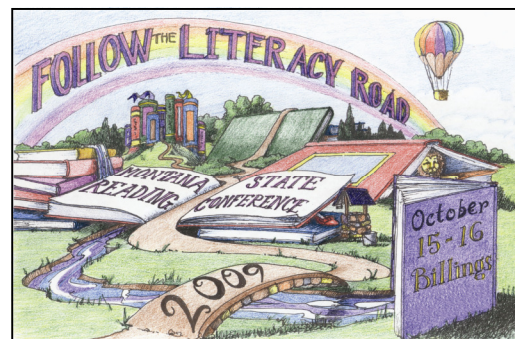


Get Ready for MSRC's Annual Conference

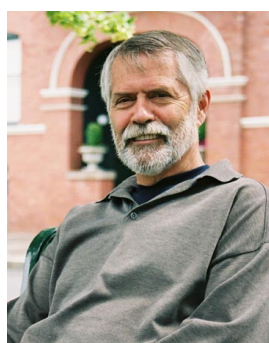
October 15-16, 2009

The Billings Hotel and Convention Center
Billings, Montana

More information available at www.montanareads.org



Featured Speakers



Chris Crutcher is an award winning novelist and therapy consultant based in Spokane, Washington. Each of his ten novels, two short story collections and his autobiography have been critically acclaimed for powerful characterizations, compelling plot-lines and a skillful balance of humor, tragedy and triumph. Crutcher has been awarded many honors including the 2000 Margaret A. Edwards Award, the 2002 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, the 2004 Writer Magazine Writers Who Make a Difference Award and the 2005 Catholic Library Association's St Katherine Drexel Award. He speaks more than 100 times a year to both national and international audiences. The following are just a few of Chris's books: *Running Loose*, *The Crazy Horse Electric Game*, *The Deep End*, *Ironman*, *The Sledding Hill* and *Deadline*.



Dr. Mary Bigler is a Professor in the Department of Teacher Education at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Her teaching experiences include 13 years at the K-12 level and 32 years as a university professor. She holds the prestigious Distinguished Teaching award from Eastern Michigan University and the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association. Mary is internationally known as a motivational speaker and consultant. She has keynoted educational conferences, programs and in-service meetings throughout the United States, Canada, Africa and Europe, sharing the podium with such notables as Jesse Jackson, Ann Landers and Zig Zigler.



Patricia Reilly Giff has written more than 60 books for young readers. She has received two Newbery Honor Awards for her middle-grade fiction. Patricia spent 20 years as a reading teacher before changing careers to become a children's author. It is her dream for children to bubble up with laughter, cry and just completely absorb themselves in books. All of her books are based in some way on her own personal experiences or the experiences of members of her family, or the stories kids would tell here in school. In 1990, Patricia combined her two greatest loves: children's books and her family, when she opened **The Dinosaur's Paw**, a children's bookstore named after one of her *Kids of the Polk Street School* novels. Besides the Polk Street series, Patricia has also written the award winning *Nory Ryan's Song*, *Lily's Crossing*, *Pictures of Hollis Woods* and *A House of Tailors*.