

Literacy Leaders

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Our First Event: A Literacy Conference

The CCRC Board decided to alter the format of Council activities for the 2013-2014 school year. Our first event, scheduled for October 19th, will be a half-day literacy conference. Imagine having an opportunity to get up-close and personal with literacy professionals, classroom teachers, content teachers, and teacher candidates (preservice teachers) in our area.

Sessions will focus on dealing with the Common Core Standards; separate sessions will be geared to elementary, middle and high school teachers. Expect helpful ideas and lively discussions! Have the chance to win one of several prizes!

Save the date: October 19th, 8:30—12:30

SUNY Fredonia, Fenton Hall

Look for the conference flyer soon!

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Digital Literacies are Available

The International Reading Council is offering its members Digital Literacies: An IRA Cross-Journal Virtual Issue through 2013. This newly released virtual resource contains featured articles from *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*.

You can access a sample issues of the articles selected by editors of the listed journal by going to the IRA website: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/subject/code/000048/homepage/digital_literacies.htm.

Welcome Back!



Microsoft Office, 2010

Summer flew by! September is already upon us, which is difficult to believe. The daytime temperatures are warm but the nights have cooled down, with heavy dews and a light frost on the “ridge.”

CCRC hopes that the beginning of the school year progresses smoothly for you, regardless if you

are a classroom teacher, literacy specialist, support personnel, administrator, and/or parent. All of us face challenges as we deal with further implementation of Common Core Standards, refined teacher evaluation systems, and tightening of school budgets. But we are a hardy group who have faced daunting challenges before. Here’s to a successful school year for all!



Microsoft Office, 2010

Relax and enjoy the night sky

Take a break from lesson planning, Common Core module overviews, grading, reviewing student folders, and networking! The International Space Station is visible in the skies above us on a somewhat regular basis. Consult the NASA website, which allows you to identify sighting availability based on where you live. Check out the *Spot the Space Station* page (<http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>) and follow the steady white light as it moves across the sky. Then, get back to your schoolwork!



<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/worff/images/jsc2001e00360.jpg>

Professional Development Opportunities in Chautauqua County



Microsoft Office, 2010

Science Education Conference: SUNY Fredonia, the Phyllis W. and Lawrence A. Patrie Endowment for the Sciences, The Institute for Research in Science Teaching, and Project MAST²ER (**M**athematics **A**nd **S**cience **T**eacher **T**raining in

Educational **R**esources) are hosting the Western New York State Science Education Conference. The conference is scheduled for **Saturday, October 12th** in the Williams Center on SUNY Fredonia's campus. Dr. Don Duggan-Haas, Senior Education Research Associate for the Museum of the Earth, will present the keynote address. Join science teachers for a day of professional development. Registration details can be found at <http://www.fredonia.edu/project/mast2er/wnysconference.asp>

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Willow Bay Theater is offering a dramatization of the

C.S. Lewis book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. What a wonderful way to experience the Tales of Narnia! The play will take place in Jamestown on Friday, September 20th. For ticket information, call 716-483-6405.



[Www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

NYSRA Annual Conference - Professional Development for Literacy Folks



The annual NYSRA conference is being held in Albany from October 27th to October 29th. The list of presentations, guest speakers, and authors that support this year's theme, *Literacy for All Learners*, is impressive.

There are also numerous ses-

sions on aspects of addressing Common Core Standards; for example, text complexity, comprehension of informational texts, and much more!

Check the NYSRA website (www.nysreading.org) for more information about attending the conference.

Compare Contrast Text Structure

Getting students to understand text is critical to their success (in school and beyond). Building student understanding of text is a challenge when the students are diagnosed with autism (ASD). Although students with autism may recognize words, they can struggle with comprehension. This struggle becomes more pronounced as the students move through our educational system; that is, as content area instruction increases and reading instruction decreases. As a result, a need for instructional strategies that foster development of reading comprehension skills in students with autism in content area exists.

Carnahan and Williamson (2013) examined the use of a compare-contrast structure with three middle school students with autism. Assessments indicated that the students generally comprehended text at a first grade level or below.

Three-paragraph expository passages were developed that highlighted the science content being taught: gymnosperms and angiosperms. Readability of the passages was calculated to ensure that the text was at the students' instructional reading level. Ten comprehension questions were created for each passage; namely, five explicit questions and five inferential questions. A compare and contrast signal word handout and Venn diagram were included in materials distributed to the students (Both of these handouts appear here).

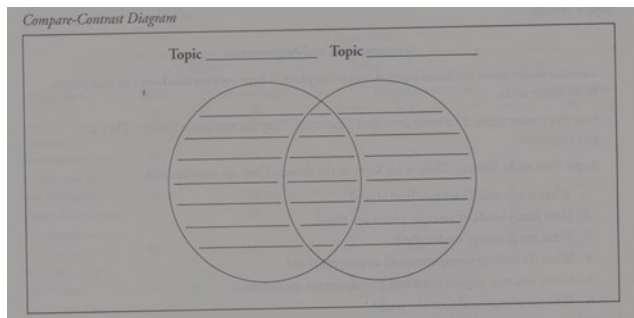
The teachers reviewed the material on the handouts prior to students reading the science passages (by

Compare and Contrast	
Purpose: To show how two things are alike and different	
Key Words	
Same Signal Words	Different Signal Words
both	two kinds
alike	different
can	cannot

(Carnahan & Williamson, 2013, p. 353)

taking turns). Students identified key words in the passages; the key words appeared in bold text. Next, they summarized text information using compare and contrast language. Three teacher questions guided students in support of information summarization: "What are the two ideas?; How are they the same?; and How are they different?" (p. 355)

Outcome measures included the percent of comprehension questions answered correctly as well as the amount of "meaning units" and accuracy of information students placed on their Venn diagrams.



(Carnahan & Williamson, 2013, p. 354)

All students' comprehension levels of the text improved

when they used the Compare and Contrast strategies described. Two students with low comprehension scores during baseline performed at significantly higher rates during intervention use. A return to baseline and then reintroduction of the Compare and Contrast strategies documented the effectiveness of the strategies for the three subjects.

Student Venn diagrams contained few errors during the intervention phase. These errors did not seem to affect comprehension of the science concepts.

Carnahan and Williamson (2013) contend that students with reading comprehension problems (such as students with ASD) need support to access

content that is "more sophisticated than their reading levels... [which] is important to the academic and social success of these individuals" (p. 359).

Chautauqua County Reading Council

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the CCRC Executive Board Members:

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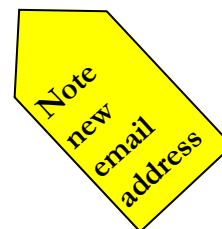
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Visit us on the web!
<http://chautauquareading.weebly.com>



Council Events: 2013-2014

Executive Board Meetings

September 17, 2013
October 17, 2013
November 14, 2013 (after Technology session)
February 25, 2013
March 4, 2014 (after Hot Reads)
April 9, 2014

Scheduled Activities

October 19, 2012: *Literacy Conference*
SUNY Fredonia—Fenton Hall 8:30 am—noon

November 14, 2013: *Technology*
Silver Creek Central School

March 4, 2014: *Hot Reads* Location TBA

May 7, 2013: *Annual Spring Banquet*
Children's author to be announced