

Office of Mary C. Barlow
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Advocates for Children

August 22, 2017

TO: District Superintendents
Elementary School Principals
Middle School and Junior High School Principals

FROM: Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability

SUBJECT: 2017-2018 English/Language Arts Events and Staff Development Information

This year, all event information and forms may be accessed on the Kern County Superintendent of Schools website <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/English>. Regional winner forms may only be used by regional coordinators.

EVENT DATES/TIMES/LOCATIONS: Attached is a list of the dates/times/locations/deadlines for the 2017-2018 Kern County Language Arts Events. Please share this with your staff and post at your earliest convenience.

REGIONAL/DISTRICT LIST: The regional/district organizational list is also attached. Please locate your school/school district to determine your region, region number, and regional contact person. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office does not schedule or coordinate the regional events. Participation in the Kern County Oral Language Festival and the Henry Greve Speech Contest is limited to students who have won their regional competitions. **Call your regional contact person for the dates/locations of your regional events.** The Kern Battle of the Books and the Bank of America Essay/Speech Contest are not regional events. All schools are invited to participate.

EVENT PARTICIPATION INFORMATION:

Kern County Oral Language Festival: The general rules and the Judges Information and Score Sheets for the Kern County Oral Language Festival are available on our website: <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/English>. The festival will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at Stonecreek Junior High School, located at 8000 Akers Rd., Bakersfield, CA. Check-in for students in grades 4-6 will be at 8:15 a.m. in the event room, and for students in grades 7-8, check-in will be at 11:20 a.m. in the event rooms. **Each region will be expected to send 4 teachers to each session to act as officials. Please note that specific guidelines for selection of literary pieces are new this year.**

The purpose of the Oral Language Festival is for students to present high quality children's literature to a community audience. Please review **the new rules** with teachers before they begin preparation for the contest. They have been rewritten to be more specific. Selections presented by students must be **published children's literature that is appropriate for the age, event and presentation to the community**. Presentation to the community means that the audience will contain people of all ages including young children and grandparents. Selections must not contain inappropriate subject matter or language as outlined in the new guidelines. Please make sure all students use only published literature and that they provide the author's name, the publisher's name and the publication date. **The site administrator must sign the Regional Winner Form (accessed by regional contacts) to confirm compliance with these and other guidelines.** Entries not verified with the signature will not be allowed in the competition. **all regional winner forms must be accompanied by a script of the selection that**

is being presented. A committee at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office will review the selections for appropriateness. Students will not be allowed to compete in the County competition unless their selection is published children's literature approved for the age level and a community audience. Please remember that 6th grade students compete in a 4-6 grade competition and their selections must be appropriate for that age group as well as the community.

Henry Greve Speech Contest: Information for the Henry Greve Speech Contest (prompt and judging guide) is available online at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/English>. This is a junior high speech contest which is sponsored by the Toastmasters Club. Winners of regional competitions will compete in the finals to be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, **at 6:30 p.m.** at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, City Centre, 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA. **The topic for this year's contest is: "What are the Traits of a Successful Person?"**

Kern Battle of the Books: This event has separate competitions for students in grades 4-6 and 6-8. Students are expected to read a minimum of 20-30 books from the 2017-18 Battle of the Books Standard List for their grade span (<http://battleofthebooks.org/book-list/>). Schools enter teams of 4-6 grade students to participate in the Kern County event in late April/early May at the Kern County Museum/Pioneer Village. The Central County event is on April 30, 2018, the South County event is on May 1, 2018, and the North County event is on May 4, 2018. Schools enter teams of 6-8 grade students to participate in the Kern County event (date has yet to be determined) at Valley Oaks Charter School. Students are placed on mixed school teams for the event and participate in "battles" with other teams. Schools must register to participate in the 4-6 event by November 1, 2017. The fee to participate is \$50.00 per school regardless of the number of students. Checks should be made out to the **Kern Battle of the Books** and should be mailed to Marilyn Fowler, 7809 Olcott Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308. Student names must be submitted by March 30, 2018. Complete information for the 4-6 event is available at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/English> or www.kernreadingassociation.org. For more information regarding the 6-8 grade competition, please contact Lorrie Roberts at loroberts@kern.org.

Bank of America Essay/Speech Contest: The nomination form (which includes topic, prompt and guidelines for the contest), judging sheet and certificate request form for the Bank of America Essay/Speech Contest are available online at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/English>. There is no regional competition for this event. Schools are encouraged to have all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students write essays as a part of the English/language arts curriculum and then nominate one essay at each grade level for the competition. Essay prompts are aligned to the CCSS for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. Essays are due on April 4, 2018. Essays that qualify for the event final will be presented as speeches on Thursday, May 10, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, Larry E. Reider Education Center, 2000 K Street, Bakersfield, CA. This year's essay topic is **"Water Resources: Where are we now? What does the future hold?"**

CONTACT: Christine Goedhart-Humphrey, (661) 636-4330; chumphrey@kern.org
CONTACT: Teresa Twisselman, (661) 636-4645; tetwisselman@kern.org

LANGUAGE ARTS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

KERN READING ASSOCIATION

Kern Reading Association Professional Development Conference and Young Authors' Fair Orientation will be held on October 3, 2017, from 4:00-6:00pm, at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield. Come out to hear a great guest speaker and receive the materials you will need to host an author at your school. Schools interested in hosting an author must attend the event. www.kernreadingassociation.org

16th Annual Book Talk/Tea will be held February 15, 2018. The Kern Reading Association hosts this informal after-school gathering at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, Larry E. Reider Education Center, 2000 K Street, Bakersfield. Members share ideas for using favorite children's literature in the classroom. For information, go to www.kernreadingassociation.org.

Young Authors' Fair will be held on April 28, 2018, at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, Larry E. Reider Education Center, 2000 K Street, Bakersfield. Published children's authors will be providing presentations for students and autographing books. Schools are invited to display student-authored books. The public is invited. Schools may also host an author at their schools for a day the week of April 23-27, 2018. For more information about hosting an author and book display forms, please go to www.kernreadingassociation.org. Schools interested in hosting an author must send a representative to the KRA Professional Development Night on October 3, 2017 (see above). Books will be picked up on January 18, 2018.

Classroom Grants of \$250.00 are available through the Kern Reading Association. The grant application deadline is January 30, 2018. Awards will be given at the Book Talk Tea on February 15, 2018. Applications may be found on the association website www.kernreadingassociation.org.

CALIFORNIA READING ASSOCIATION (CRA):

The **California Reading Association 2016 Annual Professional Development Institute** will be held October 20-21, 2017, at the Pacific Palms Resort in City of Industry (Los Angeles County). For conference details and registration information go to www.californiareads.org.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH (CATE):

The California Association of Teachers of English is hosting **CATE 2018 With Literacy and Justice for All** on March 9-11, 2018, at the San Diego Town and Country Resort. For details and registration information, go to cateweb.org/

The Kern Chapter of CATE holds events throughout the school year. For information, contact Kim Flachmann at kflachmann@csu.edu or Jill Hamilton-Bunch at JillHamilton-Bunch@pointloma.edu.

FIRST BOOK BAKERSFIELD

The Local Advisory Board of First Book Bakersfield is a chapter of the national First Book foundation. First Book Bakersfield provides an opportunity for classroom teachers of high poverty students to receive book grant awards for their students. Pre-K, kindergarten, first and second grade teachers must submit applications to First Book Bakersfield, 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301, attention Teresa Twisselman, by November 4, 2017. This is a **classroom grant** opportunity. Applications will **not** be accepted for whole schools or large programs. Applications will not be considered if teachers from a particular school submit identical applications. Applications are available from Teresa Twisselman at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, City Centre, 1300 17th Street, 5th floor, or by e-mail at tetwisselman@kern.org. Grant award recipients will receive 6 new books for each child in their classrooms.

We look forward to working with you and appreciate your cooperation in 2017-2018. Contact Teresa Twisselman, English-Language Arts Coordinator, at (661) 636-4645 or by e-mail at tetwisselman@kern.org for additional information about staff development opportunities or First Book Bakersfield.