The Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair
Daniel Dummett
Science Fair Coordinator

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office hosts the Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair each year. Although the fair culminates in April, now is the time to begin engaging your students in this memorable school program. Students, through generations, remember when they participated in their school’s science fair and what they did for a project.

The purpose of the science fair is to stimulate an active interest in science in young people by engaging them in original investigations and the development of new insights; to support California State standards for science; to give public recognition to students for research and investigation in science; and, to foster school/community cooperation in developing the scientific potential of Nevada County students.

Two Science Fair publications are available by linking to the NCSOS website at http://nevco.org/sciencefair/. The 2015 handbook walks you through timelines and deadlines, rules and regulations, exhibit display specifications, and abstract information for 4th – 12th grades. The second publication is the guide for submitting entries specific to the actual fair, which takes place this year on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the Grass Valley Elks Lodge #538 in Grass Valley. The Elks Lodge will be open to the public and classes are invited to take field trips on that day.

Teachers should be setting timelines, assigning projects, and planning for science fair related events at your site. Science teachers are encouraged to be involved so that all Nevada County youth have the opportunity to participate in this event. Your involvement and continued support in providing this opportunity to your students is immeasurable.

For additional information or assistance contact Daniel Dummett, Science Fair Coordinator at 273-8456 x187 or email at ddummett@uhsd.k12.ca.us. See the Quick Reference Calendar below for some pacing guide dates.

Spelling Tournament
Bonnie Smart
Tournament Coordinator

Earlier this month one hundred & twenty of the top spellers from local public, private, and charter schools competed in the countywide Spelling Tournament. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office coordinated the annual event which was sponsored by Stifel Nicolaus and Miners Foundry. For the fifteenth year in a row, Kathy Hillis of Mountain Pastimes volunteered her time as “Spellmaster,” dictating words and conducting the oral spelling bee.

The day started with students competing in teams of five for the overall best spelling school, followed by an individual spelling bee. In the fifth and sixth grade team competition, first place went to Pleasant Valley with Seven Hills placing second and the team from Grass Valley Charter taking third place. In the seventh and eighth grade competition, Seven Hills received the first place award with Union Hill and Magnolia placing second and third respectively.

The following students participated in the Elementary and Junior High individual Spelling Bees:
In 5th & 6th grades:
Jared Anderson – Grass Valley Charter
Ryan Connolly – Chicago Park
Abby Gerpheide – Pleasant Valley
Amy Ismail – Cottage Hill
Sadie Kolackovsky – Yuba River Charter
Reaghan Moore – Forest Charter
Bryce Nguyen
Eve White – Seven Hills
In 7th & 8th grades:
Amber Busse – Seven Hills
Jenna Gilbert – Union Hill
Logen Hauer – Seven Hills
Natalie Hays – Pleasant Valley
Adriana Martignago – Lyman Gilmore
Isabella Monical – Seven Hills
Keegan O’Sullivan – Chicago Park
Sarah Shine – Union Hill
Victor Weiss – Pleasant Valley
Grace Van Winkle – Magnolia
Eva Zliman – Seven Hills

In 2015 Nevada County Spelling Championship held in April in Stockton.
Sarah Shine won top honors in the 7th and 8th grade competition with Eva Zliman taking second place. These students now qualify to attend the 2015 California State Junior High Spelling Bee, to be held in May in San Rafael.

Spelling draws your attention to a great appreciation of the English language, one word at a time.

2014-15 Nevada County Reads & Writes
Judy Nielsen
Committee Member

This year’s Nevada County community read is TRASH by Andy Mulligan. This is a quick read that you can’t put down. The book follows the story of three young boys whose home is a dumpsite and what one boy finds in the heap. From the cover, “Andy Mulligan has written a powerful story about unthinkable poverty – and the kind of hope and determination that can transcend it. With twists and turns, unrelenting action, and deep, raw emotion, TRASH is a heart-pounding, breath-holding novel.” Copies of the book are available at the BR, NU, and Nevada County libraries. Guidelines for the writing competition will be on-line by mid-December.

Distinguished Schools Program
Judy Nielsen
Editor of the NUGGET

The Distinguished Schools Program is going through a two-year transition. In the past schools became eligible to apply based on API scores. Because of major changes in the educational arena, the Distinguished Schools Program will have a different format for implementation. Please note the following points of interest, as the program takes new form:
- The Distinguished Schools Program will have a different name during this period, as requested by district and county superintendents across the State. The name has not yet been released.
- Only middle and high schools may apply this year.
- It has been proposed to ask schools to self-nominate if they believe that they are making exceptional progress in their efforts to successfully implement the new state standards.
- The application package will be released and posted on the CDE website either Friday, November 21 or Monday, December 1.
- It is the intent of the CDE Awards Division to allow 5-weeks to complete and submit the application, followed by application evaluations and county-led site validations that will then be conducted February 9th – March 31st.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

Workshops Galore Provided by NCSOS
Incorporating Nutrition Education Into Classroom
Common Core Practices

This workshop is for administrators, School Health Advisory council members, teachers, staff, board members, school site council members, and interested parents. The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 requires that all schools in the U.S. continue to update, implement and evaluate yearly their School Wellness Board Policy. This policy ensures efforts in providing nutrition education throughout the grade levels that comply with California Health Education Standards aligned to classroom common core practices. This is a free staff development course to assist schools and districts to
comply with new requirements. Workshop takes place Thursday, December 4, 2014, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the NCSOS Houser Room. Register on-line at http://nevco.org/nutrition-education-workshop-staff-development-training-for-grades-k-12/. For more information contact Sharyn Turner at Sharyn@nevco.k12.ca.us or phone 478-6400 x245.

ELA–ELD for California Public Schools ~ Trans-K thru Grade 12
This ‘training of trainers’ is a focus on the ELA/ELD framework for California public schools. Presented by NCSOS Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability Kathleen Kiefer, you will understand the guiding principles, structure, and the content of the framework to enhance your instructional leadership skills. This training should be attended by one site administrator and one lead ELA teacher from each school. Training takes place Monday, December 15, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the NCSOS Houser Room. There will be a follow-up ELA curriculum toolkit training for the same audience on January 8, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the NCSOS Houser Room. RSVP to Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us no later than December 4, 2014.

Tackling Truancy & Chronic Absenteeism
This meeting should be attended by all K-12 administrators. The special guest speaker is David Kopperud, Educational Program Consultant & CDE Statewide SARB Chairperson. A discussion will take place regarding the SARB process and LCAP. Training takes place Monday, December 8, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. in the NCSOS Houser Room. RSVP to Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us no later than December 1, 2014.

A Look at the New LCAP Template & Changed State Regulations
This training should be attended by all K-12 superintendents, charter directors, CBO’s, and LCAP team members. Presented by NCSOS Associate Superintendents Shar Johns and Donna Somers. Training takes place Thursday, December 11 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the NCSOS Houser Room. RSVP to Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us no later than December 4, 2014.

Field Trips

Music in the Mountains
These MIM Educational Programs are FREE to Nevada County Schools:
+ Peers Performing for Peers
+ Music Live
+ Classics 4 Kids
+ Take Five for Music (formerly the Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program)

Education Director Mark Vance
265.6173 x202

Opportunities for All

UC Davis Young Scholars Program
Entering its 52nd year, the UC, Davis Young Scholars Program offers summer research opportunities in the biological and natural sciences for 40 high achieving students who will be rising juniors or rising seniors during summer of 2015. The program runs from June 21 – August 1, 2015. This is not a scholarship but up to 90% of cost reductions are available for students on a needs-based sliding scale. The application period is December 1, 2014 – March 19, 2015.

For more info go to http://ysp.ucdavis.edu

Teen Tech is Back at the Madelyn Helling Library
Each month the Madelyn Helling Library offers a fun-filled workshop for teens called Teen Tech. Participants will do something creative and hands-on as they delve into Mindstorm Robots, Makey Make, Minecraft, Raspberry PI, Scratch, 3D Printing and more. Teen Tech takes place on Thursday, November 20th from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. In subsequent months the program is shifting to the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Librarian Vaile Fujikawa at 470-2748.

CPR & First Aid Training
See the Quick Reference Calendar below for dates & times thru December 16, 2014. CPR & First Aid Training is $30. Reservations are first come, first serve. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in the class. For further information call Faith at 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at www.nevco.org/register.

Common Core Corner
Tip #2 of 5: Setting High Academic Expectations
(adapted from Teach Like a Champion by Doug Lemov, 2010)

Right is Right: Set and defend a high standard of correctness in your classroom.
• Avoid affirming a student’s partially correct answer, repeating it, and adding detail to make it fully correct.
• Instead, let them know they are almost there, repeat the answer they gave so they can hear it, and give them time to do the cognitive work.
• Hold out for right! This tells students you believe they are capable of getting fully correct answers and that the questions you ask truly matter.

Quick Reference Calendar...
follows on page 4
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/news-events.

**Early Childhood Education Workshop Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Teaching Strategies for Challenging Behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Children with Special Needs</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: Legalities in Childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Hands-on Math</td>
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**Upcoming CPR Class Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Sat. 11/22</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Thurs. 12/4</td>
<td>5 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Tues 12/16</td>
<td>3 p.m. – 7 p.m.</td>
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**Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment**

All seminars not online take place in the NCSOS Houser Room from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>OTHER INFORMATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Year 1 &amp; 2 teachers</td>
<td>ONLINE seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Year 1 teachers</td>
<td>seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Year 2 teachers</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Education Specialists</td>
<td>Special education seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Year 1 teachers</td>
<td>seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Year 2 teachers</td>
<td>ONLINE seminar</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Year 2 teachers</td>
<td>seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Education Specialists</td>
<td>Special education seminar</td>
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**NCSOS Educator Grant Program:**

**Letter of Interest due dates for Cycle II & Cycle III**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CYCLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2014</td>
<td>Cycle II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2015</td>
<td>Cycle III</td>
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**The Secret Life of Bees**

December 4, 2014  Student matinee at the Center for the Arts: 10 a.m.

Quick Reference Calendar...
Continues on page 5
Bessie’s Happy Art Contest
December 31, 2014 Submission due date

Tournament Schedule for School Year 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>7th–8th</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>5th–6th</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>7th–8th</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Prelims</td>
<td>4th–8th</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Calvary Bible Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Finals</td>
<td>4th–8th</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>Nevada Theatre</td>
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Poetry Out Loud
March 15-16 State finals poetry recitation run-offs in Sacramento in the Senate Chambers and the State Capitol rotunda!

Al Jennings Nevada County Science Fair
March 26, 2015 School Allotment Announcement
April 7, 2015 Project Drop Off
April 9, 2015 Science Fair Open for Public Viewing
April 9, 2015 Science Fair Awards awards event

InConcert Sierra
April 20, 2015 Countywide 3rd grade concert featuring The Farallon Quintet