

## News & Notes ...

### Understanding California's Budget and the Impact to Education

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Nevada County Supt. of Schools



On January 10, 2011 Governor Jerry Brown released his budget proposal for 2011-2012. In anticipation of this action, after the November election the Governor held forums across the state to discuss the nature of the issues as well as to gather public input and opinions. There were difficult and challenging decisions to make given that the state was facing a budget gap of more than \$25 billion.

Through this process and also in his intensive review of the history of state spending cuts, the Governor determined that education has received more than its proportional share of cuts. As a result, his budget proposal includes an attempt to keep education funding relatively flat, with a \$19 / ADA reduction.

However, an important component of the budget proposal is an extension of the temporary taxes that are set to expire in June of 2011. Without this tax extension, to the best of our knowledge, schools can expect to receive a devastating additional \$2.3 billion cut which results in approximately \$330 / ADA reduction totaling \$349 for the 2011-2012 school year.

In order for the tax initiative to get on the ballot, the Legislature must authorize by March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Legislature must make this decision with a 2/3 majority in each house. Once on the ballot, the measure would be enacted by a majority vote.

It is critically important for educators and the community to understand these issues and the implications. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office will be providing community forums, presentations, and informational talks to help the public understand all of the components of the Governor's budget proposal and the impact to education for Nevada County students.

### Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

The National Endowment for the Arts & Poetry Foundation sponsors Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest. This year nine students from Bear River, Nevada Union, and Ghidotti High School are participating in the competition at our local level. Students demonstrate the art of poetry recitation with powerful performances that master tone, emotion, stage presence, and more. Awards will be announced at the event, with the first place contestant going to the State finals. The event takes place on Wednesday, February 9, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Hennessy School multi-purpose room. All are welcome to attend.

### LibraryToGo: Nevada County Libraries Part of Northern California Pilot Project

In coordination with twenty-one other public libraries in Northern California, the Nevada County Library provides eBooks and audio books through LibraryToGo, a service from OverDrive that supplies digital media to libraries across the nation. This pilot project is designed to introduce downloadable audio books and eBooks to patrons and to gather information on the interest and feasibility of providing expanded digital media.

To access OverDrive media files you need a valid library card, access to the Internet, free software for the device or computer on which you wish to use your OverDrive items, and a valid e-mail address to be notified when your titles are available for download.

For more information contact the Madelyn Helling Library at (530) 265-7050, or take a guided tour at [www.overdrive.com/Solutions/Libraries/tour/MenuWelcome.html](http://www.overdrive.com/Solutions/Libraries/tour/MenuWelcome.html).

# Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

## Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

### Collaboration Meeting for Technology Teachers

Calendars should be marked for the February 10 collaboration meeting for technology teachers. The meeting takes place 12:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. at NCSOS. Safe Schools/Healthy Students Curriculum Coordinator Sharyn Turner will discuss what Cyber Bullying and technology have in common. You will also learn about the new Nevada County Digital Media Center and their educational goals from NCTV Executive Director Paul Minicucci. Many other topics will be discussed including 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.

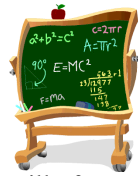
### Special Education Parents Advisory committee (SEPAC) 2010-11 Presentation Series Continues

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 two videos will be screened, with information discussion to follow. **Sensory Processing Disorder:** In this video, Jenny Clark Brack (pediatric occupational therapist) gives us tools to experience the effort and exertion it takes to do simple skills while struggling with sensory integration difficulties. From the Sensory Systems to Modulation and Motor Planning, she provides us with clear definitions and simple solutions to use in the classroom and home. **Intricate Minds III: Understanding Elementary School Classmates Who Think Differently:** This DVD includes interviews with students aged 8-12 who describe what it is like to have conditions that make them act differently from their peers in school. They reveal some of the positive qualities classmates will find if they take the time to look past the 'different' behaviors. The DVD covers

behaviors that could be associated with Asperger Syndrome, Higher Functional Autism, PDD, Semantic-pragmatic Disorder and similar conditions.

DVD screening will take place on Tuesday, February 15, 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.

### Countywide 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Collaboration



The third in a series of four 4<sup>th</sup> grade math collaboration sessions is **February 17, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** The third 4<sup>th</sup> grade collaboration will focus on fractions. One-half day substitute expenditures may be billed to NCSOS. All 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have received a flier and registration form via e-mail. Although there is no fee, it is necessary to register by noon on February 8. For more information call Judy at (530) 478-6400 ext. 208.

Fourth grade teachers should also save the date of Thursday, March 24. The fourth topic is 'Additional Strategies, Pacing, & Benchmark Assessments' and will be an appropriate wrap-up to the series.

### Emergency Medical Services Authority Training

This class, designed for child care providers and preschool employees, is required by law. An EMSA class will be held at NCSOS on Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Class fee is \$65. To register contact Anna at (530)478-6400 x201 or e-mail [amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### CPR & First Aid Training

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

- Feb. 12, Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. **FULL**
- Feb. 24, Thursday, 3-7 p.m.
- March 31, Thursday, 3-7 p.m.

## Field Trips

### Classics for Kids

With a change of venue, Music in the Mountains is offering Classics for Kids at Saint Joseph's Hall on April 15 at 10:30 a.m. This 45 minute concert will serve 325 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and, like all other MIM events, is offered free of charge.

This year the concert features Igor Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* written for seven players. The piece was written for a small ensemble to compensate for the lack of players due to WWI and the number of men enlisted in the armed services. A narrator tells the tale about a soldier who possesses a violin that he exchanges with the devil, in return for a book which will show him how to obtain all that he desires.

A flier will be going out (via e-mail) to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. RSVPs will be taken at that time.

## Opportunities for All

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

*The Book Thief* is a best seller and choice pick for young adults on up. Now is the time for this quick read, so you are positioned to take advantage of four related activities and events that are taking place now thru March.

The events are a geocache, a movie screening, a writing tournament with an awards night, and a community book event.

The geocache, *The Old Man in the Tree*, is up and running. The movie screening of the classic *Seventh Seal* (Ingmar Bergman – 1957) takes place at the Magic Theatre on Saturday, March 5. The writing competition awards night takes place at Nevada City – City Hall on March 11. And the community book event will take place at the Center for the Arts on the evening of March 15.

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For the geocache link, guidelines for the writing tournament, and details about each of these events, go to [www.nevadacountyreads.com](http://www.nevadacountyreads.com). Nevada County Reads & Writes! is a program of the Nevada County Library, Friends of the Library, and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office. All events are free to the public.

### 'Young At Art' to take place at the Rood Center

Nevada County's largest annual youth art event, sponsored by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office and the County of Nevada, celebrates State and National youth art month. The annual 'Young At Art' open exhibition welcomes fine art submissions from any public or private school student, Pre-K thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Installation will take place March 2-4 and will remain up through the end of May. For more information contact Judy Nielsen at (530) 478-6400 x208 or email [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### American Legion Auxiliary Annual Americanism Essay Contest

4<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to participate in an essay contest promoted by the American Legion. A requirement of the contest is that essays must be written in a classroom setting. Due date is March 1. For guidelines and other information contact Alyce Hammond at (530) 477-7627.

### Junior Jazz Camp Workshops

Junior Jazz camp is for 8-12 year olds who would like to have fun with improvisation. A two-hour workshop is offered twice this year through the Sierra Jazz Society, March 27 and July 20. To register contact Julia at 273-0568 or [Julia@sierrajazzsociety.com](mailto:Julia@sierrajazzsociety.com). Info at: [www.sierrajazzsociety.com](http://www.sierrajazzsociety.com).

### Earth Encounters

The Nevada County Land Trust provides a 3-day winter camp, Earth Encounters, to take place February 22-23-24 for kids 5-13 years. For more info contact Youth Program Coordinator Stacy at 272-5994 x7 or [stacy@nevadacountylandtrust.org](mailto:stacy@nevadacountylandtrust.org).

### MUSIC in the MOUNTAINS presents...

#### Classics for Kids

*Classics for Kids* will take place again this year! For more information see **Field Trips** section of the *Nugget*.

#### Music Live

*Music Live* will bring some of the best musicians in Nevada County to selected K-8 schools. The 45 minute string quartet concert will be comprised of Nancy Hill and Richard Altenbach on violins, Melinda Rayne on viola, and David Eby on cello. *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 free of charge.

### Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

2011 Community Initiative Funding: The Adult and Family Services Commission announce a Request for Funding to allow local nonprofit agencies an opportunity to provide innovative and collaborative services for residents of Nevada County. The County Board of Supervisors authorized \$15,000 to support a single, one-time only project. This funding is not intended to provide long term support of a program. The RFF can be downloaded by visiting

[www.mynevadacounty.com/community/initiativefunds](http://www.mynevadacounty.com/community/initiativefunds). The application deadline is 3:00 p.m. on February 17, 2011. For information or questions, contact Rachel Peña at (530) 265-1655.

*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).*



### AL JENNINGS NEVADA COUNTY 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



### 2010-2011 ACADEMIC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**Speech: March 10 (Calvary Bible Church)**  
**Speech Topic: "The Best Event in American History"**

The American History Museum, Washington, D.C.