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 turn-around 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 sshafra@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.

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@njuhsd.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](http://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](http://www.nevco.org/news-events).

**Upcoming CPR Class Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Tues. 2/16</td>
<td>3 p.m. – 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Tues. 3/1</td>
<td>3 p.m. – 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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  
March 14, 2016  
March 18, 2016, 5:00 p.m.  
April 7, 2016  
April 8, 2016  
April 9, 2016  

committee meeting  
committee meeting  
deadline to submit project entries to steam@nevco.org  
STEAM project set-up  
STEAM project judging  
STEAM Expo & awards

**National Youth Art Month: Young at Art**

February 24-25-26, 2016  
February 29 – May 19, 2016  
March 5, 2016 (Saturday)

display art at the Rood Center  
Exhibit  
OPEN HOUSE 9-4, reception at 11:00 a.m.

**California State Summer School for the Arts**

February 29, 2016  
Deadline to apply

**Student Music Performances**

March 10, 2016  
March 11, 2016  
April 7, 2016  
April 8, 2016  
April 9, 2016  
May 20, 2016

MIM Music Live  
MIM Music Live  
MIM Music Live  
MIM Music Live  
InConcert Sierra 3rd grade concert  
MIM Link Up Carnegie Hall finale

**Tournament Schedule for School Year 2015-16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speech Finals</td>
<td>4th-8th</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>6:30-8:30</td>
<td>Nevada Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM/STEAM EXPO &amp; Math Competition</td>
<td>K-12th</td>
<td>4/8-9</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Nevada County Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Babysitting Certification**

March 12, 2016  
NCSOS Houser Room

*Quick Reference Calendar... continues on page 5.*
NCSOS Instructional Coaching Team Spring Workshops

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

Adventures in Learning
March 31, 2016 Teacher/Administrator referral deadline
June 27 – July 21, 2016 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., April 6</td>
<td>Year 2 Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., April 7</td>
<td>Year 1 Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 5</td>
<td>Special Education Seminar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSU Expository Reading & Writing (ERWC)
April 8, 2016 NCSOS Houser Room

NCSOS Educator Grant Program: Report due date
April 15 Cycle II