

## News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office

March 2021

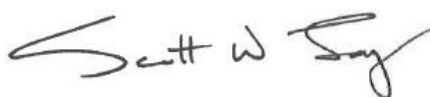
### A message from Superintendent Scott W. Lay:

One year ago this month our unprecedented COVID journey began and we are now finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. With the second dose of vaccines given to our educators at the end of February the journey back to normal took one large step. We still have a way to go but at least we continue to move forward.

I cannot thank the Nevada County Public Health Department enough for securing the vaccines needed to allow any educator in our Nevada County schools the opportunity to be vaccinated. They have been a great partner to our schools. I also want to thank the Nevada Joint Union High School District for allowing us use of the NU gym for six days of vaccination clinics. Without these partnerships, our clinic would not have been possible.

As I watch the news and read stories of the progress, or lack thereof, in other counties in terms of school reopening and vaccinations, it just reinforces how well our agencies in Nevada County work with each other towards the well-being of our students, staff, and community. We all know that the best place for learning is in the classroom and we will all get there safely together. The efforts all educators have made in reaching this goal are stellar. We should be proud of our progress and the continued planning for our students.

I thank you all.



### Creative Writing Tournament

Twenty (20) seventh and eighth grade students from eleven local schools were chosen as the best of their grade, to represent their school in the county-wide Creative Writing Competition. Their works were judged by a panel of six volunteer judges, made up of former teachers.

The winners of the 2021 Creative Writing Competition are:

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Amelia Regan, Seven Hills

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Gianna Roederer, Nevada City School of the Arts

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Katie Enos, Grass Valley Charter

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Aspen Devir, Nevada City School of the Arts

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Serena Buehler, Union Hill

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Mariposa Freeling, Magnolia

7th grade winner

Amelia Regan

pictured with

Superintendent Scott

W. Lay and District

Superintendent

Monica Daugherty

receiving her trophy.



8th grade winner

Aspen Devir pictured

with Superintendent

Scott W. Lay receiving

her trophy.



# *Professional Development*

## **Standards with a Purpose**

### **Understanding the Next Generation Science**

Scientific literacy provides students with the tools to explain and evaluate their world. As part of our on-going commitment to furthering math and science instruction Nevada County Educators have teamed up with the San Francisco Exploratorium and the Region 3 Math and Science Community of Practice to lead the learning in implementing [Next Generation Science Standards](#). Through a series of on-going learning labs teachers are showcasing student work that aligns with the [NGSS instructional shifts](#). Representing grades TK-12, teachers throughout our county are leading the learning alongside other educational leaders in the [Institute for Inquiry](#) and implementing best practices in science instruction in their classrooms. This work will be showcased throughout the Region 3 math and science communities and also at the statewide Community of Practice in Science in May. The Next Generation Science Standards were developed based on [Framework for K-12 Science Education](#), and adopted statewide in 2013. The key instructional shifts focus on how students learn, and identify the three dimensions students must use in unison to reach scientific literacy: Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Crosscutting Concepts. These three dimensions are incorporated into the performance expectations and tied to the assessment format used on the [California Science Test](#). We invite all science and math educators to join us in this collaborative process around best practices in our instructional design. To join our local Math and Science Community of Practice, please email Carrie Ferrero at [cferrero@nevco.org](mailto:cferrero@nevco.org).

**Distance Learning Resources can be located on the [NCSOS Distance Learning Webpage](#)**

## **Zooming Right Along**

### **Zoom Academy for Educators**

The App Zoom has certainly made its presence known as our learning communities have navigated a new normal. Teachers, parents, and students may feel like they are becoming overnight tech experts, feeling overwhelmed, or feeling excited to learn more. Now, educators seeking to improve their Zoom experience, connect with a larger professional learning network, or learn about best instructional strategies through Zoom sessions may be excited to participate in Zoom Academy for Teachers. This self-paced and free learning academy offers basic tutorial sessions on specific Zoom topics, leveled training, badges (similar to the Google Certified Educator Training), and on-going network support with tips and ideas about how to implement Zoom in the classroom. This training is free, self-paced, and topics are offered at a variety of learner levels from beginner to expert. To view the academy or available resources, go to [Zoom Academy](#)

### **Google Certified Educators**

Have you integrated Google Suite for Educators, Google Classroom, or Google Drive into your instruction? Do you want support at your own pace and at a time that is convenient for you? Google Teacher Center offers free training and support for teachers using any of the Google tools in their online learning platform. New users can jump into the basics with lessons or follow a progressive set of tips designed to help teachers make the most out of Google's classroom technology using the Fundamentals training. To learn more about this training and other Google Events for Educators, please visit [Google Teacher Center](#)

## ***Student Enrichment***

### **Foster Youth Services**

February has been moving quickly and we are keeping pace. Our ILP class has been doing a month of “Money Madness”. We have been discussing our individual financial victories and/or fails for the week. We explored a fun test to see what kind of spenders our students are. We had many “Thinkers and Collectors” but only one “miser”. We have chatted in breakout groups of ways to pay ourselves first (save, save, save) and how to get things we want without breaking our banks. We even started the important conversation about taxes. We have learned about the earned income tax credit, child tax credit and renters credit. Our students have been asking important questions about money such as, “Do I have to file my taxes?” Or “What if I lose my W2?” Our ILP team will be available to help our students file their taxes this year just as we have in the past. Helping our students become aware of their money management habits is a priority for us at ILP.

In THP+ we are focusing on budgets that meet individual needs and allow our consumers to save for a rainy day. We have new clients coming in and we are preparing a couple of clients that are finishing up their Transitional Living Plans (TILP) to leave the program. TILP’s are a vital piece of our consumers puzzle because it allows them space to choose their goals. Our staff then get to expand on the goals they set and build on those goals side by side with them for the best outcome.

In our FYSCP we have been encouraging families to attend our foster parent trainings, please see <https://nevco.org/> for the schedule. There have been virtual trainings followed by a support group for any relative caring for a relative. Please look at the schedule at <https://nevco.org/>. We have a Nurtured Heart training coming in April, please email [mbalderston@nevco.org](mailto:mbalderston@nevco.org) if you are interested in attending.

### **Young at Art**

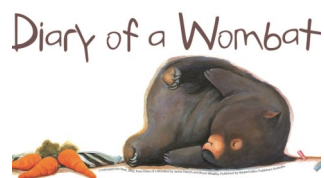
Young at art is happening in Spring 2021. It’s the largest youth arts exhibit in Nevada County! Begin collecting your favorite art projects and art pieces. School participation and installation begins first week in **March, 2021**.

For more information regarding Young at Art, please visit our [Arts webpage](#) or contact [Kimberly Ewing](#)



### **The Center for the Arts Presents**

The Center for the Arts & California Arts Council are happy to provide you with a fun performance to share with your classroom along with resources to engage your students. The video will be able to view on [The Center for the Arts webpage](#) from **February 27 – March 13**



### **AAUW Request for Grant Proposals**

The Nevada County Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is now seeking grant proposals for educational projects that primarily benefit girls and women. They will consider proposals from individuals and organizations in Western Nevada County. Grant applications will be available starting March 1, 2021, by contacting [ajshulse@gmail.com](mailto:ajshulse@gmail.com) or by visiting [AAUW Nevada County Branch](#). Completed applications are due by April 1, 2021. Successful recipients will be notified by May 1, 2021, for funding available June 1, 2021.

## ***Quick Reference Calendar***

### **March Dates to Remember**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>
<b>Wednesday, March 3, 2021</b>	Google Event for Educators: <a href="#">Examining Instructional Equity in Education Technology</a>	10:00-11:00AM
<b>Monday, March 8, 2021</b>	McKinney Vento Quarterly Meeting	1:00-2:30PM
<b>Tuesday, March 23, 2021</b>	Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting	3:30-5:00PM
<b>Wednesday, March 24, 2021</b>	California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training	3:30-4:30PM

### **Future Dates to Remember**

- ◆ **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:30-4:30pm:** California Health Education Framework (HEF) Training
- ◆ **Monday, May 10, 2021 1:00-2:30pm:** McKinney Vento Quarterly Meeting
- ◆ **Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:30-5:00pm:** Mathematics Community of Practice Monthly Meeting

### **Google Events for Educators**

Click Link to Register - All events are free, recorded, and shared on Google Teacher Center for viewing by the public.

[Recorded February 24, 2021: Building Resilient Educators and Students with All It Takes](#)

[March 3, 10-11am: Examining Instructional Equity in Education Technology](#)

[View OnDemand Webinars & More Professional Development](#)

#### **Submissions for future Nugget issues:**

Please submit your request by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month for inclusion in the following issue.

Email: [sromriell@nevco.org](mailto:sromriell@nevco.org) Back issues of *The Nugget* be found at [The Nugget Newsletter](#).