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From the Editors' Desks

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From the Editors' Desks

BY LINDA M. PAVONETTI, KATHLEEN F. CLARK, & JENNIFER I. BERNE

Now, in teaching as in several other things, it does not matter much what your philosophy is or is not. It matters more whether you have a philosophy or not.

This quote by George Polya (a mathematician, no less) helps to frame a teacher's summer. It is in the breathing space that the July and August hiatus from regular classroom activities affords, that teachers exercise their essential need to step away from the micro-issues of the classroom and dig into their own thinking about the larger issues that frame education: It is when they tinker with their philosophy.

In that spirit, we offer the summer issue of *Michigan Reading Journal* with an emphasis on the professional development of teachers of literacy. We hope that reading insightful work on training and supporting teachers will assist you as you focus and nourish your own professional goals. As always, we welcome your contributions to future issues of the journal. Maybe this breathing space will be just the time to put down ideas to share with us.

We are proud to feature the work of two adult literacy educators working to promote reading and writing. Robert Smith describes a workforce development program with a focus on community. He details the program and shares its lessons for K-12 educators. Merle Davenport shares with us insights gained about struggling readers from the vantage of a corrections educator.

In addition, we have two research studies that question the configuration of professional development in elementary schools. Deanna Birdyshaw and Nina Yochum report on a CIERA project in which teachers met to extend their understanding of state standards. Pam Morehead describes an ongoing process of professional development in which teachers and administrators from two schools in the same district

worked in conjunction with a consultant to initiate writing workshop in every classroom.

Finally, Mary Lose analyzes for us the ways that reading recovery addresses the five processes of reading as articulated by the National Reading Panel.

This issue offers numerous opportunities for you to take responsibility for your own professional development: two summer seminars—the MRA Summer Literacy Conference at Grand Traverse Resort, where you'll meet Michigan authors and illustrators, and the CIERA Summer Institute that focuses on recent research in literacy. Not able to get away? Why not pick up a good book? Vera Milz offers suggestions for good children's books, Ed Spicer reviews some young adult informational books, and three Michigan teachers have reviewed four new professional books that they hope will pique your interest. If you see Ed Spicer, congratulate him on his election to the ALA Printz Committee. This is the committee that selects the best Young Adult books of the year. Ed will begin his tenure in January. And for those who look forward to the *Bookpourri* column, we are saddened to report that Vera Milz will no longer write the reviews. The column will continue, but without Vera at the keyboard.

We have altered one of our regular features this summer. Instead of offering an interview of a Michigan author or educator, we asked Jean Brown to share her memories of Carol Fenner, Newbery Honor author from Battle Creek, who died last year.

Finally, this issue of the *Michigan Reading Journal* is dedicated to Sharon K. Yuille, a dedicated Michigan educator who was known for her commitment to professional development.