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From the Editors

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From the Editors...

by Patricia A. Edwards and Tanya S. Wright

Summer 2016 is almost here, and we're excited that this is our sixth issue! It's hard to believe that we have completed our second year as co-editors of *MRJ*. We continue to receive wonderful comments regarding the articles that we have included in the journal. For all of the wonderful articles that we have published in *MRJ*, Dr. Richard Sawyer, Senior Manager of Publisher Partnerships, **EBSCO Information Services** (Ipswich, MA), nominated the *Michigan Reading Journal* for inclusion in one of their research databases that is used in college and university libraries. Library patrons typically use EBSCO's databases to run a keyword search similar to how you would use a commercial search engine (Google, Yahoo, etc). The results display a list of articles from many different publications. Along with each record is a live link that their Publisher Partners provide them to display back to their own websites. This is a great way to ensure our publication is gaining exposure and web traffic originating from those using an EBSCO database in a library.



Patricia A. Edwards



Tanya S. Wright

The school bell may stop ringing, but summer is a great time for reflection, scholarship, and a chance to give yourself a break from the daily cycle of planning and feedback that make the school year such a whirlwind. Teaching would not be possible without time devoted to reflection and rejuvenation. In the same way that crops need to be rotated so that soil can be replenished, teachers need time away from the classroom to rediscover different parts of their identities and return to classrooms and students with renewed joy, creative ideas, and reaffirmed visions of themselves as educators. Summer also allows you to relax and reflect on the previous year. While you are relaxing, we want you to read our sixth issue of *MRJ*, which includes some very exciting and informative articles.

In this sixth issue, we have included two research-to-practices articles. The first article is by Dr. Danielle DeFauw, an assistant professor of reading and language arts at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. Dr. DeFauw explores fourth-grade students' perceptions of their teacher as a writer and how this affects their own writing. The second article, co-authored by Dr. Sue Sharma and her graduate student Susan Unger, provides an in-depth examination of research regarding the complexities of word knowledge and offer examples of adolescent learners mediating their own vocabulary learning holistically utilizing Web 2.0. For the popular *Critical Issues* section, we provide a discussion by Dr. Josh Plavnick and Savana Bak on students with autism and computer programs for teaching early literacy. The other critical issues article by Shannon Prince highlights the value of technology and the importance of using it authentically. *Voices from Around the State* continues to be well-received by our readers, and in this issue we have a teacher tip from Emily Roberts who provides an insightful look at teaching reading to elementary school children in an online charter school. In this issue we also include a document from the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators' General Education Leadership Network (MAISA GELN) highlighting essential

early literacy instructional practices. This network's purpose is identifying a small set of research-supported classroom practices that could be the basis for professional development throughout the state. Brandy Archer from the Michigan Department of Education discusses the Michigan State Board of Education's decision to adopt new science standards and the implications for science, math, and literacy instruction in the early grades. Our MSU colleague, Dr. Janine Certo, a poet in her own right, writes a delightful article on teaching poetry. We provide reviews of professional texts for teachers in a column titled *Must Read Texts*, which is edited by Dr. Kathy Highfield and Dr. Laura Pardo. We include a column edited by Dr. Laura Apol entitled, *For the Love of Literature*, as well as book reviews by Lynette Marten Suckow highlighting texts from the *Great Lakes, Great Books* initiative.

We encourage our readers to read updates and information about the journal by visiting the Michigan Reading Association page on Facebook, following @michiganreading on Twitter, and searching and following Michigan Reading Association on Pinterest. Our journal email address is mrj@msu.edu. We invite you to join the conversation by contributing to *MRJ*. Please email article submissions that are appropriate for any of the sections in our journal to our new email address. We look forward to hearing from you.

We would like to again thank our fantastic editorial team of Laura Hopkins and Kristen White. These wonderful MSU doctoral students have been indispensable in supporting our work on this journal. We would also like to thank Laura Guzman, Jessie Hughey Montoya, Michigan Reading Association President, Lisa Rivard, as well as the MRA Board for supporting our efforts.

We hope that you enjoy our sixth issue of *MRJ* and that you will continue to tell your friends and colleagues about us. Happy reading!

Warmest Regards,

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