

# The Nugget

News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office

January 2010

Holly Hermansen, Superintendent

## News & Notes ...

### **Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program is gearing up**

By Marina Bernheimer, SS/HS Program Director

**A**s you've probably heard, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, together with our community partners, was awarded a four-year grant from the Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative to create safe and healthy environments in Nevada County schools.

We are thrilled to receive funds to provide a wide range of support services for students and their families. This comprehensive program has multiple components, including anti-bullying curriculum, school-based Family Resource Centers, mental health therapists, expanded mentor programs, substance abuse reduction, and more. By implementing evidence-based interventions and curriculum that have a proven track record of success, the SS/HS Initiative will help reduce the risk factors that come between children of all ages and their ability to learn, and to stay safe and healthy.

Since being awarded the grant, we have been busy developing the infrastructure of the program in order to prepare to implement and deliver services. The Program Director (me) began work Oct. 1. Since then, I have hired a Curriculum Coordinator, Sharyn Turner, and a Countywide Coordinator, Kristen McGrew. We also hired a professional evaluator, Transforming Local Communities, to assist with data collection and to ensure quality implementation and monitoring of all SS/HS programs.

Our SS/HS federal program officer has made it very clear that the SS/HS program is intended to roll out in a very strategic and thoughtful way. It is a requirement of the proposal that baseline data is collected for every element of the project before any program implementation takes place. This ensures that we can measure the precise impact of all programs by understanding the baseline first and then measuring related changes in behaviors, knowledge and skills

## Art exhibit opportunities for students, educators

### **Young At Art student art show at Rood Center starts Feb. 24**

Nevada County's largest student art exhibition, "Young At Art," returns to the Rood Center March through May 2010. Teachers, art instructors, art docents and others are invited to begin installing artwork on the Rood Center walls at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Due to limited space and increasing participation, schools are encouraged to install student art Feb. 24-26, though some space may be available afterward. The Rood Center is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. No space may be reserved and no art may be installed before 8 a.m. Feb. 24.

All public and private Nevada County schools may participate. Paintings, drawings, photography, collage and other two dimensional work may be hung on walls with staples, tacks and small nails. Informational flyers explaining the participation guidelines will be sent to schools and art docents soon.

For more info, contact show coordinator Paul Harrar at 478-6400 ext. 212.

### **NCSoS to host educator art exhibition**

Current and recently-retired Nevada County school staff are invited to showcase their creativity during the semi-annual exhibition "Homework: Recent Art By Nevada County Educators." The show will take place March 1-June 3, 2010 at the NCSoS.

The show will feature paintings, drawings, photography and mixed media two dimensional work. The "Homework" show aims to honor the artistic efforts of teachers who struggle to create work in their limited spare time, but whose creativity also enhances their teaching practice. Current and recently-retired school staff, substitute teachers and artists working in schools may participate. Art work that is no more than three years old will be accepted.

Paul Harrar, school arts liaison at the NCSoS, will coordinate the exhibition. For more participation info, contact Paul at 478-6400 ext. 212.

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resulting from our various interventions. I am certain that taking the time to strategically plan and develop our program will ensure that our work is effective and of the highest possible quality.

We plan to open the first Family Resource Center on the Hennessy School campus in early 2010. Additional curriculum and programs will be implemented at Nevada County schools on an ongoing basis as we develop capacity and collect appropriate data. We are eager to begin implementing the various programs in support of our students and their families.

If you have any questions about the SS/HS program, feel free to call me at the NCSoS office: 478-6400 ext. 265.

## Science Fair April 19-21

The Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair will return to the Grass Valley Elks Lodge on April 19-21. Displays will be set up on the 19th and judging will take place on the 20th. On the 22nd, the public is invited to view the projects and attend the 6:30-7 p.m. awards ceremony. The Lodge is at 109 South School Street.

The Science Fair is open to all students, but projects must be submitted to a school coordinator, rather than submitted directly to the fair. High school students are especially encouraged to participate this year.

Science Fair Coordinator Daniel Dummett has sent an info packet (including entry requirements and judging rubrics) to school principals and school science fair coordinators. Info also can be e-mailed by request, if a school does not receive one. The entry deadline is April 3.

For more info, contact Daniel at Union Hill School (273-8456 ext. 187) or by e-mail: <ddummett@uhsd.k12.ca.us>

## Art & Science field trips resume at Bridgeport

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office's Art & Science Field Trip program resumes this March through May at the

## GV art center welcomes Mud Hut to new home

The Mud Hut ceramics programs have relocated to the Artists Studio in the Foothills (ASIF) at 940 Idaho-Maryland Road in Grass Valley. Longtime Mud Hut instructors Claudia Jeffers and Denise Wey resumed their classes for youths and adults the week of Jan. 4, joining the existing ASIF ceramics program, which includes wheel-thrown pottery classes.

The Mud Hut has been sponsored since 2002 by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office. ASIF is a visual art center providing artist studio and gallery space, as well as various art classes for youths and adults. Upon hearing that the Mud Hut needed to relocate (due to earthquake safety concerns), ASIF Studio and Gallery Director Amanda Paoletti saw an opportunity to help both studios.

"The minute I heard the Mud Hut would need to relocate, I knew exactly what needed to happen - we needed to have it come here," Paoletti said. "Not only are we fulfilling an urgent need in the community, these programs will become a huge support to our studio. We are so thrilled to have these talented artists and their amazing programs as part of ASIF's offerings."

Mud Hut Manager Paul Harrar and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office is grateful to Paoletti and the ASIF community of artists for welcoming the Mud Hut instructors and students, and for making the move a relatively easy one.

"We were facing a major disruption in service to our students, especially those taking classes during school hours. ASIF has saved the day," said Harrar.

As a school arts enrichment program, the Mud Hut provides field trip classes for school groups and ongoing clay classes for several schools and home schooled students. Instructors Jeffers and Wey also teach weekly after-school, Saturday and evening classes for youths and adults, and provide birthday party clay activities for private groups of children and adults.

Harrar will continue to coordinate school requests for Mud Hut services. For field trip and other clay class info for youths and school groups, teachers and parents may call him at 478-6400 extension 212. The Mud Hut's winter class schedule may be viewed at [www.asifstudios.com](http://www.asifstudios.com)



Bridgeport State Park on the South Yuba River. Interested teachers are encouraged to make a field trip reservation in the next month to ensure having the date they need for this low-cost, local learning experience.

The program is geared to meet science standards in grades 3-5, but other grades are welcome. Hands-on learning about the interconnected flora, fauna and watershed hydrology/geology will be combined with simple art making such as field sketching. Nature songs and games also are taught by experienced outdoor educators. All students receive a field journal for their scientific investigations.

The spring program will include study of wildflowers and insects, taking advantage of the park's spectacular

floral show.

Field trip hours are generally from 9:30 or 10 a.m. to 1 or 1:30 p.m., including a lunch break. One or two classes may attend the same day. Trips may be scheduled Wednesday-Friday. The fee is \$5 per student and does not include transportation costs. Call or e-mail Paul (478-6400 x 212, <paul@nevco.k12.ca.us>) to inquire about dates, or to provide input on the educational needs of your class.

The park also offers its own field trip program with volunteer park docents leading students on nature walks. More information about this program can be obtained by calling Becky Quigley at 432-2546 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

# Training Events

Classes • Workshops • Seminars • Meetings

## Transition to kindergarten workshop

The California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) will present a "Transition to Kindergarten" workshop for preschool providers and kindergarten teachers on Jan. 27. The workshop takes place at 6 p.m. at the NCSOS Houser Room. The fee is \$10, which includes dinner and resource materials.

CPIN staff will focus on the "best practices" regarding the issues around young children transitioning from preschool to kindergarten. In addition to best practices, participants may share their own successes and concerns regarding the transitioning from preschool to kindergarten.

Please look at the NCSOS website ([www.nevco.k12.ca.us](http://www.nevco.k12.ca.us)) for registration information. You also may contact Stan Miller at 478-6400 ext. 205 for more info.

## Classroom origami workshop Feb. 22

Exciting, fun origami projects for students will be shared with teachers during "Paperpalooza III: Origami!" from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 in the NCSoS Fellersen Room. The cost is \$10, which includes refreshments and resource materials.

Longtime Nevada City Home Study Charter School director/art teacher Connie Harrar will teach participants several unusual origami projects geared for students in grades 3 and up. Projects include a picture frame, a folding memory book and a 14-piece star. Harrar will model how to successfully teach the projects and provide hand-outs that illustrate each folding step. Origami books and many project how-to hand-outs will be available.

The third biennial papercraft workshop is a prelude to springtime Japanese-American cultural studies in schools. These studies are related to countywide reading of the novel "Snow Falling On Cedars" and memoir "Farewell To Manzanar." The books are part of the annual Nevada County Reads program co-sponsored by the NCSoS and Nevada County Library.

Workshop registration is requested through Paul Harrar: 478-6400 ext. 212 or <[paul@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:paul@nevco.k12.ca.us)>

## First Aid and CPR training continues

First aid and CPR training continues at the NCSoS through 2010. This program, designed and approved by the American Heart Association, is recommended for coaches, physical education teachers, classroom teachers, administrators, instructional aides and secretaries.

Thursday classes in 2010 are Jan. 28, March 18, April 29, May 27, June 17, July 8, Aug. 28, Sept. 9, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2.

Saturday classes in 2010 are Jan. 30, Feb. 20, March 6, April 24, May 15, June 26, July 17, Aug. 19, Sept. 18, Oct. 30, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

Thursday classes are 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturday classes are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is \$30. Reimbursement receipts are available. Pre-register by e-mailing Nikki Johnson at <[njohnson@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:njohnson@nevco.k12.ca.us)>

## Special education video training series continues at NCSoS through March

The Nevada County SELPA Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) continues its video training program geared for parents. Videos are screened in the NCSoS Houser Room.

The series continues with the following:

- Jan. 25 (9:30-11:30 a.m.): "School to Work -Transition for Students with Special Needs" with Beth Moore from Nevada Union High School.

- Feb. 23 (9:30-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.): "Autism and Me" and "Asperger's Syndrome" videos.

- March 22 (9:30-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.): "Learning Disabilities and Self Esteem" video.

Flyers for each video series event will be distributed to schools. To RSVP, or for more info, contact Randy McKean 265-0611 ext. 203.

## Developmental Asset of the Month

### Asset #10

**A young person feels safe at home, at school  
and in the neighborhood.**

Students need a loving, caring, violence-free environment at school, home and in the community. They need knowledge and skills to remove themselves from unsafe situations and to make good judgments when they don't feel safe.

A reminder from Got 40? (formerly MADE 4 Youth) the local nonprofit organization inspired by the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. For more info about the 40 Developmental Assets, see [www.search-institute.org/](http://www.search-institute.org/)

***Practice random and  
intentional acts of asset building every day!***

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### Mark Twain to engage students at Nevada Theatre

Writer and humorist Mark Twain returns to the historic Nevada Theatre to perform for student audiences Feb. 16-19. The one-man shows by veteran Twain impersonator Chris LeGate will be staged at 10 a.m. Admission is \$10.

"What would Mark Twain think of America today?" is the theme of the show. Explains LeGate, who has performed Twain since 1994, "Mark Twain would want to point out who we are and where we come from. He would be the first to point out the mistakes we have made and perhaps are still making, but he would also remind us that this country is made up of the best and the worst of the human race.

The first act will portray Twain as he looked while working for the Territorial Enterprise newspaper during the 1860s Virginia City silver strike. He will discuss his younger years in Hannibal, Missouri, and on the Mississippi River. The second act will portray the older, iconic Twain as he discusses his views on American involvement in world politics. The show will conclude with an audience question and answer session.

LeGate thinks the show is ideal for students studying Twain's writing, U.S. government and the California history of the Gold Rush era. The printed programs, or playbills, will include literary and historical information and bibliographical references, guiding audience members to source material.

Twain gave public lectures twice in the Grass Valley-Nevada City area in the 1860s, including a show at the Nevada Theatre, where he discussed his travels in the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii).

Student matinee reservations may be made by contacting Comika Beudry at 277-7513.

### 6th annual Nevada County Reads will focus on Japanese-American themes

The Nevada County Reads Committee has chosen the novel "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson as the 2010 book selection.

Now in its 6th year, Nevada County Reads is a countywide literary event involving schools, libraries, book reading groups, bookstores and the general public. It principally encourages reading and discussion of quality books.

Students, teachers and other community members are encouraged to read and discuss "Snow Falling On Cedars," which is geared for high schoolers and adults. The novel is a compelling account of a murder trial on an island in Puget Sound. It also deals with racial prejudice toward Japanese-Americans post World War II.

In conjunction with this Asian-American story, Nevada County Reads also encourages middle school students to read "Farewell To Manzanar," an acclaimed memoir of the World War II internment camp experience written by Jeanne and James Houston. A book selection for elementary students will be announced soon.

The Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra will stage an adaptation of the "Snow Falling On Cedars" for student audiences on April 1. As NCSoS origami workshop is Feb. 22 (See Page 4.)

The Nevada County Reads Committee encourages the community to consider purchasing the books for students.

Nevada County Reads events will begin with a "Kick-Off" event Feb. 24 and continue through April.

### Australian performance for schools at GV Center

Crane Culture Theater and the local AirAligned aerial dance group invite schools to a performance of its new production "Enora and the Black Crane" at the Center for Performing Arts in Grass Valley. This Australian aboriginal tale focuses on cultural connections with nature, and the laws that govern this particular culture. The consequences of a teenager's actions have a profound effect on him and his family.

School programs are now being booked for Jan. 16, 19, and 23. March dates TBA also will be offered.

This one-hour program features a narrated dance performance, which integrates evocative masks, costumes and a puppet along with indigenous music. AirAligned performs dramatic creative movement on ropes.

The price per program is \$5-\$6 per person, depending on the group size. For info, call Bruce Forman at 916-536-0550 or email Bruce at <beforman@yahoo.com>.

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