Forsyth County Reading Association Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2019 5:00 pm

Redeemer Church Cafeteria

Members enjoyed refreshments and visited with one another.

FCRA President Sabrina Secrest called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

She reminded members that our next meeting will be on **Tuesday**, February 18.

Psychologist Dr. Bill Michielutte will be our speaker.

Note the change of day of the week!

She also announced that all Young Authors submissions are due to her. Members can contact her about

getting them to her by Tuesday, November 26 if they aren’t at the meeting tonight.

Jeannie Evans provided the Secretary’s Report from our last meeting. It will be posted on the FCRA webpage. She reminded everyone to be sure to register online through the North Carolina Reading Association this year because that is how we are collecting information.

* + The link for doing so is <https://www.ncreading.org/state-membership>
  + Members may choose to pay online with a 50 cents charge or can bring $30 in cash or check to the first meeting they attend.

Sabrina reminded everyone that the North Carolina Reading Conference will be held March 22-24, 2020 in

downtown Winston-Salem.

* + There will be speakers from all over the country and workshop opportunities.
  + We will be awarding $25 scholarships for attending the conference as door prizes throughout the year.

Cheryl Key provided the Treasurer’s Report.

Our starting balance for November was $970.57.

Our ending balance was $956.57 after membership and other expenses were paid.

Cheryl introduced our speaker for the meeting, Amy Lindsay. Amy is the Curriculum Coordinator at Redeemer School.

Amy’s talk was on ***Developing Growth Mindset***.

She shared a powerpoint as well as a thick packet of activities that can be used with students to promote this way of thinking in our classrooms.

She contrasted Growth Mindset with Fixed Mindset by sharing characteristics of each approach to teaching

and learning:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Someone with Fixed Mindset** | **Someone with Growth Mindset** |
| Views intelligence as a fixed trait  Is motivated by not wanting to look dumb  Lacks perseverance  Ignores criticism and feedback  Is threatened by others’ success  Sees looking smart as the most important thing  Doesn’t value effort and sees it as negative  Gives up when failure happens | Views intelligence as something that can be grown through effort  Becomes resilient  Learns from criticism  Sees effort as the path to success  Learning is the most important thing.  Values effort and sees it as positive  Tries harder when failure happens |

Promoting a growth mindset is different from the self-esteem movement.

Growth mindset says “If you work hard, you can be better than you are.”—not “You can do anything you want to do.”

She also talked about the importance of giving appropriate praise, and we watched a video about it.

With growth mindset, we should praise effort (the process of growth; “If I don’t take on hard things

and grow, I won’t get better.”) and not intelligence (because this promotes a fear of losing praise for this).

Don’t say “It’s hard, but do your best” because this causes fearfulness.

A good phrase to use is “Practice makes progress.”

Focus on naming the efforts and strategies the child is using.

Mistakes = a necessary part of learning.

Your brain is a muscle that grows most when you make mistakes. Neuroplasticity = how the brain

forms new pathways.

Frame mistakes as part of the learning process. Everyone should make mistakes in order to be

growing.

Model how to point out mistakes and how to receive correction.

It’s important to create the right climate for risk-taking in the classroom.

One idea is to post student work that is “in progress” so students can see how work evolves over time.

“My Favorite No” exercise

Looking at student work that’s incorrect but demonstrates some correct thinking and discussing that with students so they can learn from what went wrong

“What’s right about this?”

Resources Amy mentioned included Mindset by Carol Dweck, Your Fantastic Elastic Brain by JoAnn Deak and a math book by Jo Boaler.

For our collaboration time, Amy encouraged us discuss how we can use growth mindset in our classrooms.

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Evans, Secretary