



P.O. Box 227, Mount Desert, ME 04660
info@islandreadersandwriters.org
(207) 244-5111

Island Readers & Writers is delighted to invite principals, teachers, school librarians, and support staff to the 2023 Dear Teacher conference, to be held on October 5 & 6, 2023 at the Collins Center for the Arts in Orono, ME! Dear Teacher is a new professional development opportunity designed for pre-K–8 educators in Maine’s small and rural schools, and is supported by the Maine Humanities Council, the National Rural Education Association, and the University of Maine’s College of Education and Human Development.

We encourage you to visit islandreadersandwriters.org/dear-teacher for all the details. Below are a few highlights of the conference offerings...

- This year’s conference has three themes: **writing & narrative, interdisciplinary learning & the humanities, and rural, place-based education.**
- Our **keynote speaker** is two-time Caldecott-awarded author and illustrator Sophie Blackall!
- Attend on Thursday, October 5 and **dig deep in one of our three intensive workshops!** Choose from a session on teaching writing with Beth Olshansky, Interdisciplinary Integration Specialist; wordless picture books with Courtney Waring, Director of Education for the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art; or diverse books with Anne Sibley O’Brien, author and illustrator.
- Friday, October 6 is **a full day of presentations, workshops and social time!** Featured speakers will include Lauren Wolk, an author of Newbery Honor and Dr. Cat Biddle of the University of Maine’s College of Education and Human Development, as well as workshops with acclaimed illustrator Melissa Sweet, Maine author & school librarian Alexandra S.D. Hinrichs, middle grade Maine author Maria Padian, and much, much more!
- We’ll offer a diverse Bookshop onsite packed with our favorite picks for grades pre-K–8, **especially books by Maine authors!**
- Thursday registration includes a **social hour and dinner**; Friday includes **coffee & muffins and lunch.**

We hope that Dear Teacher will be an opportunity that’s thoughtfully designed, sparks excitement, and encourages networking in Maine’s small and rural schools. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments about IRW or the 2023 Dear Teacher conference. We hope to see you there!

Warmly,

Kelsey E. Moore Buckley
Director of Communications
kbuckley@islandreadersandwriters.org
(207) 244-5111

P.S. The Dear Teacher conference is open to educators across Maine! Feel free to spread the word.