

News & Notes



STEAM Expo 2016 Update The STEAM Team

Plans are well under way for the first annual STEAM Expo, taking place in the Main Street Center exhibit hall at the Nevada County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The STEAM Expo is all inclusive Kindergarten thru 12th grade.

In order to make the STEAM Expo a reality, we begin by asking for your understanding as we move forward with short timelines and a roll-out of information and details that will happen in increments as each piece becomes available. This is a transition year of moving away from isolated competitions such as the Science Fair and Math Tournament into an inclusive, multi-faceted, 21st Century event. As with most transitions, this will come with some degree of challenge. We assure you that we are doing everything we can to minimize frustration while striving to make information available to you as soon as possible.

The STEAM Handbook, a guide for entries for project submissions, has been released. Categories include Invention, Robotics & Computer Science, Environmental/Agricultural Innovation, Reverse Engineering, Rube Goldberg Machines, Science Fiction, and Scientific Inquiry. The entire document, including rubrics for each category and school submission forms, can be found at www.nevcoexpo.org. Submission forms are to be submitted electronically at steam@nevco.org no

later than March 18, 5:00 p.m. Due to the quick turnaround of events there will be no exceptions to the deadline to register the students selected by your school.

Watch for information to come on the Team Math Competition for grades 6-8 that will be included in this year's event. The Team Math Competition is a brand new format which will require teams to respond to a prompt and prepare the answer to display at the STEAM Expo. More information will follow in early March.

Additionally, watch for information to submit participants for the forming of robotics teams. Other activities for all will include, but are not limited to, public viewing of STEAM Project competition entries, robotics demonstration and on-the-spot team competitions, hands-on STEAM experiences, music, science/art related video shorts, and demonstrations by local STEAM companies.

The STEAM Team thanks you for your patience and understanding as we work together to move forward on our maiden voyage of the Nevada County STEAM Expo! Please do not hesitate to contact Shar Johns, Kathleen Kiefer, or Judy Nielsen at the NCSOS office should you have any questions or a need for clarification of details.

Spring Institute of Professional Learning Kathleen Kiefer

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability

Now in its second full year, the NCSOS Instructional Coaching Team has developed a schedule of spring workshops based on new requests for support as well as requests for repeats of popular topics. Seven workshops will be offered from March 8 thru May 2. The schedule for these workshops is in the Quick Reference Calendar of the Nugget. Topics are Fostering a Growth Mindset in Students, Introduction to Number Talks, Technology Collaboration Forum, Planning a Family Science Night, and three different workshops in Visual Thinking Strategies. For the first time NCSOS has been able to

create teacher email lists for each grade level which enables flyers and registration information to be sent directly to teachers. Detailed information, including how to register on-line, will appear February 17 at www.nevco.org/spring-pd.

The team is always available to visit individual school sites with presentations tailored to the unique needs of every teacher in Nevada County schools. One-on-one instructional coaching is meant to be customized to your needs, which drives the focus of these programs. The team has provided support most recently in such areas as:

- Hand scoring Interim Assessments
- Accessing and using the Digital Library
- Classroom management coaching
- Interpreting and using the SBAC Score Reports
- Step Up to Writing
- Visual Thinking Strategies
- Number Talks
- Project-based learning

Directory of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability
Kathleen Kiefer coordinates this valuable program. She can be reached at kkiefer@nevco.org or 478-6400 ext. 246. All you need to do is email or pick up the phone.

7th-8th Grade Writing Tournament 2016

Sharon Shafran

Countywide Tournament Coordinator

Thirty-eight seventh and eighth grade students from eleven local public, private and charter schools competed in the countywide Writing Tournament. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools coordinated the annual event which was sponsored by The Book Seller, Williams Stationery and Miners Foundry Cultural Center. The tournament was held in the Stone Hall at the Miners Foundry.

Students were judged on three styles of writing:

Expository Writing: Guest speaker Barry Friedman, internationally acclaimed professional juggler, spoke (and juggled) for 20 minutes and answered questions. Afterwards, the students were given time to write a paper about the presentation.

Creative Writing: Students wrote compositions based on the prompt, "Hey, is that smoke I see?"

Letter Writing: Students were asked to write a letter to the Editor of The Union expressing their views about cell phone use at school.

Awards were given for highest collective score and 1st-5th place grade winners for each category. That is a total of 32 possible special recognitions. Highest collective score for the 7th grade was Calais Poirson from Seven Hills School and Sonora Slater from Clear Creek School for the 8th grade. For a complete list of awards contact Sharon Shafran at sshafran@nevco.org.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

Early Childhood Education Leadership 2015-16 Workshop Series #4 of Six: Strategies for Resolving Challenging Behaviors

Thursday, February 18, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. join presenter **Chris Espedal**, NCSOS's Safety and School Climate Coordinator for 'Strategies for Resolving Challenging Behaviors'. Individuals attending at least four of the six workshops will receive a \$60 stipend.

See the *Quick Reference Calendar* below for remaining workshop dates and topics. Workshops take place at NCSOS. For more information contact Sandi at First 5 Nevada County at 274-5361 or sandi@first5nevco.org. To sign up go to <http://www.first5nevco.org/early-childhood-education-classes-201516/>

Field Trips

Dancing Into the Woods

Dancing into the Woods is a theatrical dance production by the Nevada Union High School Dance Department. A special student assembly performance will take place Wednesday, April 27,

from 10:00 – noon. To sign up or for more information call 273-4431 x2103 or email cwadman@njusd.com.

Classics 4 Kids

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Music in the Mountains 4th grade concert will not be taking place on Thursday, March 17. Music in the Mountains will be offering a different opportunity for 4th grade participation at a later date in the school year. Stay tuned as details unfold. We hope you will be able to take advantage of

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All...

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the newly scheduled program and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause in scheduling and programming.



Music in the Mountains

These MIM Educational Programs are FREE to Nevada County Schools:
 + Peers Performing for Peers

- + Music Live
- + Take Five for Music

These MIM Educational Programs are at a minimal cost:

- + Link Up Carnegie Hall
- + Young Composers

*Education Director Mark Vance
265-6173 x202*

Opportunities for All

CPR & First Aid Training

See *Quick Reference Calendar* below for dates and times thru March 1, 2016. CPR & First Aid Training is \$30. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in 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.



Upcoming CPR Class Dates

CPR & FIRST AID	Tues. 2/16	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Tues. 3/1	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Triple P - Positive Parenting Program

February 17, 2016 Deer Creek Elementary School
 March 31 – May 16, 2016 Sierra College Child Development Center



Early Childhood Education Workshop Series

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?



McKinney Vento: Quarterly School Site Liaison Meeting

February 18, 2016 NCSOS Annex
 May 12, 2016 NCSOS Annex



Chinese New Year Festival & Parade

February 21, 2016 Downtown Nevada City – noon – 4:00 p.m.



Quick Reference Calendar... continues on page 4



STEAM Expo

February 22, 2016	committee meeting
March 14, 2016	committee meeting
March 18, 2016, 5:00 p.m.	deadline to submit project entries to steam@nevco.org
April 7, 2016	STEAM project set-up
April 8, 2016	STEAM project judging
April 9, 2016	STEAM Expo & awards



National Youth Art Month: Young at Art

February 24-25-26, 2016	display art at the Rood Center
February 29 – May 19, 2016	Exhibit
March 5, 2016 (Saturday)	OPEN HOUSE 9-4, reception at 11:00 a.m.



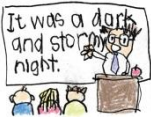
California State Summer School for the Arts

February 29, 2016	Deadline to apply
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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
May 20, 2016	MIM Link Up Carnegie Hall finale



Tournament Schedule for School Year 2015-16

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
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	K – 12 th	4/8-9	TBD	Nevada County Fairgrounds



Babysitting Certification

March 12, 2016	NCSOS Houser Room
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NCSOS Instructional Coaching Team Spring Workshops

TOPIC	GRADE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Fostering a Growth Mindset in Students	K-8	3/16	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS
Introduction to Number Talks	K-2	4/4	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS
Technology Collaboration Forum	TK-12	4/18	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS
Planning Family Science Night	K-8	4/19	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS
Introduction to Visual Thinking Strategies	TK-12	3/8	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS
Introduction to Visual Thinking Strategies	TK-12	4/5	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS
Intermediate Visual Thinking Strategies	TK-12	5/2	3:30 – 5:30	Houser Room, NCSOS



Adventures in Learning

March 31, 2016

June 27 – July 21, 2016

Teacher/Administrator referral deadline

The adventure takes place Monday - Thursday



The Arts ~ Performances & Competitions

April 1 Artistic Discovery Contest – deadline to submit

April 1 CA Alliance for Arts Education Student Voices Campaign – deadline to submit

April 27 Nevada Union student dance performance 'Into the Woods'



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., April 6	Year 2 Seminar
Thurs., April 7	Year 1 Seminar
Thurs., May 5	Special Education Seminar



CSU Expository Reading & Writing (ERWC)

April 8, 2016

NCSOS Houser Room

NCSOS Educator Grant Program: Report due date

April 15

Cycle II

