

The PA Writing & Literature Project Newsletter



Volume 33, Number 1 Fall, 2013

Spotlight on PWP 510-01, "Writing, Reading, and Talking Across the Curriculum: SAS/PLF"

PAWLP is proud to offer a revised course aligning the Pennsylvania Literacy Framework (PLF) with PDE's Standards Aligned System.

Join a professional learning community every Wednesday beginning on January 22nd from 4:15 - 7:00 p.m. in the PAWLP Classroom in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Explore myriad opportunities to utilize resources available through the pde.sas



portal. Collaborate with educators that work with primary to university students and beyond, while fulfilling a requirement for Pennsylvania Level II Certification. Enhance your teaching effectiveness with powerful tools and resources to integrate learning across the day. *See page 4 for details.*

-Lynne Dorfman, '89 WC Writing

This course fulfills a requirement for Pennsylvania Level II certification.

Revised Configuration Supports New Fellows

This fall, 36 experienced professionals, inspired by their recent immersion in writing and reading, will become teacher-researchers in the classroom. Already experienced practitioners, they dedicated three weeks this summer to uncovering the writer and reader within in order to understand how to bring the best instruction to their students. Reading professional experts, these teachers wrestled with big questions they had about the teaching of reading and writing and then developed personal inquiry projects to bring to their own classrooms this fall.

The new configuration of the Invitational Institutes supports this ongoing investigation by bringing teachers together several times during the fall semester, allowing them the opportunity to collaborate with one another as they did in the summer. Relying on the close-knit learning community that developed during those three weeks, the teachers will refine the research plans they are implementing. By tapping the experience and expertise of one another, their Institute facilitators,

and the experts they eagerly read, they can refine their plans, share their successes, and problem solve together to support one another. The continuation of the collaboration and community that developed in the summer, and the ability to provide ongoing support, is one of the exciting new aspects of the Invitational Institute schedule.

In a few short weeks these invigorated, re-invented teachers will celebrate their new status as Fellows of the National Writing Project and PAWLP.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2014 Invitational Institutes. *See page 5 for details.*

- Maryellen Kenney, '01 Bucks Writing





**PAWLP
Community, Connections, & Collaboration**

A Note from Mary

Dear PAWLP Fellows & Friends,

Remembering Sandy Connelly 1973 - 2013

In 2004, I spent the spring semester facilitating a PAWLP graduate course that culminated with a trip to New Mexico. Fifteen amazing women and two brave men from Pennsylvania forayed into the desert and mountains of New Mexico with me. It was an unforgettable trip because of the places we visited, the artists and authors we met, and because of the people who comprised our pilgrimage. PAWLP Fellow Sandy Connelly was one of the remarkable members of our group. It was a pleasure to get to know Sandy both that spring and then when we traversed the wilds of New Mexico in the summer of 2004.

Sandy’s brown eyes were as bright as her spirit. She brought a sense of wonder and curiosity to everything we did. Her gentle enthusiasm permeated our experiences. I picture her now, leaning forward examining a piece of pottery with the same intensity she gave to her fellow travelers’ tales.



**Sandy Connelly
along the Rio Grande Gorge**

Over the years, Sandy continued to participate in PAWLP activities, and I know that anyone who had the privilege of interacting with Sandy realized just what a remarkable human being she was.



Evan and Ryan

Whether teaching in PAWLP’s Youth program, teaching her students at Delaware County Community College, or facilitating a PAWLP graduate class, one couldn’t help but be drawn to Sandy. She emanated kindness, calmness, and intelligence. Sandy was the quintessential reflective practitioner. Even after earning two master’s degrees, Sandy never stopped taking classes that might inform her teaching and help her students to achieve their potential.

While Sandy’s students were the center of her professional life, Sandy’s family was the center of her personal life. This spring, Sandy sent along the picture of her sons, Evan and Ryan, included on this page -- and along with her day on the Rio Grande “A Day on the Swings” reminds me of Sandy’s wisdom. She knew what was important in life.

This school year, I plan to remember Sandy for all that she taught me – I want to approach my teaching and life with love, wonder, and curiosity – with kindness and calmness, and with the gentle enthusiasm that Sandy brought to every endeavor.

Mary

**Contributions in Sandy’s memory may be made to
The Sandy Connelly Children’s College Fund
Beneficial Bank, 1862 Delmar Drive, Folcroft, PA 19032-1414.**

PAWLP Partners with the National Park Foundation at Valley Forge

PAWLP Director Mary Buckelew and Fellow Diana Berklich teamed with Rhonda Buell Schier, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Valley Forge Park, to develop a Young Writers/Young Readers class at Valley Forge National Park as part of the National Park Foundation's Park for Every Classroom (PEC) initiative. The Valley Forge PEC program also involves professional development opportunities for teachers to learn firsthand about the significance of the park story, examine cultural and natural resources, master experiential learning activities to conduct with their students, and develop new learning strategies with connections to the park.



Washington's Headquarters

I saw where Washington lived.
I smelled the nature around me.
I tasted corn fritter and juicy applesauce.
I heard the freight train rumbling by loudly.
I touched the railing in Washington's house.
I felt caught up into history.

-by Lauren Marsh
participant in Valley Forge YW/YR class

Young Writers Specialty Sites

George Washington was the inspiration for young history writers at five locations this summer. Four historic sites (Cliveden, Peter Wentz Farmstead, Graeme Park and Pennypacker Mills) were gateways for student writing in the *Spies, Plots, and Petticoats* class as students uncovered anecdotes about George Washington's connection with these places and the people associated with them. Park guides provided glimpses into the past, which became the basis for writing. History came alive for these writers as they wove their characters into historic settings and plots.

The *YW/YR Camp at Valley Forge* also provided a unique experience for students this summer. With the use of primary source materials and place-based learning, students read and wrote about the historic sites of Washington's Philadelphia Campaign of 1777-1778. Park rangers and dedicated volunteers brought the 18th Century and the American Revolution to life through re-enactors, story tellers and a variety of special programs and hands-on activities. Students were invited to "enlist" in the Continental Army and experience life as a soldier. They met historical characters from the American Revolution including General George and Martha

Washington and Private Joseph Plumb Martin. Through this journey students gained a better understanding and appreciation of what happened at Valley Forge as well as an extraordinary inspiration to read and write.



A Young Writer at Longwood Gardens

Winged Adventures took nature writers to new heights. The venues of The Highlands and Pennypacker Mills were perfect for exploration and inspiration. The July week was sizzling and so was the writing. *Ah ha* moments like the discovery of a bird nest with a fledgling (students checked on it every day), a small brown tree toad and a monarch butterfly flitting from flower to flower were the real magic of the week. Creative art activities inspired the fantasy writing, which in turn inspired the art.

Longwood Gardens was the site of two other PAWLP specialty youth writing camps this summer. Students in the *Meet Me In the Tree House* camp explored tree houses and gardens through the lens of scientists and poets, blending these genres into their writing. Construction of a cardboard tree house served to build community and provided the perfect backdrop for colorful displays of student writing. The topiary garden, conservatory, lily pond and woodlands provided much inspiration for students in the *What's the Buzz* camp. Students filled their writer's notebooks with a wide range of topic and genre ideas, which informed their writing throughout the week and will serve as a rich resource for their writing in the future.

Our specialty site youth programs offer rich experiences for readers and writers and for the teacher consultants who develop and teach these programs. We continue to encourage our teacher consultants to explore the possibilities of connecting their passions and interests with their teaching through youth specialty site partnerships.

- Diana Berklich, '02 WC Writing and '03 Lit, Patty Koller, '92 Lit, and Linda Walker, '05 Bucks Writing

Spring Courses

In the PAWLP Classroom at West Chester University

Writing, Reading, and Talking Across the Curriculum: PLF/SAS

PWP 510-01

Wednesdays, 4:15 - 7:00 p.m., beginning January 22

and Saturday, March 29, 8:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. (Saturday Seminar with Persida Himmele)

Do you wonder what PDE's Standards Aligned System (SAS) is all about? This course examines the content of SAS through the lens of the Pennsylvania Literacy Framework to help you better utilize the resources available there. We will navigate the portal, evaluate and use existing resources, and design new ones that align to the PLF and meet the needs of differentiated student populations. **This course fulfills a requirement for Pennsylvania Level II certification.**

Strategies for Teaching Literature, 4 - 12

PWP 520-01

Tuesdays, 4:15 - 7:00 p.m., beginning January 21

The experience of reading literature is central to designing experiences for teaching literature. To this end, teachers will read a variety of current and canonical literature and explore pertinent theory and pedagogy in light of these texts and their own teaching. In this course, participants will discover their own processes as readers, share lessons in literary elements, apply PA Standards and Assessments to curriculum, discuss and apply current theory as it applies to their classrooms, and design and experience writing activities about and inspired by literature.

"The strength of this course is the plethora of strategies provided. All are usable, realistic, and standard-based, but creative, too! You will learn enough to fill your plan book for the entire year." - Course participant

At the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, Doylestown

The Writer's Notebook: A Tool to Empower Writers, 2 - 10

PWP 599-01

Wednesdays, 5:00 - 8:45 p.m., January 29, February 5, 19, 26, March 12, 19, April 9, 23, May 7

and Saturday, April 26, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Saturday Seminar with Julie Ramsay)

plus 6.25 independent hours

Take a journey alongside your students with your Writer's Notebook in hand. This three-credit course will explore how teachers and their students can use their notebooks to live their lives as writers. Teachers will spend time generating ideas, sharing entries, and experiencing the various uses for notebooks. They will also delve into the most difficult part of utilizing a writer's notebook - revisiting "seed ideas" planted in the notebook and growing them into drafts. This course is being offered throughout the school year so that teachers can take strategies and their own Writer's Notebooks immediately back to their classrooms for use with their students.

- Discover how the Writer's Notebook is a way into teaching writing
- Examine strategies that unlock the writers within the classroom
- Use children's literature to spark Writer's Notebook entries
- Use the Writer's Notebook throughout a unit of study
- Use craft techniques to improve student writing
- Develop a seed idea from the notebook into a piece of writing

Tuition and fees for on-campus course: \$1,644.72

Tuition and fees for off-campus course: \$1,491.36

(out-of-state residents higher)

Register on-line at www.pawlp.org

2014 Invitational Writing Institute Dates

Two locations

New configuration - 3 weeks in the summer!

We are currently taking applications for the 2014 Invitational Institutes.

At the Graduate Business Center, West Chester University

Spring: Saturdays, April 12 and May 17, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer: Mondays - Thursdays, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 30 - July 3, July 7 - 10, and July 14 - 17

Fall: Saturdays, September 20, October 11 and 25, and
November 8, 8 a.m. - noon

Closing celebration: Saturday, November 8,
noon - 2 p.m.

At Upper Moreland High School, Willow Grove

Spring: Saturdays, May 3 and 17, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer: Mondays - Thursdays, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 30 - July 3, July 7 - 10, and July 14 - 17

Saturday, August 23, 8 a.m. - noon

Fall: Saturdays, October 11, 25, and November 8,
8 a.m. - noon

Closing celebration: Thursday, November 13,
5 - 8 p.m.

- Limited early-bird scholarships of \$750 for applications received by **December 6, 2013**
- Final application deadline: **April 4, 2014**
- **Applicants** are eligible for a \$500 stipend from the National Writing Project to help defer costs.
- The Institutes and most 3-credit courses apply toward the WCU Master's Degree in Writing, Teaching, and Criticism.
- For application information e-mail Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu, or call 610-436-2202.

PAWLP Author Series

Free and open to the public

Meet PAWLP Authors and learn about their writing and publishing experiences. Sessions are from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Phillips Memorial Hall, 700 S. High Street, on the campus of West Chester University.

October 22 - Rose Cappelli, Pam DeMartino, Judy Jester, and Rich Mitchell will discuss their work and experiences publishing in professional journals.

November 12 - Tiffany Schmidt and Kate Walton will discuss their work and experiences publishing Young Adult novels.

To register please contact Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu or 610-436-2202.

Spring Saturday Seminars

On **March 29**, Persida Himmele, author of *Total Participation Techniques*, *Making Every Student an Active Learner*, and *The Language-Rich Classroom: A Research-Based Framework for Teaching ELL* will keynote a seminar at West Chester University focused on English Language Learners.



Persida Himmele



Julie Ramsay

On **April 26**, Julie Ramsay, author of *Can We Skip Lunch and Keep Writing?* will keynote a seminar at Upper Moreland High School focused on meeting the needs of digital age writers.

PAWLP Book Club!

All PAWLP Fellows are invited to attend the Fall Book Club meeting on Monday, October 28, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Alumni House on the campus of West Chester University.

Join us for a light dinner, discussion of Adam Grant's *Give and Take*, and socializing with fellow PAWLPers.

Donation: \$10

RSVP by October 21 to smalarney@wcupa.edu or call 610-436-2202

KUDOS

Rose Cappelli, '96 WC Writing, received the prestigious Chester County Elementary School Citadel *Heart of Learning Award* in May.



Dori Hoch, '98 WC Writing, published a middle grades chapter book entitled *Pearl of Richmond School*, aimed at informing the reader what life was like for kids in one room schools in the Berks County rural area during the early 1930 - 1950's.

We enjoy keeping up with the accomplishments of our PAWLP Fellows.

Please contact Mary Buckelew at 610-436-2998 or

e-mail mbuckelew@wcupa.edu

with news we can share with our PAWLP family.

~ PAWLP E-JOURNAL ~

- Read PAWLP's electronic Journal at http://issuu.com/pawlp/docs/final_draft_winter_spring.
- Look for the next issue in November, 2013.
- Submissions from PAWLP Fellows are always welcome.
- Submission guidelines can be found on our website (click on the **PAWLP Fellows** tab on the left navigation bar).

Continuity Saturdays for PAWLP Fellows

We would love to have you join us for any or all of our three Continuity Saturdays this fall. These relaxed and informative sessions provide Fellows with the time and space to connect with others for a variety of experiences. Each Saturday has three components, so you can choose a schedule that meets your needs and interests. Here's how it works:

From 9:30 – 10:00 Judy Jester facilitates an iPad study group, open to anyone with interest and/or expertise in using iPads to facilitate learning and teaching.

Our regular Continuity session, facilitated by Janice Ewing and Kim Kraf, runs from 10:00 - 11:30. This usually includes a mix of sharing and critiquing drafts of in-progress writing with reading, writing, and conversation in response to timely and provocative articles. In addition, participants are invited to try out presentations with the group, both to share information and to elicit supportive feedback on the effectiveness of the presentation. We also welcome other interests or concerns that participants would like to address.

From 11:30 – 1:30, for those who choose to stay (or arrive at this time) we order lunch and transition to our Common Core State Standards Study Group. This group is for those who are interested in closely examining what the standards mean and how to implement them to live peacefully and productively with our PAWLP principles. Lynne Dorfman will present on the PA Common Core and Poetry on October 12.

So, you are welcome to participate in any or all of these components. For many of us, it has become a natural fit to attend all of the sessions, one easing into the next, with refreshments and a friendly lunch along the way. Come and join us, and see what works for you!

-by Janice Ewing, 2004 Writing Fellow

***Fall dates: October 12, November 9, December 7
Join us for one, two, or all three.***

To register please call 610-436-2202 or e-mail Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu.

DONATE

*The Project awarded scholarships to 39 Young Writers this summer due in part to generous donations from people like you. You can donate on-line at www.pawlp.org or make a check out to The WCU Foundation and mail it to The WCU Foundation, PO Box 541, West Chester, PA 19381. Please indicate "PAWLP-Scholarships" on the memo line.
Thank you!*

Youth Corner

The summer of 2013 started with a boom and a bang! Severe thunderstorms caused an emergency dismissal at West Chester University. Nevertheless, the summer proceeded to be one of the best ever.

With over 700 children and 60 different teachers, the program ran more smoothly than ever. Pencils slipped across page after page through heat, humidity and torrential downpours. The writing that appeared was beyond awesome!

This summer brought us 10 new teachers and we welcomed back many veterans from the past. In addition, we enthusiastically reopened a site in the Central Bucks School District.

We celebrated with four fabulous authors. Linda Kerschner, Tiffany Schmidt, Kate Walton, and Maggie Mitchell captivated our young writers with stories of their craft. Each one left the children excited about writing as they returned to their classrooms with new thoughts and prompts!

A very special thanks goes to Dr. Mary Buckelew for her advice and continued support of both teachers and site coordinators. Dr. Buckelew, Debbie Neves, Kathy Garrison, Betsy Brecht and I work as a team planning throughout the year so that our Young Writer/Young Reader Program runs as smoothly as possible. In addition, it cannot run without our office staff Ann Mascherino, Toni Kershaw, and Sally Malarney who are invaluable as they work behind the scenes to help make the program run without a hitch. Katee Troutman and Wokie Kaimue, student aides, and Adam Brecht and Kate Garrison did an excellent job both at the office and in the classrooms.

To sum it all up, the Young Writer/Young Readers wrote through beautiful days and stormy days to produce our best anthologies ever. Congratulations and thanks to all teachers and site coordinators who worked hard to make our program shine. Also, thanks to the parents for sharing their talented children with us this summer!

- Karen Pawlewicz, Summer Youth Program Administrator

PAWLP Fellows in Chicago!

On Wednesday, August 14th, four PAWLP TC's left Philadelphia airport headed for Chicago to score third, fourth and fifth grade writing samples for the National Writing Project (NWP). Eileen Hutchinson, Marlene Kimble, Sarah Ortiz, and I were invited to join other NWP members to score at the 2013 SEED National Scoring Conference. SEED is an acronym for Supporting Effective Educator Development. The purpose of the scoring was to collect research information on the effectiveness of skilled scorers. The study included 42 schools' writing samples.

Following a three-hour introduction and "get to know you" session in which the purpose and rules of the training were covered, we were treated to a lovely dinner where we met other Fellows from sites across the country (52 sites were represented). We were fortunate to have Sharon Washington, NWP's Executive Director, sit at our table. During the conversations regarding places to see and things to do, Sharon had plans to shop at the local mall for some warmer clothing.

We were very cold the first day!!!

The following two and a half days we layered up for the cold and were filled with rubric training, scoring, recalibrating, scoring, and more recalibrating. Each table of eight to ten scorers had a team leader who helped guide us and keep us on track. The four of us were located at different tables. There were over



PAWLP Fellows Marlene Kimble, Karen Pawlewicz, Eileen Hutchinson, and Sarah Ortiz at the NWP National Scoring Conference in Chicago.

10,000 papers to score and only 110 people scoring. Needless to say, we worked very, very hard to achieve our goal. Unfortunately, we fell a little short. When

we stopped for lunch on the last day, we had scored about 8,000 of those papers. Each paper received a holistic score and scores for 6 attributes. Yes, that is seven scores per paper! The rubrics were new and extremely comprehensive.

We were treated like royalty by the NWP. We stayed at the Marriott O'Hare. The food was outstanding, catering to all types of appetites and dietary requirements, and the staff was wonderful. Dinner was on our own. Some chose to travel by train into Chicago to site see or shop. Others had friends in the area to visit with. While we were in town, both the Bears and the Cubs had games and some chose to attend them. Chicago is a city that is full of fun things to do!

This was a first for all of us. I think Eileen, Marlene, and Sarah will agree with me that this was an amazing experience. It opened eyes, gave us places to go in our own school communities, and was a personally satisfying experience all around. I look forward to returning again in the near future!

- Karen Pawlewicz, '92 WC Writing



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