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International Reading Association News



VOLUME 18
ISSUE 7
MARCH
2010

Catch a Song with Eric Ode



Everyone, up on your feet! Come to the IRA meeting on Saturday, March 13 at the Guam Reef Hotel to “catch a song, stretch a song, and turn it inside out” with Eric Ode. Get ready for a fun, fast-paced program that will keep you and your kids singing while they learn where ideas for songs come from, and how these ideas change as they go through the writing process.

Ode is bringing his program to 14 schools during the week of March 15 -19 and is appearing at Story Hour at the Hagatna Library on Saturday, March 20 from 10 -11 A.M. The Youth Music Workshop for grades 4-8 will be on Saturday, too, at the IP Café on University Road in Mangilao from 2-4 P.M.

The songs and poems Eric uses present positive images and teach rhyming patterns, alliteration, word choices, and other strategies necessary to the pre-writing, writing, and rewriting processes for poetry and songs.

He first collected other poets’ work when he assigned his students the task of compiling poems on a certain theme. He admired the humorous poetry of Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, and others who wrote for children. He started writing his own poetry and songs during his twelve years of teaching elementary school and working with his church choir.

His poetry is now included with theirs in poetry anthologies, such as My Teacher’s in Detention, If Kids Ruled the School, and 12 others. Tall Tales of the Wild West is a collection of humorous poetry and songs with a western theme all written by Ode. His award-winning CD, When You Smile, was described by the Parents’ Choice Foundation as having “clever lyrics, gentle wit, and compassion for the uncertainties in a kid’s life.” We think you’ll agree.

Ode is now a full time songwriter, author and poet. He lives with his wife, Kim, and their two teenagers, Kaleb and Lauren, in Western Washington State.

Schools Ode Will Visit and Other Special Events

Saturday, March 13, 8-11 A.M.
IRA General Membership Meeting

Monday, March 15
Montessori School of Guam
Carbullido Elementary
San Vicente Catholic School

Tuesday, March 16
LBJ Elementary

Agana Heights Elementary,
Teacher Workshop, 3-4 P.M.

Wednesday, March 17
Liguan Elementary
Wettengel Elementary
DL Perez Elementary

Thursday, March 18
Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary
Agueda Johnston Middle
St. Francis Catholic School

Friday, March 19
Inarajan Elementary
Merizo Elementary
HS Truman Elementary

Saturday, March 20
Hagatna Public Library,
Story Hour, 10-11 A.M.

TEACHER WORKSHOP

The Teacher Workshop with Eric Ode will be on Tuesday, March 16, at the Agana Heights Elementary School Cafeteria from 3-4:30 P.M. All teachers are welcome. Call Cyndy at 789-1996 for more details.

PBS Guam is THE resource for on-line educators

If you haven't heard, let us be the one to tell you the good news that PBS Guam is THE resource for on-line educational material for your classroom. Not only is it accessible, but it is FREE! We also have an extensive digital educational library local educators can utilize in their classroom instruction.

Sign up today at www.pbs.org/teachers and become a PBS Teacher, giving you access to on-line resources such as lesson plans and activities you can implement in your classrooms or even at home with your own children. Did we mention that signing up as a

PBS Teacher is FREE?

Another great opportunity for teachers is to sign up with TeacherLine. These are affordable on-line professional development courses for teachers, and are accepted for recertification, according to the Guam Certification Office. Go to www.pbs.org/teacherline to sign up for a FREE account.

PBS Guam wants to take this opportunity to extend a warm Dangkolo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the Guam IRA for contributing once again to the PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest. Formerly known as the Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illus-

trators Contest, the PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest encourages children to create their own original, creative stories. Winners from our local contest will be sent to be judged at the national level. The contest period is from now through March 24, 2010.

So, whether you are an elementary school teacher, school administrator, or a parent, PBS Guam has resources for you! For more information, contact Ms. Leigh G. Pereda or Ms. Sonia Suobiron at 734-5483. Email them at lpereda@pbsguam.org or ssuobiron@pbsguam.org.

Leigh Pereda

Panel Theater Visits Three Schools

The Panel Theater visited the following schools on Wednesday, February 10, 2010: C.L. Taitano, Tamuning, and Price Elementary School. Cyndy Pruski, who single-handedly coordinated this visit thanks the school coordinators for helping make this event a memorable one for their students.



Professor Fujita tells the story of The Vegetable Garden.



Mr. Kouda tells the story of The Squirrel Who Tried to Find His Acorn.



All the animals helped the squirrel until the nut came up with a family of moles.

Coming Up

NEXT MONTH

Join us at the SPEND IT ALL! SPEND IT NOW! on April 10, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Ordot-Chalan Pago Elem. School Cafeteria

Youth Music Workshop with Eric Ode

Saturday, March 20
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.
IP Café
University Road,
Mangilao
Cowboy snack

Book Exchange

REMEMBER TO BRING A BOOK SO YOU CAN TAKE A BOOK HOME TO READ. THIS TABLE IS FREE! THE BOOKS GO TO THE ALEE SHELTER AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

RAT 2010—“Go Green, Go Read!”

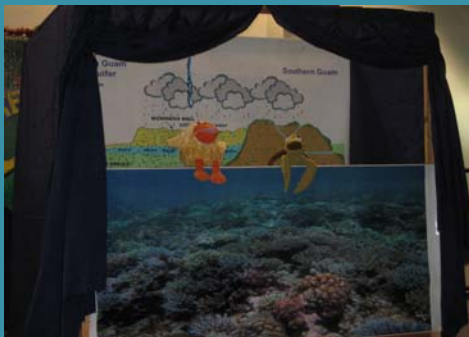
Our *Go Green, Go Read!* Read-A-Thon was a great success! There were forty-one participating schools. The elementary schools were: Adacao, Agana Heights, Astumbo, B.P. Carbullido, Captain H.B. Price, D.L. Perez, F.Q. Sanchez, Finegayan, H.S. Truman, Inarajan, J.M. Guerrero, L. B. Johnson, Liguán, M.A. Ulloa, M.U. Lujan, Machanaonao, Marcial Sablan, Merizo Martyrs, Ordot-Chalan Pago, P.C. Lujan, Talofoto, Tamuning, Upi and Wettengel. The secondary schools: were Agueda Johnston, F.B. Leon Guerrero, Inarajan, Oceanview, V.S.A. Benavente, George Washington, John F. Kennedy, Simon Sanchez, Okkodo and Southern. The private schools were: Notre Dame, Saint Francis Catholic School, Saint Paul North, and San Vicente. The preschools are Just Kidding, Montessorri, and Tender Shepherd. These participating schools collectively submitted approximately \$109,000 in ON-TIME money.

I would like to extend a humble and gracious THANK YOU to: our partners in literacy; our Read-A-Thon school representatives; our teachers for their generosity of time in supporting and coordinating all Read-A-Thon events at their respective school sites; and all participants for their time and efforts in making Guam an *Island of Readers*.

- ◆ Our sponsors include: Continental Airlines, Bank of Guam, MCV Cable Cares, Pacific Daily News, Tarza Waterpark, and Fiesta Resort.
- ◆ Thanks to the IRA Board Members for being the support and foundation in launching our *Go Green, Go Read!* Read-A-Thon.
- ◆ Thanks to our volunteers for their time and assistance.
- ◆ Thanks to Dr. Nerissa Britannia-Underwood, Superintendent, Guam Department of Education, Cynthia Agbulos, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, administrators, and directors for their support to our council.



Roberta Abaday leads her “Found Poem” workshop.



Linda Tatreau and her Marine Mania students delight the audience with their Watershed Puppet Show.



Cyndy Pruski demonstrates making yarn from a plastic bag to crochet bottle carriers.



Members get busy creating from recycled items.



Jovonne Aguon, Jennifer Blas, Rosemary Ferguson, and Stephanie Flores lead and rule!



Membership News

WILL YOU BE GOING TO CHICAGO ?

The time has come to draw the name of the IRA member who will attend - **all expenses paid** - the IRA Convention in Chicago.

1. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN. So attend the March IRA MEETING!*
2. Must be 18 years or older, an IRA member and have attended three meetings this year.
3. Must also be on Guam next year and actively participate in Guam IRA.

Seeking bright ideas?



Expand your knowledge. Broaden your community. Spark your inspiration.



READING IN MANY LANGUAGES

IRA ANNUAL CONVENTION | CHICAGO

APRIL 25-28 | 2010 | LEARN MORE AT WWW.IRACONVENTION.ORG

March Door Prizes

All-In-One Printer
Laminator w/Pouches
Long-Arm Stapler
Classroom Timer
Pack'N'Roll Cart
Personal Chalk/White Boards
Desk Bell
Apple Clock
Hole-Punch



It's another money counting day ... and we are having fun!



Guam Council
International Reading Assoc.
P.O. Box 21733
Barrigada GU 96921

President's Corner



It has been a very busy month! Thanks to the cheerleading squad from Liguana Terrace, Principal Cepeda, Board Member Nilfa Milan, and the advisors for once more providing fantastic entertainment at our Read-A-Thon kick-off meeting. Also the Watershed Puppet Show by Linda Tatreau and the GWHS Marine Mania students was awesome. I would like to recognize the presenters for their commitment and dedication to our organization: Roberta Abaday, Jovonne Aguon, Jennifer Blas, Stephanie Flores, Rosemary Ferguson, Cyndy Pruski, Neldie Pendon-Limtiaco and PBS' Sonia Suobiron, Leigh Pereda, and Dr. Sam Mabini.

Also, I would like to recognize our author visit chairperson, Cyndy Pruski, for leading our Panel Theater visit on February 10th as well as the upcoming visit by Eric Ode with the help of school representatives.

As our annual Read-A-Thon comes to a close, author Eric Ode will be on island soon thanks to the generous support and contributions from students and their families, businesses, and organizations from around the island during and after RAT 2010.

I hope to see you all at our next membership meeting on Saturday, March 13 at the Guam Reef Hotel. At the meeting, you'll find out who are the top representatives for this year's Read-A-Thon and who is the lucky winner of the trip to the International Reading Association's 55th Annual Convention in Chicago!



Best,
Grace

The Guam Council of the IRA continues to show its support of PBS Guam by contributing \$1,000 to the PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest, which encourages literacy and creative writing for students from kindergarten through third grade. Presenting the check to Sam Mabini, PBS Guam general manager is IRA president Graziella Griffin (left to right) at the IRA meeting held on Feb. 6 at Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary School.

THE GRANT WRITING CORNER

Hafa Adai prospective recipients of an IRA grant! This is a friendly reminder that grant applications will be available during the March 13, 2010 meeting at the grants table. Application forms are also available online at www.iraguam.blogspot.com.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to get books into your classrooms and into the hands of your students. Due date is no later than 11:00 A.M. at the grants table during the "Spend it All! Spend it Now! Bonanza!" on April 10, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Buendicho 482-7788/565-3083 or Evelyn Topasna 689-9455/565-6710. For grant writing tips and more information, visit the grants table at the next meeting.—Submitted by Evelyn Topasna

Eligibility for Spring Cycle:

- ◆ Must have been a member as of February 2010 and attended at least one meeting
- ◆ Did not receive a grant from the Spring or Fall 2009 grant cycles
- ◆ Have always completed the required grant evaluation

2010 Calendar of Events—General Membership 8:00-11:00 A.M.

- ◆ March 13—Sing Along with Author Eric Ode (Guam Reef Hotel)
- ◆ April 10—Spend It All! Spend It Now! Bonanza (OCPES*)
- ◆ May 15—Year in Review and Installation of New Officers (Guam Reef Hotel)

* Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary School