



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 28: February 2016

News Updates

February Saturday Seminar is on the 27th from 9:00-noon. This session will focus on assisting young, diverse groups of writers in finding their voices and expressing themselves through writing. Lindsay Denton will demonstrate strategies she uses in her own second grade classroom to meet the needs of all students. This seminar is targeted to primary school teachers (K-3), but everyone is welcome. Register at www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development. Send purchase orders to PO Box 213 MTSU 1301 E. Main St. Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

On March 12 we will have our next Saturday Seminar on “Using Graphic Organizers to Sustain ELL Writing.” Sunny Watson will go over types of graphic organizers and how to use them to write about fiction and informational texts. This seminar is targeted to all teachers (and student teachers) K-5, but middle school teachers are welcome, too. Register at www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development. Send purchase orders to PO Box 213 MTSU 1301 E. Main St. Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Summer Writing Camps are June 6-16. If you have a student (or your own child) who is interested in writing and wants to join other students with a similar interest, send them to our website. More information to come.

Teacher Feature

Deborah Smith (ISI 2014) teaches 8th grade Language Arts at Cascade Middle School in Bedford County. She loves being in her classroom each day because of the topics and activities that she and her students are learning and doing and because of the way she and her students make connections. Her students especially love studying *The Outsiders*. In the 2014-15 school year, Deb completely embraced student choice as a best practice. She has observed more student engagement in multiple areas (reading responses, discussion, writing composition, and research) when she allows students to have options in the classroom. Deb and her husband Wendell have five children. They enjoy supporting each other's extracurricular activities and serving with their church family at Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church.

