

## News & Notes ...

### Bitney College Prep 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Buster Challenge

By Principal Bruce Herring

On Saturday, February 5, Bitney College Prep High School hosted the 5th annual Brain Buster Challenge. This unique event pitted eight enthusiastic teams of middle school students in an academic and problem solving competition. Spirit, teamwork, and sportsmanship form the nucleus of the event. In fact, the annual "Spirit Award" is just as coveted as the first place trophy. This award exemplifies what the event, and what Bitney Prep is all about. This year's award went to the "Narwhals" from Lyman Gilmore.



Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Holly Hermansen presented the first place trophy to "the Conspiracy Theory" from Seven Hills Middle School. All participants received a t-shirt and a "goodie bag" containing food, prizes, and gifts donated from several local merchants.

A total of nine rounds of academic and problem solving challenges await each team. In this year's debate students argued the pros and cons of allowing chickens in the backyards of downtown Grass Valley. Participants made their arguments before a distinguished panel of judges that included Supt. Holly Hermansen and Superior Court Judge Tom Anderson. At one point, one savvy debater from the Conspiracy Theory mused aloud that the point made from the opposing team seemed a bit "fowl."

The primary purpose of the event is to promote friendly competition with community-wide appeal that showcases skill, teamwork, and most of all FUN! Participating schools this year included Seven Hills, Lyman Gilmore, Pleasant Valley, Magnolia, and the Yuba River Charter School. Lyman Gilmore sent both an eighth grade team and a seventh grade

team. In a great showing the 7<sup>th</sup> graders finished fifth out of the eight teams.

Huge thanks to all participants, team mentors, teachers, school principals, volunteers, and all our sponsors.

### Safe Schools Healthy Students: G.R.E.A.T.

By Project Director Marina Bernheimer

The Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) grant is working in collaboration with the Grass Valley Police Department to provide a *Gang Resistance Education And Training* (G.R.E.A.T.) academy to 200 local students this summer. The G.R.E.A.T. Program focuses on providing life skills to students; in order to help them avoid delinquent behavior and provide alternatives to violence as a tool to solve problems.

The G.R.E.A.T. program offers both recreational and educational activities each day, supervised by law enforcement staff and volunteers. In addition to fun activities such as swimming, games, and field trips, the program includes community service projects, social/emotional curriculum, and life skill development.

When we piloted the G.R.E.A.T. academy with a small group of students last summer, participating students and their families were thrilled with the program. Last summer's highlights included: students creating Public Service Announcements at KNCO that discussed prescription drug abuse by youth; paving a sidewalk adjacent to a school campus; developing positive relationships between youth and local law enforcement; and, providing safe and healthy activities to students during the summer.

The summer program will serve 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in four one-week sessions, divided by grade level. The program will be based out of two sites simultaneously: Lyman Gilmore School in Grass Valley and Gold Run School in Nevada City. Applications will be delivered to all schools in April which interested students must submit. The program costs \$25 per week and scholarships are available. For more information about the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Program, call Karen Wallack-Eisen at the Grass Valley PARTNERS Family Resource Center at 273-4059.

## Healthy Families Program is Outreaching to School Districts

By Coordinator of School Health Services Sharyn Turner

Statistics show that Nevada County is one of the counties in California that continues to have a high percentage of children, who fit into either the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families criteria but are still uninsured. Anyone who qualifies for Free & Reduced Lunch is also eligible for Healthy Families. We strongly recommend you encourage your parents to sign-up to

provide health insurance for their child(ren). Flyers are available for free in eleven languages and they can be customized with your school's information in either English or Spanish. For further information call 1(800) 279-5012. The link to order free flyers online is [www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/EEs\\_CAA/RFI\\_Flyer\\_Request.aspx](http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov/EEs_CAA/RFI_Flyer_Request.aspx).

With your help we can be pro-active in getting the word out to your families that could use this help.

# Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

## Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

### Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (SEPAC) 2010-11 Presentation Series Final Presentation: The Motivation Breakthrough

What does it take to motivate the 'forgotten' student that traditional methods just don't seem to reach? The DVD "The Motivation Breakthrough" will be screened with informal discussion to follow. In the video, educator Richard Lavoie draws on decades of teaching experience to demonstrate six basic motivational styles and strategies for inspiring the most withdrawn and reluctant student. He explains how to tap into an apathetic or learning-disabled student's secret need for prestige, power, praise, or reward.

Screening will take place Tuesday, March 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. & 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Houser Room at NCSOS, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City. RSVP to Randy McKean at (530) 265-0611 x203 or email [randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### Collaboration Meeting for Technology Teachers (update)

The technology collaboration meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 15. The meeting takes place

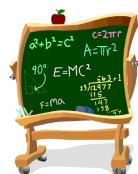
12:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. at NCSOS. Topics include what cyber bullying and technology have in common, the new Nevada County Digital Media Center and their educational goals, bulk buying, grades, future trainings, and more.

For more information contact Michelle Riley at [mriley@uhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mriley@uhsd.k12.ca.us) or call (530) 273-8456 x197.

### Emergency Medical Services Authority Training/CPR & First Aid Training

A complete list of classes can be found at [www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org). For reservations contact Anna McMillen at (530) 478-6400 x201 or [amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us). Class cost is \$65 and \$30 respectively.

### Countywide 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Collaboration (update)



Due to weather conditions, the third in a series of four 4<sup>th</sup> grade math collaboration sessions is rescheduled for Thursday, **March 24, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** One-half day substitute expenditures may be billed to NCSOS. It is necessary to re-register by noon on March 16. For more information call Judy at (530) 478-6400 ext. 208.

Fourth grade teachers should also save the date for the **newly added date of Thursday, April 14 for the 4<sup>th</sup> session.** The fourth topic is 'Additional Strategies, Pacing, & Benchmark Assessments' and will be an appropriate wrap-up to the series.

## Field Trips

### St. Joseph's Cultural Center & Ananda Living Wisdom 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> School Presents: Joan of Arc

This original screenplay, Joan of Arc, is based on the book by Mark Twain. It recounts the amazing story of an uneducated teen-age girl who steps forward to lead her nation's army to victory over the foremost military power of her era. Recommended for ages 9 and up, the Friday March 11, 10:00 a.m. student performance is free for teachers and their classrooms. Performance takes place at St. Joseph's Cultural Center. Ananda Living Wisdom School has been included in public school programs and wants to reciprocate the generosity! Call 478-7640 for reservations.

The 7:00 p.m. evening performance is \$10/adults and \$3/children and students.

### Mud Hut Offers 'at-your-site' field trips

This is the fieldtrip solution if transportation costs are a problem for you. Mud Hut instructors, Claudia Jeffers & Denise Wey, offer classroom instruction in ceramics.

Be creative with your science, literature, and history curriculum with tile murals and sculpture. For more information contact Claudia Jeffers at 477-0128.

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## Opportunities for All

### 2011 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registrations across Western Nevada County take place on specific dates, now through June. To view a full list of registration dates visit the NCSOS website: [www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org) and click on 'Parents & Families'.

### Camp Fit for Kids: offered by the Wellness Center at SNMH

Camp Fit will teach kids how to decipher food labels, make personal fitness goals, and avoid the 'couch potato' syndrome. Students will follow a red blood cell through the circulatory system, maneuver through a giant obstacle course inside the respiratory system, play Capture the Organs, and more. The ½ day camp ends with an informative parent hour taught by the SNMH registered dietitian. Contact RN, School Nurse, & Credentialed Health Teacher Doreen Baldock for more information at 274-9884. To pre-register call the Wellness Center at 274-6124. Scholarships are available if needed.

### 2011 Congressional Art Competition

This competition is for high school students. Winning pieces are displayed for one year in the Cannon Tunnel, which leads to the capitol in Washington, D.C. A cover letter, student guidelines, and student release form are available by contacting Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or e-mail [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

Bitney College Prep High School is finding funding this month by collecting e-waste to be recycled. Saturday, March 26, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Bitney Prep parking lot.

This is an opportunity to dispose of monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and

multifunction scanners and fax machines, small household appliances such as toasters, mixers & blenders, and vacuum cleaners with the dust bag removed. For more information contact Linda Waring at 272-6538.

*The Nugget hopes to provide a monthly suggestion for funding opportunities. If you have an opportunity to share, contact Nugget Editor Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or e-mail [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).*

### MUSIC in the MOUNTAINS presents...

#### Classics for Kids

*Classics for Kids* takes place April 15 at 10:30 a.m., Saint Joseph's Hall.

#### Music Live

*Music Live* brings some of the best musicians in Nevada County to selected K-8 schools. *Music Live* concert dates are March 24-28-31 & April 28.

#### Peers Performing 4 Peers

The *Young Musicians* program performs in Nevada County K-6 classrooms, now thru May. To schedule call Mark Vance at 265-6173.

*All events are free of charge.*

### 2011 Nevada County Reads & Writes! Book Selection: 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak

Remaining events include high school writing tournament awards night, community book event, and a geocache (on-going).

The writing competition awards night takes place at City Hall in Nevada City on March 11, 6-7:30 p.m.. The community book event takes place at the Center for the Arts on the evening of March 15, 6-7:30 p.m. All events are free to the public. More information at [www.nevadacountyreads.com](http://www.nevadacountyreads.com). Nevada County Reads & Writes! is a program of the Nevada County Library and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office.

### 'Young At Art' at the Rood Center thru May 25<sup>th</sup>

Nevada County celebrates State and National youth art month. There is still

limited room to display fine art from any public or private school student, Pre-K thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The exhibit remains up through May 25<sup>th</sup>. Removal of art takes place May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Judy Nielsen at (530) 478-6400 x208 or email [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).



### AL JENNINGS NEVADA COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

#### Misconceptions clarified:

\* 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade science fair projects ARE judged and winners are eligible for sponsor awards, which may be cash prizes or gifts.

\* 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade science fair projects are: judged; and winners are eligible for sponsor awards, which may be cash prizes or gifts; eligible for savings bonds awards; and, eligible to proceed to the State Science Fair.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 25: School site coordinator reports number of students working on projects to Coordinator Dan Dummett to receive allotment for their site

April 1: Each school is encouraged to have its own science fair before this date

April 8: Deadline to submit 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade entry forms

April 11: Project set-up and judging

April 12: Judging

April 13: Open to public and class field trips; public viewing; dinner for sale by Lady Elks; awards ceremony; project removal

April 14: project removal by noon

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## New Faces at NCSOS

There have been numerous staffing changes at NCSOS since July 1, 2010. Along with retirements, NCSOS has added new programs including the Sierra College Child Development Center, three Family Resource Centers affiliated with the Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant, and restructuring of the Independent Living Program and the NCSOS business office. We welcome our new staff!

<b>Name</b>	<b>Work Location</b>	<b>Position</b>
MARGARET LUCE	GV Family Resource Center	Parenting Specialist
ANNA MCMILLEN	NCSOS	Support Services Secretary II
ERIKA TERRASSA	NCSOS	Business Services Tech III/Support Services Secretary II -HR
REGINA RENO	NCSOS	Personnel Analyst -HR
SHERRY TYGART	NCSOS	Business Services Tech III
CARRIE STOUDE	NCSOS Annex	Accountant
HELENA HEINZELMAN	NCSOS Annex	Independent Living Program Case Manager
JENNIFER PANNO	NCSOS Annex	Business Services Tech III
JILL SYPNICKI	NCSOS Annex	Tutor - Indian Ed.
TERESA HANLON	NCSOS Annex	Business Services Tech III
CONNIE MOLLER	PV Family Resource Center	Early Childhood Education/ Parenting Specialist
DEBORAH NEWELL	Sierra College Child Development Center	Associate Teacher II -Preschool
JUDITH BARNETT	Sierra College CDC	Teacher - Preschool
KATHLEEN CLINE	Sierra College CDC	Nutrition Aide Toddler/Preschool
LISA HARRISON	Sierra College CDC	Associate Teacher II - Preschool
MORGAN BEST	Sierra College CDC	Site Director –Preschool/Toddler
SANDRA HEDENLAND	TKM/First 5	Program Assistant – First 5