate and talk about leads, headlines, verbs, research, sources, explanations, photos, captions, and writing styles. Reading the newspaper is also a real-world habit. (p449)

Tips for Reading Non-Fiction Aloud

Choose a variety of types of non-fiction.	Always read the selection to yourself first.
Give a thoughtful introduction before you read aloud.	Point out feature of non-fiction text and explain their uses.
Read only part of the book or read out of order.	Demonstrate asking questions about special features and formats.
Verbalize your reading process.	Allow time to process the information.
Choose books (magazines, newspaper articles) that capture your imagination and that will tap students' interest.	
Encourage questions and lively discussions about topics, facts, concepts, generalizations, writing styles, language, format and conclusions.	Group or pair non-fiction books to elicit better observation.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aim to align instruction with the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) so that many more students can meet the requirements of college and career readiness. Therefore, the CCSS demands balancing the reading of literature with the reading of information texts, including texts in history, social studies, science and technical subjects in all grades.

Distribution of Literacy and Informational Passages by Grade in the 2009 NAEP Reading Framework

Grade	Literacy	Informational
Fourth	50%	50%
Eighth	45%	55%
Twelfth	30%	70%

Christmas Books

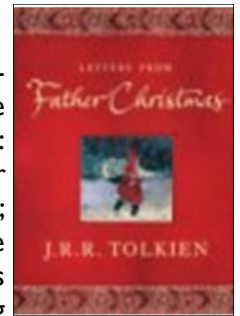
The First Christmas by Jan Pienkowski



Turn the pages and you will experience the true spirit of Christmas with its rich celebration of the Christmas story. Using the words of the King James Bible, the nativity story is brought gloriously to life with illuminated pictures of silhouettes set against glowing colors.

Letters from Father Christmas by J.R.R. Tolkien

Every December an envelope bearing a stamp from the North Pole would arrive for J.R.R. Tolkien's children. Inside would be a letter in strange spidery handwriting and a beautiful coloured drawing or some sketches. The letters were from Father Christmas. They told wonderful tales of life at the North Pole: how all the reindeer got loose and scattered presents all over the place; how the accident-prone Polar Bear climbed the North Pole and fell through the roof of Father Christmas's house into the dining-room; how he broke the Moon into four pieces and made the Man in it fall into the back garden; how there were wars with the troublesome horde of goblins who lived in the caves beneath the house! Sometimes the Polar Bear would scrawl a note, and sometimes Ilbereth, the Elf, would write in his elegant flowing script, adding y.



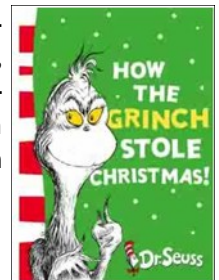
First Noel by Jan Pienkowski



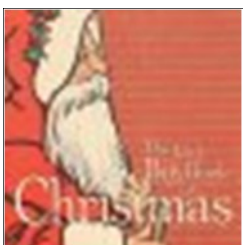
This is an absolutely amazing book; so unexpected was the beauty, craftsmanship and presentation of its contents. It isn't really a book at all, but a Christmas carousel that springs to life as you bend the spine until the hard covers meet at the back. Then you hang it up as the extraordinary piece of art that it is, telling the story of the Nativity through five exquisite cut-out silhouettes with words from the King James Bible.

How The Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss's small-hearted Grinch ranks right up there with Scrooge when it comes to the crankiest, scowling Christmas kill-joy of all time. For 53 years, the Grinch has lived in a cave on the side of a mountain, looming above Whoville. He finds the noisy holiday preparations and infernal singing of the happy little citizens below extremely annoying. So, he decides this frivolity must stop. His "wonderful, awful" idea is to don a Santa outfit, strap heavy antlers on his poor, quivering dog Max, construct a makeshift sleigh, head down to Whoville, and strip the cheerful Whos of their Christmas goodies.



The Little Big Book of Christmas by Tim Shaner



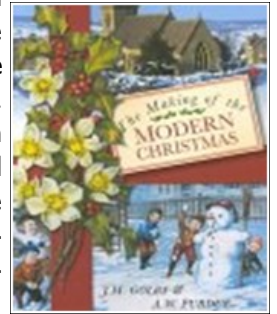
Designed by Tim Shaner and lavishly illustrated throughout with nineteenth-century artwork, this book will remind you of the origins of Christmas, the roots of modern celebration, and the current significance of the holiday in each of our lives. A great big fat international Christmas book chock-full of stories, songs, biblical verses, Christmas lore, and some of the very best holiday recipes.

Dr. Seuss's small-hea
mas kill-joy of all time
He finds the noisy ho
he decides this frivoli
quivering dog Max, co
mas goodies.

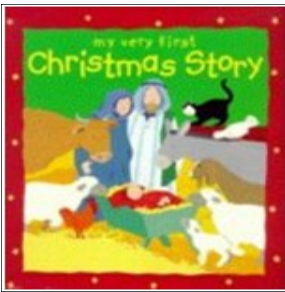
Christmas Books

Making of the Modern Christmas by J M Golby and A W Purdue

The story of Christmas, from its beginnings as a pagan celebration with mistletoe, and holly and wreath decorations - continued today with the pantomime's "principal boy". The book also covers the practice of superiors waiting upon those of lower rank during the Christmas season - still seen in the British Army - and the election of a Lord of Misrule which was a popular custom in the 14th century. The author reveals how the Victorians enlarged celebrations into something like the Christmas season of today, with singing, dancing, plum pudding, decorated trees, street carolling, Christmas cards and Santa Claus. The book also covers the history of Christmas through the 20th century, discussing the two world wars, the influence of television and film, the Queen's speech and the increasing commercialization of the season. The many illustrations include famous examples such as Roosevelt and Churchill leaving the White House for Christmas service in 1941 and the Christmas tree at Windsor.



My Very First Christmas Story Book by Lois Rock and Alex Ayliffe



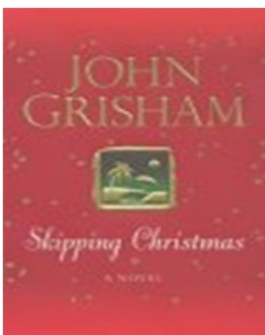
All the episodes of the traditional nativity, such as Jesus' birth in the stable and the shepherds' visit are told in the simplest words, accompanied by 12 bold and stylish pictures.

Christmas Book at Bedtime Featuring Patricia Routledge, Joss Ackland, Miriam Margolyes, Judie Dench and Richard Briers

These CDs contain ten seasonal stories from BBC Radio 4's "Book at Bedtime". Each has a Christmas theme and range from the intriguing to the funny to the poignant. They are written by an array of literature's best-known names, including Laurie Lee and Charles Dickens.



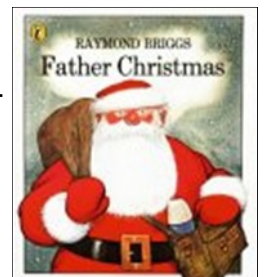
Skipping Christmas by John Grisham



John Grisham has turned a satirical eye on the overblown ritual of the festive season, and the result is *Skipping Christmas*, a modest but funny novel about the tyranny of December 25. Grisham's story revolves around a typical middle-aged American couple, Luther and Nora Krank. An accountant, Luther estimates that "a year earlier, the Luther Krank family had spent \$6,100 on Christmas", and had "precious little to show for it". Consequently, he makes an executive decision, telling his wife, friends and neighbors that "We won't do Christmas". Instead, Luther books a 10-day Caribbean cruise. All goes well until people get wind of the Kranks' subversive scheme. Everyone, from Christmas card salesmen to horrified neighbors, besieges the couple with questions. "What about the Christmas party, carols and the erection of Frosty the Snowman?" Then, things start to turn nasty in the local neighborhood.

Father Christmas by Raymond Briggs

Father Christmas awoke from his dream of summer in the sun, and there it was on the calendar, December 24th, Christmas Eve, the start of his longest night's work of the year.



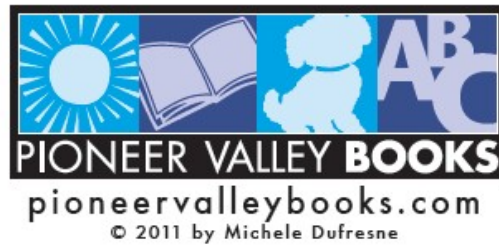
December 2011

				1 Eat a Red Apple Day Rosa Parks Day on this day 1955 she refused to give up her seat.	2 David Macaulay Born 1946 National Fritters Day Artist Georges Seurat, 1859	3 National Roof-Over-Your-Head Day First successful heart transplant, 1967
4 Munro Leaf National Cookie Day Wear Brown Shoes Day Phonograph Invented, 1877	5 Walter Elias (Walt) Disney's Birthday Born in Chicago in 1901 Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955	6 Ira Gershwin's Birthday A Famous Composer born in 1896 St. Nicholas Day 13th Amendment passed, abolishing slavery, 1865	7 National Cotton Candy Day Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 1941	8 James Thurber National Brownie Day Inventor Eli Whitney, 1765	9 Ball-Bearing Roller Skates Patented in 1884 First Christmas Seals Issued in 1907	10 Rumer Godden Human Rights Day Emily Dickinson, 1830
11 UNICEF Anniversary Established in 1946. Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, 1620	12 Barbara Emberley Golf Tee Patented Hovercraft Patented Poinsettia Day Marconi's radio signal crossed the Atlantic, 1901	13 National Cocoa Day Susan B. Anthony dollar coined, 1970	14 First Miniature Golf Course Opened in 1929 South Pole Discovered in 1911	15 Bill of Rights Day Underdog Day	16 Beethoven's BDay Marie Hall Ets Quentin Blake Boston Tea Party Anniversary in 1773	17 Wright Brother's First Flight, 1903 National Maple Syrup Day
18 Wear a Plunger On Your Head Day Baseball great Ty Cobb, 1886	19 Eve Bunting Born 1928 Oatmeal Muffin Day Dickens' A Christmas Carol published, 1843	20 Hanukkah Begins at Sundown Games Day Electric Light demonstrated, 1879	21 First Crossword Puzzle in a Newspaper Humbug Day Look at the Bright Side Day	22 First Day of Winter First Christmas Lights for Sale In 1882 Thermometer Was Invented	23 Roots Day Federal Reserve System established, 1913	24 Christmas Eve National Egg Nog Day Apollo 8 reached the moon, 1968
25 Christmas National Pumpkin Pie Day	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa Begins National Whiners Day	27 Inгри d'Aulaire Visit the Zoo Day World Bank created, 1945	28 Card Playing Day Chewing Gum Patented in 1869 Iowa became the 29th state, 1846 National Chocolate Day	29 Texas became the 28th state, 1845	30 Author Rudyard Kipling, 1865	31 New Year's Eve Artist Henri Matisse, 1869

DIRECTIONS:

- Print the book in color or black and white.
- Cut each page in half. (Note dashed line on each page)
- Staple pages together.

Resources for Early Literacy



Daisy's Pink Cape

“Look!” said Daisy.

“I got a letter
in the mail.”

“Is there a letter
for me?” asked Jack.

“No!” said Daisy.



2

“Is there a letter
for me?” asked Bella.

“No!” said Daisy.

“Is there a letter
for me?” asked Rosie.

“No! Just for me!”
said Daisy.



3

“Oh!” said Daisy.
“Look! I got a letter
and a pink cape!”

“A pink cape?”
asked Jack.



4

“I can be Supergirl,”
said Daisy.
She put on the cape.



5

“Is there a cape
for me?” asked Bella.

“No!” said Daisy.



6

“Can I have the cape?”
asked Rosie.

“I love pink.”

“No!” said Daisy.

“The cape is for me.”



7

“Now I can fly!” said Daisy.
“Just like Super Dog!”



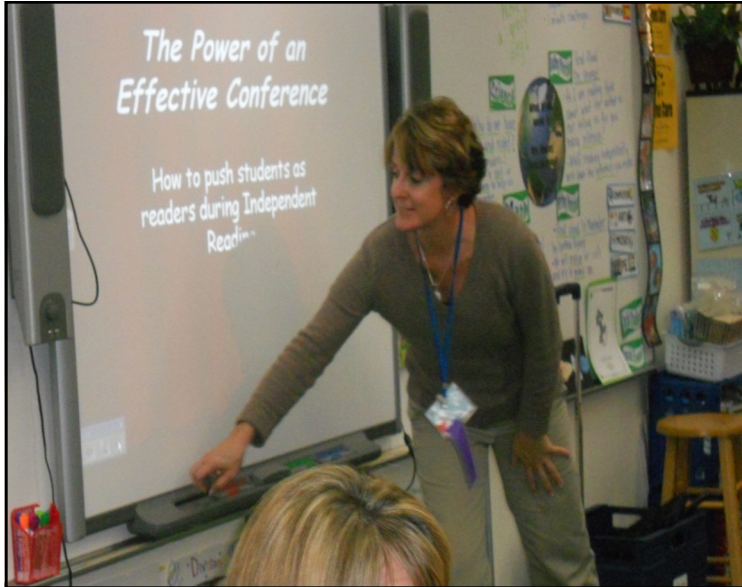
8



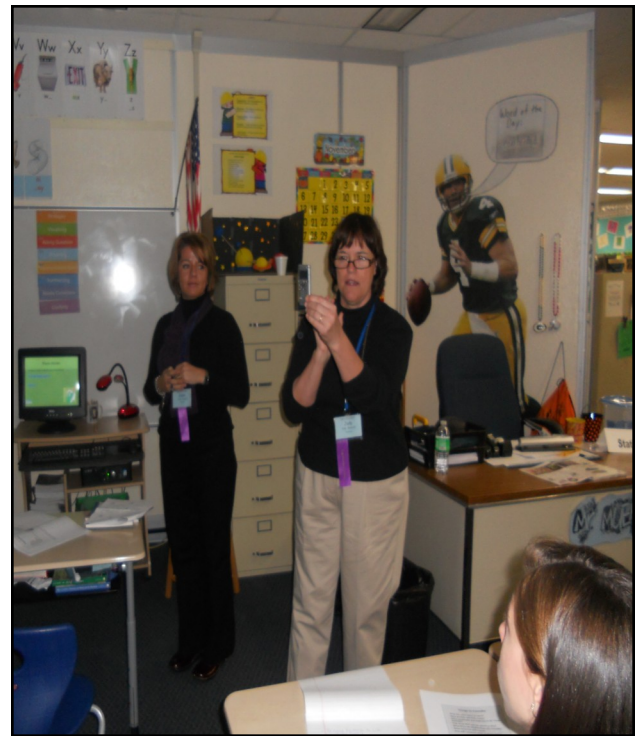
**A special thanks to Mrs. Brown’s first graders
who sent Daisy the pink cape. She loves it!**

District Three presents at SCIRA Literacy Workshop

Renee Phillips, Jaime Dawson, Judy Mamroth, Meg Cheshier, Kristy Eubanks and Jean Brewington presented at the SCIRA Literacy Workshop in Columbia, SC on Saturday, November 19, 2011. Their sessions were well attended and received positive evaluations.



Renee Phillips



Jaime Dawson and Judy Mamroth



Meg Cheshier and Kristy Eubanks