

## February 2016 News 4 You

### Mentoring 4 Reading Achievement (M4RA)

Happy February to friends of reading mentoring,

**We need your help:** We are presenting at the Ohio Transition Conference (Ohio Association for Career & Technical Education, Special Needs Division; Ohio Association of Supervisors & Coordinators for Exceptional Students) on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Columbus. Part of our presentation will address using older age students as mentors. Would you send [amy.freeman@m4ra.org](mailto:amy.freeman@m4ra.org) 2-3 sentences about the success of having older age students as your mentors? We need your comments by February 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are attending this conference, we welcome your participation in the 2:45 session. Thank you!



**In the Spotlight:** In the Spotlight: “Wildcat Readers” at North Union Elementary

Sandra is the WILDCAT READERS’ Coordinator at North Union Elementary. This program continues to be amazing with school-wide support, and test scores to show its success. 85 students are mentored by 22 mentors 4-5 days a week. There are many ideas that Sandy has shared, and some of the forms she uses for trainings, motivators; and success stories at [wildcat-readers-north-union-elementary/](http://wildcat-readers-north-union-elementary/)

**Update at Hilfiker Elementary:** From Bethany: “*The Two Week Focus Goal to improve mentoring is going great. When I’m explaining the focus, so many mentors are saying, ‘Oh, that is me, I didn’t do that’ or ‘Oh, I forgot that.’*” Read more: [two week focus at-hilfiker-elementary/](http://two-week-focus-at-hilfiker-elementary/)

**Tiffin City Schools:** Thank you Leah for sharing these wonderful ideas to bring “real life” into the reading process. The students will remember these lessons. “*The book, We Make Maple Syrup, Pack Level I, talks about the maple syrup making process. My husband’s family makes maple syrup annually...*”

To find Leah’s ideas click on [tiffin-city-schools-bringing-real-life-reading-process/](http://tiffin-city-schools-bringing-real-life-reading-process/)

**Upcoming M4RA Instruction Sessions #1 and #2:** Please mark February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. M4RA will have an Instruction Session #1, and an Instruction Session #2 at the ESCCO in Columbus. To read more about these **free sessions** and how to register: [.m4ra.org/instruction-sessions-2016/](http://m4ra.org/instruction-sessions-2016/)

**M4RA Updates:** The “**Reading Zone**” is now being implemented in all three of the Department of Youth Services prison schools. There are many male youth asking for 1:1 reading mentoring and there are not enough mentors. Contact [amy.freeman@m4ra.org](mailto:amy.freeman@m4ra.org) if you have ideas to help.

**Coaches 4 Life:** M4RA partners with Easter Seals and the Circleville Juvenile Corrections Facility to provide 1:1 reading mentoring while youth are incarcerated, and Coaches 4 Life when the youth reenter their home communities. This work is funded by the Community Connectors Grant through the Ohio Department of Education.

**Best wishes to all,**

**Debby & Amy**

**Debby Ambroza & Amy Freeman**

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Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities