

News & Notes ...

Nevada County School Boards Association Honors 2011-12 Teacher of the Year, Meghan Salter

This year seven teachers were honored with the title of Teacher of the Year by their respective school districts. Five of the seven teachers participated on a county-wide level. All seven teachers will be recognized at the annual Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and Nevada County School Boards Association (NCSBA) dinner on October 27. These teachers exemplify various qualities of teaching that represent the Nevada County educational arena at-large.



These seven teachers are Sue Muir - Chicago Park SD, Patsy Hannebrink - Clear Creek SD, Michael Day - Grass Valley SD, Roxanne Fleenor - Pleasant Ridge SD, Christine Loveton - Pleasant Valley SD, Devin Bradley - Ready Springs SD, and Meghan Salter - Union Hill SD.

A panel of judges has named Meghan Salter as Nevada County Teacher of the Year. She has continued the process to the next level by submitting an application to the CDE. The application requires writing numerous papers: an introductory letter; professional biography; student progress; school-community involvement; philosophy of teaching; opinion paper on education issues and trends; the teaching profession; and, if given the platform, what her message would be to the teaching profession

Meghan Salter has been focused on being a teacher since high school. She was surrounded by teachers throughout her life and grew up understanding that teaching is more than going to work for seven hours and returning home.

Meghan sees her job as 'one of helping her students reach their potential in a variety of ways, for many paths can lead to success'. Her teaching style reflects her values and her goals as a teacher. Says Meghan, 'There are clear expectations for behavior and for academics, but there is fluidity in the presentation. Lesson plans and activities may vary, but students know they can always expect a caring and constructive environment.'

In Meghan's platform paper she says, 'I take my job as a teacher very seriously because I know I am already a role model for my students. In a role as a spokesperson for the

profession, I would hope to display qualities that I believe matter most: professionalism, integrity, dedication, and passion. I would encourage my colleagues to focus on our common love for children and finding best practices to use in teaching them. To the public, my message would be one of reassurance that we treasure their children, too, and have a vested interest in their success. When we work together, we can support our children in achieving their goals.'

Meghan will speak at the ACSA/NCSBA dinner, where she will share some of her philosophy and what drives her love of teaching.

Nevada County Awarded Drug Free Communities Grant: Schools a Key Partner for Prevention of Youth Substance Use

By Ariel King Lovett

Program Dir., Coalition for Drug Free Nevada County



Youth Outreach Coordinator, Lynn Skrukud & NEO Volunteer Elin Honea

On August 31 Coalition for a Drug Free Nevada County learned it is one of 87 communities nationwide to be a grant recipient. The coalition will receive \$625,000 over 5 years for the Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC). The focus is to involve and engage our community to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. During the nationwide announcement Director of National Drug Control Policy

News & Notes ... continues on page 2

Kerlikowske said, "Data show that community efforts to Reduce youth substance use through the DFC program are effective. I commend coalitions like Coalition for a Drug Free Nevada County, who work tirelessly to prevent and reduce youth drug use across the Nation."

Schools are one of twelve sectors that are members of the Coalition. Other sectors include law enforcement, youth, parents, faith-based organizations, treatment organizations, local government, businesses, civic groups, healthcare professionals, and media. Schools and school environments are important in reaching youth, and in Nevada County, schools have been an important partner since the Coalition was first formed in 2005. School partnerships have included Overtime, an event held on Friday nights at Park Avenue High School with parents and faith-based volunteers to provide youth a safe and fun location after sporting events; data collection through the California Healthy Kids Survey; NEO Youth Sector After School Clubs, High School Clubs, and the Big Buddy Program. Many Coalition events, such as Red Ribbon Week, are held at schools.

Coalition for a Drug Free Nevada County will specifically work to address reducing youth access and use of marijuana, prescription drugs, and alcohol. Marina Bernheimer, Project Director for Nevada County Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) says "Efforts to keep our youth drug free are critical to healthy and safe communities here in Nevada County. The Drug Free Communities program recognizes the great potential of Coalition for a Drug Free Nevada County to help save lives of youth. This new funding will allow Coalition for a Drug Free Nevada County to mobilize and organize our community to prevent and reduce youth substance use and to leverage the work we are doing with SSHS funds in support of healthier students and community." DFC and SSHS work together to better reach these goals.

The Coalition consistently welcomes volunteers across all sectors to participate in efforts from media campaigns, to events, education, and public awareness. Teachers, parents, staff, youth, or others interested in partnering, or finding out more about the Coalition, are encouraged to call Shelley at 273-3796 or visit www.drugfreenevadacounty.org.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

Recruiting Adult Volunteers for 'Steps-to-Respect'

NCSOS & Child Advocates of Nevada County are recruiting adult volunteers to teach evidence-based, anti-bullying curriculum, 'Steps to Respect' to students in 4th and 5th grade classrooms in eleven area schools. Volunteers will be trained to teach the 'Steps to Respect' curriculum and teach with a partner and classroom teacher, a one-hour weekly lesson for ten weeks. For more info contact Melinda Douros at 265-9550 x22 or email Melinda@caofnc.org.

Art Docent Program

The Art Docent Program uses parent volunteers in the classroom to present portfolios of famous art and conduct an art lesson with students K-6 on a monthly basis. Art themes and lessons can easily tie into your curriculum. If you do not have an art docent for your classroom contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or email

judy@nevco.k12.ca.us for assistance in establishing the program in your classroom.

Art Docent training and events dates have been set. Please inform your Art Docent of the following dates:

- October 13, 2011 – Art Docent hands-on orientation and portfolio training
- October 27, 2011 – hands-on art projects lessons with Artist Margie Miller
- May 22, 2012 – Art Docent Luncheon

2012 Elementary Science Olympiad

The 2012 Elementary Science Olympiad will take place on Saturday, May 12. Schools participate in teams and each team has a coach. The next coaches meeting will take place on December 1, at 3:30 p.m. in the PRSD conference room. This is an effective way for students to learn about a focused area of science, and it's really fun, too! For more information about school participation speak with your superintendent/principal or contact Supt. Britta Skavdahl at 268-2800.

Creating Public Value thru CA Arts Council Grant & the National Gallery of Art

Two arts grants have been received in Nevada County from the California Arts Council and the National Gallery of Art. A series of videos featuring local artists are being produced along with arts education curricula links to the National Gallery of Art, the Crocker Art Museum, Getty Institute, and other museums. The Nevada County Digital Media Center (NCDMC) is adding a social media website to the mix, to develop and integrate all of the elements, in order to provide outstanding curriculum to art teachers county-wide.

Art teachers are invited to participate in an open forum being planned for mid-November. For more info contact Penelope Curtis at 798-5955 or email penelcurtis@gmail.com.

Upcoming CPR & EMSA Class Dates

A complete list of classes and additional information can be found at www.nevco.org. For reservations contact Anna McMillen at

amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us or phone 478-6400 x 201. Upcoming classes are:

CPR	Thurs.	11/3	3 – 7 p.m.
CPR	Sat.	12/3	9 – 1 p.m.
CPR	Thurs.	12/15	3 – 7 p.m.
EMSA	Sat.	11/12	9 – 5 p.m.

Pre-registration and class fee is required prior to the class date.

Field Trips

Wild & Scenic Film Festival presents a Program for Primary & Middle Schools

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) will present a special school program of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on the morning of Friday, January 13th at the Del Oro Theatre. The primary school presentation features National Geographic photographer & videographer Zeb Hogan and films about fish, oceans, and rivers. The secondary school program will feature young filmmakers and films highlighting environmentally involved youth. To participate contact Janice Rosner at feabee11@att.net.

Opportunities for All

Poetry Out Loud!

October is kick-off month for this under-celebrated annual event. Poetry Out Loud! is a national recitation competition for high school students, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council. Local poets, Julie Valin and Chris Olander, provide coaching for county and state high school student competitors. The 2012 poem anthology and teacher's guide are now available. School site competitions must be completed by January 31 to compete in the county-wide competition in mid-February. For more info or a packet contact Penelope Curtis at 798-5955 or email penelcurtis@gmail.com.

Teacher's Appreciation Day at the Book Seller

Teachers, librarians, and all school staff are invited to take advantage of the Book Seller's annual recognition of the

educational arena in Nevada County. All items are 20% off for any school or personal purchases. Event takes place Wednesday, November 2 from 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

MUSIC in the MOUNTAINS presents...

Music Live

Music Live brings some of the best musicians in Nevada County to selected K-8 schools. This year will feature a percussion program covering the history of percussion from the first rocks banged together to xylophones. Fall *Music Live* concert dates are November 29-30. There will be three additional concert dates in the Spring of 2012. To express interest contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Peers Performing 4 Peers

This program is unique to Nevada County, providing a very special opportunity for your students. Student performers come into the classroom for approximately 25 minute presentations including a Q & A. Classroom visits are scheduled now thru mid-May and are custom fit for your classroom environment. Student performers typically play piano, violin, cello, clarinet or flute. For more info or to schedule a classroom concert contact Mark Vance at 265-6173.

Brummitt-Taylor

This outstanding classical music listening program is for students K-6. Kits are valued at \$300 and are free to teachers who would like to use the program on long-term loan from Music in the Mountains (MIM). This year MIM is looking for school liaisons to shepherd the use of Brummitt-Taylor in your school.

There will be a training this year for all teachers currently using the program or any new teachers wishing to engage in this wonderful curriculum. No classical training or background is required. For more info contact Mark Vance at 265-6173.

All MIM educational programs are free of charge.

The Community Support Network (CSN) Wants YOU!

The CSN is a collaborative group of over fifty local non-profit, education, and government agencies that meet on a monthly basis. Their emphasis is to support programs that assist children and their families by fostering communication and collaboration, to deal with existing and emerging issues. The outcome is to strengthen families. The CSN website, <http://csnnc.org/> is a valuable resource for all.

The CSN is extending an invitation to teachers to contribute information from your unique perspective that would be helpful in the effectiveness of these non-profit and government programs. Meetings take place the first Wednesday of each month (excluding Dec/July) at the Madelyn Helling Library, 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. The next meeting is Nov. 2. For more info call Paula Roediger at 913-8573.

Essay Contest Sponsored by Grass Valley Elks Lodge #538

The topic of this year's 5th-6th-7th-8th grade essay contest is 'Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to our Flag'. The essay is limited to 250 words and the deadline for submission is January 10, 2012. There will be two each of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards of U.S. savings bonds; \$300, \$200, and \$100 respectively. The six winning entries will be eligible for Elks State and national awards. Contact David Gates at gatesburd@sbcglobal.net or 268-8831 for rules and entry forms.

'Spirit of Community Awards' for middle and high school students

These awards, presented in partnership by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Prudential Financial, Inc., honor outstanding community service by young people in grades 5 thru 12. Community service is recognized in the areas of helping the less fortunate, promoting health and safety, protecting the environment, and serving your community with meaningful contributions over the past 12 months.

Young volunteers can apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com>,

www.nassp.org/spirit, or receive a paper version of the application by calling toll-free (877) 525-8491. Deadline to apply is November 1, 2011.

‘Young at Art’ Celebrates State & National Youth Art Month each year at the Rood Center

Young at Art is celebrated annually with an exhibit of K-12 student art displayed at the Rood Center. The

exhibit is so loved that, although youth art month is celebrated in March, Nevada County exhibits March thru May! This year set-up will take place Feb. 29 – March 2 and exhibited thru May 25, 2012. Exhibition rules and guidelines will be distributed thru the Nugget mailing list in November. For more info contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or email judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

Samsung invites teachers to tell, via video, how science, technology, engineering and math help our community’s environment. This contest is open to all public schools grades 6-12. Winners receive a camcorder, laptop, and video editing software. www.samsung.com/solvefortomorrow for more info.

CALENDARS

Tournament Schedule for School Year 2011-12



EVENT	GRADE	DATE	LOCATION
Spelling	5 th /6 th	11/1	Miner’s Foundry
Spelling	7 th /8 th	11/2	Miner’s Foundry
Writing	7 th /8 th	1/11	Miner’s Foundry
Math	5 th /6 th	1/25	Miner’s Foundry
Math	7 th /8 th	1/26	Miner’s Foundry
Speech Prelims	4 th – 8 th	3/8	Calvary Bible Church
Speech Finals	4 th – 8 th	3/19	Nevada Theatre



Imaginarium 2011 Astronomy Sky Show Schedule

Date*	Start Time	Comments
November 18 PENDING WEATHER	7:00 pm to 9:30	Leonid meteors, Andromeda Galaxy. Pleadies. M77 spiral galaxy. Minor planets Ceres, Pallas, Vesta.

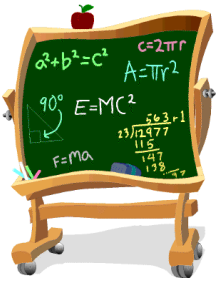
Comments:

* Check the Astro phone 263-4586 one week before a sky show. The shows begin about one hour after sun set, and it generally takes 90 minutes for total darkness after it sets.

We generally view double stars, globular clusters, near star clusters, galaxies, planets, and nebula.

Sky shows are held at Tobiassen Park near the Madelyn Helling Library off of highway 49, approximately two miles northwest of downtown Nevada City. Park in the library lot and walk up the road about 100 yards to the ball field on your left.

CALENDARS continues on page 5



MATH COLLABORATION SCHEDULE:

THIRD GRADE TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time - Location
Nov.	Tues. 11/15 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Fellersen
Dec.	Thurs. 12/8 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Houser

FIFTH GRADE TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time - Location
Nov.	Tues. 11/15 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Fellersen
Dec.	Thurs. 12/8 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Houser

Middle School & HS ALGEBRA TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time – Location
Nov.	Wed. 11/9 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Fellersen
Dec.	Thurs. 12/1 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Houser

For further information contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or e-mail judy@nevco.k12.ca.us .