

VIRTUAL



# SUMMER INSTITUTE

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021

## INFORMATION LITERACY: Fact vs. Fiction in the Online/ Social Media Age 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM



**FRANK BAKER**  
President,  
Media Literacy  
Clearinghouse



**CARRIE ROGERS-WHITEHEAD**  
Founder & CEO of  
Digital Respons-  
Ability



**DR. KRISTEN MATTSON**  
Co-Founder of  
Dig Cit Doctors



**DR. LUCY SANTOS-GREEN**  
Professor of Information  
Science, The UofSC  
School of Information  
Science



**JAMIE GREGORY**  
School Librarian and  
Journalism Teacher at  
Christ Church  
Episcopal School



**TAMARA COX**  
School Librarian at Wren  
HS, SCASL President-  
Elect, & 2020 SC Teacher  
of the Year Finalist



**LEKENA ACKERMAN**  
Social Studies Teacher at  
Southeast Middle School



**LINDA HEIMBURGER**  
SC State Library -  
SCDISCUS

**\*Earn Recertification Credit!**

Our lineup of highly skilled educators, including presenters from SCETV, will provide sessions on topics pertaining to media literacy, intellectual freedom, news literacy, bias, misinformation, and more. Take what they share and present these topics to your students, staff, administration and/or stakeholders.

**REGISTER ONLINE AT SCASL.NET**

\$25 FOR SCASL MEMBERS

\$50 FOR NON-MEMBERS

**DEADLINE:  
06/18**

# Read Across America Week: A District-Wide Celebration of Literacy and Diversity

*By Christy James, Library and Media Services Coordinator, Charleston County School District*

We all know what the first week of March typically means for school libraries everywhere: Read Across America Week. In the past, this has meant some variation of a week-long celebration of Dr. Seuss complete with all the hats, cats, fish, whos, and things. This year, Charleston County School District took a different approach with a district-wide focus on literacy and diversity not tied to Dr. Seuss. There has been such a positive response that we're already planning for next year!

When this idea was first discussed at our Teacher Librarian Advisory Team meeting in January, I was prepared for some hesitancy or even a bit of pushback. Instead, there was overwhelming support to create a more unified approach to how we promoted Read Across America to our schools. First, we wanted to fully and completely center the week around literacy and the joy of reading- we felt that many of the activities that happened during Read Across America week didn't actually have much to do with reading. It was also important to us to align our events with the

shift the NEA had made in 2017 focusing on celebrating a nation of diverse readers all year long. It was 2021 and past time for us to catch up! And, we saw an opportunity to put elements of our district's Cultural Competency Policy (December 2019) into action by sharing inclusive titles and activities that could connect our students to others.

The Teacher Librarian Advisory Team was excited, but recognized this would be a significant (and possibly uncomfortable and unwanted) change for schools and that we needed to work with as many other departments and educators as possible to make this successful, especially since we wanted this to be for K-12, not just limited to elementary. I reached out to our district Cultural Competency Team as well as curriculum and instructional specialists with our idea and their enthusiastic interest was instant. In the week following that initial meeting there were two other important meetings. The first was with other district leaders to solidify

support, identify goals, map out a communication plan, and brainstorm theme ideas. The second was with a group of librarians, teachers, and instructional coaches from schools across the district to actually start putting together a plan for the week.

Everything was moving quickly and multiple additional planning meetings happened after school over the next few weeks. In just two and a half weeks, we had finalized our theme, Reading: Your Ticket to the World, and created outlines for the week to share with our elementary, middle and high schools.

Our planning team knew that the more ready-to-go ideas and information we could share with schools, the more likely teachers would be to participate and give this updated version of Read Across America a chance to succeed. We wanted to still give schools a chance to put their own spin on the week, so we provided a broad topic for each day and offered suggestions for possible literacy-themed spirit days along with ideas for instructional tie-ins across the curriculum. We added resources to go with those tie-ins in the planning outlines we shared. Our topics started off broad then narrowed over the week, beginning with Our World, then Our Nation, then Our State, then Our Community, and ending with Our School.

We shared the planning outlines and resources everywhere we could: district-wide weekly emails from our Communications Department, the Principals Packet newsletter, updates and emails to librarians and coaches, department chair meetings, faculty meetings, and more. I was also able to spotlight our updated Read Across America Week plans during a meeting with all our district's principals and instructional coaches in mid-February. It was very well received and excitement started building.



Less than three weeks before we were slated to launch Reading: Your Ticket to the World, I was in a meeting with one of our digital content providers, Streamable Learning, and the owner mentioned some virtual author visits they'd been helping a school district in Illinois do. I loved this idea! Streamable Learning had already offered to help record and securely host the read alouds done by our district staff, including the kick off from our Superintendent, as well stories read in English and Spanish by local Latinx community leaders for Read Across America Week. Then, the owner told me if I could secure a small bit of funding, they would coordinate live author visits for our event. Luckily, our district's Cultural Competency Team had some funding and I was able to send a wishlist of authors to Streamable Learning. They worked quickly and created an all-star lineup of both live and recorded author visits for the entire week. This schedule was added to our planning materials and reinforced our focus on literacy and diversity with the likes of Jewell Parker Rhodes, Miranda Paul, Ernesto Cisneros, and Varian Johnson joining us throughout the week. The virtual author visits also allowed all our students at all our schools to participate either live or to experience the recording shortly after.

It was exciting to see how different schools and teachers embraced this new take on Read Across America Week. Did

everyone participate? No, but we did have a majority of our schools actively involved throughout the week. Was there some pushback about not focusing on Dr. Seuss? Yes, but not as much as we'd anticipated. It was an unexpected bump when Dr. Seuss's estate announced they were no longer going to print some of his more problematic books, but that had never been our sole focus. Some of our librarians were able to have very productive conversations about the value of more diverse literature and ways to tie those titles to our theme. Will we do this again? Yes, but we're going to give ourselves more than a few weeks to get everything in place. We received some really helpful feedback from participants and also had a great debrief/brainstorming session with some members of the planning team. It was

definitely worth all the work to have a district-wide unified theme and messaging that put the focus squarely on reading for Read Across America Week, and it was great to see our librarians lead the way with diverse and inclusive books and programs all week.

**RAA Virtual Author Visits**

- Grades 6-12 | Scott Reintgen discusses his book "Nyxia"
- Grades 4-7 | Jewel Parker Rhodes discusses her book "Black Brother, Black Brother"
- Grades 7-12 | Corrie Wang discusses her book "The Takedown"
- Grades K-5 | Miranda Paul discusses her book "One Plastic Bag"
- Grades 4-8 | Varian Johnson discusses his book "The Parker Inheritance"
- Grades 6-8 | Ernesto Cisneros discusses his book "Efrén Divided"
- Grades K-12 | Fran Hawk discusses her two books "The Story of the H. L. Hunley and Queenie's Coin" and "The H. L. Hunley Submarine: History and Mystery from the Civil War"
- Grades K-5 | Jonathan Miller reads his book "Sammy's Last Week In Charleston (The Adventures of Sammy the Wonder Dachshund)"

**READING: YOUR TICKET TO THE WORLD**  
**Live and Recorded Author Visits and Read Alouds**  
 Register for a live program or access the recordings by going to Clever or clicking on this link. Check with your librarian for the code.

Live Author Visits & Read Alouds	Recorded Author Visits & Read Alouds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday @ 9AM: Dr. Postlewait-Kickoff- All Are Welcome</li> <li>Monday @ 10AM: Miranda Paul- One Plastic Bag (elem)</li> <li>Tuesday @ 9AM: Ernesto Cisneros- Efrén Divided (elem, middle)</li> <li>Wednesday @ 9AM: Varian Johnson- The Parker Inheritance (elem, middle)</li> <li>Thursday @ 9AM: Fran Hawk - The H.L. Hunley (all)</li> <li>Friday @ 9AM: Jonathan Miller- Sammy the Wonder Dachshund (elem)</li> <li>All live visits and read alouds will be posted as recordings within 24 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jewell Parker Rhodes- Black Brother Black Brother, Towers Falling (elem, middle, high)</li> <li>Scott Reintgen- Nyxia series (middle, high)</li> <li>Corrie Wang- The Takedown (high)</li> <li>CCSD Staff- Robin Jones, Emily Elliott, Denisse Santos, Celina Anthony, Oscar Douglas, Elah Hudson</li> <li>More to be added- including recordings of community leaders and bilingual and Spanish read alouds</li> <li>All recordings will be available on demand all week</li> </ul>

#ReadAcrossCSD

**READING: YOUR TICKET TO THE WORLD**  
**Read Across America Week- March 1-5**

	Suggested Focus and Spirit Days	Possible Instructional Tie-Ins
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Our World &amp; Beyond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading is Out of this World</li> <li>Keep the Earth Green Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting the environment</li> <li>Continents and regions of the world</li> <li>Inventors throughout history</li> <li>Spiele</li> <li>Authors from around the world</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Our Nation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read, Write &amp; Woe Day</li> <li>Wash &amp; Stripes Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geographic and economic regions</li> <li>Military branches and duties</li> <li>Immigrants to the US</li> <li>Indigenous people of the US</li> <li>Authors from around the US</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Our State</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing Could be Finer than to be in South Carolina (dress up day)</li> <li>SC Pride (SC college and university day)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geographic regions in SC</li> <li>Food and traditions from SC</li> <li>Indigenous people of SC</li> <li>Historical figures from SC</li> <li>Authors from SC</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Our Hometown</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let's Off to Our Hometown (fun day)</li> <li>Salute to Community Helpers</li> <li>Our Hometown Community Reads Together- DEAR at 9:30AM everywhere</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gullah Geechee culture</li> <li>Community helpers</li> <li>History of our hometown</li> <li>Careers in our hometown</li> <li>Authors from our hometown area</li> </ul>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Our School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Spirit Day</li> <li>Celebrating Me Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talents at our school</li> <li>Values at our school</li> <li>Graduates of our school</li> <li>History of the school or school site</li> <li>School Community</li> </ul>

#ReadAcrossCSD

**REGIONAL NEWS BY REGION**

**Region 1A: Anderson, Oconee, Pickens**

Region 1A Coordinator - Eunice Bardin, Concord Elementary, Anderson 5

SCETV donated \$400 worth of digital equipment to Wren High School. The equipment was delivered to librarian, Tamara Cox, to promote digital literacy. Tamara completed all 8 KQED micro-credentials to become the first teacher in SC to become a PBS Media Literacy Educator. Support our public education stations! (See article in this issue on pages 4-5)

**Region 1B: Cherokee, Greenville, Spartanburg**

Region 1B Coordinator - Jill Tyner, Bethel Elementary, Greenville County

River Ridge Elementary Media Specialist Molly Barker and Reading Coach Janet McMillan hosted a whole week of activities for Read Across America. The activities included a daily Masked Reader video, Line Dancing and Jump Rope poems in PE, Story Art in Art Classes, Books set to music in Music Class, Read and Scratch Reading Challenge cards, a book give away, two Storywalks, and a wacky wardrobe day.

To celebrate School Library Month at James F. Byrnes High School, librarians Karen Hill and Sheila Roberts sponsored a variety of online activities. Students browsed a virtual Starbucks Cafe, made magnetic poetry with words from the titles of 2021-2022 SC Young Adult book award nominees, took a Drabble short story challenge, and wrote book reviews in Destiny Discover. Winners of the annual Real Rebels Read competition were awarded a Kindle Fire and Barnes & Noble gift cards.

Hillcrest Middle School, Simpsonville, SC: Susan Dicey, media specialist, is retiring at the end of this school year after 34 years in education. She plans to spend time traveling with her husband, playing with her cats and sleeping late.



Spartanburg School District Six  
 Mandi Cox at Dawkins Middle School Book Clubs play a large role in our reading culture at Dawkins. Our rising 7th and 8th graders decided to continue their books clubs into the summer. Each grade level will have a Google Meet toward the end of June that is a BYOB...Bring Your Own Book. The only requirements are to pick a book you think other students will like and that it isn't something everybody already knows about like Diary of a Wimpy Kid. The 2nd Round of Book Club will be for a book in common. The last book the rising 7th graders read was Wildfire by Rodman Philbrick. They loved the book so much that they are going to read Wild River, his newest book. The rising 8th graders have been reading historical fiction and they wanted something a little different. After sharing a book trailer for The Westing Game, they decided that would be their pick. Teachers play an active role in our student book clubs too, but they wanted their own this summer...one that would not include professional development or books for students. They decided to select light, fun reads that would allow us to come together as a faculty and enjoy the fellowship.

**Region 2: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda**

Region 2 Coordinator - Jacqueline Rapp, Ninety-Six High School, Greenwood 52

Hickory Tavern School Librarian, Claudia John, was named Teacher of the Year at her school.



Fifty-five school librarians in Laurens led a book study in April with over twenty educators including teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators from their district using the book Game Changer! Book Access for all Kids by Donalyn Miller and Colby Sharp.



From a 6th grade book club this semester. Virtual students joined in through Google Meet.