



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 21: March 2015

News Updates

March Saturday Seminar: On March 28, 2015, join Heather as she explains how she teaches Collaborative Writing with Google Docs. Hands on experience will be included, so bring your laptop (iPads are not ideal) or tablet or use one of the computers in the classroom. The location is Peck Hall 327. To register, go to www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development.

Writers' Retreat. On May 16 from 9am-6pm, Aaron Shapiro and Agapi Theodorou-Shapiro will host "A Space to Write: Finding & Creating a Space for Writing." This will be an excellent opportunity for you to bring finished and unfinished writing projects as well as ideas for projects you want to begin! Participants will be given time to write, revise, read, and receive feedback from other writers. The cost is only \$10 and includes breakfast, lunch, and supplies. To register, go to www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development.

Save the Date! April 18 is the Spring Mini-Conference! This is an excellent opportunity to learn from the inquiry projects recently completed by 2014 ISI Fellows!

Interesting Article: This blog from the *New York Times* features an article on using photographs in the classroom to prompt close reading. Check it out by cutting and pasting this URL address: http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/02/27/10-intriguing-photographs-to-teach-close-reading-and-visual-thinking-skills/?_r=0

Teacher Feature

Erin FitzPatrick is a success story in the effectiveness of the Invitational Summer Institute. Since attending in 2011, Erin has finished her M.Ed in Literacy at MTSU and is presently in her second year of doctoral studies for Students with Exceptionalities at Georgia State University. She has presented at over 12 conferences, published two articles, and conducted over 200 hours of professional development. She is currently teaching a masters level course in literacy at GSU, and her current research is in the area of Self-regulated Strategy Development. Specifically, she is focusing on self-monitoring and goal setting as means to support struggling students in the area of writing -- the most cognitively demanding task asked of them. As a Teacher Consultant, her focus is presenting motivated teachers with fresh research and new tools to improve instruction. Erin currently lives in Decatur, GA with her curmudgeonly 19-year-old cat named Orion and perpetually exhausted 5-year-old dog named Harley.

