



Illinois Writing Project
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ILLINOIS WRITING PROJECT – 2017 WRITING PALOOZA

The Illinois Writing Project will hold a Writing Palooza, a grand celebration of students' writing on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Rachel Carson Elementary School, 5516 S Maplewood Ave, Chicago, IL 60629 in Chicago, and we cordially invite your school to participate in the Writing Palooza and submit student writing to be shared at this event.

Here's how the WRITING PALOOZA will work

We ask that each school submit **one piece of writing** by each of **six students**. We suggest that writing be representative of your school population possibly, two each from grade-bands K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Additionally, where possible, the six pieces should between them represent four real-world types – personal narratives, persuasive speeches, poetry, and informational journalistic articles. We're limiting the number of submissions, since we can accommodate just 125 students from a total of 25 schools. The Writing Palooza is not a contest, itself, and all writing will be celebrated. However, you'll need to select your six students by whatever process you and your teachers think best. **Your selected students' pieces should be sent in an attachment to debra.gurvitz@nl.edu by Thursday, April 6th**

The Writing Palooza day will run 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM at Carson Elementary School, with breakfast and lunch provided. One parent or teacher should accompany each student (we wish we had space for more!). Of course, principals are invited to attend. Several rounds of workshop sessions will take place, providing guided opportunities for additional writing, along with students sharing their submitted pieces. Students not actively involved in a workshop will attend as the audience for other students' sessions. Representatives of outstanding organizations will lead many of the sessions – including the *Chicago Sun Times*, the Mikva Challenge, and Local Authors.

We have limited space and wish to include as many schools as possible, so we'll need to hear from you promptly in reference to your participation at this year's April 29th Writing Palooza. **Please respond to Debra Gurvitz by e-mail debra.gurvitz@nl.edu to indicate if you plan or do not plan to participate this year.** If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me via e-mail debra.gurvitz@nl.edu or phone (847-564-7749)

Please do not hesitate to call (847-564-7749) or e-mail debra.gurvitz@nl.edu with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Very sincerely,
Debra Gurvitz, IWP Writing Palooza Co-Chair
Pat Braun, IWP Writing Palooza Co-Chair
Steve Zelman, Director Illinois Writing Project
Katy Smith, Director Illinois Writing Project