



December 14, 2010

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Renowned Children's Authors, Poets, and Literacy Experts in Columbus for National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference February 5-8, 2011**

- WHAT:** Free parent session, children's authors, poets, and literacy experts available for interviews before and during the National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference
- WHERE:** Columbus Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel
- WHEN:** February 5-8, 2011

#### **NEW! FREE SESSION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – 2:30 to 3:30 pm**

**DOOR PRIZES – BOOKS FOR SALE IN THE EXHIBIT HALL AFTER THE SESSION**

#### **SESSION TITLE: "Help Your Child Love Reading: Fun with Books"**

For the first time, conference planners have scheduled a special parent session that includes:

- Choosing "just right" books to share with your child (ages 2 to 8)
- Introducing books in ways that capture and hold your child's interest
- Helping your child read independently
- Learning about literacy activities you can use with your child (e.g. cut-up sentences and magnetic letters)
- Seeing best picture books of 2010 and picking up a free bibliography

#### **PRESENTED BY**

**Patricia Scharer. Columbus, OH.** Patricia Scharer is a professor and Reading Recovery Trainer at The Ohio State University. She loves children's books and has studied early literacy and children's literature for over 20 years. Dr. Scharer has prepared a bibliography and will have book samples and a PowerPoint presentation! In addition to the parent session, Dr. Scharer will also present a session for conference attendees, Sunday, February 6, 1:30 to 3:00 pm — "Wonderful Words: Best Books of 2010 for K-2 Children."

**Evelyn Arthur. Georgetown, OH.** Evelyn Arthur is a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader at Adams County South Region Site. She has been teaching struggling readers for over 20 years.

## CHILDREN'S AUTHORS AND POETS AT THE CONFERENCE

**Joy Cowley. Wellington, New Zealand.** Joy Cowley has written more than 600 early reading titles and is renowned on three continents for her engaging children's books. Joy enjoys mentoring writers and is a patron of Storylines, an initiative to promote awareness of the importance of reading for all children. She also runs writing workshops for people whose culture is not adequately represented in their children's books, and has edited stories to make them accessible to new readers. She believes that children need to see themselves and their own culture in their literature. <http://www.joycowley.com/>

At the Conference:

“What Makes an Effective Early Reading Book?” — Keynote session, Tuesday, February 8, 9:00 am

“Children Love Their Teachers' Stories” — Monday, February 7, 1:00 to 2:30 pm

**Sara Holbrook. Mentor, OH.** Sara Holbrook is an author of seven books, and a performance poet who visits more than 100 schools each year. During those visits, she shares her own writing and works with student writers encouraging them to write about their own experiences and feelings. Sample first lines of her poems include “I can't have cake for breakfast?” and “If my desk weren't such a mess, I could find my organizer.” <http://saraholbrook.blogspot.com/>  
<http://www.saraholbrook.com/BOOKS.HTM>

At the Conference:

“Vigorous Vocabulary Instruction with a Twist for ELL” — Sunday, February 6, 10:30 am to Noon

**J. Patrick Lewis. Westerville, OH.** J. Patrick Lewis has published more than 40 children's picture books with the majority being children's poetry and nonsense verse. His children's poetry has appeared in books, magazine, and journals. He also is a reviewer of children's books for the *New York Times*. <http://www.jpatricklewis.com/books.shtml> [www.jpatricklewis.com](http://www.jpatricklewis.com)

At the Conference:

“Introducing Poetry in K-6 Classrooms” — Sunday, February 6, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Book Signing — Sunday, February 6, Noon

**Michael Salinger. Mentor, OH.** Michael Salinger has been writing and performing poetry and fiction for more than 20 years. In that time he has performed and taught in more than 140 cities in 26 countries. His work has appeared in dozens of literary journals. He is also eight-time captain and coach of the Cleveland Slam team that represented the city at the National Poetry Slam competition. He has co-authored a professional book with author Sara Holbrook titled *Outspoken: How to Improve Writing and Speaking Skills Through Performance Poetry*. He and Holbrook will conduct a literacy workshop. <http://www.michaelsalinger.com/>

At the Conference:

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