News & Notes

A Message from the Superintendent

Scott W. Lay
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

With the first edition of the 2018/19 Nugget, I want to welcome new staff members in key positions at the Superintendent of Schools office. These people will be responsible for many of the programs your schools participate in and I’m thrilled they work here.

Teena Corker has taken on the role of Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. She oversees our early childhood educational programs, alternative educational programs, LCAP reviews, Differentiated Assistance, and curriculum to name just a few of her duties. If you haven’t met her before, I’m sure you will see her visiting your campus in the near future.

Andrea Marks is our new Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability. She has jumped right into the position by creating the Nevada County Network Improvement Community. This is a cohort of 25 local teachers that will build instructional capacity in our local schools for the benefit of all students.

Faith Yamamoto has joined the Educational Services team as the Administrative Assistant and will be working closely with our schools in the educational services arena.

Jenna Johnson has joined Sharon Shafran at the front desk and will be most people’s first contact with our office. She and Sharon will help you with anything you may possibly need!

Laura Harter is our new Countywide Coordinator for the PARTNERS Family Resource Centers. These are the invaluable community based centers in Penn Valley, Grass Valley, and North San Juan.

Kristanne Heaton is the new Arts Coordinator. She will be the contact and coordinator for the Art Docent Program, Music in the Mountains, Young at Art, and NC Reads & Writes, to name a few of the programs.

RoJean Cossairt will be moving from Principal of our Special Education programs to become Director of SELPA and Charter Programs. She will be taking her expertise to this new area to serve our county students.

Susan Schreier is our new Second Step Coordinator. This is a social emotional program for our preschool aged children.

I’m thrilled to have all of them working here and I’m sure you’ll enjoy getting to know them as well as working with them.

I wish you all a smooth and successful school year!

Scott W. Lay
Staying The Course 2018

Countywide Professional Development Day in Retrospect

Teena Corker, Associate Superintendent, Ed. Services
Andrea Marks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability

The NCSOS Professional Development Day, building on last year’s theme, “Find Your Compass” to this year’s “Stay the Course,” proved to be a half-day full of engaging, unifying, and relevant professional learning opportunities. Keynote Speaker Kathryn Ferreira’s speech was entitled, “Equity is not a strategy. It’s a Mindset”. Kathryn spoke to three areas of focus: What’s your Why?, equity in teaching to all students, and Universal Design for Learning. This year’s PD day was a shortened day due to several districts opting to work at their own sites. Approximately 26 sessions were offered within the half-day event, including CPR. Teachers, administrators, para professionals, and front-line office staff had the opportunity to pick their courses for the day. These courses included early childhood education, interdisciplinary support, science, math, technology, social emotional support, health, safety & school climate, special education and collaborative opportunities.

Our thanks to the fabulous NU Technology Team, administration, presenters, office and custodial staff for helping to make the day a great success. An extra special thank you to our wonderful administrative staff here at NCSOS, Faith Yamamoto, Jenna Johnson and Sharon Shafran. They worked professionally, graciously and competently in all things technical and non-technical. Everyone helped accommodate up to 500 people in a seemingly seamless half-day.

We sincerely hope that “Stay The Course” led you in a positive direction, that at the end of the day you felt connected, that you left inspired, and that there was something for you to take back to your classroom or school. We sent out a survey to all participants; thank you for providing feedback on all aspects of the event. We plan to stay connected with administration, educators and classified staff, and to the needs that arise this year where we can hopefully provide training opportunities for next year. Until next year... we wish you a successful year.

Nevada County Teachers of the Year 2019

Tim Grebe, 2019 Nevada County Teacher of the Year:

“I work on the relationship…”
Samie White, TOY Coordinator

Scott W. Lay, NCSOS, with the 2019 District Teachers of the Year: Juliette Parks, GVSD; Kathryn O’Brien, PRUESD; Scott Savoie, NJUHSD; Tim Grebe, PVUESD; Mickey Vukasinich, NCSOS; Christy McCracken, NCSD; Ashlee Price, CPSD. “The Union” photo credit.

These leaders dedicate themselves daily to ensuring that each individual student obtains every opportunity to fully realize his or her talents and gifts. From arts to the sciences, these leaders have embarked upon one of this nation’s most important pursuits—educating our children. This excellence in education affects not just those individual students, but also the entire community. We commend the honorees for their achievements and the effect they have had in improving our community and educational system.

Tim Grebe was also selected, by a panel of judges, as the 2019 Nevada County Teacher of the Year.

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“I am always trying to find a way to connect to kids. Education these days is a lot more relational than it used to be. I work on the relationship. They’re not going to work for you unless they know you care about them. Give them grace when they need grace.” -Tim Grebe, 2019 Nevada County Teacher of the Year.

STEAM Expo 2019

TechTest Jr.

David Pistone
Mount Saint Mary Academy, Math Teacher

TechTest Jr. is a 5th-6th and 7th-8th grade test that focuses on STEM education, with an emphasis on critical thinking. The program is hosted by AJA Video and Telestream and is integrated with the 2019 Nevada County STEAM Expo. Telestream and AJA Video are excited to be involved locally. The 5th-6th grade exam takes place at AJA Video on Wednesday, March 6th, while the 7th-8th grade exam takes place at Telestream on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The students are provided lunch and a tour of the facilities, making the connection between education and engineering jobs.

TechTest Jr. gives younger students the opportunity to prepare for higher stake tests and tasks in high school and beyond. The test is comprised of 25-40 questions that are developed by a team of local teachers. Teachers interested in being a part of the team should contact Dave Pistone at david.r.pistone@gmail.com. The math/science based test is geared toward California State Standards. It is designed to augment and be compatible with what is being taught in the classroom. In preparation, students at or above grade level will gain skills in how to apply what they are learning. Sample tests from previous years are available to review and can be obtained from Dave Pistone. Additional TechTest Jr. information is available on the NCSOS website at www.nevco.org and is included in the STEAM packet at www.nevcoexpo.org. Winners and prizes will be awarded at STEAM Expo, April 6, 2019.

TUPE

Red Ribbon Week for TUPE Peer Educators

Marlene Mahurin, Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Project Coordinator, NCSOS

The Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program (TUPE) took over 120 Nevada County middle school students up to Camp Del Oro on October 30th and trained them on ways to be successful Peer Educators.

Students learned about the health risks of tobacco and vaping, planned for Red Ribbon Week and learned about Youth Advocacy opportunities. They were excited to return to their school sites and start educating their peers. To sign-up for the free TUPE newsletter or learn more about the TUPE program, visit: www.nevco.org/tupe

2018 Geography Tournament

Linda Katz
Forest Charter School, Teacher, Coordinator

Nevada County's first Academic Tournament of the year was a huge success as eight local schools gathered on Thursday, October 4th for the annual 7th Grade Geography Tournament. Teams of three students gathered to collaborate on a fill-in-the blank 100 question test covering local, state, U.S. and world geography. The written team test was then followed by an individual geography bee where one student from each school team participated in a triple elimination format.

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Congratulations to the teams from:

- **Seven Hills** - 1st place
- **Magnolia** - 2nd place
- **Nevada City School of the Arts** - 3rd place

Individual geography bee awards were awarded to:

- **Kya Bommersbach** from Chicago Park - 7th Grade Geography Tournament Champion
- **Melina Handan** from Seven Hills - 2nd place
- **Gina Genovese** from Magnolia - 3rd place

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**Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All**

**Trainings**

**Child Care Coordinating Council Trainings**

The Child Care Coordinating Council mobilizes public and private resources to encourage partnerships, support early care educators, and Transitional Kindergarten teachers in advancing their early childhood education and professional development.

Join our free trainings on strategies to support the specific needs of a TK classroom and to align your curriculum to the Preschool Learning Foundations and Kindergarten Common Core Standards for ELA and Math, and the Next Generation Science Standards!

*Funds for TK teacher stipend and incentives ends March 31, 2019, apply now!*

*For more information, contact Roslnina Dort at rdort@nevco.org or 530.271.0258 or visit [www.4cnevco.org](http://www.4cnevco.org)*

**Math & Science CoP**

**Community of Practice for Equity in Math and Science Instruction**

*Andrea Marks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction NCSOS*

Nevada County is participating in a Statewide System of Support. This system is made up of Content Specific Collaboration Committees such as COE specialists, teachers, administrators and partner organizations that work together to create and promote a multi-year plan for standards and assessment implementation that will support a common understanding, language and approach for each content area. Communities of Practice focuses on building capacity, sharing best practices, developing useful resources and organizing work in each county and region. (CCSESA) We currently have teachers in our county participating in three Communities of Practice for Math and Science, History/Social Science and Social Emotional Learning.

**Brandon Parrett**

*Lyman Gilmore, 7th Grade Math & Science Teacher*

Nevada County has been fortunate to participate in a Community of Practice (CoP) for Equity in Math and Science instruction at a state level. The purpose of this community is to increase the equity in teaching practices and increasing the opportunity for under-represented demographics in math and science careers and college. The short term goals are improving testing scores for these under-represented groups.

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Most of these strategies are best practices and ones you may already be using in your classroom and your school. One way to improve equity in math and science instruction as a teacher is by evaluating the assignments that you give to your students. Are you balancing your assignments with different levels of learning? Is it all knowledge based? Is it all recalling facts? Are there some elements of analysis or synthesis of information? Not having a balance of these elements in our assignments are common mistakes we make as educators.

Another way to improve equity in math and science instruction as a teacher is to employ the strategy of “notice and wonder.” Ask your students what they notice about a science or math phenomena. All units and lessons can start with a phenomenon that reinforces the curriculum. All students are able to notice and express themselves at this level of engagement. Encourage and record these ‘noticings’ to stimulate discussion and then move on to the ‘wonderings’. What do you wonder about this phenomena? Asking and validating these ‘noticings’ and ‘wonderings’ will engage students who rarely participate and give many opportunities to scaffold a student’s experience with the curriculum.

Steve Hansen
Nevada Joint Union High School, NCSOS Instructional Coach

The History/Social Science Community of Practice (CoP) is focused on addressing the four instructional shifts in The History/Social Science Framework: Content, Inquiry, Literacy and Citizenship. Inquiry-based instruction is one of the best ways to engage students. It utilizes primary sources, it’s unpredictable, it avoids rote memorization of historical facts, it allows for all students to access the content and much more. The inquiry-based instructional model for unit and lesson development can be shared through our own local CoP.

In addition, there are several more regional CoP meetings that interested educators are invited to attend in Sacramento:
- November 27: Deep Dive Topic: Civic Education
- February 14: Deep Dive Topic: Content and Literacy
- April 4: Featured Presenter: Sam Wineburg at Stanford University

For more information on participating in a local Community of Practice please contact Andrea Marks at amarks@nevco.org.

Nevada County Network Improvement Community Launches!

This year twenty-five educators across Nevada County participated in a new model of professional learning. On November 7th they were trained to be trainers by the Center for Applied Special Technologies (CAST) on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). “Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a research-based set of principles to guide the design of learning environments that are accessible and effective for all.” CAST.org, 2018

What makes this professional learning model unique is that new learning will immediately be put into practice in classrooms. Following the day-long training, NCSO S Instructional Coaches led teachers to develop lesson plans that they will put through Improvement Science Inquiry Cycles of Plan, Do, Study, Act. Teachers collaborated and planned the lesson together; next they will teach the lesson (Do), Study data collected from students while the lesson is being taught and then Act upon that data to improve the next lesson. Teachers will have three opportunities to test their lessons over the course of the school year.

The participating teachers come from six of the nine school districts in the county as well as one charter school. Every grade level is represented and content areas taught include English language arts, mathematics, science, history/social science, technology, visual and performing arts, library science and manufacturing and woodworking.

The goal of this project is to provide teachers with the information, tools, and time to practice what they learn about Universal Design for Learning so that they can improve their instructional practice and provide ALL students with multiple ways to engage in and access curriculum, and ultimately, demonstrate that learning. It is also hoped that these educators will train other teachers on how to develop and teach lessons that include Universal Design for Learning principles.

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Opportunities for All

Nevada County Arts Programs

Music in the Mountains – Youth Orchestra (MIMYO):
MIMYO’s next session is open for enrollment Dec 3. MIMYO has both intermediate and advanced orchestra and is accepting student musicians playing strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

For more info, please call Marge Shasberger at Music in the Mountains: 530 265-6173.

Carnegie Link Up:
MIM has been able to extend the Link Up application process to January 2019. This is a powerful singing and recorder-based music program for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Students learn to play, sing and recognize iconic music repertoire. They also learn about the instruments of the orchestra. MIM charges $10 per student to participate. At the end of the school year students perform with a live orchestra from their seats in the audience. Link Up is easily taught by the classroom teacher with a short training workshop or it can be taught by a music specialist. Upon request, MIM is offering free recorders and help with busing to the final concert as an incentive to participate. The final concert is an extraordinary experience.
Call Mark Vance at 530 265-6173 for more info. www.Musicinthemountains.org/education/mimyo

Sierra Poetry Festival
Registration starts in November 2018! For more information:info@nevadacountyarts.org

Submissions for future issues:
Have you something to share in future issues of The Nugget? Please submit your request by the 15th of the preceding month for inclusion in the following issue:

Email Sharon Shafran: sshafran@nevco.org

For more information, contact Andrea Marks at amarks@nevco.org or visit CAST.org or https://www.carnegiefoundation.org/blog/improvement-discipline-in-practice/
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.

**CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo Check Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, November 20, 2018</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, December 5, 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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The cost of the class is $45.00 and must be paid PRIOR to us sending you a link to the on-line course – we accept exact cash or check only. NOTE: the fee is non-refundable.

You can either stop by our office to pay or mail the check - payable to NCSOS. Please do not mail cash. Mail checks to: NCSOS 380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley, CA 95945 ATTN: CPR.

Register online. For more information contact Faith Yamamoto at fyamamoto@nevco.org

**BTSA Teacher Induction Program**

All seminars are 4:00-7:00PM, held in the Training Room at the NCSOS office: 380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley

Learn more, visit North Coast School of Ed at www.ncsoe.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>GROUP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, December 4, 2018</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, January 8, 2019</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, January 9, 2019</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, February 5, 2019</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, March 5, 2019</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, April 2, 2019</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, April 3, 2019</td>
<td>BTSA/CTIP Year 2</td>
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Tournament Schedule for School Year 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>REGISTRATION DUE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/4/18</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>9/20/18</td>
<td>Chicago Park School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>11/14/18</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>10/31/18</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>11/15/18</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>10/31/18</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>7th – 8th</td>
<td>1/8/19</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>12/13/18</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TechTest Jr.</td>
<td>7th – 8th</td>
<td>3/5/19</td>
<td>9-1:15</td>
<td>2/15/19</td>
<td>Telestream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TechTest Jr.</td>
<td>5th – 6th</td>
<td>3/6/19</td>
<td>9-1:15</td>
<td>2/15/19</td>
<td>AJA Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Prelims</td>
<td>4th – 8th</td>
<td>3/7/19</td>
<td>9 - 12:30</td>
<td>1 - 4:30</td>
<td>Calvary Bible Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Finals</td>
<td>4th – 8th</td>
<td>3/12/19</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Nevada Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEAM Expo 2019</td>
<td>K-12th</td>
<td>4/6/19</td>
<td>9am-3pm</td>
<td>3/15/19</td>
<td>Nevada County Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Poetry Out Loud
Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. For more information contact: Lead Teacher Liaison, Steve Hansen at shansen@njuhsd.com or Coordinator and Coach, Julie Valin at juleree_99@yahoo.com, or go to www.poetryoutloud.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Online Anthology is available!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3, 2018</td>
<td>School/Teacher Registration Forms Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28 – Feb 1, 2019</td>
<td>Nevada County School Competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20, 2019</td>
<td>Nevada County Countywide Competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3-4, 2019</td>
<td>State Finals competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April - all month</td>
<td>National Poetry Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throughout April</td>
<td>Sierra Poetry (Fringe) Festival – Pop-Up Poetry Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6, 2019</td>
<td>Nevada County STEAM Expo (for Poetry Out Loud Nevada County finalists whose poetry choices associate to STEM subject matter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27, 2019</td>
<td>Sierra Poetry Festival (for Poetry Out Loud Nevada County finalists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29 – May 1, 2019</td>
<td>Poetry Out Loud National Finals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 2019
March 22, 2019 deadline to submit to CA Alliance for Arts Education
April 6, 2019 STEAM Expo 2019 viewing of selected videos