



The Nugget has a NEW FEATURE!
Quick Reference Calendar... lists events in chronological order that have been highlighted in the past and are still pertinent.

News & Note

School Attendance and the SARB Process

Another school year is well underway, and the focus of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office on attendance issues remains strong. As we enter into the remainder of the year, we would like to remind school staff and families of the importance of attendance. Students and parents as well as school staff must understand that school attendance is not a matter of choice, it is a mandate.

California compulsory education law requires that everyone between 6 and 18 years of age attend school. Some students, however, violate compulsory education laws and have a pattern of continued absences. Although truancy and excessive absenteeism are not new problems, they create costly, long-term problems for students, schools, and the community.

In 1974, the Legislature enacted *Education Code* to enhance the enforcement of compulsory education laws through the creation of School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs). The intent was to develop new ways of coordinating school, community, and home efforts to deal with student attendance and behavior problems. In Nevada County, SARB serves students K-8, and students grades 9-12 enrolled in the Nevada Joint Union High School District participate in Student Attendance Mediation (SAM), chaired by Assistant Supt. Trisha Dellis and is similar to the SARB process.

SARBs create a safety net for students with persistent attendance or behavior problems by maximizing the use of all available resources and services and avoiding unnecessary duplication of resources. Students are referred to SARB if they have persistent attendance and behavior problems in school and when the normal avenues of classroom, school, and district interventions do not resolve the situation. Although the goal of SARB is to keep students in school and provide them with a meaningful educational experience, SARBs do have the power, when necessary, to refer students and their parents or guardians to court.

The Nevada County SARB is held at the courthouse and is convened by Chairperson Holly Hermansen, County Superintendent of Schools. The Board is composed of school representatives and members of the community at large, including representatives from law enforcement, social services, probation, mental health, and the District Attorney's Office. Members work collaboratively to diagnose the problem and recommend alternative solutions to alleviate circumstances that contribute to specific truancy, attendance, or behavior problems.

If the student and parent or guardian choose not to use SARB assistance or follow school attendance laws and the student does not attend school regularly, SARB will take necessary steps to enforce compulsory laws.

Through collaborative efforts with District Attorney Cliff Newell, and his staff, the Nevada County SARB is exploring new options for prosecution of parents and students who are not in compliance with their existing SARB contracts. Presently, parents that are not in compliance with their SARB contract may be issued a citation and fined, while older students in violation of their contracts may have their driver's license suspended in yearly increments up to the age of 22 years. Ultimately, the parent or guardian may face criminal charges if they refuse to deal with their student's chronic truancy problem.

We know that after poor attendance patterns have developed they are very difficult to break.

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office would like to remind school staff and families to work closely together to resolve attendance concerns long before they become problems. For more information contact Melissa Parrett at 478-6400 ext. 221 or mparrett@nevco.k12.ca.us.

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Nevada County Celebrates Youth Art Month with Young at Art March 5 – May 25, 2012



State and National Youth Art Month began in 1961 and is celebrated nationwide the month of March. Young at Art is Nevada County's annual children's exhibit that emphasizes the stated purpose of the National program: the value of art for all children. In Nevada County the Young at Art exhibit is so well loved that the exhibit runs thru May of each year. And this year is no different. Artwork will be installed at the Eric Rood Administration Center beginning February 29 and remain on exhibit through May 25, 2012. All K-12 teachers, art instructors, art docents and others are invited to install student artwork 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., February 29 - March 2. Space is available on kiosks in the main lobby, walls of the second floor hallways, wall panels in the upstairs landing, and is available on a first-come basis.

Governors and mayors throughout the United States issue proclamations declaring March as Youth Art Month, and many United States Senators, members of Congress, state legislators, and other elected officials take the opportunity to make public statements in favor of art education. Locally the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools Holly Hermansen give public testimony to the value of the arts in education.

Most years a larger percentage of art comes from the lower grades. It is emphasized that this is a K-12 exhibition. Upper grade students are encouraged to submit their works of art.

Detailed guidelines will be distributed using **The Nugget** distribution list, will go out to head art docents for distribution to each art docent in our K-8 schools, and you can also download the guidelines by linking to www.nevco.k12.ca.us/teachers.cfm. For further information contact Young at Art Coordinator Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or email judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Trainings to Take Place in January

Safe Schools/Healthy Students will be offering three trainings in January that support Olweus, Second Step, and Steps to Success. The Olweus Staff Training makeup will take place on Thursday, January 12. Second Step for grades K-3 takes place on Tuesday, January 24. And Steps to Success for grades 6-7-8 takes place on Thursday, January 26. All trainings take place from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at NCSOS in the Fellersen Room. For registration information contact Sharyn Turner at sharyn@nevco.k12.ca.us.

SELPA/SEPAC presents: Puberty & Adolescent Development

Nevada County SELPA and the Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (SEPAC) present a talk by NCSOS Special Education School Nurse Havilyn Kern, entitled 'Puberty & Adolescent Development'. The talk will highlight current curriculum and strategies to promote healthy sexual

development along with tips on how to discuss puberty and adolescent development to children with special needs. January 10, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., NCSOS Houser room. RSVP to Randy McKean at 265-0611 x203 or e-mail randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Quick Reference Calendar... beginning on page 3, references Trainings & Collaborations highlighted in previous editions of **The Nugget**.

Field Trips

Bear River High School Dramatics Presents Singin' in the Rain

Along with the full length production of *Singin' in the Rain*, Bear River High School Dramatics will present two special matinee performances of the first act for school audiences. Performance date and times are Thursday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., \$3/per student. To reserve seats call Director Amy Linden at 268-3700 x4859. Seats are limited. Reservations will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Full length performances will take place February 2-3-4-9-10 at 7:00 p.m. and February 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Classics 4 Kids:

April 13 at Center for the Arts

Each year Music in the Mountains (MIM) presents a classical concert for 4th grade students. This year the concert will take place the morning of Friday, April 13, at the Center for the Arts. The concert will highlight outstanding local student musicians performing both solo and in groups. The concert is sure to be inspiring to students and teachers, alike.

Closer to the concert date a packet is sent out to participating 4th grade teachers. The packet includes audience etiquette, pre & post concert curriculum, and a program. Program notes and a vocabulary list are included in the program.

Space is limited. For seating availability contact Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us or call 478-6400 x208.

Quick Reference Calendar... beginning on page 3, references Field Trips highlighted in previous editions of **The Nugget**.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All... continues on page 3

Opportunities for All

CA Center for the Book Offers Free Programs

The California Center for the Book is the California affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. This agency works within a network of affiliates from every state in the Union to promote books, reading, literacy, and libraries.

The Center creates and lends a number of 'Book Clubs' from COMIX! to CROSSFIRE. Programs are divided into levels of skill. Book club programs are free of charge. Shipping – both directions - ten copies of each book, promotional materials, supplementary materials to initiate discussions, and book marks are provided and you can keep the books as long as you like.

For more info go to their website at www.calbook.org.

Teaching Resources Provided by the U.S. Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau provides a multitude of resources for teachers; from lesson plans, teaching ideas, and facts for features, to history and geography data. For these resources go to

www.census.gov/schools/for_teachers/.

January Jazz Camp: A One Day Workshop

Sierra Jazz Society is offering a jazz camp for children and adults, to take place on Saturday, January 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Grass Valley. For scholarships inquire at Julia@sierrajazzsociety.com. To register or for more info contact Bill or Nora at 273-5489 or email nora@sierrajazzsociety.com.

New Faces at NCSOS

We extend a warm welcome to new NCSOS employees and look forward to the educational services they provide to the Nevada County educational arena. These employees are Gail Sullivan, SS/HS Preschool Second Step Trainer; Nohemi Mead, SS/HS Bilingual Promotora; Dennis Desmond, 3R Teacher; Kaitlyn Brownrigg, 3R Instructional Assistant; Elyce Canter, Indian Education Tutor; Jenifer Campbell-Lund, Foster Youth Services Program Specialist; Stacie LaJeunesse, School Nurse; Alan Archer, Literacy Director - Nevada County Library; and, Doreen Domb, Literacy Assistant- Nevada County Library.

Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

Lowe's Toolbox for Education invites applications for K-12 public school improvement projects with awards up to

\$5,000. The Spring 2012 cycle is now open. The deadline to submit an application is February 17, 2012, 5 p.m. EST. For detailed information go to www.toolboxforeducation.com.

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 in the MOUNTAINS presents...

Peers Performing 4 Peers

Student performers come into the classroom for approximately 25 minute presentations. Now is the time to schedule a classroom concert. Contact Mark Vance at 265-6173 x202.

Brummitt-Taylor

This outstanding classical music listening program is for students K-6. Kits are free to teachers who would like to use the program on long-term loan from Music in the Mountains (MIM).

No classical training or background is required. For more info contact Mark Vance at 265-6173.

All MIM educational programs are free of charge.

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.

Upcoming CPR & EMSA Class Dates



CPR & FIRST AID	Thurs. 1/5	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Sat. 1/7	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
EMSA (for Childcare Providers)	Thurs. 1/14	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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.

Quick Reference Calendar... continues on page 4



Grass Valley Elks Lodge #538 Essay Contest

January 10, 2012: deadline for submission



SEPAC Video Series

January 10: Puberty & Adolescent Development

February 13: Hidden Curriculum – What is Meaningful



Tournament Schedule for School Year 2011-12

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	LOCATION
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



SYRCL ~ Wild & Scenic Film Festival presentation for primary students

January 13, 2012: morning showing at the Del Oro Theatre



Poetry Out Loud!

January 31, 2012: School site competitions must be completed to compete in the county-wide competition.

February 15, early evening: Countywide competition and awards night at the Bear River High School Auditorium



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



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.



Art Docent Program

May 22, 2012: Art docent Luncheon