

News & Notes

Mapping the 2015 Geography Tournament

Sharon Shafran

County Schools Tournament Coordinator



October 6, 2015 marks the sixteenth year for Nevada County's Geography Tournament, which is modeled after those put on by the National Geographic Society. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools launched this countywide tournament to increase interest in the subject of geography.

This year thirty top seventh grade Nevada County students competed in the Geography Tournament sponsored locally by Soroptimists International of the Sierra Foothills. The NCSOS Office coordinated the annual event that took place at Chicago Park School, with their superintendent, Dan Zeisler, as emcee. There is both a team event and an individual event.

For seventy-five minutes (or less) students worked in teams of three, completing a 105-question written test. Seven Hills School succeeded in taking the first place team prize. Forest Charter School finished in second place and Nevada City School of the Arts took third place in the team competition.

Following the group competition, one student from each school team participated in the individual event which was held in a "Jeopardy" style format. The students' skills were so closely matched that the competition ended with two tied prizes. The first place trophy went to Adele Handan of Seven Hills School. C.J. Dvorak of Clear

Creek School earned the second place ribbon. Third and fourth place were both tied with third place shared by Thayne Disney of Mt. Saint Mary's and Ella Hodorowski of Chicago Park School. Fourth place honors were shared by Emily Bedell of Pleasant Valley School and Gianna Rose of Forest Charter School.

Kudos go out to the students, educators and families for their enthusiasm and hard work. And now, for this year's challenge to *Nugget* readers, five questions from the test follow with answers appearing at the end of the *Quick Reference Calendar*.

1. Q: The longest border in the world lies between which two countries?
2. Q: 17 of the 20 highest mountain peaks in the US are located in which state?
3. Q: Which is the northernmost state in the (48) contiguous United States?
4. Q: The islands that make up Indonesia lie between Asia and which other continent?
5. Q: On what African river would you find Stanley Falls?

Curriculum Preview Fair

Kathleen Kiefer

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Accountability

The Curriculum Preview Fair is an opportunity for educators to view and evaluate state-adopted ELA/ELD curriculum including textbooks and support materials. The Fair takes place December 1-18 at NCSOS in the Houser Room with black-out dates of December 9, 11, 14, and 16 and is open each day from 3 p.m.–5:30 p.m. on designated dates. Reserved Team Times can be made for December 3-4, 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Contact Kathleen Kiefer at kkiefer@nevco.org or 478-6400 x246 to reserve Team Times.

With the ELA/ELD Curriculum Preview Fair right around the corner, it is time for teachers to front load with

some prerequisite knowledge in order to make the best use of their time with the materials. This should include, but is not limited to:

- Knowledge and understanding of the ELA/Literacy Standards
- Understanding of and the ability to identify complex text and effective text bundling
- Being able to identify quality text dependent questions
- Knowing the strategies for close reading
- Familiarity with the ELA/ELD Framework (Chapter 2, grade level span chapter, integrated/designated ELD)
- Clear understanding of an evaluation “toolkit of choice” (i.e. The EQuIP Rubric, CCSESA’s Adoption Toolkit, Publishers’ Criteria check sheet, etc.)

2015 Spelling Tournament

Sharon Shafran

County Schools Tournament Coordinator

One hundred thirteen top spellers from local public, private and charter schools competed in the Nevada County Spelling Tournament, held at Miners Foundry Cultural Center. Coordinated by Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office, the annual event was sponsored by Stifel Nicolaus and Miners Foundry. For the sixteenth consecutive year, “Spell master” Kathy Hillis of Mountain Pastimes volunteered her time and finesse,

dictating spelling words for the group contests and conducting the individual oral spelling bees.

Schools competed in teams of five students for the overall best spelling school team. Individual students with the highest cumulative correct scores then participated in individual spelling bees.

5th/6th grade team awards:

First Place: Lyman Gilmore School
Second Place: Union Hill Elementary School
Third Place: Cottage Hill / Magnolia School

7th/8th grade team awards:

First Place: Seven Hills School
Second Place: Magnolia School
Third Place: Grass Valley Charter School

Iris Vandevorst emerged as the first-place champ of the 5th and 6th grade competition with Sophia Karas scoring as the second-place winner. Iris and Sophia now qualify to attend the 2016 California State Elementary Spelling Championship to be held April 23rd in Stockton.

Amber Busse won the first-place honor in the 7th and 8th grade competition with Eva Zliman as the second-place winner. Amber and Eva now qualify to participate in the 2016 California State Junior High Spelling Bee to be held May 14th in San Rafael.

Kudos offered to students, teachers and families along with heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

McKinney-Vento: Quarterly Homeless Education for School Site Liaisons

McKinney-Vento quarterly liaison meetings are scheduled for school site and district level assigned homeless liaisons (as required by the McKinney-Vento Act). This includes individuals working directly with identification of students in need and student support services. There are three remaining meetings scheduled for the remainder of the school year. See Quick Reference Calendar below. For more information contact Melissa Parrett at mparrett@nevco.org.

Early Childhood Education Leadership 2015-16 Workshop Series #2 of Six: Cooking with Children ~ Creative Snacks

Dedicated care providers are able to further their knowledge and skills. The workshop series enhances an early childhood community that supports our learners from the start and helps Nevada County’s kids be ready for kindergarten. Individuals attending at least four of the six workshops will receive a \$60 stipend.

Thursday, November 19, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. join presenter Debra Lynn for hands-on nutritional know how. Leave with ideas and inspiration. A light dinner will be provided that you might be partially cooking yourself!

Workshops take place at NCSOS and are sponsored by NCSOS, First 5 Nevada County, Sierra Nevada Children’s Services, and the Childcare Coordinating Council. For more information contact Sandi at First 5 Nevada County at 274-5361 or www.first5nevco.org. To sign up go to <http://www.first5nevco.org/early-childhood-education-classes-201516/> See the *Quick Reference Calendar* below for a complete list of workshop dates and topics.

Fostering Student & Family Connections

This training is designed for school office staff members with student enrollment responsibilities. Training addresses

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All...

Continues on page 3

statutory requirements, enrollment practices, identification and referral to service procedures with respect to Foster Youth, Native American students, and students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence. Monday, December 7, 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the NCSOS Annex. Register on-line at <http://nevco.org/fostering-student-family-connections/>.

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

These MIM Educational Programs are at a minimal cost:

- + Carnegie Link Up
- + Young Composers

Education Director Mark Vance
265.6173 x202

Nevada Union Dance Performance for Area Youth

Nevada Union Dance will perform *Into the Woods* on Wednesday, April 27, 10 a.m. for local schools at a discounted price of \$5 per student. For more information contact Courtney Wadman at cwadman@njuhsd.com.

Opportunities for All

Triple P Parenting Workshops

Positive-Parenting-Program - Triple Parenting Workshops continue to be offered through the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools to support every parent with the big job of raising their children. This is an evidence-based program with great ideas for interacting with children in positive ways. The workshops are effective and affordable; free childcare is offered for participants. Scholarships are available. Workshops take place at Ready Springs School (start date of 1-14-16), Deer Creek School (start date 1-17-16), or Sierra College Child Development Center (start date TBA). Call Meg Luce (530) 913-2745 for more information and to sign up.

After School Sudoku Club

Sudoku can be used as a powerful and practical tool for teaching Common Core Standards. For more info contact Jerry Martin at 477-6282 to learn about setting up a Sudoku Club at your school.

Nevada County STEAM Expo

The first Nevada County STEAM Expo will take place in spring of 2016. The Expo will provide a platform for hands-on activities, events, demonstrations, and for students to compete and display work in all areas of STEAM. The next planning meeting is November 23rd at the NCSOS Annex. This is a unique opportunity to plan, create, and organize the new Nevada County STEAM Expo which will incorporate the traditional Nevada County Science Fair.

EMSA/ CPR & First Aid Training

See *Quick Reference Calendar* below for dates and times thru January 2016. EMSA (Emergency Medical Services Authority) is offered sparingly each year thru NCSOS. This class is designed especially for child care providers and preschool employees required by law to have staff persons qualified under EMSA standards. An EMSA class will be offered on Saturday, December 12 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Cost is \$65. CPR & First Aid Training is \$30. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in either class. For further info call Faith at 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at www.nevco.org/register.

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

November 19	Cooking with Children/Creative Snacks
January 21	Emergency Preparedness
February 18	Strategies for Resolving Challenging Behaviors
March 17	Speech/Language Development: Early Signs for Intervention
April 21	How do I know if I need to do a mandated report for child abuse?



Upcoming CPR Class Dates

CPR & FIRST AID	Mon. 11/30	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
EMSA CPR	Sat. 12/12	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Mon. 12/14	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Mon. 1/11	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Tues. 1/19	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.



NCSOS Educator Grant Program: Letter of Interest deadline to apply for Final Cycle

December 1, 2015

Cycle II



McKinney Vento: Quarterly School Site Liaison Meetings

December 3, 2015

February 18, 2016

May 12, 2016



Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment (BTSA)

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

DATE	GROUP
Wed., January 6	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., January 7	Year 1 Seminar
Thurs., February 4	Year 1 Seminar
Wed., April 6	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., April 7	Year 1 Seminar
Thurs., May 5	Special Education Seminar



Poetry Out Loud

January 11-15, 2016

January 27, 2016

Individual high school competition days

Countywide competition



Tournament Schedule for School Year 2015-16

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Writing	7 th – 8 th	1/12	9-2	Miners Foundry
Speech Prelims	4 th – 8 th	3/10	9 - 12:30 1 - 4:30	Calvary Bible Church – Speech Topic: “What Music Means to Me...”
Speech Finals	4 th – 8 th	3/15	6:30 - 8:30	Nevada Theatre
STEM/STEAM EXPO & Math Competition	4 th – 12 th	TBD	TBD	TBD



Triple P - Positive Parenting Program

January 14, 2016	Ready Springs Elementary School
February 17, 2016	Deer Creek Elementary School
TBA	Sierra College Child Development Center



CSU Expository Reading & Writing (ERWC)

January 15, 2016
April 8, 2016



Student Music Performances

March 10, 2016	MIM Music Live
March 11, 2016	MIM Music Live
April 7, 2016	MIM Music Live
April 8, 2016	MIM Music Live
April 19, 2016	InConcert Sierra 3 rd grade concert



Student Dance Performances

April 27	Nevada Union dance performance 'Into the Woods'
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Answer key to Geography questions: 1. U.S. and Canada 2. Alaska 3. Minnesota 4. Australia 5. Congo