

## News & Notes

### **Promotora Services Offered at the Grass Valley PARTNERS FRC**

**By Project Director Marina Bernheimer**  
*Safe Schools/Healthy Students*

A *Promotora* is a community member with specialized training to provide culturally-appropriate mental health and social services to Latino families. Western Nevada County has a small but growing community of Spanish-speaking families. Our local Family Resource Centers (FRCs) provide targeted services to support Latino students and their families. Nohemi Meade is a *Promotora* whose home base is the Grass Valley FRC located next to Grass Valley Charter School.

Promotora services are funded from the Mental Health Services Act. These services are meant to help reduce mental health stigma in the local Latino community. By decreasing the stigma attached to mental illness, parents are more likely to seek support for themselves and their children when mental health needs arise. This goal is accomplished by the following services offered by Nohemi:

- Actively seeking out strong male leaders in the Latino community to come together and help plan community events.
- Connecting mental health with physical, emotional, and social health through monthly events that bring in local speakers and experts.
- Bringing a free series of salsa dance classes to engage people and including a presentation on mental health issues as part of the class.
- Creating social opportunities through celebrations of cultural events such as a Posada in December and King's Day in January. These events promote

connections and reduce isolation among community members.

- Funding through a federal grant to help enroll Latino community members in Medi-Cal and CoveredCA health insurance programs.

We know that our entire community benefits when we provide culturally appropriate services to all families, to ensure that they have the best opportunities to live healthy lives and contribute in positive ways to our community. Nohemi Meade can be reached at the Grass Valley FRC at 273-7077.

### **SYRCL Launches Water Conservation Program as Drought Threatens**

**Rachel Hutchinson**

*SYRCL River Programs Manager*

The South Yuba River Citizens League's (SYRCL) River Education Program is re-launching "The Great Water Mystery" – an interactive in-school assembly program that uses an engaging mystery story to teach children about water conservation. The goal of "The Great Water Mystery" assemblies is to encourage kids to incorporate simple water conservation techniques into their daily lives.

SYRCL will be producing over 30 assemblies over the next 10 months with funding from Nevada Irrigation District, City of Grass Valley, and Placer County Water Agency. This collaboratively funded program comes at a crucial time for water conservation as the state of California is in the middle of a severe drought. Californians are being asked to reduce their water consumption by 20%.

"SYRCL's 'Great Water Mystery' starts a critical conversation with local students about where our water comes from, where it goes, and the power each of us has to

ensure there is enough of this precious resource for us and all of the other species who depend on the river," said Shana Maziarz, SYRCL Board Member and co-chair of SYRCL's River Education Committee.

"The Great Water Mystery" teaches California and National Science Standards, making it extremely desirable to teachers, and fitting well with school curriculum requirements. The presentation is adapted for each grade level, so that the "mystery story" teaches age-appropriate science concepts for kindergarten through eighth grade while delivering a powerful message about water conservation. The presentation stars "Detective Drizzle" and uses hilarious audience participation, dramatic slides, exciting demonstrations and fun stories to keep students and teachers engaged while teaching them to understand the effects that their actions have on our water supply. SYRCL's assembly program educated over 234,000 students about water conversation before it ended in 2007 due to a lack of funds.

SYRCL would like to thank the Nevada Irrigation District, The City of Grass Valley, and Placer County Water Agency for providing funding to make this fabulous program possible again. Assemblies will begin in March, but water conservation starts today.

*For school administrators interested in scheduling an assembly for their school, please contact Andrew Collins-Anderson, at [andrew@syrc.org](mailto:andrew@syrc.org).*

## **NCSOS Hires Staff Members To Serve Districts Countywide**

**By Shar Johns**

*Associate Supt. of Schools for Educational Services*

NCSOS welcomes Kathleen Kiefer and Chris Espedal to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office. In an effort to increase the level of services NCSOS provides to our districts, we have brought Kathleen and Chris on board to implement that goal.

Kathleen Kiefer is the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability. She comes to us with 20+ years of experience as a veteran teacher and curriculum leader in the Pleasant Ridge School District. Kathleen will be working to provide professional development opportunities and direct support with Common Core implementation and instructional best practices. Additionally, she will be leading our new Common Core Coaches to provide support directly into classrooms as requested by teachers. Kathleen looks forward to customizing a professional development program to meet the needs of your school.

Chris Espedal, Safety and School Climate Coordinator, will be working to support schools and districts in the planning, training and implementation of school climate and safety plans and procedures. Chris brings her expertise and knowledge in the area of school safety from the Nevada

Joint Union High School District. In addition to holding a B.S. in Hospital Administration and Emergency Management, Chris is a certified trainer in Community Emergency Response Team training and Sources of Strength. She is available to work with Nevada County schools in all areas of safety and climate. Additionally, Chris is training with Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) regional teams and is looking forward to providing PBIS coaching and training for our schools.

Nevada County schools are fortunate to have both of these phenomenal staff additions to help serve you. If they haven't already, expect that Kathleen and Chris will be visiting your campuses soon. NCSOS looks forward to providing services to meet the individual needs of our districts in all areas of professional development and school safety.

## **NJUHSD: Student CERT Exercise at Bear River High School**

**By Chris Espedal**

*Safety & School Climate Coordinator*

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a federal program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Nevada County CERT program headed up by Patti Carter, Emergency Manager, Nevada County Health Department, helps to provide necessary curriculum and supplies for the Teen CERT program. Collaboration with local first responders and classroom instruction offers students valuable training and life-long skills.

Over the past several months, under the direction of instructors, Chris Espedal and Cindy Harrison, students received extensive training in fire suppression, triage, medical response, search and rescue, and the Incident Command System. On January 14, 2014 Bear River and Nevada Union High School Teen CERT programs put their training to the test with a full-scale exercise.

Students were given a scenario and worked in teams to respond appropriately. The scenario included the current weather, an earthquake hitting the area that caused power lines and communications to be down, and one power line dropped on a propane tank at Bear River High School, causing an explosion that badly damaged a classroom with student victims inside. In the exercise CERT teams were activated to triage, rescue, and treat victims.

The team worked calmly and carefully looking through the wreckage for victims and assessing injuries. They worked as quickly as possible reassuring victims that they were there to help them, carried victims to the medical area for treatment, treated them with basic first aid, and made them as comfortable as possible until medical aid arrived.

Student CERT teams are a valuable and important part of

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emergency preparations. They may be the first responders to any emergency event on a campus. These exercises solidify training, identify strengths, introduce new skills, highlight areas that can be improved, and build team coherence.

## 2014 Writing Tournament Results

By Bonnie Smart

Countywide Tournaments Coordinator

Forty-one seventh and eighth grade students from eleven local public, private and charter schools competed in the countywide Writing Tournament at Miners Foundry Cultural Center on January 16. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office coordinated the annual event which was sponsored by Miners Foundry.

Students were judged on three styles of writing: expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Letter Writing. For the Expository Writing portion Del Clement of the Nevada County Sheriff's Search and Rescue gave a presentation to the students regarding the Search and Rescue teams. Afterwards, the students were given time to write a paper on what they had heard and seen. For the Creative Writing portion students wrote compositions based on the prompt "My Pet Can Talk!" And finally, in the category of Letter Writing students were asked to write a letter to the Editor of The Union expressing their views on positive role models. Winners were as follows:

### Sweepstakes:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Leah Ellis – Seven Hills

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Annie McDaniel – Mount St. Mary's Academy

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

#### Expository Writing:

First: Devin Anderson – Grass Valley Charter

Second: Keegan O'Sullivan – Chicago Park

Third: Leah Ellis – Seven Hills

Fourth: Sarah Shine – Union Hill

Fifth: Balam Shenachie – Ready Springs

#### Creative Writing:

First: Seanan Maher – Nevada City School of the Arts

Second: Elana Hierman – Nevada City School of the Arts

Third: Sarah Shine – Union Hill

Fourth: Keegan O'Sullivan – Chicago Park

Fifth: Rylee Bautista – Union Hill

Brenna Chargin – Seven Hills

#### Letter Writing:

First: Leah Ellis – Seven Hills

Second: Seanan Maher – Nevada City School of the Arts

Third: Rylee Bautista – Union Hill

Fourth: Sarah Shine – Union Hill

Fifth: Kaitlin Herrera - Magnolia

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

#### Expository Writing:

First: Annie McDaniel – Mount St. Mary's Academy

Second: Jenna Krugler – Seven Hills

Third: Riley Slater – Clear Creek

Fourth: Allison Weaver – Union Hill

Fifth: Ryan Brott – Seven Hills

#### Creative Writing:

First: Savannah Collyer – Magnolia

Second: Annie McDaniel – Mount St. Mary's Academy

Third: Riley Slater – Clear Creek

Fourth: Allison Weaver – Union Hill

Fifth: Cameron Richards – Pleasant Valley

#### Letter Writing:

First: Ryan Brott - Seven Hills

Second: Anna O'Neill – Mount St. Mary's Academy

Third: Jenna Krugler – Seven Hills

Fourth: Veronica Rutherford – Magnolia

Fifth: Alexandra Brown – Union Hill

Annie McDaniel - Mount St. Mary's Academy

## 2014 Math Tournament Results

By Bonnie Smart

Countywide Tournaments Coordinator

One hundred and thirty of Nevada County's top mathematic students from seventeen local public, private and charter schools recently competed in the countywide Math Tournament coordinated by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' office. The two-day event was sponsored by Telestream, Inc. and Miners Foundry Cultural Center. Mike Schmidt, a retired Pleasant Valley School teacher, served as emcee. Competition consisted of Problem Solving, Geometry and Computation for grades 5 through 8 with Special Topics added for seventh and eighth graders.

After spending the morning testing their abilities, the following overall High Score Sweepstakes Winners were:

Grade 5: Sarah Day – Pleasant Valley

Grade 6: Sonora Slater – Clear Creek

Grade 7: Kelly Muir – Grass Valley Charter

Grade 8: Ryan Brott – Seven Hills

Other First Place Winners were:

#### Problem Solving:

Grade 5: Calais Poirson – Seven Hills

Grade 6: Sonora Slater – Clear Creek

Alexandra Zetterberg – Grass Valley Charter

Grade 7: Kelly Muir – Grass Valley Charter

Grade 8: Ryan Brott – Seven Hills

#### Geometry:

Grade 5: Sarah Day – Pleasant Valley

Grade 6: Zara Katzenstein – Grass Valley Charter

Maggie Pruett – Mt. St. Mary's Academy

Sonora Slater – Clear Creek

Grade 7: Kelly Muir – Grass Valley Charter

Grade 8: Ryan Brott – Seven Hills

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Computation:

Grade 5: Sarah Day – Pleasant Valley  
Grade 6: Sonora Slater – Clear Creek  
Grade 7: Kelly Muir – Grass Valley Charter

Grade 8: Ryan Brott – Seven Hills

Special Topics:

Grade 7: Kelly Muir – Grass Valley Charter  
Grade 8: Ryan Brott – Seven Hills

## ***Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All***

### **Trainings**

#### **#6 of Six Early Childhood Education Workshops: Positivity**

On Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. join presenter Machen MacDonald with the final workshop for this year. What a great way to end, with Positivity!

A light dinner will be provided. Individuals attending at least four of the six workshops will receive a \$60 stipend. To register go to [www.first5nevco.org](http://www.first5nevco.org) or call Sandi at 274-5361. Video conferencing is available from Truckee but participants must register a minimum of one week prior to the workshop.

### **Field Trips**



***Music in the Mountains***

Classics 4 Kids, the annual countywide 4<sup>th</sup> grade concert, takes place on Thursday, May 22 at the Nevada Theatre. This year's concert will highlight the *Musical Arts Quintet*. This crossover string ensemble combines a fabulous mixture of classical, rock, tango and more. Concert times will be determined based on school sign-ups and bus availability. Busses are paid for by NCSOS. For more information or to sign up contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

#### **InConcert Sierra Chamber Concert Tickets Free to Students**

InConcert Sierra offers free youth tickets to each of their chamber concerts, to introduce youth to classical music. Students must be accompanied by an adult. The April 20<sup>th</sup> concert features the Boston Brass. For more information call 273-3990 or go to [www.info@inconcertsierra.org](mailto:www.info@inconcertsierra.org).

### **Opportunities for All**

#### **Cinderella Project for Junior/Senior Prom Attire & 8th Grade Graduation**

The Cinderella Project provides formal attire to high school juniors and seniors for their proms and senior balls. Appropriate short dresses are also available for 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. Students must be referred by using the on-line form at [www.NCCinderellaProject.us](http://www.NCCinderellaProject.us). Boutiques are held every Saturday, 9-4 April 5-May 10. Eighth graders are invited to the Boutique on May 10 only. To volunteer call 268-5172 or email [nccinderellaproject@gmail.com](mailto:nccinderellaproject@gmail.com).

#### **PARTNERS FRCs: 'Art for Kids Sake' Benefit Art Auction**

The school-based PARTNERS Family Resource Centers (FRCs) offer Nevada County students and their families a variety of services, including parenting classes, computer labs, lending libraries, clothes closets, food pantries, assistance in navigating the new healthcare

programs, Behavioral Health therapists and much more.

ART FOR KIDS SAKE, the second annual benefit art auction for the FRCs, takes place Wednesday, April 23, in support of Nevada County's three family resource centers. There will be a reception for the artists (student art) from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The auction evening for adults takes place from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The auction will raise funds for PARTNERS programs that serve all Nevada County families in need. For more info or to purchase tickets contact Kristin McGrew at 478-6400 x264 or [kmcgrew@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:kmcgrew@nevco.k12.ca.us).

#### **CPR & First Aid Training**

See the Quick Reference Calendar below for dates & times thru April 2014, including an EMSA class on June 7. CPR & First Aid Training is \$30 and the EMSA class is \$65. The EMSA class is especially designed to meet the requirement for child care providers and preschool employees. Reservations are first come, first serve. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in the class. For further information call Faith 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at [www.nevco.org/register](http://www.nevco.org/register).

#### **Finding Funding: Tip of the Month**

InConcert Sierra offers a \$1000 teen scholarship each Spring for a student to pursue musical goals. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2014. Apply online at [www.inconcertsierra.org](http://www.inconcertsierra.org) and find particulars by clicking on 'education'.

**Quick Reference Calendar...**  
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