



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 22: April 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! 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](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development).

**"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).

**Congratulations** to the following educators for being selected to participate in the 2015 Invitational Summer Institute: Jane Baker (TN Tech), Julie Barger (MTSU), Towanna Bigford (Irving College ES), Lori Bratten-DiCiaula (Fairview HS), Priscilla Conerly (Freedom MS), Lisa Geasley (Oakland HS), Elizabeth Hamby (Buchanan ES), KC Hopkins (Woodland MS), Allison Justus (Eagleville), Jason Manley (Siegel MS), Carol Nelson (Warren Co HS), Sasha Pack (Alex Green ES), Marsha Riggs (Warren Co MS), Brit Sikes (Hickman ES), and Carol Warren (Oakland MS).

### Teacher Feature

Anna Percy (ISI 2009) is a first grade teacher at Reeves Rogers Elementary School. Her favorite subject to teach is writing; she wants her students to see that they are all story-tellers with personal narratives of their own. Along those lines, her favorite aspect of teaching is watching her students learn, grow, and discover. Anna uses the Common Core standards and the system's curriculum as her guide to ensure she is teaching what her students are expected to be learning. Also, with RTI and intervention requirements, a program she has used this year is Lexia; it was originally introduced for tier 2 intervention but can be a tool for all learners. It has wonderful resources and lessons for specific phonemic awareness, phonics, reading skills, and strategies based on what each student needs. Lexia has helped her identify students' individual needs and target a specific skill to reteach as needed. Anna and her husband Lance have been married for 4 years and have a 2-year-old daughter.

