

The Nugget



News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office

February 2012

Holly Hermansen, Superintendent



**Nevada County Reads & Writes!
2012 book selection:**

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

See full article below.

News & Note

PEER Court: A program to address low level crimes by a jury of peers

**By NCSOS Student Services Program Coordinator
Melissa Parrett**

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, in collaboration with Nevada County Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, Juvenile Justice Department, Nevada County Bar Association and local middle schools and high schools have created a program that allows youth who have committed low level crimes to have their sentences determined by a jury of their peers in a courtroom setting.

The program aims to develop new methods for diverting students from the criminal system by providing new options to combat juvenile delinquency at its formative stages; to interrupt unlawful activity before a pattern of law-breaking is developed by promoting feelings of self-worth and motivation for self-improvement; and to develop a healthy attitude toward authority.

Cases are deemed eligible and referred to Peer Court by the Nevada County Probation Department. A case may be determined eligible if it is the student's first criminal offense, the student admits their guilt, and also waives their right to confidentiality. Program participation is voluntary. If defendants complete their sentence as assigned, their record is expunged.

The implementation of the Nevada County Peer Court Juvenile Justice unit curriculum is well underway. This series of 5-day school site visits to 8th grade classrooms has been developed not only to support Peer Court proceedings but also to bring the law to life for students while informing them of their rights and responsibilities. Additionally, the curriculum supports the 8th grade graduation government requirements. Through reading, discussions and presentations from local judges, attorneys, police and probation officers, as well as

juvenile hall staff, students learn about: juvenile laws, law enforcement, court contracts, truancy interventions, juvenile hall, and more. The decision to place the juvenile justice unit in 8th grade coursework was based upon data indicating that many students run the risk of criminal involvement or other high risk behaviors (such as drugs and alcohol-related crimes) by the time they enter high school. Some teachers whose classrooms participate in the Juvenile Justice curriculum offer extra credit to those students who choose to attend and observe or actively participate in Peer Court proceedings.

Peer Court proceedings typically occur in the evening on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month (given that there are cases) and are located at the Nevada County Courthouse. All courtroom roles, with the exception of the judge, are carried out by trained students in grades 9-12. For more information about the Peer Court program or Juvenile Justice curriculum, please contact Melissa Parrett at mparrett@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Announcing *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett: 2012 Book Selection for Nevada County Reads & Writes!



Nevada County Reads & Writes! is an annual event, occurring in cities nation-wide, that is sponsored and coordinated for Nevada County by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office and the Nevada County Libraries. The forthright mission of Nevada County Reads & Writes! is to encourage people of all ages to enjoy reading. The program is now in its 8th year of selecting a book annually, to be read by the entire community, followed by a variety of related activities for students and the community at-large.

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This year the selection is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. The committee is excited about the menu of events that are offered, free of charge, to our community. Due to additional support from local businesses, we are able to: promote reading with posters, banners, and bookmarks; purchase book sets for the high schools and sponsor a writing competition for high school students; moderate panel discussions addressing historic and current racial issues for the community and two high school locations; a geocache; a night at the movies with a trivia quiz, and more.

In its second year, the writing competition is for all high school students and begins February 1, 2012. This is a wonderful opportunity for English and History teachers to address significant issues of historic and current race relations that are addressed in the book. Guidelines are available at each high school site (in the library or English Department) or you can download the guidelines at www.nevco.org or www.nevadacountyreads.org. For further information contact Nevada County Reads & Writes! committee chairperson Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or email judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

The middle school companion pick for young readers is *Glory Be* by Augusta Scattergood and was just published in early January of this year. Eleven-year-old Gloriana Hamphill, known as Glory, feels like she's about to have the worst summer of her life. It's 1964 in Hanging Moss, Mississippi, and she hears rumors that her neighborhood pool is closing. The closing of the pool will be a window into history for Glory Hamphill, who learns about bigotry, loyalty and bravery in that summer. A book set is available for check out from NCSOS by contacting Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Further information on the many related activities will appear in future issues of the Nugget, on-line at www.nevco.org and www.nevadacountyreads.org, the Union, and the Center for the Arts e-mail distribution. By participating in events your name will be entered into a drawing to win an e-reader (electronic book reader). If you've never participated in this program, this is the year to discover yet another offering that makes Nevada County a rich place to live.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

Digital Resources for the Classroom & School Community provided by NCSOS & CTAP Region 3

A free CTAP Training takes place on Monday, February 27, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the NCSOS Annex, 117 New Mohawk Road, Suite F. Learn how to use digital resources and professional development for yourself and your school with such tools as AP Images Database, LinkIT Student Data & Assessment System, World Book Online, Resources for Parents, and more. Limited computers available – bring a laptop if possible. Register online at <http://www.nevco.org/event-registration.cfm>. For more information contact Judy Nielsen at 478.640 x208 or judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

SELPA/SEPAC The Hidden Curriculum: Teaching what is Meaningful

Brenda Smith Myles uses often humorous everyday examples to teach

hidden curriculum items directly to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and social-cognitive challenges. Practical suggestions can be used to teach your child or student what others learn automatically. This workshop is for all parents of students in Nevada County and takes place February 6 in the NCSOS Houser Room, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. with informal discussions to follow. RSVP to Randy McKean at 265-0611 x203 or randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Substitute Teachers Classroom Workshop: for new & experienced substitutes

The NCSOS and North Coast Beginning Teachers Program are conducting a workshop focused on making a substitute's time in the classroom rewarding for them and productive for students. Although the workshop is optional, attendance will be permanently indicated on the substitute list. Retired teachers are encouraged to attend to share their wealth of experience and expertise. Workshop takes place, Thursday, March 1, 8:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., NCSOS Houser Room, workshop fee of \$15 includes book, lunch, and

snacks. Seating is limited to 30. Register online at www.nevco.org/event-registration.cfm. Make check payable to NCSOS. Payment will be accepted at workshop. For further information contact Anna McMillen at 478-6400 x201.

Transitional Kindergarten Collaboration & Discussion – Hold the Date

Additional Transitional Kindergarten meetings were requested by kindergarten teachers and administrators who attended a meeting earlier this year. Associate Superintendent Stan Miller will provide updated information from the last meeting; answers to questions researched by Transitional Kindergarten Specialist Natalie Woods Andrews, and facilitate collaboration and discussion pertaining to Transitional Kindergarten. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Houser Room at NCSOS.

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

Nevada Union Theatre Society presents Arthur Miller's THE CRUCIBLE

Written in the early 1950s, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, takes place in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. It recounts the events surrounding the Salem Witch Trials, a time when paranoia, hysteria, and deceit gripped the Puritan towns of New England.

Under the direction of Rob Metcalf and others, the students not only tackle the many diverse acting parts, but also take on technical roles, overseeing aspects such as set construction, costume, lighting, prop, and sound design, as well as publicity and house management. Remaining performances of *The Crucible* take place February 2, 3, and 4 at 7 p.m. and a Saturday February 4 matinee at 2 p.m. For tickets and additional information contact Rob Metcalfe at 273-4431 x1033.

Opportunities for All

Seeking Science Teachers: Free Professional Development Opportunity

The office of Media Services at SCOE is offering a free Flipped Classroom professional development opportunity for rural science teachers. A Flipped Classroom is a classroom that uses online screencasts to be viewed online before class. Class time is then spent doing labs or interactive activities to illustrate concepts taught in the videos. If selected to participate there is a \$250 stipend, continuing education units, or 50 professional development hours.

Apply online by February 10th at <http://tinyurl.com/FlipClassApp>.

Pursuing a Career in Landscaping?

For high school students pursuing a career in horticulture, floriculture, landscaping, nursery production, or a related field, Region 14 of the American Iris Society offers a \$500 scholarship to enhance your studies. Deadline to apply is April 6, 2012. For further information or an application contact Scholarship Chairman Terry Hudson at irishud@earthlink.net / (707) 964-3907.

2012 Charp Award: Nominations Now Open

Is your school district using technology in an innovative way to improve educational achievement for all its students? In that case, there might be an award waiting for you. Nominations are being accepted thru March 1 for the 2012 Sylvia Charp Award to recognize outstanding use of innovative technology in K-12 education. For more info. visit www.iste.org/membership/awards-and-recognition.aspx.

Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Video game Challenge Kicks Off for Second Year: A competition to motivate interest in STEM learning is open for entries through March 12. The challenge calls on students and teachers from middle school through college to develop their own video games as a learning tool. For more information www.stemchallenge.org.
- Green + 1 Challenge: The Synopsys Foundation is awarding \$2000 grants to help 10 California K-8 teachers lead

projects that have a positive and measurable impact on the environment. Application deadline is April 16, 2012 at www.outreach-foundation.org/green/intro.html for 2012-13 school year projects.

- TurfMutt launches Spruce Up Your School Sweepstakes: Spruce up your school playground with the addition of trees, shrubs, and more. Educators can enter as much as 1 time per day at turfmutt.discoveryeducation.com/sweepstakes.cfm thru March 1.

If you have received funding 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.



Music Education Corner

February highlight ~

Chicago Park Supt.-Principal Dan Zeisler is a ten-year supporter of the Brummitt-Taylor Music Program. Dan puts an item in his weekly newsletter telling parents what composer and what piece of classical music students are listening to that week. Thank you Dan!

All MIM educational programs are free of charge to our schools. To find out more contact Mark Vance at 265-6173.

Quick Reference Calendar... page 4 & page 5



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.



Nevada County Reads & Writes!

2012 selection: *The Help* (more dates to come in the near future...)

- Ongoing: Geocache
- February 1: distribution of writing competition guidelines to high school students
- March 25: Bridge lessons with Bruce Lester
- March 26: Community Panel Discussion
- March 28: Writing competition submission deadline/midnight
- April 10: Nevada County Writes! awards event



Bear River High School Dramatics presents **Singin' in the Rain**

February 2-3-4-9-10: student, evening, and matinee performances



SEPAC Video Series

February 13: The Hidden Curriculum: Teaching what is Meaningful



Poetry Out Loud!

February 15, 6:00 p.m.: Countywide competition and awards night at the Bear River High School Auditorium



Lowe's Toolbox for Education

February 17: deadline to submit funding application for improvement projects

Upcoming CPR Class Dates



CPR & FIRST AID	Thurs. 2/23	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Sat. 2/25	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Sat. 3/17	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Thurs. 3/29	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

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Young at Art

February 29 - March 2: installation of artwork takes place according to guidelines
May 28-29: Artwork to be removed by 5:00 p.m. on second day



Tournament Schedule for School Year 2011-12

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	LOCATION
Speech Prelims	4 th – 8 th	3/8	Calvary Bible Church
Speech Finals	4 th – 8 th	3/19	Nevada Theatre



Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair

DATE	DEADLINES
March 23	Report project totals
March 26	School allotment announcement
April 11	Applications due
April 16	Project drop-off
April 18	Science Fair open to the public. Classes are invited to take field trips on this date.



Music in the Mountains

Classics for Kids

April 13: Classical music performances for 4th grade classes at Center for the Arts



Art Docent Program

May 22, 2012: Art docent Luncheon