

## News & Notes



**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 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

Jared Anderson emerged as the winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade competition with Reaghan Moore taking second place. They now qualify to attend the 2015 California State Elementary Spelling Championship held in April in Stockton.

Sarah Shine won top honors in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade competition with Eva Zliman taking second place. These students now qualify to participate in 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 9<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>.

***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](mailto: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](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us) no later than December 8, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 52<sup>nd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.nevco.org/news-events).



## Early Childhood Education Workshop Series

November 20	<i>Teaching Strategies for Challenging Behaviors</i>
January 15	<i>Children with Special Needs</i>
February 19	Panel Discussion: Legalities in Childhood
March 19	Supervision
April 16	<i>Hands-on Math</i>



## Upcoming CPR Class Dates

CPR & FIRST AID	<b>FULL</b>	Sat. 11/22	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID		Thurs. 12/4	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID		Tues 12/16	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.



## Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment

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

DATE	GROUP	OTHER INFORMATION
December	Year 1 & 2 teachers	ONLINE seminars
Jan. 20	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Jan. 21	Year 2 teachers	Seminar
Jan. 22	Education Specialists	Special education seminar
Feb. 17	Year 1 teachers	seminar
February	Year 2 teachers	ONLINE seminar
March	Year 1 & 2 teachers	ONLINE seminars
April 21	Year 1 teachers	seminar
April 22	Year 2 teachers	seminar
May 19	Education Specialists	Special education seminar



## NCSOS Educator Grant Program:

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

December 1, 2014	Cycle II
March 1, 2015	Cycle III



## 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**

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	LOCATION
Writing	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	1/22	Miners Foundry
Math	5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	1/27	Miners Foundry
Math	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	1/29	Miners Foundry
Speech Prelims	4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	3/12	Calvary Bible Church
Speech Finals	4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	3/24	Nevada Theatre



## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade concert featuring The Farallon Quintet