



NETWORKER

NOVEMBER, 2008

Another school year moves along quickly and we are already into the 2nd quarter. Back in August, Reading Specialist Sally Donnelly knew she wanted to provide outreach to the parents at Stenwood ES. She also knew she would plan an outreach and reflect on the process. So naturally, this became her Teacher Research question: What happens when the Reading Specialist starts a Parent Book Club? Sally didn't think twice about doing Teacher Research this year and continuing to lead a group at Stenwood. Being a reflective teacher is part of how Sally approaches teaching and lucky for her, she teaches in Fairfax County, a place that values the professional development that comes about through being a Teacher Researcher. She enthusiastically encouraged other teachers at Stenwood to be Teacher Researchers. This year 22 teachers joined, Stenwood's biggest group yet since participating in Teacher Research for the past 5 years.

Why do so many teachers at Stenwood commit to this form of professional development? Many enjoy the chance to interact with other teachers, especially teachers from other grades. Teaching can be isolating but Teacher Research gives the Stenwood teachers six half-days to meet and share their research. The chance to have a variety of teachers give feedback is a big plus! Most of the teachers know they will be trying things and reflecting on it anyway, so why not be part of a group that helps you do this in a systematic way. Many Stenwood teachers are already gearing up to present their research findings at the FCPS Teacher Research Conference on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. It is on everyone's calendar and many already feel confident that they want to share the research.



We hope your calendar is marked for the afternoon of May 27, 2009. The Fair Oaks Waterford will be the place to be that evening! Along with Stenwood, there are 22 other Fairfax County Public Schools research groups who are also busy doing research and planning to share at the conference.

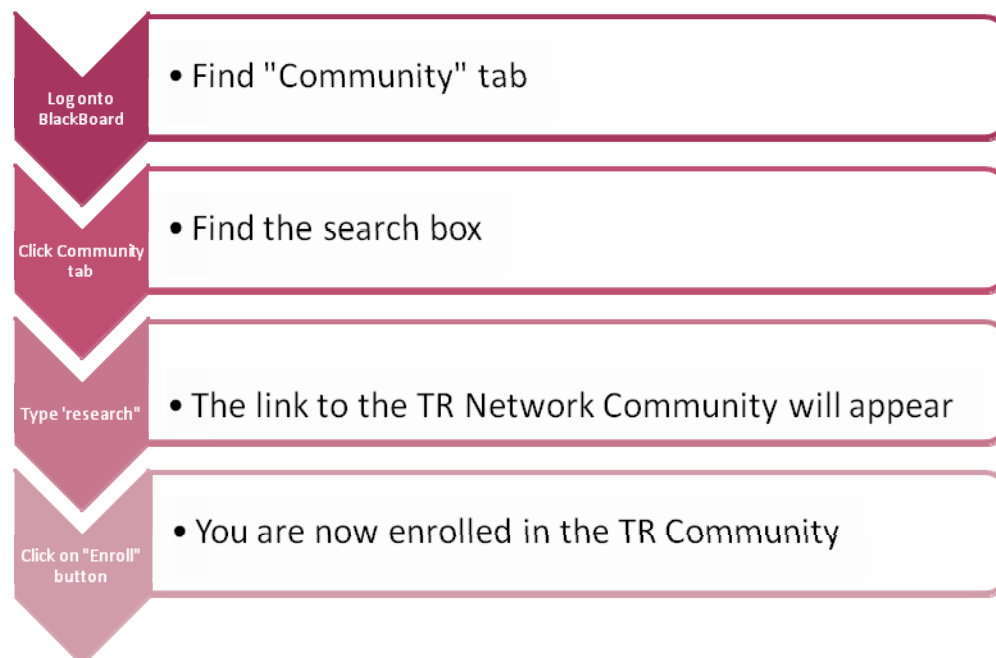
For further information, please email either [Sally Donnelly](#) or [Patty Dimetres](#)

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If any school is interested in sharing successes of their Teacher Research group as Sally did about Stenwood, email Sally Donnelly and she will add the information to the next Networker article.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Teacher Research in FCPS, simply join the Teacher Research Community site on Blackboard. How?



This site lists valuable information about Teacher Research in FPCS. Enjoy!

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