**News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office**

**December 2017**

**Scott W. Lay, Superintendent**

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## News & Notes

### McKinney-Vento Funding

**Charlotte Peterson**  
**McKinney-Vento Liaison**

Students who are homeless have educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act, an important federal law. The McKinney-Vento Program serves homeless students, students awaiting foster care, and students and families in transition. Funding supports students with bus passes, school supplies, counseling, getting back into school, and access to community resources. These resources, in turn, support students’ rights that include school stability, immediate enrollment, food provision, assistance with barriers, academic support, transportation assistance, and dispute resolution.

The NCSOS office is in the process of making its 3-year application for McKinney-Vento funding. A critical element of the application process is to conduct a needs assessment to determine the needs of the homeless students within our community and how to best meet those needs.

All school staff are encouraged to take the five-minute survey, as it is probable that any one of us has contact with students that meet the above criteria. Your input, large or small, is invaluable to each and every one of these students. Link to [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLLMWQK](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLLMWQK) to participate. The deadline to submit the survey is Friday, December 15.

### Spelling Bee Tournament

**Wendy Baker**  
**Volunteer**

On November 14 and November 15, 2017, eighty-nine (89) top spellers from local public, private and charter schools competed in the Nevada County Spelling Tournament, held at Miners Foundry Cultural Center. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office coordinated the annual event which was graciously sponsored by the KNN Group at Stifel and by Miners Foundry. In her inaugural year, Spell Master Hollie Grimaldi Flores, who is a freelance writer and columnist for *The Union*, volunteered her time and finesse, dictating spelling words for the group contests and conducting the individual oral spelling bees.

Each day commenced with school teams consisting of five students competing for the overall best team award. The individual students with the highest cumulative correct scores then participated in individual spelling bees.

In the 5th and 6th grade team competition, Lyman Gilmore School earned the first-place award. Placing second was the Seven Hills School team. The third-place award went to Union Hill School.

In the 7th and 8th grade team competition, Lyman Gilmore School earned the first-place award. Placing second was Grass Valley Charter School. The third-place team award went to Union Hill School.

The following students participated in the Elementary and Middle School Individual Spelling Bees:

- 5th & 6th grade Individual Spelling Bee:
  - Stella Collins- Lyman Gilmore School
  - Noah Cotter- Lyman Gilmore School
  - Kate Fore- Chicago Park School

- Thomas Gruver- Seven Hills School

- Melina Handan- Seven Hills School

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Although STEAM Expo 2018 does not take place until April 7, now is the time for teachers and students to consider projects and activities for participation. There is plenty of opportunity to be involved as an individual or as part of a team. Areas of interest are science, technology/engineering, Art at the Expo, and two different math challenges. Students should be considering their science project focus at this time. Go to [www.nevcoexpo.org](http://www.nevcoexpo.org) to explore guidelines in each category.
Ethan Holmes- Alta Sierra School
Ashley Lattyak- Union Hill School
Joshua Tiffany- Union Hill School
Parker Tice Raskin- Cottage Hill School
Jared Anderson- Grass Valley Charter School
Ryan Connolly- Chicago Park School
Dylan Coray- Grass Valley Charter School
Laila Ghosheh- Lyman Gilmore School
Amy Ismail- Magnolia School
Sophia Karas- Union Hill School
McKinley Nguyen- Lyman Gilmore School
Vanessa Richards- Grass Valley Charter School
Jonah Russell- Grass Valley Charter School
Iris Vandevorst- Forest Charter School
Joshua Tiffany (5th grade) emerged as the first-place champ of the 5th and 6th grade competition with Melina Handan (6th grade) scoring as the second-place winner. Joshua and Melina now qualify to attend the 2018 California State Elementary Spelling Championship to be held May 12th in Stockton, CA. Parker Tice Raskin (5th grade) was the third-place winner. Fourth-place tie went to Stella Collins (5th grade), Noah Cotter (6th grade), Kate Fore (5th grade), and Thomas Gruver (5th grade).
Iris Vandevorst (8th grade) won the first-place honor in the 7th and 8th grade competition with Amy Ismail (8th grade) as the second-place winner. Iris and Amy now qualify to participate in the 2018 California State Junior High Spelling Bee to be held May 5th in San Rafael, CA. Ryan Connolly (8th grade) was the third-place winner. Dylan Coray (8th grade) was the fourth-place winner. Fifth-place tie went to Jared Anderson (8th grade), Laila Ghosheh (8th grade), and Vanessa Richards (8th grade).
Congratulations to all student participants, teachers, and families. And many heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings
Become a California Naturalist
Sierra Streams is now accepting enrollment for the 2018 California Naturalist course, designed to expand your knowledge of local natural history and ecology. The course is instrumental for those who want to instill students with curiosity and connection to the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada foothills. Open to educators at all grade levels. The 10-week course runs March 7-May 16 with weekly Wednesday meetings from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and three half-day Saturdays. Participants who complete the course become a Certified California Naturalist and can receive UC academic credit with an additional fee. Early registration deadline is February 1 but the class usually fills by the end of January. For more information go to: http://cnssi.wordpress.com.

Triple P: Power of Positive Parenting Classes
Triple P is a program of the NCSOS office and is conducted by Parenting Specialist Meg Luce, LMFT. An 8-week session of Triple P will begin January 18 from 6 p.m.–8 p.m. at the Ready Springs School. Triple P is for parents of children ages 2-12. There is a materials fee of $35. Scholarships are available. Pizza and childcare activities are provided! For more info or to register call 913-2745.

Field Trips
SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age
Deer Creek PTC is screening the documentary film ‘Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age’. Location: Deer Creek Elementary School on Friday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. Tickets/$10. Target audience: parents and their families.

Opportunities for All
World Read Aloud on February 1, 2018
World Read Aloud Day is February 1, 2018! What an excellent time to begin using read-a-louds regularly in your classroom and to implement new techniques to make them more engaging and academically powerful for your students. Here are some quick tips:
• Select text that is complex, engaging, related to content and/or is something you are passionate about.
• Don’t limit yourself to books! Think about using articles, poems, how-to
instructions, jokes, menus, short stories, etc.

- Include a mix of fiction and non-fiction
- Engage students in text-focused discussions about what you are reading
- Model good reading strategies (talk alouds) before during, and after reading. Click here to access a great resource for more read-aloud strategies – including a discussion starter bookmark!

New! Carnegie LinkUp Curriculum Made Easy for Nevada County Teachers

In recognizing that the Carnegie LinkUp curriculum is not user friendly, Music in the Mountains is developing curriculum for the program that will easily meet the needs of participating 3rd-5th grade teachers. Curriculum will include five easy songs, recorder pieces that require the left hand only, and pieces that can be played with 3-5 notes. Contact MIM Education Director Mark Vance at 265-6173 for more information.

CPR & First Aid Training

CPR/First Aid/AED courses are taken on-line, followed by a Skills Demo Check ‘class’, coordinated by the NCSOS office. Certification is received once you have met the demonstration requirement. The initial on-line training course is estimated to take up to 3 hours; renewing, takes less time. Class fee of $45 must be paid prior to on-line course access. See the Quick Reference Calendar below for Demo Check classes scheduled thru January. Link: www.nevco.org/register to register or contact Faith Yamamoto at fyamamoto@nevco.org.

Music in the Mountains

These MIM educational programs are free to Nevada County schools:
- Peers Performing for PEERS
- Music Live
- Take 5 for Music

Other MIM educational programs:
- Carnegie Link-Up
- Young Composers Project
- MIMYO (Youth Orchestra)

For further information contact Education Director Mark Vance at mark@musicinthemountains.org or 265-6173.

Celebrate Safely This Holiday Season

Keep holiday parties safe with U.S. Fire Administration tips: test smoke alarms; know fire escape plans; keep children and pets away from lit candles; keep matches and lighters up high; stay in the kitchen when cooking with grease and at high temperatures; smokers should do so outside and away from children; keep doorways and exit paths clear of furniture and decorations.

PG&E High School Scholarship Opportunity

PG&E is offering 200 scholarships in a variety of disciplines, including STEM-based, for high school students who live in any area that PG&E serves. Awards range from $1,000-$10,000. Submission period is December 1, 2017 – February 5, 2018. For more information go to www.pge.com/scholarships.

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.

Tournament Schedule for School Year 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>REGISTRATION DUE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>7th – 8th</td>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>12/14/17</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Prelims</td>
<td>4th – 8th</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>9-12:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Calvary Bible Church</td>
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<td>1-4:30</td>
<td>2/22/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Finals</td>
<td>4th – 8th</td>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30</td>
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<td>Nevada Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEAM Expo 2018</td>
<td>K-12th</td>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>9-3</td>
<td>3/16/18</td>
<td>Nevada County Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quick Reference Calendar continues on page 4
Community Read ~ Nevada County Writes Competition
‘EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU’ by Celeste Ng
2/21/18  Writing submitted via e-mail by midnight to nevadacountyreads@nevco.org
3/2/18  Judging
3/8/18  1st, 2nd, 3rd place recipients announced at award ceremony to take place in the Off Center Stage at the Center for the Arts, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The program will highlight an awards presentation and the reading of winning stories.

CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo Check Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 13, 2017</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 11, 2018</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 25, 2018</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
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BTSA Teacher Induction Program
All seminars not online are 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at EJ Educational Options
112 Nevada City Highway ~ Houser Room

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>YEAR ONE GROUP</th>
<th>ON-LINE</th>
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<tr>
<td>December seminar</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 9, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 6, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>March seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 3, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>YEAR TWO GROUP</td>
<td>ON-LINE</td>
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<td>December seminar</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>February seminar</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>March seminar</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 4, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>Optional Mentor Seminars</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 5, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 6, 2018</td>
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California Association for Bilingual Education
1/15/18  deadline to submit artwork

McKinney-Vento 2017-18 Quarterly Meeting Schedule
All meetings take place from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at NCSOS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>YEAR ONE GROUP</th>
<th>ON-LINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2018</td>
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</table>
**Poetry Out Loud**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 13, 2018</td>
<td>Nevada County competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4-5, 2018</td>
<td>State Finals competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7, 2018</td>
<td>Nevada County STEAM Expo performances of poetry choices are associated to STEM subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23-25, 2018</td>
<td>Poetry Out Loud National finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28, 2018</td>
<td>Sierra Poetry Festival performances of Poetry Out Loud Nevada County finalists</td>
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</tbody>
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**Tech Test Junior**

- March 12: 7th/8th grade exam hosted by Telestream
- March 13: 5th/6th grade exam hosted by AJA Video

**CA Alliance for Arts Education Student Voices Campaign:**

*2-minute video program for 7th-12th Grade Students*

- TBD: deadline to submit to NC Arts for viewing at STEAM Expo 2018
- April 1, 2018: deadline to submit to CA Alliance for Arts Education
- April 7, 2018: STEAM Expo 2018 viewing of selected videos

**PG&E STEM High School Program**

- 1st Wednesday of each month: Webinar 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Various: Workshops TBD
- Various: Seminars TBD
- Registration: [http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=hvzroab&oeidk=a07eeikjes69f5ca](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=hvzroab&oeidk=a07eeikjes69f5ca)