



OC Literacy and Language

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



As we wrap up the year, thank you for your dedication to fostering literacy and language development across our schools. This holiday season, let's celebrate the meaningful connections we've built and the impactful work we've accomplished together.

A reminder that our next Literacy and Language network meeting will be on December 10, hosted by the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District from 8:00-11:30 AM. We look forward to this opportunity to reflect on our progress and plan for the year ahead.

We wish you a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with continued growth, collaboration, and success.

Upcoming Dates

Advent: Dec. 1 - 24

Christmas Day Dec. 25

Hanukkah: Dec. 25 - Jan. 2

Kwanzaa: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

New Year's Eve: Dec. 31



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Upcoming Literacy Offerings



Ignite Early Literacy

January 29, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Looking for some professional learning targeted specifically for PK/TK/K in elementary school? We are hosting a free, in-person session to discuss literacy strategies for our youngest readers alongside an exploration of the updated TK state guidance, foundations and alignment to Kindergarten standards. Great for PK/TK teachers, Kinder/1st grade teachers, administrators, TOSA's and coaches. Breakfast and lunch is included!



Empowering Writers Summit

June 14, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Connect with fellow educators, explore new strategies, and spark creativity in your students. Engage in dynamic workshops, lively discussions, and collaborative sessions designed to leave you with fresh ideas and practical tools to make writing exciting for all your students. Featured speaker Jen Roberts, a National Board Certified teacher and digital pedagogy expert, will share her insights on literacy and generative AI in education. Don't miss this opportunity to reignite your passion for teaching writing! Accepting Proposals – submit [here](#)



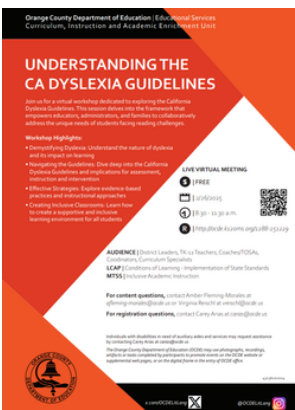
ERWC: In-Person

Register [here](#)

ERWC: Virtual

Register [here](#)

A free four-day introductory course for Grade 9-12 ELA and ELD Teachers is available for those new to teaching the ERWC course and those interested in learning how to incorporate ERWC modules into their curriculum. Each session is two weeks in length comprised of two days each week.



Understanding the Dyslexia Guidelines

February 26, 2025
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Register [here](#)

This virtual workshop will dig into the California Dyslexia Guidelines and specifically, the Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties, including Dyslexia. We will go through the Screener Toolkit to support District Implementation of this initiative, provide strategies for systems and create space for collaboration.

Please click on the link below to see our professional development trainings


2024-25 Literacy and Language Calendar

Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

DIVERSIFYING OUR TEXTS: FOSTERING JOY AND EXPANDING PERSPECTIVES

A three-part asynchronous series supports K-12 educators in understanding the importance of diverse texts as *Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors*, grounded in Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop's work. Integrating Gholdy Muhammad's focus on joy, identity, and critical literacy, the course helps participants explore inclusive stories that enrich student learning. Participants will receive *Unearthing Joy* by Dr. Muhammad and join virtual sessions after each module for collaboration and discussion.

Virtual Sessions
Cost: \$45 (includes book)
Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Dates: 3/13, 4/3 & 4/24
Registration: <http://ocde.k12ca.gov/aff/243975> or scan QR Code





Series Objectives

- Examine theoretical and practical applications of diverse texts in supporting diverse identities in educational settings
- Evaluate how history and current practices affect the availability and accuracy of texts
- Utilize resources to enrich educational practices with diverse texts that foster identity, development and joy

Target Audience: K-12 teachers, coaches, administrators, librarians, librarymedia techs interested in diversifying their libraries

CAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards

RTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

Diversifying Text

March, 13, April 3, and April 24

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Register [here](#)

This three-part asynchronous series supports K-12 educators in understanding the importance of diverse texts as *Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors*, grounded in Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop's work. Integrating Dr. Gholdy Muhammad's focus on joy, identity, and critical literacy, the course helps participants incorporate inclusive stories that enrich student learning. Participants will receive *Unearthing Joy* by Dr. Muhammad and join virtual sessions after each module for collaboration and discussion.



WINTER READING CHALLENGE

December 9, 2024 - January 25, 2025

Read books and complete challenges to earn badges.
Register at ocpl.beanstack.org

Join us for winter fun at your local branch! Celebrate with performers, author events, storytimes, movies, and crafts.



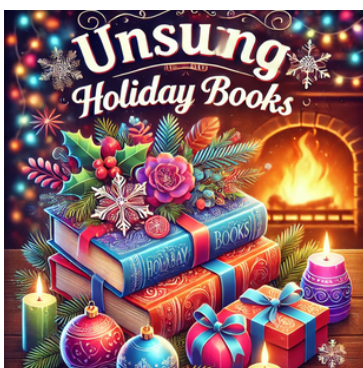
For more information please visit ocpl.org



Click [here](#) for more Winter Activities, Crafts and Story Times



Check out all of Teaching Books' December's Timely Topic Resources [Here](#)



Diversify Your Holiday Reading! The holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to explore stories that reflect the rich diversity of cultures, traditions, and experiences celebrated worldwide. Expanding your library with inclusive holiday books fosters understanding, empathy, and a sense of belonging for all students. TeachingBooks' curated collection of *Unsung Holiday Books* is an excellent resource for discovering hidden gems that highlight lesser-known traditions and perspectives. Let's celebrate the season with stories that unite and inspire. Visit [TeachingBooks' Unsung Holiday Books Collection](#) to find your next meaningful read!

Spotlight



Spotlight on Joy Okada

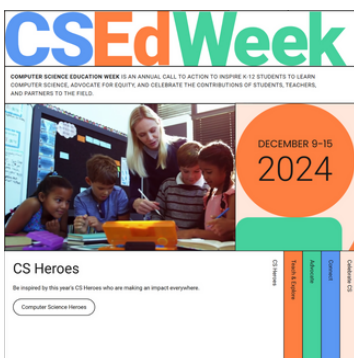
We are thrilled to recognize Joy Okada, a dedicated ELA teacher in Orange County and a 23-year veteran at Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD). Joy recently showcased her expertise as a presenter at the 2024 Cambodian-American Studies Model Curriculum Conference. As a curriculum writer and editor for Cambodian-American Studies, she continues to elevate the voices and experiences of underrepresented communities in education. Her contributions exemplify the power of culturally responsive teaching to create more inclusive classrooms. Congratulations, Joy, for your inspiring work and leadership!

We invite you all to submit [this](#) form to be included in an upcoming spotlight section. You can spotlight a teacher, an event, a literacy initiative- anything you would like to share! All submissions will also be featured on our OCDE Lit&Lang Social Media!

Resources

- Need information about the upcoming Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties, including Dyslexia? Here is the [OCDE Information Guide](#), updated frequently as new information is released. We are here to support the implementation of this initiative in any way that we can!
- Check out the latest [CDE Literacy Newsletter](#) for information on Statewide Literacy

Tech Corner



Celebrate Computer Science Education Week! Each December, Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) highlights the transformative role of computer science in education and innovation. This year, from December 4-10, educators, students, and communities are invited to engage in activities that promote computational thinking, coding, and digital literacy. Whether participating in an Hour of Code, exploring career opportunities in tech, or fostering equity in computer science access, there's something for everyone. Let's inspire the next generation of problem-solvers and creators by celebrating the power of computer science to shape our future! Visit csedweek.org for resources and ideas to join the celebration.

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below

