Nevada County Writing Tournament

Grades 7/8
Shannon Rashby

Forty (40) seventh and eighth grade students from ten local public, private, and charter schools competed in the Nevada County Schools Writing Tournament. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office coordinated the annual event, which was held on January 8, 2019 in the Stone Hall at the Miners Foundry. Many thanks to our tournament sponsors: The Book Seller, Williams Stationery, and The Miners Foundry Cultural Center.

Continued on page 3
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, students are approximately 70 times more likely to get to school safely by bus than by car. In California, approximately 32,000 school bus drivers transport more than one million students annually, traveling an estimated 253 million miles.

California’s laws regarding school bus safety, and operators, are some of the strictest in the nation and are set in place to protect students against unnecessary tragedies. Ensuring competent, caring, and educated school bus operators is a vital component with maintaining the safety of young people. In doing so, the Department of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles set stringent standards for bus drivers. The CHP’s School Bus Program facilitates the testing process for all school bus drivers, oversees in-depth background investigations, and ensures compliance with required health qualifications. Additionally, The CHP is responsible for inspecting every school bus operated on any roadway within California. Annually, the Department inspects more than 24,000 buses each year.

The Grass Valley Area CHP School Bus Officer works weekly to ensure proper testing and oversight of school bus operations in western Nevada County, Sierra County, and parts of Placer County. The officer inspects and reviews certain school bus stops, responds to complaints, conducts enforcement, and investigates school bus collisions. Recently, the Grass Valley CHP Area has partnered with its county-wide law enforcement allied agencies to conduct focused enforcement around school buses within the county. The Grass Valley Area CHP remains steadfast in its commitment to the safety of our students and community. Should you have any school bus related questions and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Officer Bice (School Bus Officer) of the Grass Valley Area CHP at (530) 477-4900.

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Safety and School Climate Coordinator, Chris Espedal works collaboratively with local first responders in law enforcement, fire services and other government agencies to improve and/or enhance school safety. Recent conversations have focused on the importance of school bus safety.

This article was written as a team effort by California Highway Patrol - Lieutenant George Steffenson, Commander, Grass Valley Area and CHP Officer Jason Bice.
The students were judged on three styles of writing:

- **Informative Writing**: Guest speakers, Emma Sheffo (10th grader at Forest Charter School) and Kelly Muir (12th grader at Nevada Union High School), members of the ACME Robotics Team, spoke for 30-minutes about their journey to success at the 2018 First Tech Challenge Robotics World Championship. Afterwards, students were given time to write in response to the prompt: What makes a robotics team successful?

- **Creative Writing**: The students were asked to tell a story imagining that they woke up one day as a human lie-detector and discovered that someone close to them has been lying about everything!

- **Persuasive Letter Writing**: Students were asked to write a letter to the Superintendent of Schools: Should schools require volunteer work? Or, is it not “volunteering” if it’s required?

Winners:

**Overall winners for the highest collective score from 3 written assignments**:

7th Grade: Riley Lubarsky – Clear Creek School  
8th Grade: Grace Ross – Union Hill School

**7th Grade winners by category**:

**Informative Writing**:
First: Riley Lubarsky – Clear Creek School  
Second: Sam Hemphill – Seven Hills School  
Third: Jessie Slade – Union Hill School  
Fourth Place: Brooke Clark – Lyman Gilmore  
Fifth Place: Olivia Herr – Magnolia Int. School

**Creative Writing**:
First: Riley Lubarsky – Clear Creek School  
Second: Willow West – Clear Creek School  
Third: Isabella Ingalls – Mt. St. Mary Academy  
Fourth: Sabrina Mantooth – Magnolia Int. School  
Fifth Place: Campbell Nies – Chicago Park School

**Persuasive Letter Writing**:
First: Noah Ruderman – Seven Hills School  
Second: Riley Lubarsky – Clear Creek School  
Third: Sam Hemphill – Seven Hills School  
Fourth: Willow West – Clear Creek School  
Fifth Place: Aspen Kendrick-Cisneros – Grass Valley Charter School

**8th Grade winners by category**:

**Expository Writing**:
First: Jessica Lake – Seven Hills School  
Second: Theresa Shaw – Magnolia Int. School  
Third: Grace Ross – Union Hill School  
Fourth Place: Kinsey Heaton – Seven Hills School  
Fifth Place: Travis Galpin – Grass Valley Charter School

**Creative Writing**:
First: Maya Bussinger – Magnolia Int. School  
Second: Grace Ross – Union Hill School  
Third: Travis Galpin – Grass Valley Charter School  
Fourth: Rheanna Codiga – Forest Charter School  
Fifth: Kinsey Heaton – Seven Hills School

**Letter Writing**:
First Place: Jessica Lake – Seven Hills School  
Second: Kinsey Heaton – Seven Hills School  
Third Place: Grace Ross – Union Hill School  
Fourth: Maya Bussinger – Magnolia Int. School  
Fifth: Rylie Jeffers – Clear Creek School
Trainings & Classes

Nevada County Sudoku Society
In preparation for the THIRD ANNUAL CHILDREN’S TEAM SUDOKU TOURNAMENT, weekly free courses are being offered for local teams, 2nd through 8th grades, in beginning and intermediate team Sudoku. Schools in western Nevada County are encouraged to participate in this exciting, fun and free competition, featuring logical thinking, which will be held this coming April.
Call Jerry Martin at 477-6282 for details.

Sudoku as a Teaching Tool
For more information contact Jerry Martin

Creating Amazing Peer Educator Programs

Parents are concerned about the safety of their children! Recent school shootings, wildfires, mental health issues, and the increased use of vaping creates a heightened level of concern for all of us. Now is our opportunity to share with parents the excellent pro-active planning and collaboration that exists between schools and our Nevada County first responders and support agencies.

Two Safety Summits for Parents have been scheduled to provide answers to questions parents have about their student’s safety. Representatives from Law Enforcement, Fire Services, CHP and NCSOS will present on safety plans in place, resources available, and current trends.

View full flyer

View Full Flyer
Nevada County Tech Connection is proud to present the 2019 AgTech Micro Conference in partnership with Sierra Harvest’s Sustainable Food and Farm Conference.

A group rate for a class is available and the teacher would attend at no cost.

Individual student/educator rates are only $10.

On a budget? Reach out to inquire.

More information here

Local News & Opportunities

View full newsletter – click on monthly issues

Harvest of the Month:

Pickup Dates:
- Monday February 4, 5:30pm
- Tuesday February 5, 3:00pm

Location: Sierra Harvest office, 313 Railroad Ave.
Farmer: Full Belly Farm, Guinda, CA
Serving Size: Each class gets one bag of 30 carrots.

View full flyer

FREE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS

Sierra College’s Financial Aid Office is offering free FAFSA & Dream Act workshops this February. All students and families are welcome to attend, not just Sierra College applicants!

Financial aid experts will be at Sierra College’s Nevada County campus to help high school and college students fill out their applications. FAFSA and Dream Act workshops will be from 5:30pm – 7:00pm on Wednesdays 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 and 2/27 in the Learning Center (N2-201) at 250 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley.

Sierra College will also be offering free scholarship workshops in the Learning Center on Saturday, 2/2, 1-4pm, Tuesday 2/5, 12-2pm, Thursday 2/21, 10-12pm, and Wednesday, 2/27, 2-4pm.

For more information, please reach out to Bernadette Stocker at 530-274-5364 or email: bstocker@sierracollege.edu
Nevada County Arts Programs
And Beyond

The Arts in Our Schools – check us out!

California State Summer School For the Arts

Application deadline
February 28, 2019

Financial aid available.

For more information

Dance • Music • Film
Visual Arts
Creative Writing
Animation • Theater

Heart Healthy Valentine Treats:
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 [The Nugget Back Issues](#).

### 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>Wed, February 13, 2019</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs, February 28, 2019</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs, March 7, 2019</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, March 20, 2019</td>
<td>CPR/AED/First Aid Skills Demo check</td>
<td>3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

To learn more, visit [North Coast School of Ed](#).
**Countywide Tournament Schedule for the remainder of the 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>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>2/21/19</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>
</table>

**STEAM Expo registrations are open!**

STEAM Expo website here

**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 Poetry Out Loud.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</table>

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

_2-minute video program for 7th-12th Grade Students_

March 1, 2019          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

**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: sshafran@nevco.org