

The Nugget



News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office
May 2013 *Holly Hermansen, Superintendent*

News & Notes

STEP UP to Kindergarten – A FREE Kindergarten Readiness Camp

Lindsay Dunckel, PhD

Executive Director of First 5 Nevada County

Step Up to Kindergarten is a FREE program offered by First 5 Nevada County to help get children ready for the big step into school. This year's program begins on Wednesday, July 17 and runs for three weeks, through Tuesday, August 6. Classes will be held at Bell Hill School, Ready Springs School, and Deer Creek School. The bonus of this program is that children can make the transition to Kindergarten by practicing with a smaller class size and higher adult-to-child ratio – and have only a 1-week break before school starts.

Children from all schools are welcome to attend one of the classes. The Grass Valley classroom will have a Spanish/English bilingual aid. Each day will begin at 9:00 and end at noon and will include the kinds of activities typical of a Kindergarten class – circle time, story time, small group work time, calendar time, choice time, snack time, playground time. Children will sing, paint, draw, play, build, listen, and learn.

Also incorporated are the first 6 lessons of the social-emotional curriculum, Second Step, which focus on “learning skills” such as listening, focusing attention, using self-talk to help in following directions, and asking for what you need.

The children will get a lot of practice making transitions from one activity to another and following teacher directions – skills that will make them really ready for Kindergarten. They will also learn to navigate in a group, and get comfortable in a larger school setting including on the playground.

STEP UP to Kindergarten teachers will be Cynthia Wiberg, retired long-time Kindergarten teacher from Hennessy school; Jackie Adams, retired long-time Head Start teacher; and Lindsay Dunckel, director of First 5 and past preschool (and college!) teacher. Each teacher will have an experienced full time aid in the classroom. All of these adults have a

wonderful way with children; from the shy to the very active, and are looking forward to meeting the children!

Who should come to these classes?

- Any child, regardless of “academic” readiness, who has not attended preschool.
- Any child who has attended preschool less than 5 days a week – it's a big transition to start going to school every day.
- Any child who has trouble separating from his/her parent(s) – this smaller and more flexible setting will give the child practice before the first day of school.
- Any child who is very shy and is challenged by new settings or new faces or new routines. Getting comfortable in a small classroom in a school setting will make that first day of Kindergarten less daunting.
- Any child who needs to practice following directions, focusing attention, and the like.
- Any other child who could use a “boost” to be ready for school – because of special needs, lack of skills, or any other reason that leads you to think your child could benefit from this program.

Please call First 5 Nevada County at 265-0611 x223 with questions. They are here to help you! Flyers are available for distribution. Registration, more information, and photos of last year's program are all on the website at www.first5nevco.org.

PHASE II – Common Core State Standards for ELA, Math, & 6-12 Disciplines

By Judy Nielsen

Nugget Editor

NCSOS is sponsoring *free* to Nevada County teachers and administrators, one day workshops on August 5-6-7, 2013. These workshops are for TK-12th grade teachers in Math, ELA, and other disciplines including History/Social Science, Science, and Technical Subjects (CTE, Art, and Humanities).

The workshops will focus on HOW to implement the CCSS in your classroom, including time for participants to build

common core lessons. This will be a perfect entre back into the 2013-14 school-year. Because workshops take place at the end of the summer it is imperative that you register by the deadline of May 28, 2013. If there are not a minimum number of registrants for a particular workshop, it will be cancelled.

The program overview of the seven workshops appears in this edition of *the Nugget* following the Quick Reference Calendar. Be sure to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

To view individual fliers for each workshop or to access the on-line registration, link to <http://nevco.org/ccss-registration/>.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Outcomes 2013

By Marina Bernheimer

Safe Schools ~ Healthy Students Project Director

The Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) grant that was awarded to Nevada County Superintendent of Schools in July 2009 ends its four year funding cycle on June 30, 2013. SSHS staff and partners are celebrating the positive outcomes Nevada County students and families have achieved in the last four years and those programs and services that are being sustained beyond grant funding.

School-based Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in Grass Valley, Penn Valley, and on the San Juan Ridge have been widely embraced by community members, school campuses, and partner agencies. We are thrilled that the FRCs will be sustained for the next two years with funding from Nevada County First Five Commission, Nevada County CalWORKS, and the Child Abuse Prevention Council. The Grass Valley, Ready Springs, and Twin Ridges School Districts will continue to provide space on school campuses to house the Family Resource Centers.

One of the most vital services offered at the FRCs is Behavioral Health Therapists available to work with students regardless of insurance status. Systems-change is a primary focus of the SSHS grant and one of the initiative's guiding goals was to increase access to mental health services for students. By working in collaboration with Nevada County Children's Behavioral Health, FRCs will continue to host Behavioral Health Therapists who will provide group and individual counseling on school campuses for Medi-Cal eligible students.

Increased access to mental health services was a crucial goal of the SSHS grant. Since 2009, over 600 students received grant-funded mental health services from the High School Crisis Counselor and school-based Therapists. More than 700 students participated in support groups at school to promote resiliency, self-esteem, and healthy relationships.

SSHS grant services, programs, and activities have been tracked by an independent, professional evaluator. Multiple areas, including school safety, student alcohol drug use and abuse, and mental health services have been tracked using California Healthy Kids Survey data with 2008 as the baseline. The evaluation shows some significant improvements in several key areas for local students:

- The percentage of students from grades 7, 9, and 11 who reported experiencing some form of harassment on school property in the past 12 months was significantly improved across all three grade levels surveyed during the SSHS grant period. Between 2008 baseline and 2012, 35% fewer 7th graders, 34% fewer 9th graders, and 29% fewer 11th graders reported being harassed at school.
- The percentage of students who reported being in a fight on school property during the last 12 months decreased significantly from baseline. Since 2008, there was a 35% decrease for 9th graders and a 40% decrease among 11th graders in the percentage reporting being in a fight on campus.
- The percentage of 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students who reported that they consider themselves a member of a gang decreased across all grade levels surveyed. 7th graders declined by 38%, 9th graders declined by 13% and 11th graders declined by 43%.

As we wrap up grant-funded programs and services, we are grateful for the support of so many teachers, administrators and students who have supported Nevada County's SSHS programs directly and indirectly. Starting July 1, 2013, SSHS will begin a one year no cost-extension to finish incomplete grant-funded activities and spend carryover dollars. Although the SSHS initiative is nearing the end of its funding cycle, we will continue to seek additional funds during our no-cost extension year to sustain many valuable programs and services that were initiated by SSHS.

Classified School Employees of the Year Honored

By Judy Nielsen

Nugget Editor

Each year the California Department of Education promotes a program to honor classified employees. This year nine Nevada County school districts each have a Classified School Employee of the Year (CSEY) who is being honored during Classified School Employee Week, May 20-24, 2013. These fine people represent the contributions of classified school employees who support the education of California's public school students in preschool through grade twelve. The goal of the program is to identify exemplary classified school employees in the categories of: Child Nutrition; Maintenance, Operations, & Facilities; Office & Technical; Para-educator & Instructional Assistance; Support Services & Security; and, Transportation.

This year these Nevada County exemplary employees are:

- Para-educator & Instructional Assistance
 - Robin Fields – Chicago Park SD
 - Lisa McLelland – Pleasant Valley SD

News & Notes... continues on page 3

- Maintenance, Operations & Facilities
 - Robert Karbowski – Union Hill SD
 - Barbara Watkins – Ready Springs SD
- Office & Technical
 - Jennifer Vierra – Clear Creek SD
 - Annette McTighe – Nevada City SD
 - Diana S. Ely – NCSOS Office
 - Vicky DeLaVega – Grass Valley SD
- Support Services & Security
 - Chris Espedal – NJUHSD

When you see these people hard at work, take a moment to recognize their excellent contributions that benefit the children of Nevada County and your educational site.



PARTNERS Family Resource Centers: ART FOR KIDS SAKE – A Benefit Art Auction

By Laurie Blakemore
FRC VISTA Volunteer

Twenty young artists from various schools within Nevada County donated their works of

art for this fundraising event, which raised funds to support core services offered at the PARTNERS Family Resource Centers (FRCs). In addition to raising funds, the event allowed staff and supporters of the FRCs to celebrate and highlight their work in support of local families.

The auction featured the work of young local artists, and also auctioned artwork that was donated from local professional artists, Ron Rodecker, illustrator and creator of the acclaimed PBS Children’s Television series *Dragon Tales*’, Loana Beeson, and Stan Miller.

There was an artist reception before the event for all youth who contributed artwork to be honored. Bella Drake, a contributing artist, said, “If I draw or paint a picture I put a lot of work into it. When I grow up I want to be some kind of an artist. It (the artists’ reception) was the best day of my life.” Bella’s father, Hawkeye, said, “The FRC has given Bella opportunities to develop her creativity and amazing talents, and be recognized by the community. She is shining! The fundraiser was a wonderful opportunity to share and meet others with the FRC.”

The FRCs thank, not only the guests and wonderful artists who donated their works of art, but also the Holbrooke Hotel, Starbucks, music by Sols Duo, and to all the staff and volunteers who made the event possible.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

CCSS for ELA, Math, & 6-12 Disciplines: REGISTER BY MAY 28, 2013

The program overview of seven workshops appears in this edition of ***the Nugget*** following the Quick Reference Calendar. Be sure to take advantage of this valuable opportunity sponsored by the NCSOS office. View individual fliers for each workshop or access the on-line registration at <http://nevco.org/ccss-registration/>.

Field Trips

Music in the Mountains

Woodwinds Scheduled for MUSIC LIVE 2013-14

The Music Live Program visits school sites throughout the school year, providing free all-school assemblies.

Each year a section of the orchestra is featured. Next year will complete a 4-year cycle featuring woodwinds.

These MIM Educational Programs are FREE to Nevada County Schools:

- * Peers Performing 4 Peers
- * Music Live
- * Classics 4 Kids
- * Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program

Call the MIM office at 265.6173 x202 to speak with MIM Education Director Mark Vance.

Opportunities for All

Hot Off the Press: Two Extraordinary NCTV Camp Opportunities

Two summer videography camps are being offered, very different from each other.

‘Be a Star’ is tailored for students with communication or social skill deficits.

Local Speech Therapists Laura Rohrsen and Teresa Talbott, along with six Ghidotti Early College High School volunteers, will conduct this carefully planned camp July 29 – August 9. For more info call 205-3116, outoftheboxtherapy@gmail.com, or Facebook.com/outoftheboxtherapy.

Learn the basics of filming and editing this June and July at ‘Moviemaking Camp’. These are week-long camps to inspire story telling through video. Weekly sessions for beginners, age 10-13, are in June and continue through July. Intermediate and advanced students will have sessions in July. Instructors are Colin Brant and Doug Bertran. Mr. Bertran has produced science and nature shows for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Nova, PBS Nature and more. For more info call 265-9486.

SYRCL’s River Ambassador Program for 18 years & Up

SYRCL is accepting resumes thru May 18 to fill four River Captain positions.

Trainings, Field Trips, Opportunities for All... continues on page 4

In addition, anyone 18 years or older can be trained to be a River Ambassador. For more info contact Andrew Collins-Anderson at Andrew@syrcl.org or 265-5961.

Story Club of Nevada County

Story Club of Nevada County promotes the love of books, stories and reading. 2-4 p.m., every 3rd Saturday of the month: May 18, June 15, July 20, and August 17. Meet at the Briar Patch community room to participate in stories, poems, and songs. There are no age restrictions and no charge. Each child receives a free book before leaving. For more info email rosegr@hotmail.com.

In Addition to CPR & First Aid Training: **JUST ADDED! EMSA for Childcare Providers**

CPR & First Aid classes are held at NCSOS in the Houser Room and continue through May, June, July, and August. In addition, EMSA, CPR, & First Aid will be offered June 22 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. This class is rarely offered but is required for all childcare providers. Class size is limited and reservations are first come-first serve. The current class schedule appears below in the **Nugget** Quick Reference Calendar. The \$30 fee must be prepaid

to reserve a spot in the class. Register on-line at www.nevco.org/register. For further information contact Anna McMillen at 478-6400 x201 or amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us.

E-Waste Drive to Benefit Union Hill School

Old Barn Self Storage will be collecting, on their site, every day from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., E-waste for the entire month of June to support Union Hill School. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the school. Turn in anything with a plug. (No refrigerators, washers, driers, or large T.V.s.) For more info contact Jeanette Mosby at Union Hill School, 273-8456.

ART WAVE: Summer Creativity Workshops for Female Teachers

Renew yourself this summer with a creative weekend – June 21-23, July 12-14 or August 2-4 - that will include acrylic painting, fabric painting, collage, encaustic, mosaic, watercolor and writing. These weekends are tailored for teachers to reclaim themselves. Contact local artists Denise Wey at 477-7843 or Lil McGill at 277-0397.

Exploring Careers in Health: Application Deadline EXTENDED

Exploring Careers in Health Summer Institute will be held June 17-21, 2013. The institute is open to students grades 9-12 who are interested in a career in health related fields. Apply at <http://nevco.org/exploring-health-careers/>. **The extended deadline to apply is June 3.**

Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

The New Science Teacher Academy (NSTA) provides exceptional professional development fellowships. These fellowships are for new teachers in their second through fifth year of teaching middle or high school science, to enhance their skills and content knowledge. For more information or to complete the simple application by August 1 visit www.nsta.org/academy.

*If you have received funding or services from one of our Finding Funding tips we'd love to hear about it and share with our readers! Contact **Nugget** Editor Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.*

Quick Reference Calendar...

Calendar events have been highlighted in previous editions of **The Nugget** and are listed in chronological order. Back issues of **The Nugget**, with additional information, can be found at www.nevco.org.



Young at Art celebrating Youth Art Month

March 4 – May 24 artwork displayed
May 27 – 29, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. pickup artwork*

*Due to a remodel project in both upstairs hallways at the Rood Center, teachers are encouraged to pick-up artwork beginning May 24.



The Cinderella Project ~FREE Prom & Graduation Attire

Open each Saturday in May from 9-4

Quick Reference Calendar... continues on page 5

2013 OPPORTUNITIES – PHASE II: The *HOW* of Common Core State Standards

Presenters are professional trainers from Placer County Office of Education.

MATH: Phase II		
Decomposing What? Domain Counting & Cardinality/Numbers & Operations in Base 10	TK-2	August 5, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS
Developing Algebraic Thinking Domain Operations & Algebraic Thinking	TK-5	August 6, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS
Fractions Are Numbers Too! Domain Numbers & Operation Fractions	3-5	August 7, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS
ELA: Phase II		
Literacy! Strategies for the 4-8 Classroom	4-8	August 5, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS
Literacy! Strategies for the 9-12 Classroom	9-12	August 6, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS ANNEX
Literacy! Strategies for the K-3 Classroom	K-3	August 7, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS
Knowledge in the Disciplines Content in History/Social Science, Science, and Technical Subjects including CTE, Art, & Humanities	6-12	August 7, 2013 8:30-3:30 NCSOS

For more information -

STANTON MILLER
Associate Superintendent of Schools
Educational Services
smiller@nevco.k12.ca.us
530.478.6400 x205

HOW TO REGISTER
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
<http://nevco.org/ccss-registration/>
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS: MAY 28

SPONSORED BY: Nevada County Supt. of Schools ~ EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
NCSOS / 112 Nevada City Highway / Nevada City, CA 95959 / 530.478.6400