Thursday, April 2nd Schedule of Events

Keynote | 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM

We’ll Take it from Here: Necessary Teaching in an Age of Competing Priorities
Cornelius Minor
There is so much that they want us to do. There is so much that we need to do. And then there is THAT feeling... “I have not done enough,” or worse; “I am not enough.” Today’s talk will confront the realities of serving students powerfully in a world that keeps taking -- from us, from them, and ultimately from the limitless futures that we have pledged our careers to cultivating. (K-12)

Session A | 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Real Assessment. Real Data. Real Action: Listening to Construct Powerful Experiences for Kids
Cornelius Minor
Listening to kids is one of the most powerful things that an educator can do. Here, we will examine how we translate what we hear into what we do alongside children. We will use our time together to think about ways to hear students, and we will build actionable plans for how to create experiences for students based on what we hear. (K-12)

The Whole Class Notebook: Making Reading Response Engaging and Meaningful
Tammy Mulligan, Kate Narita, Karen Primiano
The whole-class notebook helps students lift the level of their thinking, learn how to take concise notes, and teaches them how to use their notes to have meaningful book club discussions. Join us as we share our journeys to make reading response authentic, engaging, and meaningful for elementary learners. (3-6)

The Power of Literacy Partnerships: Connecting Schools and Families
Kimberly Hollock
Creating powerful and lasting literacy partnerships between home and school is essential in today’s world. This session will engage participants in realistic and attainable strategies that foster the family-school literacy connection. Learn about achieving literacy partnership goals and breaking down barriers while experiencing a combination of collaboration and communication, plus an element of fun! (K-6)

Pamela Koutrakas
Reading - Check. Writing - Check. But wait... what about spelling? Grammar? Vocabulary? Join us for this interactive session as we explore why it makes sense to leave behind one-size-fits-all spelling and grammar instruction and how to move toward a more developmentally and instructionally sound approach to language learning. (1-6)

Teaching in Tandem: Success is in Reach When You Co-Teach!
Jennifer Beaulac, Amy Burk, Tom Grasso
Curious about inclusive practices in writing? Come learn about Estabrook Elementary School’s journey of piloting a co-teaching model in Writer’s Workshop in Grades 3-5. Take away a potential roadmap of developing and implementing an effective co-teaching model at your school to support all learners in the general education writing classroom. (3-6)

Literacy Learning: A Joyful Journey
Injecting Joy into Reading and Writing Instruction ~ Jarrett Lerner, Author
Every student must leave school a strong reader and writer. By incorporating kids’ individual interests and passions into instruction, learning becomes more joyful, meaningful, and powerful. Ideas, tips, strategies, and exercises will be shared and explored. (K-6)
Write What You Know ~ E. S. Redmond, Author/Illustrator
Learn how E.S. Redmond was inspired by her rambunctious children to create characters and stories for her books using her signature humor and wit. (K-2)
Session A | 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM  Continued

**Visualizing: A Window into the Mind**  
Indra Ong, Jennifer Rose-Wood  
This interactive workshop will look at student work in response to a visual, complex short story, appropriate for middle-school and up. In the workshop, we will practice and learn about the empowering and culturally responsive reading strategy of visualizing. (6-12)

**Intervention in Middle School: An All Hands-on Deck Approach**  
Roxanne Archibald, Abigail Frost, Stacy Kaczmarek  
Discover more about the research behind intervention, the logistics required to employ an all hands-on deck approach, and the tools needed to support teachers and administrators in carrying out a successful middle school intervention program. Participants will receive practical tools to initiate or improve their own school-wide intervention program. (3-12)

**App Smashing with Book Creator**  
Therese Keegan  
Come learn about Book Creator, a simple tool to create incredible resources! Book Creator lets students create digital resources and combine text, images, audio, and visuals to publish professional quality books! It’s a student driven tool with outstanding results that will have students coming back eager to use every day! Please bring your device with you. (K-5)

Session B | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Dyslexia: How to Help Students Who Struggle to Read and Write**  
Mark Weakland  
Explore the scientific foundations of reading and discuss why some children struggle to reach important literacy benchmarks. Learn (and revisit) Tier 1 teaching techniques, strategies, and activities that are helpful to all students but critical to those children who have or may have dyslexia. (K-5)  
FEATURED SESSION

**Girls with Grit: Building Character While Building a Love of Literacy**  
Michelle Gajda, Heather Lang  
Combining research and writing talents with educational literacy activities and skills, author Heather Lang and reading specialist Michelle Gajda will share how to enhance and develop character building in students in a targeted and personal way. Their focus on “Girls with Grit” will teach educators and librarians how to inspire ALL students to develop persistence and resilience as well as help students understand the importance of stepping out of their comfort zones and embracing their mistakes. (1-8)

**Spark! Quick Writes to Kindle Hearts and Minds**  
Paula Bourque  
The act of writing doesn’t just convey our thinking; it shapes our thinking. If we want our students to be better thinkers we need to give them opportunities to practice every single day. Quick writes can build skillful writers but also encourage “off paper” competencies to grow as human beings. (K-12)  
FEATURED SESSION

**Achieving Equity Through Culturally Responsive Teaching**  
Mollie Henderson  
Research has brought to light the powerful link between social and emotional development and academic learning. Culturally Relevant Literature allows students to engage with authentic texts that connect to their own experiences. We will explore ideas and strategies for achieving equity through the use of culturally relevant texts to increase student literacy. (K-12)  
FEATURED SESSION ~ SPONSORED BY SCHOLASTIC EDUCATION

**Digital Storytelling, Creativity and Growth Mindset**  
Jane Reynolds, Paul Reynolds  
Schools and classrooms are very aware of the importance of Growth Mindset in developing a student’s sense of ability to learn. Creativity is the key to unlock and supercharge a student’s growth mindset. In this session, we will share the elements of the Creative Education Framework, focusing on the role digital storytelling can play. Knowing who you are and where you are going is a powerful indicator of future success. We will see how practical implementations of digital storytelling can support the goal of growth mindset and set students on a course of self-discovery. We will share our work with schools and districts in developing the power of story to encourage self-worth in conjunction with communication skills, using both animation and book publishing. The programs highlighted - Animation-ish and Get Published! - are easy to use tools developed by award-winning author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds to inspire students and teachers alike to tell their stories. Be encouraged to “Say Something.” (3-8)

LOIS COOK TECHNOLOGY SESSION ~ SPONSORED BY FABLEVISION
Session B | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  Continued

MACURE Leo F. Hanley Research-to-Practice Roundtable

- Young Children’s Motivation-related Perceptions of Reading Intervention Involvement ~ Joy Dangora Erickson, Springfield College
- A Meta-Synthesis of Qualitative Research on Secondary Reading Interventions: Implications for Teachers, Specialists, and Administrators ~ Katherine Frankel, Boston University; Maneka Deanna Brooks, Texas State University; Julie E. Learned, University at Albany, State University of New York
- Reading as Writers: Multilingual Writers, Genre Analysis, and the Reading-Writing Connection ~ Christina Michaud, Boston University
- Case Study of Urban 4th/5th Grade Teachers and Students Engaged with E-Texts ~ Sarita Belmont, Ravan East, Sherma Paskins, American International College
- Does Morphological Awareness Matter in the English Reading Comprehension of Linguistically Diverse Middle School Students? ~ Melissa Tobey LaBelle, Bridgewater State University

Expanding Our Worlds: Specialists Collaborate to Support Content Literacy

Pam Allard
Come learn about the successes of truly collaborative projects across specialists in an elementary school environment. From social-emotional books, investigation and research, to the development of self-advocacy, students use project-based learning across literacy, technology and art to expand their view of the world. (K-6)

Local Publishers Present Their Best New Books for the Classroom

Amanda Acevedo, Anne Irza-Leggat, Donna Spurlock
Representatives from three local Boston publishers will present their best new books for the classroom for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Connect with these local resources, learn more about upcoming books and the authors behind them. (K-12)

Sylvia D. Brown Luncheon | 12:45 PM - 2:30 PM  $32

Creating Passionate Readers - The Art of Reaching and Engaging Every Child

Pernille Ripp
With 26% of adults reporting that they have not read a book in the last 12 months, we are facing a mounting reading crisis. What can we, as the educators who teach this future generation of readers, do to create more engaging reading experiences? Educator Pernille Ripp will help you re-discover the keys of creating a community of readers, no matter the constricts facing your time. Focusing on teacher reading identity, classroom environment and library, as well as student reading identity, this presentation is sure to create ideas for more reading joy and deeper engagement. (K-12)

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Session C | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Take Another Look: Improving Editing and Revising Skills

Bill Atwood
Teaching students to skillfully edit and revise their work is a challenge because students often lack the necessary motivation, stamina, or language skills. This fast-paced workshop will offer an array of simple but powerful strategies that engage students and show them how to make essential edits and revisions. (1-8)

Technology Tools to Inspire Student Authors, Artists, Storytellers, and Scientists

Stephanie Teleen
Adobe Spark makes tools to help students bring their education to life! Using this free online platform, learn how to help students demonstrate their learning with this simple, but visually powerful tool. Educators will walk away from this workshop with practical knowledge, constructive skills, and project inspiration. (K-12)

Powerful Writing Instruction to Engage Hearts and Minds

Paula Bourque, Katy Cortelyou
Are your students skilled, proficient writers? Can they write for a variety of purposes and audiences? Do they enjoy writing and have writing stamina? Join us for an interactive workshop devoted to the exploration of practical and effective writing approaches to engage writers’ hearts and minds. (K-5)
Session C | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM Continued

**Equity, Empathy, and Bravery: Building Social and Emotional Confidence**

*Equity and Empathy: Seeing the Child Instead of the Student ~ Ann Braden, Author*

Most educators are middle class, but not most students. Using the novel, The Benefits of Being An Octopus, we’ll broaden our understanding of kids whose families are struggling financially. Recognizing their strengths and obstacles will help us better support them as they try to beat back the cycle of poverty. (6-8)

*BraVERY Beyond Perfection – Helping Kids Find their Inner Superhero ~ Elly Swartz, Author*

To me, bravery goes beyond the tropes in superhero movies and manicured moments on SnapChat. To me, bravery wears jeans and shows up to school. Bravery is the little things kids do every day. I want kids to see themselves as brave for simply being and embracing who they are. I want kids to see the superhero I see. Let’s help kids find their brave. (3-6)

**Roots of Change and Realistic Illustrations Lead to Powerful Stories**

*Roots of Change: Planting Seeds of Empathy through Story ~ Anika A. Denise, Author*

This presentation highlights the power of story to plant seeds of justice, empathy, and self-esteem in young readers, and underscores the importance of stories that elevate heroes from marginalized communities. It also challenges educators to look beyond just the award-winners when building their book collections. (1-5)

*Realistic Illustrations Lead to Powerful Stories ~ Ying-Hwa Hu, Cornelius Van Wright, Authors/Illustrators*

In children’s books, it has always been our priority to create visual work that represents diversity. It’s important for children to see themselves in stories so that they can feel empowered to dream and be proud of who they are as well as have FUN in reading! (1-5)

**The Impact of Teacher Language and Facilitation on Student Engagement**

*Leona Hunt, Cindy McCarthy*

Through a lesson experience and classroom video, participants will consider the impact of the teacher’s language, as well as the facilitation techniques that bring depth and ownership to student thinking and learning. We will examine techniques that empower and build independence in our diverse classroom communities. (1-5)

**Sketch to Lead: Harness the Power of Sketchnoting to Design Professional Learning**

*Stephanie Affinito*

Learn alongside other instructional coaches as we sketch. We’ll use sketchnoting to design professional learning experiences and deepen our understanding of coaching pedagogy. Bring a notebook, markers and a willingness to explore a more creative side of coaching! (K-12)

FEATURED SESSION

**Inquiry-Based Learning: Integrating Purposeful Play with Academics**

*Margaret Donahue, Natalie Lacroix-White, Jennifer McNamee, Christine Morrissey, Jennifer Palladino, Siobhan Spidle, Elyse Thirsk*

Are you interested in thinking more about centers that incorporate purposeful play, choice, AND academic learning? Join us for a conversation about our work in shifting from task-based centers to inquiry- and play-based centers. We will share our experience through photos, examples, and discussion about our successes, challenges, and next steps. (K-2)

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**Keynote | 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM**

*Searching for Joy ~ Sharon Draper, MRA 2020 Children’s Literature Award Recipient*

This award-winning author and educator, will present a delightful mixture of reading, laughter, and inspiration. She will provide an entertaining discussion of the joy of books, the power of educators, and the connections needed to keep the joy glowing. (K-12)

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**MACURE Meet and Greet | 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM**

Come and learn more about the Massachusetts Association of College and University Reading Educators. Meet our members, socialize, and network. Chocolate Fountain with fruit for dipping!

~ @MAreads ~ @mraread ~ #MRAC2020

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Authors and Appetizers | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM   $20

Ann Braden  
The Benefits of Being an Octopus
Anika Aldamuy Denise  
Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré, The Love Letter, Bunny in the Middle, Starring Carmen, A Girl Named Rosita
 Sharon Draper  
Blended, Stella by Starlight, Out of My Mind, Battle of Jericho, Tears of a Tiger
Ying-Hwa Hu  
Twinkle, Red Socks, Alicia’s Happy Day, We Are The Many, Sam and The Lucky Money
Heather Lang  
Queen of the Track, The Original Cowgirl, Fearless Flyer, Swimming with Sharks, Anybody’s Game
Rajani LaRocca  
Midsummer’s Mayhem
Jarrett Lerner  
EngiNerds, Revenge of the EngiNerds
Marcella Pixley  
Trowbridge Road, Ready to Fall, Without Tess, Freak
E. S. Redmond  
Felicity Floo Visits the Zoo, The Unruly Queen, Bug Blonsky and His Very Long List of Don’ts
Elly Swartz  
Give and Take, Smart Cookie, Finding Perfect
Cornelius Van Wright  
The Little Red Crane, Alicia’s Happy Day, Red Socks, Sam And The Lucky Money, We Are The Many

Complimentary Books provided by Perma-Bound

Please read carefully:

• Submission of the online registration form is a commitment to pay the conference fees if the event is held, regardless of weather conditions.
• If paying with a purchase order, please be sure to obtain permission from the school district to register. If the school district does not approve the purchase order, the attendee will be responsible for the full conference fee.
• No-shows will be invoiced and subject to collection for the full amount.
• A $60 cancellation fee will be assessed for cancellations between March 15 and March 30, 2020.
• Communication regarding a registration cancellation must be received by March 30, 2020 at massreading@comcast.net
• NO REFUNDS will be granted for cancellations between March 30 and April 3, 2020.
• If necessary to transfer a registration from one attendee to another, the transfer MUST be done through communication with Administrative Assistant Nancy Meagher via email: massreading@comcast.net
• A certificate of attendance will be issued to each participant at the conclusion of the event.