

# Secondary Reading League

Volume 2 Issue 6  
April 5, 2013

**Limited space available.  
Register soon!**

Secondary Reading League  
Cordially invites you to the

*Young Adult Book  
Talk & Pizza Dinner with  
Jan Dundon of  
Anderson's Books*

*Thursday, April 11, 2013  
5:30-9:00 p.m.*

*Lou Malnati's Naperville  
131 West Jefferson Ave.,  
Naperville, IL*

*After the book talk we will be adjourning  
to Anderson's Books (next door)*

*\$35 SRL Members  
\$40 Non-Members  
Includes pizza dinner*

*Contact Cindi Koudelka to register  
815-257-3605 or  
koudelka@fieldcrest.k12.il.us*

## Response to Rtl: Common Core Connections

**Cindi Koudelka**

**SRL President-Elect**

Although our educational focus seems to be on Common Core these days, Rtl is still a hot topic. The big question is how we make them work together seamlessly. To develop a system, we must start with our Tier 1 core. The core curriculum must be aligned with Common Core standards, embed literacy strategies across content, and include assessments carefully aligned with the content. The next level is to add support for students needing additional instruction to reach the standards. Those Tier 2 efforts must be aligned with Common Core as well. This can take many forms. To be effective, it should be designed to match your school and students' needs. Options include differentiation and supplements within the general education classroom or supplemental classes. No matter the form you develop, any Tier 2 supports must include progress monitoring for data driven decision making. For students who need more intense support, your system also needs that third tier; highly individualized and monitored support. These research based interventions should still be aligned to the Core and focused on strategy and skill development. By insuring that your school's Rtl system is aligned with Common Core, it will help you create an integrated approach for the students without creating additional burden to your staff.

## Common Core Corner with Cindi

Did you attend the Illinois Reading Conference? As always, it was absolutely amazing and there was a heavy focus on Common Core standards. Many of the featured speakers and presenters shared plenty of resources and information to help us align our teaching practices to the standards. One of the biggest shifts we will need to make to help our students is to design learning opportunities that not only address the content, but teach the students how to approach their learning. Metacognition becomes an even more important component as they move toward independence at the secondary level. In planning a unit, start with a big question and think about what content you want the students to know.

The next step of planning is to brainstorm what the students know how to do in order to access the content. Therefore, frontloading instruction is critical. Dr. Janet Allen, leading adolescent literacy specialist, presented at several sessions at the conference. She has identified eight "power strategies" for achievement in nonfiction literacy to include:

- Content and Specialized Vocabulary
- Monitoring Comprehension
- Building/Activating Background Knowledge
- Noting, Organizing, and Retrieving Information
- Text Features
- Text Structures
- Questioning
- Previewing Text

These strategies give students access to the rigor of complex texts. For more information on her sessions or on other common core sessions, check out the Illinois Reading Council Ning at <http://ircwiki2013.wikispaces.com>.



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