

The Nugget



News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office
August 2015 **Holly Hermansen, Superintendent**

News & Notes



WELCOME BACK!

Holly Hermansen
*Nevada County
Superintendent of Schools*

Welcome back to school! I have a feeling this is going to be an exceptional year. I was fortunate to be able to visit several schools and classrooms on the first day of school. Everywhere I went there was an extremely positive energy and a feeling of optimism for the upcoming school year. I am feeling the same way. I am looking forward to this school year with a renewed sense of energy and excitement that I haven't felt as much in recent years. I think there are several reasons for this. We have weathered a severe economic crisis, and for the time being at least, it looks like the financial outlook for our schools is a more positive one. In addition, we have been working our way through some very significant changes including a new school funding formula, a new accountability model, new state standards for learning expectations for our students and a new state testing system. Whew. That's a lot. Now that we are starting to settle into these new ways of doing our work, I think there is a sense of relief and even familiarity.

Things have been very busy here at Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office this summer. We have been following up on all of the Educator Grants that we provided to many of you last year and planning for implementation of the program for this upcoming year. As with any new program, there are some kinks to work out to make it work more smoothly. We were very excited to see some of the wonderful things that were done in classrooms across the county with the funds

provided. You can learn more about this program and how to apply for this year in this edition of the Nugget.

In addition, we operated our very first Adventures in Learning summer program. This science-based summer program was a great success and we are already beginning plans for next summer. The program served students in grades k-5 from schools across the county in three locations. Through an excellent partnership with Sierra Streams Institute and our highly talented and dedicated staff we were able to provide an excellent program for our students.

And finally, Shar Johns and Kathleen Kiefer are working hard in preparing for a countywide professional development day on September 21st. We hope to see many of you there.

At our NCSOS all staff back to school meeting on August 17th one area we focused on was relationships. Building strong relationships has unlimited benefits. It makes each of us healthy and more satisfied and fulfilled in our work. It allows us to be more successful personally and professionally. So, I wish each of you an incredible year filled with health and fulfillment in the work that you do.

Common Core Corner:
Back-to-School Rollout:
Opportunities from the NCSOS
Curriculum & Instruction Team
Director Kathleen Kiefer

Curriculum, Instruction, & Accountability



Remember a time when Nevada County teachers needed to travel out of county for professional development? Exciting News! Our Second Annual NCSOS Countywide Professional Development Day is being held on

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September 21st at Nevada Union High School for participating schools. The NCSOS coaching team is offering a range of professional development services for Nevada County teachers and instructional leaders, addressing the most current topics of interest.

In addition to a variety of local educators, SCOE's Christine Anderson has been scheduled to present "Getting Gritty about Motivation", a workshop designed to provide teachers with knowledge and tools to create classroom conditions that will lead to increased student motivation.

Specifics for the day are in the works, with multiple training options for teachers to choose from in a variety of subject areas. Details will be coming soon, so mark your calendars for September 21st in anticipation of a day full of free opportunities for professional growth!

On October 23rd the Grades 7 & 8 Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) is coming to Nevada County teachers! NCSOS Instructional Coach Jill Massie will be leading a series of 3 day-long classes that will be spread throughout the school year, with the first of the three classes taking place on October 23rd in the NCSOS Houser Room. "ERWC consists of curriculum, professional learning, and useful materials. "These components are designed to lead to teacher instruction and classroom practices that promote extended discussion of text meaning and interpretation for the purpose of developing students' critical-thinking skills that encourage interactive group discussions to develop students' oral language skills, and that enable students to write over extended time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences." (*Fong, Finkelstein, Jaeger, Diaz, & Brock, 2015*)

Look for registration details in your email inbox soon for both the Countywide Professional Development Day on September 21st and the ERWC series. To schedule other Curriculum & Instruction services contact Kathleen Kiefer at 478-6400 ext. 246 or kkiefer@nevco.org.

Carnegie Link Up

Judy Nielsen

Nevada County Schools Arts Lead

The NCSOS office has a partnership with Music in the Mountains to provide music education programs for many of our elementary students across the county. The newest program, which ran a pilot program the second half of the 2014-15 school year, is Carnegie Link Up. This music literacy program is collaboration between Carnegie Hall, Weill Music Institute, MIM, the NCSOS office, and of course our individual school districts. The program runs over a 3-year cycle: Orchestra Rocks, Orchestra Sings, and Orchestra Moves. Each year students learn to sing and play a recorder in their classrooms, learning the basic fundamentals of music. MIM provides teaching workshops for teachers. No previous musical background is necessary on the part of our educators. The culminating

event each year is when students bring their newly acquired musical skills to the concert hall where, from their seats, they perform with a professional orchestra. Just imagine the entire auditorium playing and singing music together. It is quite a powerful and inspiring experience.

A total of 260 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students from four schools across the county participated in the pilot program. The energy and excitement, the performance and outcome, were truly off the charts. Superintendent of Schools Holly Hermansen said about the culminating performance, "This was a fantastic event. We are looking forward to seeing the program expand."

Congratulations to 2014-15 BTSA Graduates & Welcome Class of 2015-16

Susan Clarabut

BTSA County Coordinator

Congratulations to the BTSA induction graduating class of 14/15! The following teachers have finished two years of teacher induction and have been recommended to the CTC for their clear teaching credentials: John Bryan, Shannon Chidley, Jennifer Cross, Cierra Dornfeld, Maura Fuller, Kelly Good, Andrea Goodnight, Jennifer Gray, Suzanne Hall, Erin Heyl, Jessica Lee, Danielle Morey, Karen Nelson, Tabby Pope, Kristin Robinson, Nick Tapia, Whitney Trevehick, Jillian Waechter and Trinity Wilson. As they embark on a new school year, take the time to congratulate these teachers on your campus, for this rigorous accomplishment.

A new BTSA series of seminars will commence in September. Over a four 4 month period of 'inquiries' teachers cover California's 6 standards for the teaching profession through weekly meetings and on-going observations with their support providers, observations of fellow teachers, attendance at monthly seminars either in person or online, and, most importantly, consistent reflection and examination of their own teaching practice. Topics discussed and researched include classroom management skills, the use of social media and its impact on professional ethics, behavioral supports, teaching EL and special populations, backwards planning, critical thinking and student assumptions and equity, diversity and access to the core curriculum. For each of the inquiries, these teachers determine their own areas of growth within the 6 standards and then gather evidence of that growth throughout their four month inquiry.

Support providers are typically retired and always exemplary Nevada County teachers that remain passionate about the teaching profession. If you, or someone you would like to recommend, are interested in being a support provider for a new teacher, please contact Susan Clarabut at sclarabut@scoe.org. Seminars begin in September and are held at NCSOS from 4-7. The monthly schedule can be found on the NCSOS website at <http://nevco.org/programs-services/beginning-teacher->

[program/](#) , the North Coast Beginning Teacher Program site and is also posted in *The Nugget* in the *Quick Reference Calendar* below.

Educator Grant Program Available for a Second Year!

Shar Johns

*Nevada County Associate Superintendent,
Educational Services*

In the first year of the Educator Grant Program 117 teachers received awards of up to \$1000 each. Awards were applied to the following areas: the arts, purchase of curriculum, GPA and assessment programs, English language arts, history, math, physical education, science, STEAM, school climate, and special education needs. With 100% participation from our nine school districts, teachers were empowered to implement programs and

practices that have been dormant in the hopeful minds of Nevada County teachers for years.

Pursuant to a continuing goal to assist in your district's ongoing efforts to increase student achievement, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office is excited to offer the Educator Grant Program for a second year. Grants are available in two cycles as funds allow. RFP due dates are September 14 and December 1. Because participation has been high and funding is limited, the process is expected to be very competitive this year. Priority will be given to innovative programs and/or projects that impact student achievement over time. Additionally, there is a maximum of one award per teacher for the 2015-16 school year. If you received an award last year you are still eligible to apply for an award this year. To receive a copy of the RFP with required information, contact Judy Nielsen at jnielsen@nevco.org or link to the NCSOS website at <http://nevco.org/educator-grant-program/>.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

BTSA

The Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment (BTSA) program provides first and second year teachers with rigorous but compassionate support and tools for assessment. The BTSA seminar schedule can be found in the *Quick Reference Calendar* below.

Newly hired teachers should consult with their districts to determine, based on their credentials, whether they should sign-up for BTSA. With the assistance of a highly qualified support provider, beginning teachers explore the process of teaching. Support is specific and evidence-based. Additional information or questions can be directed to BTSA County Coordinator Susan Clarabut at sclarabut@scoe.org.

NCSOS Coaches & Instructional Leadership Corps Presenters

- Countywide PD Day, Monday, September 21: Find out if you are a

participating school/school district. Refer to article in *News & Notes* above. There will be a variety of choices for the day. Lunch included. Contact Kathleen Kiefer at kkiefer@nevco.org or Judy Nielsen at jnielsen@nevco.org for detailed information.

- Grades 7 & 8 Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC), October 23 – part I of a three part series. Refer to article in *News & Notes* above. Contact Kathleen Kiefer at kkiefer@nevco.org for detailed information.

Field Trips

The 49th Annual Nevada City Constitution Day Parade & Weekend Celebration

This historic annual event takes place September 12-13. This is a living-history educational opportunity perfectly suited for students. On Sunday a signing of the U.S. Constitution takes place at 1:30 p.m. at the corner of Broad & Pine Streets in

Nevada City. The parade follows at 2:00 p.m. with many school groups participating along with the Famous Marching Presidents. Each U.S. president and first lady is represented by local residents.

The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution presents Revolutionary War Days in Pioneer Park in Nevada City. Demonstrations take place on both Sat. & Sun., September 12-13. Go to www.delawareregiment.org for a schedule of reenactment activities. Contact the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce for additional activities at www.nevadacitychamber.com where you can find the registration form to participate in the parade.

Center for the Arts Student Programming

Monkey Baa Theater Company from Sydney, Australia, presents the one-man show 'I am Jack', based on the book by Susanne Gervay. The story explores the insidious taunting and teasing that bullies are so adept at inflicting on their victims and the roles that family and schools can

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play in responding. Suitable for ages 8 and up, Friday, Oct. 9, 11 a.m., \$8 student and \$12/adult.

- Young Audiences New York presents the Literature to Life award winner 'The Giver'. As Jonas trains to become the Receiver of Memories, themes of individuality, ethics, and social constructs is explored. Suitable for ages 10 and up, Tuesday, October 20, 10 a.m., \$8/student and \$12/adult
- Both plays have a Q/A before and after the performance and teacher resources available at the Center for the Arts webpage. Reservations can be made thru Pamela Roberts - proberts@thecenterforthearts.org.



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)

These MIM Educational Programs are at a cost to Nevada County Schools for Link Up and students for Young Composers

- + Carnegie Link Up
- + Young Composers

*Education Director Mark Vance
265.6173 x202*

Opportunities for All

Carnegie Link Up

See article in *News & Notes*. This music education program is offered October through May, with participating school sign-ups in September. The program is limited to a total of 1200 students. The culminating concert will take place the week of May 16, 2016. Site-administrators should contact MIM Education Director Mark Vance at mark@musicinthemountains.org or 265-6173 x202 for more information or to sign up.

Hallway of Student Art

The Hallway of Student Art is an opportunity to highlight student works of art at the NCSOS office. Each show is approximately one month duration. This year we would like exhibits to highlight programs that were implemented with the assistance of Educator Grant Program funding. To schedule or for further information contact Judy Nielsen at jnielsen@nevco.org.

Take 5 for Music

Formerly the Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program, Take 5 for Music is a rebranding of the same program. K-6 teachers read a paragraph about a composer and/or composition and play the same music composition daily for a week, each day sharing more about the work. In addition to learning about iconic composers and their music, students learn many skills including listening, interpretation, and focus. Many teachers use it after recess or lunch as a transition tool. At one time most teachers in the county used the program but as teachers have retired the program has lost visibility. The program is approximately 5-10 minutes per day, classroom kit free to teachers, and training is one 2-hour workshop. Most schools have a Take 5 for Music liaison. For more info or to obtain a kit contact your school liaison, Mark Vance at

mark@musicinthemountains.org, or Judy Nielsen at jnielsen@nevco.org.

Young Composers Project

Application deadline for Music in the Mountains (MIM) Young Composers Project (YCP) is Sept. 4, 2015. YCP is a flagship music education program for MIM. Curriculum includes theory, history, harmony, listening, conducting, visiting musicians, software notation, rehearsals/performance, dictation, public speaking, and yes (!) composition. This class is an incredible opportunity for talented student musicians interested in learning more about music and composition. Applications available at www.musicinthemountains.org or call Education Director Mark Vance, at (530) 265-6173 x202.

Tournament Schedule for School Year 2015-16

The tournament schedule for geography, spelling, writing, math, and speech has been approved. The schedule can be found in the *Quick Reference Calendar* below. For further information contact Sharon Shafran at 470-8510 ext. 204. Please note that Bonnie Smart has retired. Welcome Sharon!

CPR & First Aid Training

See *Quick Reference Calendar* below for dates and times thru November 2015. CPR & First Aid Training is \$30. This training is good for coaches, teachers, classroom volunteers, and more. Reservations are first come, first served. 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.

Finding Funding

- NCSOS Educator Grant Program: This grant opportunity assists in your district's ongoing efforts to increase student achievement. Grants are available as funds allow, with a \$1000 maximum award. Letters of interest are due, hard copy only via pony, fax, or hand delivery,

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September 14 or December 1. To receive a copy of the RFP with required information, access link to the NCSOS website at <http://nevco.org/educator-grant-program/> or contact Judy Nielsen at jnielsen@nevco.org.

- NCSOS has received a 3-year \$381,486 grant for Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE). This grant provides supports & resources to all Nevada County school districts and charter schools through programs including Minnesota Smoking

Prevention Program - 6th, Life Save Lab - 7th/8th, SPORT prevention program - 9th and prevention/intervention services thru CORR. For services contact School Health Coordinator Sharyn Turner at sturner@nevco.org.

Quick Reference Calendar...

Other than the August edition, calendar events have been highlighted in previous editions of *The Nugget* and are listed in chronological order. In that regard, back issues of *The Nugget*, with additional information, can be found at www.nevco.org/news-events.



Attendance Awareness Month

Remember! September is Attendance Awareness Month. For free toolkits and printables visit: www.attendanceworks.org



Upcoming CPR Class Dates

CPR & FIRST AID	Thurs. 9/1	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Tues. 9/15	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Fri. 10/2	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Mon. 11/30	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.



Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment (BTSA)

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

DATE	GROUP
Wed., September 2	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., September 3	Year 1 Seminar
Thurs., September 10	Year 1 Seminar Make-up
Wed., October 7	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., October 8	Year 1 Seminar
Wed., November 9	Special Education Seminar
Thurs., November 12	Year 1 Seminar
Wed., January 6	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., January 7	Year 1 Seminar
Thurs., February 4	Year 1 Seminar
Wed., April 6	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., April 7	Year 1 Seminar
Thurs., May 5	Special Education Seminar

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Tournament Schedule for School Year 2015-16

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Geography	7 th	10/6	9-1	Chicago Park School
Spelling	5 th - 6 th	11/3	9-2	Miners Foundry
Spelling	7 th - 8 th	11/5	9-2	Miners Foundry
Writing	7 th - 8 th	1/12	9-2	Miners Foundry
Math	5 th - 6 th	1/26	9-2	Miners Foundry
Math	7 th - 8 th	1/28	9-2	Miners Foundry
Speech Prelims	4 th - 8 th	3/10	9 - 12:30 1 - 4:30	Calvary Bible Church – Speech Topic: “What Music Means to Me...”
Speech Finals	4 th - 8 th	3/15	6:30 - 8:30	Nevada Theatre