**Scholastic Writing Contest – deadline Jan. 6**

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12. The Missouri region anticipates more than 1,000 entries. The contest is open until January 6 — though to avoid problems we recommend submissions be sent before the winter break.

Students can enter their works into more than 10 different categories: from flash fiction, to poetry and the dramatic script. A signed entry form and $5 payment needs to be mailed in for each entry, though fee waivers are available. Visit the website to get started.

Each category will see winners at the Gold, Silver and Honorable Mention level, and winners will be celebrated at the Awards Ceremony on Friday, February 17 at Tan Tar-A resort in Osage Beach, MO.

We are also looking for judges from each Writing Project location. Adjudication can be done remotely and judges receive a $150 stipend for scoring around 100 student entries. Sign up to score writing here.

Thanks for your help in making this writing award available to students throughout our Missouri Region!

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**Professional Opportunities**

- Share a favorite writing lesson at the Middle School Youth Writing Festival on Friday, March 3, 2017 from 9:30 – 1:30 at Meramec Valley School in Pacific, MO. Please send your session description to Cathy Griner at cgriner8@sbcglobal.net by Jan. 6. Registration for middle school students and their teachers will begin Jan. 24.

- The 12th annual Educating for Change Curriculum Conference (co-sponsored by GWP) will be held at Maplewood Richmond Heights Elementary from 8:00 – 4:00 on Sat., Feb. 4. The theme is Courageous Teaching and Civil Rights in the 21st Century. Proposals for table displays are still being accepted. For more information click here.

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**Summer Institute**

**June 5 – 29, 2017**

Have a few colleagues who you think would be great for the Summer Institute? Winter break would be a great time for them to complete the application process! Please pass along this flier and encourage your best colleagues to apply. Don’t forget, we want teachers from all grade levels and disciplines.

[Summer Institute 2017 Flier](#)
Teachers as Writers

- **Listen to Your Mother**
  Do you have motherly advice to offer, an unforgettable parenting moment to share, or a story about your mother or grandmother worth celebrating? Next month *Listen to Your Mother* will be accepting submissions for their season finale in the spring. Start thinking about your story now! Click [here](#) for more information.

- **GWP Monthly Writer's Group**
  **When:** Last Tuesday of the month at 4:30
  **Where:** Fergie's Bar & Restaurant
  Click [here](#) for more information.

Hear What TCs are Saying About The Writing Retreat

“Leaving refreshed and committed to what regular writing does for my soul.”

“I wrote two first drafts of chapters for my novel and even tried to write some poetry.”

“What I mostly accomplished had to do with building new friendships, connecting with old friends, and rejuvenating my soul.”

“Energized by other enthusiastic, smart writers’ feedback and ideas”

“I cleared my head and had some much-needed quiet reflection.”

“I was able to work on a piece about my mom from different viewpoints.”

“This retreat gave me time to be a writer. That time doesn’t seem to exist at my home.”

“I worked on including more descriptive details in my beginning pages.”

**Hope to see you at the next one!**

Happy Holidays

Spotlight on...

…the following TCs who have earned advanced degrees and certification:

- **Caroline Hackmeyer** earned National Board Certification in 2016
- **Andrea Hughes** will graduate with her Ph.D. in Teaching & Learning Processes in December

Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Do you know a GWP TC who should be spotlighted? Send info to Katie O’Daniels.

Stay Connected!