WELCOME BACK

Greetings friends--

We hope your 2017-18 school year is off to a great start! We have a new look to our newsletter, but it will still be packed with lots of great opportunities for professional learning, writing, and fun. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Best,
Nancy & Katie
GWP Co-Directors

2017 MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL

Our ever-popular Middle School Youth Writing Festival (grades 5 - 8) is back! Join us at the JC Penney Conference Center on the UMSL North campus on Nov. 9, 2017. Students will participate in three break-out sessions, hear from a keynote speaker, and experience an open-mic sharing celebration. If you do not teach middle school, please pass this information along to the other schools in your district.

Please see the festival flier for additional details, including the student registration form and a teacher checklist. https://goo.gl/TNuX7U

Click here to register your group of students. https://goo.gl/forms/aGTacACjc6HWClfi2

This information can also be found on our website: http://www.umsl.edu/services/gwp/

Act now to take advantage of our early bird discount and reserve space for your students!
**NWP ANNUAL MEETING & NCTE ANNUAL CONVENTION IN STL!**

The National Writing Project Annual Meeting will be in St. Louis on Thursday, November 16. At the AM you learn with and from like-minded educators from sites all over the country. Although it is tagged as a meeting, it follows a conference-type format with break-out sessions (including one by some GWP friends) and a plenary address. Registration is $150 and you can register and find out more information [here](#). Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage with writing project professionals from sites all over the country as they convene right in your own backyard!

The NWP Annual Meeting always precedes the Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), which runs from Nov. 16 through the 19. Every time I have opportunity to attend the convention, I am inspired by the energy in the room and the multitude of excellent sessions to choose from. Again, some of your very own GWP TCs will be facilitating sessions at this year's convention.

AND...if you are a Missouri resident, you qualify for a special NCTE registration rate of $180 throughout the month of September! Click [here](#) for a special registration form to use to get the Missouri educator discount. You must register by Sept. 30 to get the discount.

And what’s better than discounted? Free, of course. The local committee for the NCTE Annual Convention needs lots of volunteers to help at the convention. In exchange for eight hours of volunteer time, you can have your registration fees paid for. This special offer is only for members of the Missouri Council of Teachers of English (MCTE) members. Click [here](#) to access the volunteer sign-up form.

Not a member of MCTE yet? Find out more [here](#). Or just go ahead and join [here](#). Dues are only $20 a year and come with great benefits.

**STL WRITING MARATHON**

What better thing to do when a mass of writing project teachers converge on St. Louis? Host a writing marathon of course! In conjunction with the NWP Annual Meeting, our very own Tracy Brosch & Sioux Roslawski will be hosting two different writing marathons to help visitors experience St. Louis. See descriptions below and make plans to attend. More information about where to meet will be forthcoming (no charge if you meet onsite rather than riding bus).

**Two Different Views of St. Louis: You Choose Your Writing Marathon**

What is St. Louis famous for? The Arch. The Cardinals. And Ferguson.

If you’d like to stay in the city, you can choose a writing marathon which includes some of the city sights (free). Participants will leave on a walking tour from the convention center,
GWP IS TURNING 40!

Gateway Writing Project became an official site of the National Writing Project back in 1978 through the leadership of founding director Jane Zeni. Over the last 40 years our writing project has not only sustained, it has flourished! We want to celebrate not only our success but all of the wonderful writers and educators (including you!) who have played a role in making the Gateway Writing Project what it is today.

Save the Date for the following events we have planned to celebrate our 40th anniversary and showcase our network:

January 27, 2018 -- GWP's 40th Birthday Bash

March 3 - 4, 2018 -- Writing Retreat

May - July, 2018 -- Accepting submissions for GWP 40th Anniversary Anthology

Fall, 2018 -- GWP Conference

Or, you can choose to go by bus ($10) to get a view of the tiny suburban town of Ferguson—a view the news channels never showed the public. You’ll get to walk along the route where all the protests were as you stop at picturesque and quite normal-looking spots to write and share.