



An Honor Council of  
The International Reading  
Association

# Nassau Reading Council Newsletter

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Welcome to our new e-letter!!! To save the cost of producing and mailing our newsletter we have decided to put our seasonal newsletter online. We are happy to go green and to do our part to keep costs down. In these economic times, NRC is trying to tighten our belts to avoid raising dues.

We hope everyone has a lovely summer. While you are relaxing on the beach, or at the pool our committees are hard at work preparing for our fall program at Molloy. We hope to see you in attendance at our workshops. Our Treasurers would like to remind you that dues for 2011-2012 will remain the same as this year.

Your Editors,

*Sarah, Susan and Nancy*

**Nassau Reading Council  
Young Author's Contest  
2011 Award Winners  
Kindergarten - Grade 12**

(primary entries have been edited for spelling)

**Kindergarten**

<b>Mathias Carillo Guanchez</b>	Covert Avenue School Elmont SD Mrs. Samantha Magarci
<b>Akossiwa Gavlo</b>	Gotham Avenue School Elmont SD Mrs. Lofton
<b>Michelle Milano</b>	Watson School Rockville Centre Mrs. Moore

**Grade 1**

<b>Lexie Feit</b>	Cherry Lane School Carle Place SD Mrs. Luisa Williams
<b>Emily Smith</b>	Cross Street School Mineola SD Ms. Cynthia Kopp
<b>Leah Steadman</b>	Stewart Manor School Elmont SD Mrs. Aksinoff

**Grade 2**

<b>Natalie DiFusco</b>	Boardman School 9E Oceanside SD Ms. Frank
<b>Matthew Keczmer</b>	Theodore Roosevelt School Oyster Bay- E. Norwich SD Mrs. Jennifer Etline

**Mackenzie Manyin**

School #8  
Oceanside SD  
Mrs. Jennifer Conte

**Grade 3**

**Natalie Diaz**

Locust Valley Intermediate School  
Locust Valley SD  
Ms. Karen Kriesberg

**Richie McQuillan**

Watson School  
Rockville Centre SD  
Ms. Henyan

**Chris Scott**

Meadow Drive School  
Mineola SD  
Mrs. Killian

**Grade 4**

**Nicolette Diaks**

Watson School  
Rockville Centre SD  
Mrs. Starman

**Caitlin Schleimer**

Buckley Country Day School  
East Williston, NY  
Mrs. Powers

**Madeline Simms**

Buckley Country Day School  
East Williston, NY  
Mrs. Knox

**Grade 5**

**Emma Deutsch**

Buckley Country Day School  
East Williston, NY  
Mrs. Thomas

**Emily May**

Hewlett Elementary School  
Hewlett - Woodmere SD  
Mrs. Lisa Guglielmi

**Brendan McFall**

School #5  
Oceanside SD  
Ms. Maguire

**Grade 6**

**Tara Canny**

James A. Deever School  
Valley Stream 13 SD  
Mrs. Scavelli

**Nina Donaldson**

James A. Deever School  
Valley Stream 13 SD  
Ms. Denise Phillips

**Thomas Maloney**

East Lake School  
District 23  
Mrs. Szabo

**Sarah Romanelli**

Oaks School #3  
Oceanside SD  
Mrs. DeStefano

**Elizabeth Talero**

Stewart Manor School  
Elmont SD  
Mrs. Waldron

**Christian Torres**

James H. Vernon School  
Oyster Bay- E. Norwich SD  
Mrs. Mary Samuels

**Grade 7**

**Michelle Argueta**

Lawrence Middle School  
Lawrence SD  
Mr. Biscardi

**Liam Deery**

New Hyde Park Memorial JHS  
Sewanhaka SD  
Mrs. Rodriguez

**Isabelle Van Roy**

Manhasset Middle School  
Manhasset SD  
Mrs. Skolnik

**Grade 8**

**Cara De Jesus**

Lawrence Middle School  
Lawrence SD  
Mrs. Mjaanes

**Gaby Picard**

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School  
Plainview-Old Bethpage SD  
Mrs. Ferrara

**Roshni Sethi**

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School  
Plainview-Old Bethpage SD  
Mrs. Ferrara

**Grade 9**

**Zayneb Almiggabber**

New Hyde Park Memorial HS  
Sewanhaka Central SD  
Ms. DeMartino

**Christiena Auguste**

Valley Stream South HS  
Valley Stream Central SD  
Mrs. Strong

**Halsey Quinn**

Oyster Bay HS  
Oyster Bay- E. Norwich SD  
Ms. Vigliotti

**Grade 10**

**Kaitlyn Fischer**

Island Trees HS  
Island Trees SD  
Mrs. Roemer

**Elizabeth Focarino**

New Hyde Park Memorial HS  
Sewanhaka Central SD  
Mrs. Mannle

**Grade 11**

**Bridget Downes**

W.T. Clarke HS  
East Meadow SD  
Mr. Heller

**Andrea Papageorgiou**

W.T. Clarke HS  
East Meadow SD  
Mr. Heller

**Kelly Schulz**

Island Trees HS  
Island Trees SD  
Mrs. Jennifer Sherry

**Grade 12**

**Rachel Gerard**

Island Trees HS  
Island Trees SD  
Mrs. Jennifer Sherry

**Heather Pollak**

Jericho HS  
Jericho School District  
Ms. Suzanne Valenza

Congratulations to all of our winners! We eagerly anticipate your contributions for 2012!

*Donna Tassone*  
Coordinator



## An Afternoon with Timothy Rasinski

This year Nassau Reading Council was honored to have Dr. Timothy Rasinski as a speaker. Dr. Rasinski is currently a Professor of Education in the Reading and Writing Center at Kent State University in Ohio. He has written over 150 articles, edited or authored 15 books and served on the Board of Directors for the IRA. In cooperation with Scholastic, he has created the **Fabulously Famous Book Program** for developing reading and writing fluency.

His talk was titled, “Effective Teaching of Reading-Fluency: The Bridge from Phonics to Comprehension”. Dr. Rasinski presented a model of reading instruction that provides for both surface and deep levels of reading with fluency being the element combining the two. He described how the ability to decode, understand vocabulary and spell comprised the surface level; but without these skills, students could not get to deeper comprehension. Fluency, comprised of automaticity and prosody, serves as the link to deeper level understanding of the text being read. Once students developed the fluency to decode easily, they could use their background knowledge and comprehension strategies to develop deep meaning of text.

He continued by describing how to assess fluency using various tools. Dr. Rasinski then provided teaching suggestions. He suggested teaching techniques for decoding and vocabulary. As fluency is one area where wide reading does not seem to be effective, students need to read a small bit of text closely and repeatedly to develop comprehension. Repeated readings of materials with strong voice that lead to an eventual performance by the students promote the improvement of reading skills in general. He also recommended the use of songs for developing fluency.

The talk was informative and enjoyable. At the end of the session, there was a raffle of some Scholastic materials. Information on Dr. Rasinski’s program was provided as well as an informative hand-out. Anyone needing more information should contact [www.scholastic.com/listbuilder](http://www.scholastic.com/listbuilder) or [shymowech@scholastic.com](mailto:shymowech@scholastic.com).



## **International Literacy Project Update**

### **By Marcia Mondschein**

Nassau Reading Council sponsored the twenty-first Guatemalan Educators Exchange. Our three visiting educators, Shiny, Gladys and Sylvia expressed how grateful they were to be offered the opportunity to travel to the United States to participate in visitations and observations in several Long Island School Districts. As recipients of the annual scholarships granted by Nassau Reading Council and the New Jersey Reading Association, our visitors promised to share their experiences with colleagues in their Guatemalan schools. Most certainly, these three educators will continue to work to foster public school education in their country.

The feeling of warmth extended to them was very special. Book donations, school supplies and a delicious dinner at the Bonwit Inn were very much appreciated.