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From the Editors

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From the Editors...

by Patricia A. Edwards and Tanya S. Wright

Dear *MRJ* Readers,



Number 8 is the symbol of harmony and balance.
Number 8 symbolizes the ability to make decisions.
Number 8 represents abundance and power.
Number 8 is a lucky number in China, where it is a homonym for prosperity.



Patricia A. Edwards



Tanya S. Wright

Can you believe that this is our eighth issue? As editors of *MRJ*, we feel that we espoused harmony and balance, made good decisions, published powerful articles, and created a prosperous journal. Teachers, you've been working hard all year connecting with your students, planning, teaching, reflecting...it's time for you to take a well-deserved break. Of course, we cannot resist recommending that you read all the thoughtful and insightful articles in our eighth issue. After a relaxing winter break, it is the perfect time to enjoy the pleasure of curling up, sitting beside a fire, wrapped in cozy blanket enjoying all the great articles in the *Michigan Reading Journal.*

In this eighth issue, we have included two *Bridging Research and Practice* articles. The first article by Danielle DeFauw, Julie Anne Taylor and Okezie Iroha, examines how the Detroit billboard project influenced high school students' interest and language development. Particularly, the authors explored the impact of the project on students' views of how persuasive writing impacts an authentic audience, which includes their community and themselves. In the second article, Joy Myers describes Eva's story, a case study of one teacher's inquiry into interactive read alouds. Myers argues that given the tremendous attention early literacy has received recently and the increasing diversity of our student population, it is important and timely to engage in conversations regarding ways an inquiry stance can bolster literacy teachers' confidence regarding their instructional decisions. For the popular *Critical Issues* section, we provide articles on fluency by a group of outstanding researchers. Marcia Invernizzi, the Henderson Professor of Education at University of Virginia, discusses the role of developmental word knowledge. Timothy Rasinski, Professor of Reading Education at Kent State University, James Nageldinger, Assistant Professor of Literacy Education at Elmira University, and Chase Young, Associate Professor in the department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations at Sam Houston State University, build the case that reading fluency should be authentic reading. Laura Tortorelli, Assistant Professor of Reading Education at Michigan State Universit,y asks and answers a very important question: "Does reading rate equal reading fluency?" *Voices from Around the State* continues to be well-received by our readers, and in this issue we have teacher tips from Brittany Kennedy in Norridge, Illinois, Jill Hoort at Okemos Public Montessori, and Martha Rogers at Walled Lake Consolidated District. For our eighth issue, Brandy Archer from the Michigan Department of Education reports that literacy has been woven into MDE's strategies and action plan for becoming a top 10 state in

education in 10 years. We provide reviews of professional texts for teachers in a column titled *Must Read Texts*, which is edited by Dr. Kathy Highfield. We include a column edited by Dr. Laura Apol and four doctoral students (i.e., Lisa Domke, Ashley Johnson, Jeanne Loh, and Tracy Weippert) entitled, *For the Love of Literature*.

We encourage our readers to read updates and information about the journal by visiting the Michigan Reading Association's page on Facebook, following @michiganreading on Twitter, and searching and following the Michigan Reading on Pinterest. Also, we encourage everyone to attend the 61st Annual Conference at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids March 10-13, 2017.

Our journal email address is mrj@msu.edu. We invite you to join the conversation by contributing to *MRJ*. Please email article submissions that are appropriate for any of the sections in the journal. We look forward to hearing from you.

We would like to again thank our fantastic editorial assistants, Laura Hopkins and Kristen White. These wonderful MSU doctoral students have been indispensable in supporting our work on this journal. We would also like to thank Laura Guzman, Michigan Reading Association President, Sean Kottke, and the MRA Board for supporting our efforts.

We hope that you enjoy our eighth issue of *MRJ* and that you will continue to tell your friends and colleagues about us. Happy reading!

Warmest Regards,

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Co-Editors, *Michigan Reading Journal*

