News & Notes ...

6th annual Nevada County Reads will focus on Japanese-American themes

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office and Nevada County Library have chosen the novel “Snow Falling on Cedars” by David Guterson as the 2010 book selection for the 6th annual Nevada County Reads.

Nevada County Reads is a countywide literary event involving schools, libraries, book reading groups, bookstores and the general public. It principally encourages reading and discussion of quality books. Students, teachers and other community members are encouraged to read and discuss “Snow Falling On Cedars,” which is geared for high schoolers and adults. The novel is a compelling account of a murder trial on an island in Puget Sound. It also deals with racial prejudice toward Japanese-Americans post World War II.

A class set of “Snow Falling on Cedars” is available for loan to high school classes from the NCSoS on a first-come basis. Contact Nikki Johnson at 478-6400 ext. 201.

In conjunction with this Asian-American story, Nevada County Reads also encourages middle schoolers to read the award-winning memoir “Farewell To Manzanar” by Jeanne W. and James Houston. “Manzanar” recounts one family’s hardships amid other Japanese-Americans imprisoned during World War II at the infamous internment camp in California’s Owens Valley.

The book selection for K-5 students is “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes” by Eleanor Coerr. The 1977 non-fiction book tells the story of a girl, Sadako Sasaki, who lived in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing and developed leukemia from the radiation. While in a nursing home, she folded paper cranes in hope to make 1,000, which might grant her the wish to live.

Nevada County Reads events will begin with a celebratory “Kick-Off” event Feb. 24. Events continue through April. (See events calendar at right.)

Imaginarium workshops come to schools

As promised, during restructuring, the Imaginarium has hit the road and wants to come to your classroom. Imaginarium staff is available to make site visits lasting approximately two hours. Start times are 9 a.m. or noon, though these times are somewhat flexible to accommodate school schedules. The cost is $2 per student.

Available on-site “field trips” include:

• Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy (Grades 3-6)
  • Magnetism Workshop (4-5)
  • Electricity Workshop (4-5)
  • How Airplanes Fly (4-5)
Art & Science field trips resume at Bridgeport

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office’s Art & Science Field Trip program resumes this March through May at the Bridgeport State Park on the South Yuba River. Interested teachers are encouraged to make a field trip reservation in the next month to ensure having the date they need for this low-cost, local outdoor learning experience.

The program is geared to meet science standards in grades 3-5, but other grades are welcome. Hands-on learning about the interconnected flora, fauna and watershed hydrology/geology will be combined with simple art making such as field sketching. Nature songs and games also are taught by experienced outdoor educators. All students receive a field journal for their participation.

The spring program will include study of wildflowers and insects, taking advantage of the park’s spectacular floral show.

Field trip hours are generally from 9:30 or 10 a.m. to 1 or 1:30 p.m., including a lunch break. One or two classes may attend the same day. Trips may be scheduled Wednesday-Friday. The fee is $5 per student and does not include transportation costs. Call or e-mail Becky Quigley at 432-2546 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Charlotte’s Web at NUHS

Student groups are invited to attend special student matinee performances of Nevada Theatre Theatrical Society’s winter production, “Charlotte’s Web.” The 10 a.m. student matinees are Feb. 16-18 in the Black Box Theatre (room A-1) located on the Nevada Union High School campus.

Adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette from the book by E.B. White, “Charlotte’s Web” tells the story of the irresistible young pig, Wilbur, and the friendships that keep him alive.

The student production is suitable for all ages, but is especially appropriate for ages 6-10. The running time is two hours. Tickets are $5 for the 10 a.m. shows. Seating is limited to 85 people.

Additional performances are at 7 p.m. Feb. 11-13 and 18-20, and at 2 p.m. Feb. 13 and 20.

For reservations, call Rob Metcalfe at the NUHS Drama Department at 273-4431 ext. 2102.

Origami storyteller wants to visit local schools

Nationally renowned storyteller and Japanese-style arts teacher Ruth Stotter is available to perform and teach in schools several days around March 3. Stotter gives 50-minute storytelling performances and teaches children about origami, making string figures (Itodori) and becoming story-tellers. She also gives teacher workshops. She is interested in working with students and teachers in grades K-9, including special ed classes.

A Marin County resident, Stotter is available to perform and teach in schools several days around March 3. Stotter gives 50-minute storytelling performances and teaches children about origami.
**First 5 Strengthening Families workshop**

First 5 Nevada County will host a free workshop titled “Strengthening Families by Building Protective Factors” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 4 in the Community Room at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City.

“Family strengthening” is the new language to describe the field of family support. This evidence-based framework was developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy based in Washington, D.C. It highlights five protective factors that help prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening families and communities. The five protective factors are: parental resilience; social connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support in times of need; and social and emotional competence of children.

Invited to attend this workshop are veteran family support workers and administrators who want to give a face lift to their existing family support program; new family support workers who want to learn how to strengthen families; anyone in a position to nurture children and strengthen families.

Refreshments, lunch and resource materials will be available. To enroll, send an e-mail with your name, job title, organization/school, e-mail and phone to Samie White, First 5 Nevada County Program Assistant: <samie@first5nevco.org> or call 265-0611 ext. 223 for more info.

**Classroom origami workshop Feb. 22**

Exciting, fun origami projects for students will be shared with teachers during “Paperpalooza III: Origami!” from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 in the NCSoS Fellersen Room. The cost is $10, which includes refreshments and resource materials.

Longtime Nevada City Home Study Charter School director/art teacher Connie Harrar will teach participants several unusual origami projects geared for students in grades 3 and up. Projects include a picture frame, a folding memory book and a 14-piece star. Harrar will model how to successfully teach the projects and provide hand-outs that illustrate each folding step. Origami books and many project how-to hand-outs will be available.

Workshop registration is requested through Paul Harrar: 478-6400 ext. 212 or <paul@nevco.k12.ca.us>

**First Aid and CPR training continues**

First aid and CPR training continues at the NCSoS through 2010. This program, designed and approved by the American Heart Association, is recommended for coaches, physical education teachers, classroom teachers, administrators, instructional aides and secretaries.


Thursday classes are 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturday classes are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is $30. Reimbursement receipts are available. Pre-register by e-mailing Nikki Johnson at <njohnson@nevco.k12.ca.us>

**Real world algebra workshop March 18**

Warren Schnack and Clay Dagler from Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento will present an algebra workshop in March the NCSoS. The workshop will take place either March 18 from 3:45-6:30 p.m. at the NCSoS. The cost is $15, which includes a light dinner.

The teachers will present sample algebra lessons that focus on real world applications of algebra concepts. These lessons have been used and proven with challenging inner-city students. It can engage students and provide “relevance” for algebra.

The flyer soon will be on the NCSoS website: www.nevco.org. Registration can be made through Judy Nielsen: <judy@nevco.k12.ca.us> or by calling her at 478-6400 ext. 203.

---

**Developmental Asset of the Month**

**Asset #22**

A young person has a commitment to learning.

This is an internal asset. A child is responsive, attentive, and actively engaged in learning at school and enjoys participating in learning activities outside of school.

A reminder from Got 40? (formerly MADE 4 Youth), the local nonprofit organization inspired by the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets. For more info about the 40 Developmental Assets, see www.search-institute.org/

**Practice random and intentional acts of asset building every day!**
audience of families on March 3 at the
Madelyn Helling Library in conjunction
with Nevada County Reads events,
which focus on Japanese culture (see
NCR calendar on Page 1).
A former school teacher, Stotter
earned a master’s degree in storytelling,
which led to her second career as a folk-
lorist. She is the author of several books
on storytelling and public speaking. Her
book “The Golden Axe: Folk Tales of
Compassion and Greed” is a collection
of 33 international folk tales with notes
on how to make these stories come alive
with reader’s theater, puppetry, games
and other classroom activities. She has
spent time in Japan learning origami and
itoori.
To discuss her availability and fees,
Stotter can be contacted by phone at 415-
435-3568 or 415-599-5299, or by e-mail:
<r.stotter@comcast.net>.

NCSoS to host biennial educator art exhibition
Current and recently-retired Nevada
County school staff are invited to show-
case their creativity during the semi-
annual exhibition “Homework: Recent
Art By Nevada County Educators.” The
show will take place March 1-June 3,
2010 at the NCSoS.
The exhibition will feature paintings,
drawings, photography and mixed
media two dimensional work. The
“Homework” show aims to honor the
artistic efforts of teachers who struggle
to create work in their limited spare
time, but whose creativity also enhances
their teaching practice. Current and
recently-retired school staff (including
classified staff), substitute teachers and
artists working in schools may partici-
pate. Art work that is no more than three
years old will be accepted.
Paul Harrar, school arts liaison at the
NCSoS, will coordinate the exhibition.
For more participation info, contact Paul
at 478-6400 ext. 212.

Mark Twain to engage students at Nevada Theatre
Writer and humorist Mark Twain
returns to the historic Nevada Theatre to
perform for student audiences Feb. 16-
19. The one-man shows by veteran
Twain impersonator Chris LeGate will
be staged at 10 a.m. Admission is $10.
“What would Mark Twain think of
America today?” is the theme of the
show. Explains LeGate, who has per-
formed Twain since 1994, “Mark Twain
would want to point out who we are
and where we come from. He would be
the first to point out the mistakes we
have made and perhaps are still making,
but he would also remind us that this
country is made up of the best and the
worst of the human race.”
The first act will portray Twain as he
looked while working for the Territorial
Enterprise newspaper during the 1860s
Virginia City silver strike. He will dis-
cuss his younger years in Hannibal,
Missouri, and on the Mississippi River.
The second act will portray the older,
iconic Twain as he discusses his views
on American involvement in world poli-
tics. The show will conclude with an
audience question and answer session.
LeGate thinks the show is ideal for
students studying Twain’s writing, U.S.
government and the California history of
the Gold Rush era.
Student matinee reservations may
be made by contacting Comika Beudry
at 277-7513.

Snow Falling on Cedars
student shows at theater
Community Asian Theatre of the
Sierra (CATS) invites students in grade 7
and up to attend a special matinee per-
formance of its annual theatrical produc-
tion at the Nevada Theatre. The stage
adaptation of David Guterson’s award-
winning and best-selling novel “Snow
Falling On Cedars” will be presented at
9:15 a.m. Thursday April 1 and 10 a.m.
Friday, April 2. (General public perfor-
mances are March 17-April 10.)
The two-hour play features drama,
suspense, romance and history as a
small, quiet, Pacific Northwest commu-
nity becomes embroiled in controversy
surrounding a murder trial and a biracial
romance. Racial prejudice toward
Japanese-Americans post World War II
complicates efforts to find the truth of
who murdered a well-respected local
fisherman. The bitterness of the town’s
Japanese-Americans who were incarcer-
ated in internment camps during the
war is heightened by the murder trial of
a Japanese-American defendant.
Student matinee tickets are $12. To
reserve seats, contact Lisa Moon at 273-
6362 or <chanmoon@pacbell.net>.
For more info about the play, see the
CATS web site: www.catsweb.org.

Mike Bratton, Agent
Insurance Lic. 0674070
www.mikebrattonagency.com
273-0521

¥ Understanding
¥ Life insurance
¥ Home and auto
retirement options
insurance

Providing State Farm Insurance
& Financial Services

Mountain Pastimes
Now Sells Art
Supplies!

320 Spring St.
Nevada City
(across from Miners Foundry)
265-6692

Great Products for your
School or Club

Bags ¥ Pens ¥ Calendars
Mugs ¥ Magnets ¥ Lanyards
Stickers ¥ Shirts ¥ Balloons
Hats ¥ Buttons ¥ Water Bottles
Ask us about fund-raisers!

John & Barbara Juneau
Promotional Advertising
jbjuneau@yahoo.com
530-265-3206