



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 23: May 2015

### News Updates

**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! The cost is only \$10 and includes breakfast, lunch, and supplies. To register, go to [www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development).

**May 23rd Saturday Seminar.** Join our ELL Coordinator and frequent speaker Sunny Watson as she guides teachers in strategies to use sheltered writing across the curriculum. She will examine the WIDA writing rubric and its implications as well as focus on content area writing using nonfiction sources. Participants will leave with new resources and strategies to use immediately. To register, go to [www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development).

**Youth Writers' Camps** are June 8-18 (Monday-Thursday) from 8:30-2:30. *Kids' Camp* (meeting at MTSU) is appropriate for rising 3rd graders through rising 6th graders. *Teen Camp* (meeting at the Stones River National Battlefield) is appropriate for rising 6th graders through rising 11th graders. Teachers, please encourage your writers to attend. They can register at [www.middletnwritingproject.org/youth-writers-camps](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/youth-writers-camps). If you would like a printable flyer to distribute, email [Janice.Lupo@mtsu.edu](mailto:Janice.Lupo@mtsu.edu).

**"Writing for State Assessments and WIDA": ELL Open Institute** is June 11-12. This interactive 2-day workshop is especially designed to assist teachers of English language learners improve their writing instruction across the content areas. The \$100 cost covers a professional resource but does not cover lunch. To register, go to [www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development).

### Teacher Feature

Kimberly Williams (ISI 2010) is an academic interventionist working with K-5th grade students in specific deficit areas in reading and math at Buchanan Elementary School. Her favorite aspect of teaching is learning about how the brain processes and stores information. Her challenge is to find what works for her students and give them strategies to become independent learners. Her most beneficial strategy has been related to multi-sensory activities; for example, in order to help her students remember their sight words, they practice writing them by tracing the words using a crayon over a plastic screen. The bumps and ridges this creates as student write and say the words helps make connections in various areas of the brain, thus helping them remember the words. Kimberly and her husband Clayton have two little girls, Hadley (3) and Adelyn (17 months).

