

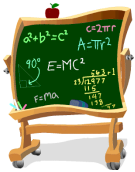
# The Nugget



**News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office**

August 2011

Holly Hermansen, Superintendent



Math Collaboration sessions expand and multiply for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades and Algebra teachers. See revised dates and registration information in this issue of the Nugget.

## News & Notes ...

### Welcome Back to School

By Holly Hermansen

Nevada County Supt. of Schools



As I was preparing to write this Welcome Back to School article I decided to look back over the last four years of articles I had written, both to glean some possible ideas, and to make sure I didn't simply repeat myself. I was struck by the fact that for the last four years I have welcomed everyone back to school by saying that we are in one of the worst budget crises in history and were sure to face significant challenges in the year ahead. Unfortunately, the same remains true for this year, and I am sure that I am not the only one that is truly looking forward to a school year that starts with a more optimistic outlook.

However, even with the news not as positive as we might like, there is always something truly magical and refreshing about the beginning of a new school year. No matter how difficult things seem, the buses still run, the students still come to school; and, teachers spend the remaining days of summer preparing their classrooms for the first day.

Because we are faced with continued challenges including fewer resources, increased accountability requirements and more responsibilities, I have been thinking and speaking frequently about the need for all of us to take care of ourselves and find ways to continue to feel energized and passionate about the work that we do. Each of us have different ways to do this; for some it is exercise, many like to read professional books and journals to keep up with current trends, some find collaborating with peers an activity that gives them energy and a sense of teamwork, and sometimes, just a nice piece of chocolate can help. Whatever your source, it is important to find those things that give you energy and renewal. As Norman Vincent Peale said: "*Think enthusiastically about*

*everything, but especially about your job. If you do so, you will put a touch of glory in your life. If you love your job with enthusiasm, you'll shake it to pieces*".

In his recently released "*A Blueprint For Great Schools*", California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson stated: "California has some of the most committed, hard-working and talented educators in the nation". I would echo that comment and express my appreciation for the hard work, passion and professionalism that you all bring to your work to educate the students in Nevada County.

Welcome back, and have a wonderful year.

### Explicit Direct Instruction: The Power of the Well-Crafted & Well-Taught Lesson

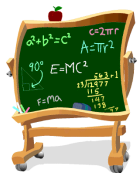
Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) is a proven method for better teaching and better learning. It is appropriate and useful for all kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. EDI refers to a method of teaching that requires the teacher to develop specific learning strategies, promoting consistent interaction between students and the teacher. This form of classroom instruction reinforces students' mastery of skills and concepts and helps meet the needs of all learners, resulting in higher levels of student learning.

NCSOS is sponsoring a county-wide workshop in this discipline on Friday, September 23. Presenter Dr. Larry Federico has been teaching since 1980 and conducting EDI trainings for seven years. He is an educational researcher in the effectiveness of this teaching strategy and is enthusiastic in sharing his belief in this program. The presentation will be conducted as a classroom setting; working in groups to combine lessons with strategic instructional practices. Dr.

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Federico very much encourages you to come to the workshop with any scenarios, strategies, or questions you wish to incorporate in the training. He is fully prepared to help you design and deliver EDI lessons and strategies. All teachers will be able to implement some of the practices the next day, upon your return to school. Registration information can be found in this issue of *the Nugget* under 'Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All'.

### Math Collaborations Expand & Multiply for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers and Middle School & High School Algebra Teachers



Because of the exceedingly positive feedback from our pilot program with 4<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office and district superintendents are expanding the math collaboration program to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and middle school/high school algebra teachers. The goal is to enable every math teacher in the county to be informed and feel confident about effective practices at their grade level, which is sure to happen with returning facilitator Pat Duckhorn, who is a specialist in math curriculum and instruction. Pat will facilitate the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade sessions while Algebra will be facilitated by Marsha King, SCOE Program Manager in Algebra and Secondary Mathematics Specialist.

To be a true success NCSOS will strive to have every math teacher in the county, at each grade level, attend the series. School districts will pay for teachers' half day substitute to enable participation. At the culmination of each grade level series, teachers will be refreshed with new tools and understanding. Although your principals and superintendents have received a group registration sheet for your school, if you are a 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade or Algebra teacher, you will also receive an e-flier. There is no fee but it is necessary to register. Due to the first 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade sessions taking place on September 7 there is a quick turn-around-time for registration. There will be one follow-up collaboration for 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at the beginning of the school year. Although collaboration dates were publicized in June, some changes have occurred. Please note scheduling as follows and chant 'no snow' as you mark your calendar.

## MATH COLLABORATION SCHEDULE

### THIRD GRADE TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time - Location
Sept.	Wed. 9/7 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Houser
Oct.	Tues. 10/4 12:30-3:30 NCSOS Annex
Nov.	Tues. 11/15 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Fellersen
Dec.	Thurs. 12/8 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Houser

### FOURTH GRADE TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time - Location
Sept.	Wed. 9/14 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Houser

### FIFTH GRADE TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time - Location
Sept.	Wed. 9/7 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Houser
Oct.	Tues. 10/4 8:30-11:30 NCSOS Annex
Nov.	Tues. 11/15 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Fellersen
Dec.	Thurs. 12/8 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Houser

### Middle School & HS ALGEBRA TEACHERS SCHEDULE

Month	Date – Time – Location
Sept.	Wed. 9/14 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Houser
Oct.	Wed. 10/5 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Houser
Nov.	Wed. 11/9 12:30-3:30 NCSOS/Fellersen
Dec.	Thurs. 12/1 8:30-11:30 NCSOS/Houser

For further information contact Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or e-mail [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

## Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

### Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

#### Explicit Direct Instruction with Larry Federico

This Kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade workshop in Explicit Direct Instruction

(EDI) is with presenter Dr. Larry Federico, an educator in the effectiveness of this teaching strategy. EDI refers to a method that requires the teacher to develop specific learning strategies, promoting consistent interaction between students and the teacher. See full article on page 2 of News & Notes in this issue of *the*

*Nugget*. Workshop takes place Friday, Sept. 23, 2011 from 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m., \$45/person, Yuba River Charter School - 505 Main Street in Nevada City. Follow the link at [www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org). Go to staff trainings. Download the flier

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and chose one of three options to register. For more info. contact Judy Nielsen at 530.478.6400 ext.208 or [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### Upcoming CPR Class Dates

A complete list of classes and additional information can be found at [www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org). For reservations contact Anna McMillen at [amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us) or phone 478-6400 x 201. Upcoming classes are:

Thurs. 9/1	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Sat. 9/10	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sat. 10/1	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Pre-registration and class fee is required ahead of time.

### Field Trips

#### The Crocker Art Museum

The Crocker Art Museum, in Sacramento, offers a multitude of school and teacher programs on an ongoing basis. For more info. go to [www.crockerartmuseum.org](http://www.crockerartmuseum.org) and while you are there request a copy of the free curriculum guide *Striking Gold: Mining the Resources of the Crocker Art Museum*.

### Opportunities for All

#### Seeking Volunteers to Teach ‘Steps to Respect’ in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classrooms

NCSOS and Child Advocates of Nevada County are recruiting adult volunteers to teach evidence-based anti-bullying curriculum, “Steps to Respect”, to students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in 11 area schools. Volunteers will be trained and equipped to teach, with a partner, a one-hour scripted lesson, once a week for 10 weeks, with the classroom teacher present and participating. Training takes place August 24, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at the NCSOS office. A current TB test, fingerprints and background check are

required and provided at no cost. For more info or to sign up contact Melinda Douros at Child Advocates, [Melinda@caofnc.org](mailto:Melinda@caofnc.org) /265-9550 ext.22.

#### For Your Family’s Health: Who qualifies for the Healthy Families Program or Medi-Cal?

Staff at each of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Family Resource Centers (FRC) is equipped to help families with the application process for the Healthy Families Program or Medi-Cal. Back-to-School provides an opportunity to bring awareness to families that their child or children may qualify for either the Healthy Family’s Program or Medi-Cal. For more info. contact: Grass Valley FRC 273-4059; Penn Valley FRC 432-1118 x249; or, North San Juan Ridge FRC 292-3174.

#### The Conifer Connection: A Resource for Learning & Teaching About Watersheds

The Conifer Connection program is sponsored by California State Parks and the California Community Forests Foundation. Workshop takes place Sept. 27 from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at Donner Memorial State Park. This workshop is useful for anyone who wants to learn or teach about coniferous forests and watersheds. The \$10 fee includes a print or CD copy of *The Conifer Connection* and specimens to use in the classroom. To register contact Mike Roa at [mroa@sonic.net](mailto:mroa@sonic.net).

#### 14th Annual Altar Show: Altarista Orientations August 25 & September 17

The Altar Show, an annual exhibition, is a gift from the Altaristas to the community. Anyone can be a participating Altarista. Many schools and classrooms have participated over the years. All participating Altaristas must attend one orientation meeting either Thursday August 25, 6pm or Saturday September 17, 3pm at the

Nevada County Fairgrounds, Northern Mines building.

Traditionally altars were made to honor departed loved ones. These altars encompass a full spectrum, from serious to playful, providing laughter and tears. The Altar Show provides a safe and sacred place to renew and remember. For more info: [www.thealtarshow.org](http://www.thealtarshow.org).

#### Free for the asking

The Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance is a unique educational experience focusing on two central themes; the history of racism and prejudice in the American Experience, and the story of a most monumental example of man’s inhumanity to man – the Holocaust. When you enter the museum a passport is received. You follow the journey of that personal story. The NCSOS has one set of passports that can be used as an appropriate teaching tool in your classroom. To request the copy contact Judy Nielsen at [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

#### ‘Imaginarium’ Sky Shows Continue 2011 Season with New Dates Added

Many of our schools have Family Astronomy Night during the course of the school year. Astronomy Nights are sensitive to the weather and what time the sun goes down. To take advantage of windows of opportunity call now to schedule an event by contacting Wayne Watson, the ‘Imaginarium’ Astro Guy, at 265-3378 or Byron Ross of the Nevada County Astronomy Club at 272-7806.

In addition, Wayne Watson continues to share his passion as an amateur astronomer by conducting sky shows April thru November. Visit a sky show and he or any amateur astronomer would love to engage in a cosmic chat. See full schedule on page 4 (following page below) of *The Nugget*. For more information call the Astro-phone at 263-4586.



## Imaginarium 2011 Astronomy Sky Show Schedule

Date*	Start Time	Comments
August 19	8:30 pm to 10:30 pm	Milky Way, globular clusters, "double-double", galaxies, nebulae, summer triangle. Saturn & Uranus.
August 26	8:30 pm to	Milky Way, globular clusters, "double-double", galaxies, nebulae, summer triangle. Saturn & Uranus.
September 16	8:00 pm to 11:00	Andromeda Galaxy. Milky Way. Saturn, Neptune, Uranus. Minor planets Juno, Pallas, Vesta. Triffid nebula.
October 21 PENDING WEATHER	7:30 pm to 10:00	Milky Way, Andromeda. Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune. Minor planets Ceres, Pallas, Vesta. Lagoon nebula. Spindle galaxy. Andromeda. Pleadies.
November 18 PENDING WEATHER	7:00 pm to 9:30	Leonid meteors, Andromeda Galaxy. Pleadies. M77 spiral galaxy. Minor planets Ceres, Pallas, Vesta.

### Comments:

\* These events are all on a Friday night. If some special astronomical event appears like a bright comet or eclipse, then we may have additional sky shows, or combine the event with an existing show. It may be necessary to reschedule a show for unforeseen circumstances, so always check: 1. The Astro phone 263-4586 one week before a sky show. 2. the Thursday Union Prospector section on the Thursday prior to the scheduled date. The shows begin about one hour after sun set, and it generally takes 90 minutes for total darkness after it sets.

We generally view double stars, globular clusters, near star clusters, galaxies, planets, and nebula.

The 'Imaginarium' owns several scopes for the shows: 6" computerized refractor, 5" Schmidt-Cass (SCT), 6" computerized SCT, AstroScan, and a solar telescope. The solar telescope is used for day time viewing of the sun for special functions.

The sky shows are held at Tobiassen Park near the Madelyn Helling Library. The library is near the County Rood Center facility off of highway 49. It's about two miles northwest of downtown Nevada City. Park in the library lot and walk up the road about 100 yards to the ball field, which will be on your left.