

The Nugget



News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office

December 2010

Holly Hermansen, Superintendent



The NUGGET On-Line: Update

November marked the first time the **Nugget** was published on-line. The NCSOS office thanks you all for the many unsolicited responses we received on our new look and, as many of you said, the kudos for finally going on-line. Most of all we hope the **Nugget** continues to be used as a resource tool to further awareness and opportunities for Nevada County schools. The **Nugget** is archived on the NCSOS website at www.nevco.k12.ca.us.

News & Notes ...

The Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair By Science Fair Coordinator Dan Dummett & **Nugget** Editor Judy Nielsen

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office will again be hosting “The Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair” for 4th-12th grades. In my (Judy Nielsen) experience as director of the Imaginarium, I know a science fair is one of those activities in a child’s life that sticks with them. You wouldn’t believe how many times people from ten years old to eighty have told me about the time they entered their county-wide science fair. Students remember their project(s) for the rest of their lives.

All science teachers are encouraged to support this event by providing students the opportunity to be involved in this rewarding process. Says Fair Coordinator Dan Dummett, “Each year many parents call and want to be involved”. But, the guidelines dictate that projects and entries can only come through their public or private school.

To submit entries refer to The Nevada County Science Fair Handbook. It includes guidelines, regulations, applications, and abstract information. The handbook has been emailed to school administrators and can also be found on the NCSOS web-site at www.nevco.k12.ca.us. The Nevada County Science Fair strives to stimulate an active interest in science, give public recognition to students for novel research and investigation, support California State standards for science, and foster school/community cooperation in developing the scientific potential of Nevada County students.

Although now is the time for teachers to begin the process (see ‘Dates to Remember’ box), the event takes place April 11-13 at the Grass Valley Elks Lodge. Each year the panel of judges determines who will receive in excess of \$2000 in U.S. savings bonds and who will represent Nevada County at the

State level competition. Last year eighty students participated, representing twelve Nevada County schools, with five students from Nevada County competing at the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles. With your passion for teaching, we look forward to another rewarding year. For further information contact Science Fair Coordinator Dan Dummett at ddummett@uhsd.k12.ca.us or 273-8456 x187.



AL JENNINGS NEVADA COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December: introduce science fair to students

January: Begin process of investigations with students; each school should have a science fair coordinator

March 25: School site coordinator reports number of students working on projects to Coordinator Dan Dummett; site coordinators will 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 4th-12th 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

News & Notes ... continues on page 2

News & Notes ... continued

Safe Schools Healthy Students Supports Student's Mental Health

By Project Director Marina Bernheimer

The comprehensive Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) Initiative is funding multiple services and programs to support the mental health of Nevada County children and students. The federal grant is creating a safety net for local families by increasing access to therapists and counselors.

Starting in pre-school, SSHS is implementing the *Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative*, which will promote access to early intervention for children who are in need of mental/emotional support. This is being accomplished by working with pre-school providers to provide support when they identify a child in their care with behavioral issues. Once identified, a SSHS Early Childhood consultant will conduct a site visit to observe the child in the childcare setting and make recommendations to the provider to better support the child. If the consultant believes that the young child would benefit from clinical intervention, she will call the SSHS Early Childhood Therapist, who will conduct his own observation and offer therapy to the child and/or family if that is deemed appropriate. This invaluable program was piloted in Nevada County several years ago and was appreciated greatly by participating childcare and pre-school providers.

Once a child enters kindergarten, s/he will continue to have access to mental health services through the SSHS Behavioral Health Therapists who are working to meet the needs of k-8th grade students. Three therapists have been hired by Safe Schools Healthy Students to provide therapy and counseling to students in western Nevada County who are in grades kindergarten through eighth. For the first time ever, students without medical insurance have access to mental health

services through these therapists. This is a wonderful development for our community. We know that the earlier a student receives mental health support, the better the outcome. We also believe that by targeting young students, we will be able to prevent future challenges by promoting early intervention. High School students are served by a Crisis Counselor funded by SSHS.

By creating a network of therapists to meet the needs of children in western Nevada County, we are strengthening our community and building a healthier future for all students.

To make a referral to a Behavioral Health Therapist for a student in Kindergarten through 8th Grade, contact one of the SSHS Family Resource Centers (FRC) to request a referral form. Contact info: Hennessy FRC at 273-4059; Penn Valley FRC: 432-1118 x249; and, San Juan Ridge FRC: 292-3174. Then, referral forms must be faxed to 271-5943, attention Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken.

To make a referral to the Early Childhood Consultant for a child in pre-school or childcare in need of mental health services, call Connie Moller at 575-2373.

The Nugget highlights aspects of the SSHS on a monthly basis.

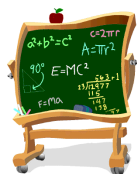
Art Docent Program 2010-2011

The county-wide hands-on workshop for art docents, held in November, provided the opportunity to enhance knowledge of age appropriate art projects. Local artist and teacher Margie Miller provided a menu of 45 art projects for docents to get their hands dirty and pick up great ideas for classroom programs, along with providing a platform to network with other committed volunteer art docents. A fun-filled messy time was had by all.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

Second Countywide 4th Grade Math Collaboration



CORRECTION TO THE NUGGET: The second in a series of four 4th grade math collaboration sessions for December has been postponed. The date has been rescheduled for **January 27, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Sacramento

County Office of Education (SCOE)
Director of Math Instruction Pat Duckhorn and the planning committee

will again facilitate the second 4th grade collaboration that will focus on division. One-half day substitute expenditures may be billed to NCSOS. Via e-mail all 4th grade teachers will receive a flier and registration form. Although there is no fee, it is necessary to register upon receipt of the form. For more information call Judy at (530) 478-6400 ext. 208.

In addition, we are also announcing the February and March dates for sessions three and four of the 4th grade Math Collaboration meeting. Thursday, February 17, the topic will be 'Fractions'. Thursday, March 24 the topic will be 'Additional Strategies, Pacing, & Benchmark Assessments'.

Collaboration Meeting for Technology Teachers

Save the date of February 10, 12:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Submit suggestions for topics and agenda items to Stan Miller at smiller@nevco.k12.ca.us or Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (SEPAC) 2010-11 Presentation Series: Nuts 'n Bolts of IEP's

A parent in-service training on IEP's will be presented by Al Millan,

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

Executive Director of WarmLine FRC (Family Resource Center). This training will provide information about the IEP process and provide helpful ideas to take the mystery out of IEP meetings. A free binder of information, that will also help to organize your IEP documents, will be provided for attendees. This is an opportunity to share ideas and understand the collaborative nature of the IEP process. Workshop takes place on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the NCSOS Annex, 117 New Mohawk Road, Nevada City. RSVP to Randy McKean: e-mail randy.cm@nevco.k12ca.us or call 265-0611 x203.

EMSA Class Offered Jan. 29

An Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) certified CPR/First Aid class will be offered January 29, 9a.m.-5p.m. This class is designed especially for child care providers/preschool employees required by law to have staff qualified under EMSA standards. There must be a minimum of four people in attendance for the class to take place. To pre-register e-mail Anna McMillen at amcmillen@nevco.k12ca.us or call (530) 478-6400 x201. The \$65 fee must be prepaid to confirm your reservation.

2010-11 CPR & First Aid Training

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office offers training for MEDIC FIRST AID BasicPlus CPR, AED, and First AID. The Medic First Aid Infant and Child Supplement can be included following Adult CPR/First Aid that deals specifically with the treatment of life-threatening events involving children. To pre-register e-mail Anna McMillen: amcmillen@nevco.k12ca.us or call (530) 478-6400 x201. The \$30 fee must be prepaid to confirm your reservation. Additional information, as well as a complete list of 2011 class

dates can be found on the NCSOS website: www.nevco.k12.ca.us/teachers Upcoming CPR/First Aid classes:

December 18, 2010, Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
January 6, 2011, Thursday, 3-7 p.m.
February 12, 2011, Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
February 24, 2011, Thursday, 3-7 p.m.

Field Trips

Seussical the Musical

The Nevada Union Drama Department is staging a new and exciting experience. *Seussical the Musical* is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza that brings to life everyone's favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Maysie, and Hoho, a little boy with an over-active imagination that is always getting him into trouble. Musically, the show will be supported by Nevada Union's exemplary band which will provide a full orchestral accompaniment.

One student matinee will be offered on February 2nd, 10:00 a.m., for the reduced price of \$5 per ticket to school groups. Interested teachers should contact Rob Metcalfe for more information at 273-4431 x2102

Opportunities for All

Toys for Tots Drop-off Location at NCSOS

The NCSOS office is a drop-off location for the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program thru December 15. You may donate a new, *unwrapped* toy valued at \$10 or more for children ages birth to 17. Suggested donations are sporting goods, toy cars, planes, boats, dolls, board games, books, bicycles, scooters, puzzles, models, hand-held video games and small electronics. Please do not donate toys that are religious, political, sexual, or war related.

Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

In tight budgetary times even art supplies are becoming a luxury in some of our

schools. Mountain Pastimes, a toy store in Nevada City that now carries art supplies, is offering one \$60 gift certificate to a school in need. To apply for this one-time special funding, write a one paragraph letter to Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.

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.

MUSIC in the MOUNTAINS presents...

Holiday Chorale Concerts with guest school choirs:

Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. – Lyman Gilmore
Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. – Magnolia
Dec. 12, 2:00 p.m. – Bear River HS

Young Composers

Music in the Mountains (MIM) and the Nevada County Composers Cooperative works with middle school thru college level students throughout the school year. To have students apply go to: musicinthemountains.org.

Music Live

Music Live brings live classical music performances to Nevada County's K-8 schools, free of charge. *Music Live* is offered January thru May. For scheduling opportunities contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208.

Peers Performing 4 Peers

Music in the Mountains *Young Musicians* goes directly into Nevada County K-6 classrooms to perform January thru May, free of charge. To schedule a classroom visit call Mark Vance at 265-6173 x20.

2010-2011 ACADEMIC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Writing: January 12 (Miners Foundry)
Math-Grades 5/6: January 26 (Miners Foundry)
Math-Grades 7/8: January 27 (Miners Foundry)
Speech: March 10 (Calvary Bible Church)
Speech Topic: "The Best Event in American History"

