



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 24: June/July 2015

News Updates

Teen Writers' Camp—This year's teen camp was held at Stones River Battlefield. Thirteen campers spent two weeks listening to stories, researching the time period, and reading original poetry from the war. A poet, Matthew Brown, worked with the campers on writing found poetry. Many of them went on to create more found poetry as well as writing original pieces. The new venue invigorated the teen camp, and it was a great success.

Kids' Camp was a success. We had a diverse group of 15 student writers who were excited when they walked through the door each day. Some highlights of our week included a writing marathon around campus, exploring poetry with Matthew Brown (mentioned above), and a disco-themed writing celebration planned by the campers. We are looking forward to next year!

MTWP Holds 11th ISI -- Fourteen teachers ranging from K-12 classroom teachers to instructional coaches to university professors came together for two weeks for the 11th annual Invitational Summer Institute. These educators spent their time together thinking deeply about their own classroom practices, sharing ideas, reading professional literature, and, of course, writing. Not only will the ISI participants return to their classrooms armed with research and strategies to implement into their teaching, but they will begin an inquiry project to help them examine a practice of their choice. The ISI seeks to develop teachers as teachers, writers, and leaders, and we expect to see great things from this group in all three of these areas!

Saturday Seminar is on July 25 from 9:00-noon. Set yourself up for a successful year by building a strong classroom community right from the beginning. Join us as we explore activities and ideas for creating a secure, supportive environment for your students while integrating writing instruction and other academic standards. This seminar is for teachers grades K-12 and only costs \$10 through July 21 (\$15 thereafter). Register at www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development.

Teacher Feature

Sarah Chumney (ISI 2014) is an ESL teacher (grades K-6) at Hobgood Elementary School. Her favorite subjects to teach are Reading and Writing. In her classroom, she has recently begun incorporating VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) as explained in *Making Thinking Visible Strategies* by Richhart, Church, and Morrison. Sarah and her husband Doug have four children, Ben, Sam, Jamie, and Ryan. Her family supports her passion of reading, writing, and teaching and is her greatest blessing.

