



# Texas Literacy Initiative Newsletter



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

MAY 2013



Since 1956, IRA has been a non-profit, global network of individuals and institutions committed to world-wide literacy. More than 60,000 members strong, the Association supports literacy professionals through a wide range of resources, advocacy efforts, volunteerism, and professional development activities. Our members promote high levels of literacy for all by:

- Improving the quality of reading instruction.
- Disseminating research and information about reading
- Encouraging the lifetime reading habit.

This year the annual convention was held in San Antonio, Texas on April 19-21, 2013. Events addressed at convention were:

- Adolescent Literacy
- Assessment
- Children's Literature
- Common Core Standards
- Early Childhood/Head Start
- English Language Learners
- Literacy Leadership
- RtI
- Struggling Learners
- Technology
- Other Literacy areas

Ms. Maria Gonzales, TLI Grant Director, DLLs, and several of the TLI teacher specialists attended and will be sharing some of these Best Practices with our district through training with other TLI



## TLI Highlights

### TLI 1st Annual Launching Literacy Event

May 20-22, 2013

BISD will have its 1st Annual Launching Literacy Event on May 20-22, 2013. BISD will have famous children's books authors visiting campuses during school hours to give students an opportunity to meet authors of books they have read. Authors will do literacy activities with students that will inspire and energize audiences to love and appreciate reading.

On May 21, community members are invited to an "Evening with the Authors," at the Brownsville Historical Museum on 641 E. Madison Street, from 4-7 p.m. The first 100 parents will receive a free book at the door. BISD is thrilled to announce the authors for this year's event will include Mike Thaler, Xavier Garza, and Lada Kratky.

Mike Thaler is a national children's book author, of over 200 published books of many well known and loved characters and is known as "America's Riddle King." Mike Thaler is considered one of the most creative forces in children's literature today. For more information on his books, <http://www.mikethaler.com/>

Xavier Garza, is a prolific author, artist, and storyteller whose work focuses primarily on his experiences growing up in the small border town of Rio Grande City. He has performed his stories in venues throughout Texas, Arizona, and Washington State. Website: [http://www.cincopuntos.com/authors\\_detail.ssg?id=47](http://www.cincopuntos.com/authors_detail.ssg?id=47)

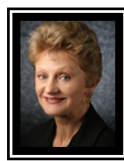
Lada Kratky a noted author, of numerous children's books and classroom resources and has authored both English and Spanish early literacy programs. As a literary expert with her M.A. in Spanish Literature. Lada was a Spanish instructor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. She has taught elementary bilingual programs and acted as a bilingual reading specialist. Kratky, a featured speaker at national educational conferences, presents strategies and techniques for effective literacy instruction and has authored several Spanish reading programs.



Mike Thaler



Xavier Garza



Lada Kratky

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May 5-11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6-17, STAAR/EOC
- May 7 National Teacher Day
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 13-19 National Children's Book Week
- May 14-16 Region One ESC, 19th Annual Technology Conference, SPI, TX
- May 20-22, TLI 1st Annual Literacy Event
- May 21, 2013, Evening with the Authors, Bro Historic Museum. 4-7 pm, FREE
- May 21, Mod. 4-5 Making Inferences & Predictions, CAB Café.
- May 22, Campus Support Mtg-EOY Data Analysis Meeting. -8-11 am SRN 91913052, Porter, Rivera, & Veterans -12:30-3:30 pm SRN 919130525, Hanna, Lopez Pace
- July 9-11 Dallas TLI Summer Summit for Admin. (Alternative)
- July 24-26 Official TLI Summer Summit for TLI, 3 Teachers, & Administrator

#### Teacher Resources:

Free Interactive maps to learn continents, countries, states, capitals, etc.

<http://www.yourchildlearns.com/map-puzzles.htm>

#### Parent Resources

<http://www.reading.org/>

Getting Your Child Ready to Read

[Download PDF](#) | [Order printed copies](#)

Supporting Your Beginning Reader

[Download PDF](#) | [Order printed copies](#)

Writing Activities for Young Readers

[Download PDF](#) | [Order printed copies](#)





# TLI SPOTLIGHT on Literacy



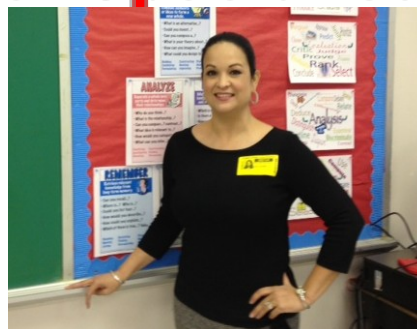
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## New TLI Teacher Specialist



**Sonia Villalon**  
Hanna High School  
Hanna Cluster



**Melissa Salazar**  
Veteran's High School  
Veteran's Cluster



## TLI 1st Annual Launching Literacy Event

**Poster for TLI Literacy Event**  
**May 20-22, 2013**

## TLI Teacher Specialist Book Study Lopez High School Literacy Line

**Lopez Literacy Line**  
**at weekly TLI meeting**  
**Discussing Book Study**  
**May 10, 2013**







# TLI SPOTLIGHT on Literacy



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## Celebrating National Poetry Month & Library Week in April

### Garza Elementary

#### Celebrating Poetry Month and Library Week

Garza Elementary TLI Teacher Specialist, Linda Garcia, read to first grade classes during Library Week. Students used their Think, Turn, and Talk Strategy during their reading.



Kinder students in Ms. Medina's class celebrated National Poetry Month on a Pocket day by reciting a variety of poetry and creating their own Poetry Pocket!



### Yturria Elementary

#### Library Week

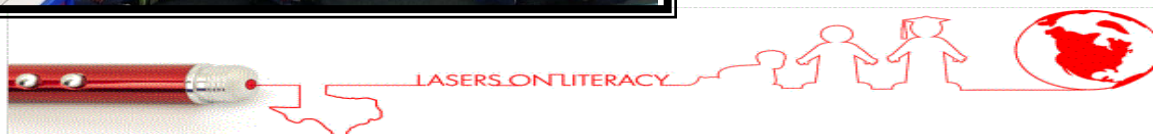
Yturria TLI Teacher Specialist, Ms. Veronica G Ortiz, doing Literacy Activities with students and parents during Family Literacy Night.



### Rancho del Cielo Head Start

#### Library Week

The Pace TLI teacher specialist Literacy Line celebrated National Library Week by reading to the children at Rancho del Cielo Head Start on Friday, April 19, 2013.





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## Vertical Alignment Meetings

Pace Literacy Line TLI Teacher Specialist



Lopez High Literacy Line



***Lopez HS, Besteiro MS, Lucio MS  
Principals, Deans, Curriculum Specialist, TLI Teacher Specialist,  
ELA, Math, and Science, Department Heads from  
Lopez High School, Besteiro Middle School, and Lucio Middle School***

