

## News & Notes



### Science Discovery Preschool

Lindsey Dunckel  
*E.D., First 5 Nevada County*

The Science Discovery Preschool is a new preschool enrichment program open to all Nevada County children. The program is sponsored by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office in collaboration with First 5 Nevada County.

The Science Discovery Preschool is premised on a science-based curriculum, designed to respond to young children's innate curiosity about the natural environment. This 10-child class, consisting of children 3-4 years of age, will meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9 to noon. Preschool participants include children and aides from Nevada County's Special Day Preschool. All will experience exploring the natural world with a skilled preschool teacher and an aide with a science background.

In each of three 10-week sessions, life science, physical science, and earth science will be explored using curriculum that follows and capitalizes on children's "little scientist" nature and sense of wonder. Hands-on exploration will feature the local environment, art, music, and open-ended play. All will be interwoven through the day. A special website will provide daily reports on individual and group experiences. During the course of each session local scientists and experts will visit the class to share their specialties.

Session I, II, and III dates are October 6 - December 19; January 5 - March 23; and March 25 - June 17. Tuition of

\$500 (or a monthly rate of \$167) per ten-week session will cover all expenses. Classes meet at the TKM Family Resource Center at 400 Hoover Lane, Nevada City, across from Deer Creek School.

For more information or to sign up for the open house meet-and-greet call Sandi at 274-5350.

### Teachers of the Year Honored

#### Judy Nielsen

*Teachers of the Year County Coordinator*



Lori Osmond  
NJUHSD Teacher of the Year  
Nevada County Teacher of the Year

Eight exemplary teachers have been selected as their school district's Teacher of the Year. They are Mary Alice Colwell (Chicago Park SD), Jennifer Lubarsky (Clear Creek SD), Suzanne Mitchell (Grass Valley SD), Lori Osmond (NJUHSD), Sarah Schwartz (Pleasant Ridge SD), Christine Dreiling-McKeown (Penn Valley Union Elementary SD), Michelyn Brown (Twin Ridges Elementary SD), and Sarah Parker (Union Hill SD). 'Teachers of the Year' is a program of the California Department of Education, which begins on a school district level all the way thru a national program. It is a voluntary program on the part of the districts and is a true honor to be selected for this recognition, as these teachers represent an excellence in education in each of their academic arenas.

Of the teachers selected, five of them chose to go on to a county-wide selection process for County-wide Teacher of the Year. This year the Nevada County Teacher of the Year is Lori Osmond, who teaches math, science, P.E., art, and work experience at Nevada Union Tech High School. Lori's passion for her students' academic success, along with their personal well-being, shines thru in every aspect of her approach to education. Lori inspires her students to succeed, but they, in turn, inspire Lori in the power of giving of herself. Lori's school motto is "Attitude is Everything". She makes it a part of required curriculum for students to also give of themselves – in this case, to the community. In a letter of support, NJUHSD Superintendent Louise Johnson said, 'Lori Osmond is a teacher that turns kids' lives around with regularity'. Lori is truly a teacher who influences and changes students' lives for the better.

All eight school districts' Teachers of the Year will be honored at a recognition dinner on October 9, 2014 by school board members, ACSA, and NCSOS.

**Common Core Assessments:  
Five Things Teachers Can Do To Prepare**  
Adapted from eSchool News article  
By Eileen Murphy Buckley

How can busy teachers adjust old approaches to a new modality? Ultimately, kids need to be able to make a claim, support it with evidence, explain their reasoning clearly, address counterarguments, and use audience-appropriate language. These are the most important skills for kids to practice every day. In many ways, it has never been easier to be a great teacher. Advancements in education technology have made it easy for teachers to adopt a common language, differentiate instruction, track progress of students individually across subject areas, and share information on a school-wide level.

Here are five things you can do right now to prepare your students for deeper-level assessment:

1. Develop common vocabularies in schools: Making claims in math shouldn't seem like a separate skill than making claims about a character, and neither should seem separate from the assessments kids are taking. Claim, evidence, reasoning, counterarguments, and audience are words we see throughout high-quality assessment.
2. Put complex texts in front of students: The simple framework for tackling the texts gives students a set of questions to make the reading simpler. What is the claim? What evidence does the author use? What is his or her reasoning? How does the author address counter arguments and appeal to an audience?
3. Teach kids to write through practice and feedback: Decades of research proves that the fastest route to career and college readiness is writing five or more times per month across disciplines. Writing is an expression of thinking. Engaging students in thinking about science, math, social science, and ELA in written form dramatically increases engagement and content knowledge.
4. Work together across classrooms and disciplines: Students benefit most when schools adopt cross-disciplinary approaches to formative assessment or career preparation.
5. Use debate to maximize the potential of differentiation: Provide students with appropriate levels of access, but use authentic texts so that each student is building his or her text complexity muscles. This empowers each student with the powerful motivation to share his or her unique point of view and deepens everyone's knowledge of topics.

Which step will you try today to encourage your students to try something a little different, too?

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

### **Trainings**

**Art Docent Program:  
Annual Orientation and  
'Gallery Visits' Training**

For those K-8 school districts that engage in the Art Docent Program, the annual orientation and "gallery Visits" (AKA 'Portfolio') training has been set for Friday, October 3,

9:30 a.m. – noon, in the NCSOS Houser Room. If not already established, engage a parent volunteer to be the docent in your classroom before October 3 so that they have an opportunity to attend the orientation/training. Please share the date with your docent. Contact Judy Nielsen for additional information at [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us) or 478-6400 x208.

**Early Childhood Education  
Leadership 2014-15 Workshop  
Series**

**#1 of Six: Hands-on Science**

Dedicated care providers are able to further their knowledge and skills -

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thus, continuing to have an early childhood community that supports our learners from the start and helps Nevada County's kids be ready for kindergarten. Individuals attending at least four of the six workshops will receive a \$60 stipend.

On Thursday, October 16, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. join presenter John Bell for a fun-filled exploration of science activities. You'll leave with ideas and inspiration. A light dinner will be provided. Workshops take place at NCSOS and are sponsored by NCSOS, First 5 Nevada County, Sierra Nevada Children's Services, and the Childcare Coordinating Council. Individuals from Truckee attending via videoconference need to RSVP a minimum of one-week prior to the workshop. For more information or to RSVP contact Sandi at First 5 Nevada County at 274-5361 or [www.first5nevco.org](http://www.first5nevco.org).

See the *Quick Reference Calendar* below for a complete list of workshop dates and topics.

## **Field Trips**



### **Music in the Mountains**

These MIM Educational Programs are FREE to Nevada County Schools:

- + Peers Performing for Peers
- + Music Live
- + Classics 4 Kids
- + Take Five for Music (formerly the Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program)

*Education Director Mark Vance*  
265.6173 x202

## **The Secret Life of Bees**

The Center for the Arts presents Young Audiences New York's Literature to Life® stage presentation of 'The Secret Life of Bees'. This is an award winning 60 minute production with a pre and

post interactive discussion that will explore themes including civil rights and perseverance. The student performance takes place on Thursday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m. For classroom reservations the school should contact the Center for the Arts box office at 274-8384.

## **InConcert Sierra**

InConcert Sierra presents a free annual 3rd grade concert for all Nevada County students. The concert takes place on Monday, April 20, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and will feature The Farallon Quintet. For more information and to possibly make arrangements for a bus contact Susan Duey at 265-9054.

## **Opportunities for All**

### **Poetry Out Loud**

2014-2015 celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poetry Out Loud (POL) and Nevada County high schools 8<sup>th</sup> year of participation. The process of this national program begins on a grass-roots level on our high school campuses. Teacher guides have arrived and will be distributed to all high school English teachers until supplies run out. Now is the time to begin prepping your students. In both 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Nevada County's POL winners placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the state level. This is a great accomplishment and honor. November 7 is the 'commitment of participation' date for your school. Contact Penelope Curtis at 798-5955 or [penelcurtis@gmail.com](mailto:penelcurtis@gmail.com) for more information, assistance, or to make your 'commitment of participation'. Contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us) if you have not yet received the POL teacher guide.

### **Bessie's Happy Art Contest**

Grass Valley Old Barn Self-Storage is putting out the call for art from 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students, to represent the months of February, March, and April 2015. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place students win \$175, \$100, and \$50

respectively. 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will have artwork displayed on the hillside overlooking the freeway along Highway 49/20. Also, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner's classrooms receive \$200 for art supplies. All participating artists will receive a certificate of participation. Submission due date is December 31, 2014. For guidelines call 274-4455.

## **Flu Shot Clinic/TB Test Clinic**

A flu shot clinic will take place on September 22 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. at Earle Jamieson High School. To participate in this free clinic you *must* RSVP to Sharyn Turner at [Sharyn@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:Sharyn@nevco.k12.ca.us).

A TB clinic will take place on September 22-23 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Earle Jamieson High School. Free or \$15 charge. Contact Marea Filmer at [mfilmer@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:mfilmer@nevco.k12.ca.us) with questions regarding charges.

## **InConcert Sierra Offers Vocal Competition & Autumn Youth Scholarship**

InConcert Sierra provides world-class music in Nevada County. They are increasingly providing educational opportunities for youth.

- **Vocal Competition** for ages 12-21: Deadline to apply is September 26. Go to [www.inconcertsierra.org](http://www.inconcertsierra.org) for info.
- **Autumn Youth Scholarship** for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade applicants: Students must attend a Nevada County schools program. Recipient receives \$500 scholarship. Deadline to apply is October 1. Go to [www.inconcertsierra.org](http://www.inconcertsierra.org) for info.

## **CPR & First Aid Training**

See the *Quick Reference Calendar* below for dates & times thru November 13, 2014. CPR & First Aid Training is \$30. Reservations are first come, first serve. Fees must be *prepaid* to reserve a spot in the class. For further information call Faith at 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at [www.nevco.org/register](http://www.nevco.org/register).

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

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**New to The NUGGET!**  
**Common Core Corner**

State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson has announced a new toolkit, “Explaining Common Core to Californians: A Communications Toolkit”, to help educators explain Common Core. The toolkit is a

collection of research, recommendations, and sample communications designed to help educators increase their own understanding and the public’s understanding of the kinds of instruction, testing, and support needed to fulfill the potential of

Common Core. Dispel the mystery and concerns about this transition with a new communications toolkit that has been created by the CDE, the State Board of Education, and a whole host of other significant players. Go to <http://frameworksinstitute.org/toolkits/californiacommoncore/>.

## 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/news-events](http://www.nevco.org/news-events).



### ***Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment***

All seminars not online take place in the NCSOS Houser Room from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

DATE	GROUP	OTHER INFORMATION
Sept. 23	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Sept. 24	Year 2 teachers	seminar
Oct. 21	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Oct. 22	Year 2 teachers	seminar
Nov. 18	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Nov. 19	Education Specialists	Special education seminar
December	Year 1 & 2 teachers	ONLINE seminars
Jan. 20	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Jan. 21	Year 2 teachers	Seminar
Jan. 22	Education Specialists	Special education seminar
Feb. 17	Year 1 teachers	seminar
February	Year 2 teachers	ONLINE seminar
March	Year 1 & 2 teachers	ONLINE seminars
April 21	Year 1 teachers	seminar
April 22	Year 2 teachers	seminar
May 19	Education Specialists	Special education seminar



### ***Upcoming CPR Class Dates***

CPR & FIRST AID	<b>FULL</b>	Tues. 9/30	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID		Thurs. 10/2	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID		Tues. 10/7	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID		Tues. 11/4	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID		Thurs. 11/13	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Quick Reference Calendar...**  
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## **Common Core Workshop: COOPERATIVE LEARNING**

September 24, 2014  
October 1, 2014

registration deadline  
date of workshop



## **Tournament Schedule for School Year 2014-15**

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	LOCATION
Geography	7 <sup>th</sup>	10/2	Chicago Park School Gym
Spelling	5 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	11/4	Miners Foundry
Spelling	7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	11/6	Miners Foundry
Writing	7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	1/22	Miners Foundry
Math	5 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	1/27	Miners Foundry
Math	7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	1/29	Miners Foundry
Speech Prelims	4 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	3/12	Calvary Bible Church
Speech Finals	4 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	3/24	Nevada Theatre



## **Early Childhood Education Workshop Series**

October 16	<i>Hands-on Science</i>
November 20	<i>Teaching Strategies for Challenging Behaviors</i>
January 15	<i>Children with Special Needs</i>
February 19	Panel Discussion: Legalities in Childhood
March 19	Supervision
April 16	<i>Hands-on Math</i>



## **NCSOS Educator Grant Program: Letter of Interest due dates**

December 1, 2014  
March 1, 2015