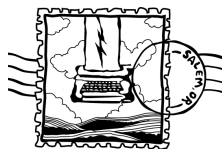


PLEASE
POST

Broadside

March 2010

Oregon
Writing
Project
at
Willamette
University



Karen
Hamlin,
Director

900 State St.
Salem, OR
97301

503-375-5476

www.
willamette.
edu/soe/owp

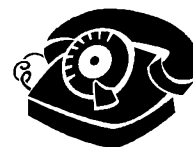
A Time to Flex Your Political Arm!

Every year, OWP@WU, along with representatives from over 200 Writing Projects across America, converge on Washington DC in the Spring to bring the message of how successful the National Writing Project (NWP) is in supporting teachers of writing, and the students they teach. This action is necessary because NWP has been funded separately for over 30 years, and needs to be renewed each year.

This year it is imperative that we contact our legislators as to the importance of not only OWP@WU, but all NWP sites, as the funding for NWP has been co-mingled with 4 other educational programs in a block grant, and NWP stands to lose partial funding.

Oregon legislators need to hear from us! If you have time to call Oregon's legislators, and let them know how OWP@WU has benefited you as a teacher, and your students, the numbers are listed below. Ask them to support full and separate funding of NWP. If you speak with a legislative aide, they will pass your message along to the Senator or Representative.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer: 202-225-4811
Rep. DeFazio: 202-225-6416
Rep. Wu: 202-225-0855
Rep. Walden: 202-225-6730
Rep. Schrader: 202-225-5711
Sen. Merkley: 202-224-3753
Sen. Wyden: 202-224-5244



You can also find email links to the Representatives at <http://www.house.gov/> and links to your Senators at <http://www.senate.gov/>

If you have any questions, please contact Melody Munger at melodymunger722@gmail.com

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Beginnings of a School Based Young Writer's Club

By Patricia J. Knight, Library Media Teacher

The Oregon Writing Project at Willamette University started me on a path of writing that was unexpected. I had not considered myself a writer other than the term papers and other requirements of an education. Suddenly I was part of a community of writers and people who seemed to enjoy what I wrote.

Returning to school in the fall, that is what I wanted for my students; to feel like writers and to be a part of a writing community. As a classroom teacher I used a writer's workshop approach to achieve these goals.

Then several years later, I moved into a position as an elementary library media teacher. I was no longer involved in writing instruction on a regular basis. So I came up with the idea of a writing club in my school. I choose to offer it to the fifth grade students, as they would be the most advanced writers and I certainly couldn't offer it to all 300 students at the school.

My goal was simple – to develop a community of writers; young people who enjoy writing, sharing it with others, and improving their own writing skills. I also wanted to keep the rules to a minimum. We would not have assignments, or requirements such as writing only with a pencil and single spaced like a classroom. Real writers make their own choices and I wanted my students to have that privilege too. Also, I did not wish to involve only the gifted writers. Any student who enjoyed writing was encouraged to join.

My first step was to pick a time that worked for both the fifth grade students' schedule and mine. The best space in the schedule was a combination of their lunch time and their lunch recess on a day when I didn't have classes at that time. This of course necessitated incorporating lunch into the meeting. I worked out a schedule for the forty-five minutes we had available. We would eat and visit for ten minutes, write quietly for ten minutes, and share writing for the remaining twenty-five minutes. During the sharing time, I structured it to have a student read a maximum of three minutes from a piece they had written. Then we would circle the table with each club member saying one positive comment and one constructive criticism. I modeled this so students would understand what was expected. It has been a very successful format and the club has turned out to be popular. In fact, I have had to limit the number to ten and select the ten members by a lottery.

Some additional things I have done include starting the meeting with a writer's tip. I occasionally give away writer's tools like fancy pencils or mini-notebooks. We have food treats now and then. The group I am facilitating now is spearheading a project to have a school literary magazine. I feel it a privilege to work with such enthusiastic and talented children. Through the club I hope to introduce them to a lifetime joy in writing.

*This essay was written after Pat's involvement in the
2009 Writing Club Support for Local Schools Seminar.*

As part of the seminar, participating OWP TCs met monthly to share ideas and encourage one another in their ongoing work with school-based writing clubs. A warm thank you to Pat for her writing, her work with local school children, and her valued efforts within OWP!



Saturday Sessions: "Celebrations and Inspiration"

Led by OWP TC Lois Rosen

Saturday - May 8, 2010 - 9am-12 - WU SOE 101

Come join local poet Lois Rosen for a rewarding morning of writing poetry that will inspire you and your students to closing a school year with a flourish!

Open and FREE for all OWP TCs – these stand-alone, topic-specific, sessions are held every other month during this school year. Don't miss this last session of this school year!

Reserve your spot by contacting Lois Rosen at ros1@wvi.com

An enthusiastic shout-out to author (and OWP teacher) Kassy Keppol for thanking the Oregon Writing Project in the credits of her latest children's book "Sleeping in Dragon Wings."

You too can check out Kassy's work at <http://www.keppolartistics.com>



"Teachers as Writers" Workshops

Led by OWP TC Steve Jones



8:30am to 12:30pm – WU/SOE - Rm 103
\$30 fee per session (\$20 for student-teachers)

Apr 24, 2010 - Reading and Writing Short-Short Fiction

Participants will read, discuss and begin our own short-short stories. These stories are ideal for classroom reading, discussion and as models for writing and prompts. We will also explore the challenging one-sentence story as a form of advanced, creative sentence combining.

May 8, 2010 - Writing for Life

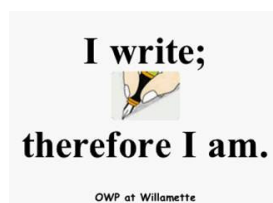
Participants will review meditative, healing, play, journaling and life-story writing strategies. What are the writing activities that best help us grow our writing and thinking throughout our lives? We'll explore all the fun ways to bring writing into life-long learning.

Register by contacting: Steve Jones at srjones24407@gmail.com

Have you heard the news? OWP is giving away groovy temporary tattoos to TCs who complete a short on-line survey.

Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NHKVDW> and tell the OWP Advisory Board how they can best support you (and like-minded colleagues) in both teaching and writing.

Don't wait another day - all the cool cats are doing it! ☺





Tech Team Talk



Have you surfed today?

Check out these websites recommended by OWP TCs:

Study Stack (<http://www.studystack.com>) has digital flashcards that teachers can create and share with students or students can create their own. There are games and multiple ways to use and learn from the flashcards (hangman, crosswords, a spider/bug game), and there is even a feature that connects flashcards to digital images. Students can upload the digital flashcards to their cellphones/ipods, and link from Study Stack to Facebook.

Photostory 3 for Windows

(<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.msp>) is a free program that is EASY and fun. Users can incorporate digital photos, voice recordings, soundtracks, texts into a streaming, digital video. Digital stories (the term used to describe the end product/video) are becoming more and more popular with teachers who don't want to mess around with fancy cameras, difficult video editing programs, or the effort it takes to get kids trained to use a new program. It's so easy that an early elementary student could quickly learn it.

Free Rice (<http://www.freerice.com/>) is a site that offers vocabulary and math tutorials in English and other languages. It is just plain fun for me and the kids to challenge each other and build our skills at the same time. The site offers to “pay-off” some rice for each correct answer to third world countries. Donate free food while having fun.

MS Office Live (<http://workspace.office.live.com/>) can be accessed through the web site or through MS Word directly. I use this many times each workday. I can create a document and save it online and pull it down from any web enabled computer. Think home to work-a wonderful tool for educators.

Mint (<https://www.mint.com>) is a very good site to use in personal finance classes. Owned by the makers of Quick Books, this website is secure and comprehensive in aggregating all one's cash accounts and creditor accounts along with budgeting tools.

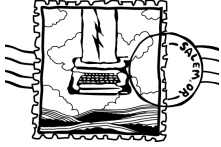
Library Thing (<http://www.librarything.com>) is a site that allows users to enter store and share book titles. I love the way I can reference it to recall a book I have read or to see what else the author has written. The features of this site are too numerous to detail here, but my students and I use it to look up books and do related searches for author and book information.

NWP Ning Bookgroups (<http://nwpbookgroups.ning.com>) lets TCs join a nation-wide discussion of books that impact teaching and writing.

Glogster (www.glogster.com) allows teachers and students to quickly make digital posters incorporating text, video, pictures, and sounds. Popular with the middle school crowd, it's a fun new tool for tackling class projects.

Drop.io (www.drop.io) let's you (and others) gather, share and publish information all from one convenient and private, on-line location. No sign-up needed. It's like a classroom website of your very own - with no fuss!

Google (<https://www.google.com/calendar>) is a multipurpose site for me. I use g-mail and calendar many times a day. Calendar is shareable and has become an indispensable tool for me. Google Apps and docs are great too.



Oregon Writing Project 2010 OPEN INSTITUTES

(Open to all interested K-16 teachers.)

Please share
this info.
with
colleagues!

● Teaching and Writing Poetry ●

We will write our socks off, drafting a passel of new poems, selecting our best to revise in small afternoon groups and assembling our own individual chapbooks.

Friday, June 25th - Thursday, July 1st
9am to 3pm
Willamette University in Salem, Oregon

This summer one-week poetry institute will feature morning poetry reading and drafting of new poems to interesting prompts, as well as afternoon small group revision and sharing. At the end of our week together, each participant will assemble a poetry chapbook ready for publication. We will explore a way to share our poems in an informal reading at a local coffee house.

Fee of \$150

covers an OWP@WU journal and 3 quarter hours of WU graduate credit.

Registration deadline is June 15, 2010

Contact Steve today at srjones24407@gmail.com to reserve your spot in this week of poetry!

● Teaching and Writing in Science ●

*If you teach writing, have you wished that your students could write more like this:
"The colors are unimaginably vivid: deep blues, ferocious greens, blinding whites" (H. L. Davies) and less like It was a beautiful day with blue skies and birds singing. A cool breeze caressed my cheek as I drank in all the beauty? If you teach science, have you wanted to engage your students in more than perfunctory lab or field trip notes?*

Monday, July 19th – Friday, July 23rd
8am to 3pm
Willamette University in Salem, Oregon

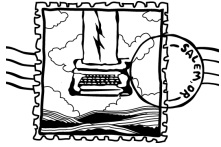
This institute investigates how the intersections between reading and writing in science can inform teaching practices. Included are sample lessons, participant developed lessons, and lots of writing activities. If you've thought about attending the Summer Institute but haven't been quite sure you wanted to commit 4 weeks, this workshop will introduce you to the practices and principles of the National Writing Project.

Fee of \$150

covers an OWP@WU journal and 3 quarter hours of WU graduate credit.

Registration deadline is June 15, 2010

Contact Ruth at rperkins@peak.org for more information or to register.



Oregon Writing Project 2010 Summer Workshops

• Writing Methods • for the K-12 Classroom

Preservice and beginning teachers are invited to explore the writing process and its application in a K-12 classroom setting.

**Wednesday, August 11th - Thursday, August 12th
9am - 3:30pm
Willamette University in Salem, Oregon**

*Please pass on
to first-year
and student
teachers!*

Participants will write, share, and discuss ways to incorporate new learning into their classroom structure/lesson plans. Veteran teachers will share lesson ideas and best practices in the area of writing with class participants. This course will highlight write-to-learn strategies and general (K-12) teaching strategies designed to improve student learning.

Fee of \$50

covers an OWP@WU journal and 1 quarter hour of WU graduate credit.

Registration deadline is June 1, 2010

Contact Angela at aobery@willamette.edu for more information or to register.

And....
something new
for interested
OWP TCS!

• Teachers • Teaching Teachers

*OWP is excited to offer you another avenue to support you in your growth as a Teacher Consultant!
Please join us!*

**Summer 2010
Schedules to be negotiated
Willamette University in Salem, Oregon**

As a Teacher Consultant with the Oregon Writing Project at Willamette, you may be interested in sharing your expertise with colleagues. One of the basic tenets of the National Writing Project is the belief in "Teachers Teaching Teachers." To the end, we are inviting you to join in two half day sessions, where TC's (perhaps you) who are interested in honing their presentation skills, will work with closely with a veteran presenter to develop a new presentation to give to a group of excited, hungry-for-ideas, pre-service teachers at Willamette University. (There is no fee for those TCs who want to participant and we will work with you to best fit your schedule.)

Contact Melody Munger at melodymunger722@gmail.com for further information.