Restorative Accountable Youth Solutions (RAYS)

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools has a new alternative to suspension program starting this year.

Funded by a Prop 64 grant, RAYS is a youth-led alternative to suspension program that is based on restorative practices. The program has been piloted this year at Silver Springs. The premise of the program is that when a student makes a suspendable choice, they are given RAYS as an alternative option to a punitive response. If the student chooses to go through RAYS, they take accountability for what they have done and meet with a circle of their peers who come up with a restorative plan for the student. Through a series of questions, these RAYS advocates come up with a plan to help the student repair any harm that may have been caused by their choice and provide support for the student so they ideally make different choices in the future.

RAYS plans on expanding to Bear River High School and Lyman Gilmore Middle School this spring and Nevada Union High School in the fall of 2022.

You can learn more about RAYS by watching this promotional video: An Introduction to RAYS. For more information, contact Marlene Mahurin, RAYS Project Director at mmahurin@nevco.org.

Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice Update

On January 26th, 42 educators from 26 school sites attended Nicole Tucker-Smith’s SEL Community of Practice session on “Identifying Implicit Bias, Managing Microaggressions, and Changing Practice.” Educators shared how barriers like bias and microaggressions impact SEL and how to apply SEL with an anti-bias mindset.

Tucker-Smith discussed how to create a “brave space” and how to effectively confront and address bias by applying four key concepts:

1. Being anti-biased is a practice, not an end.
2. Communities are only as equitable as the most marginalized people feel.
3. Acknowledge intent, address impact.
4. Privilege depends on context.

Members of our educational community may access session resources.

The discussion continues on March 2 when Tucker-Smith returns for “Attending to How Identities are Represented in the Learning Space.” All members of our educational community are welcome to register. Participants who attend the full session will receive either diverse classroom posters or equity-related books to support continued work.

Finally, this month’s SEL newsletter focuses on self-awareness. This is the third in a series highlighting the CASEL five core competencies. Please contact Meghan Salter at msalter@nevco.org with any questions related to the Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice.
Greetings Nevada County Educators:

Our Nevada County STEAM Team wanted to share updates and friendly reminders:

Guidelines for student presentations are available for the STEAM Scientific Inquiry Competition (Grades K-12), STEAM Arts Showcase and Competition (Grades K-12), Tech Test Jr. (Grades 5-8th grade math competition), and are posted on nevcoexpo.org. The virtual expo registration deadline is fast approaching, so please visit the site: nevcoexpo.zfairs.com.

The deadline for STEAM project registration is Wednesday, March 23, 2022 by 5 pm on nevcoexpo.zfairs.com. Please be sure your site has submitted their top 4 projects by grade level on or before March 23rd on the zFair platform. While that project/student registration deadline is firm, students will be able to continue their work and update their project information up until judging begins on March 23, 2022 at 5pm.

Please hold March 25, 2022 from 1 PM - 2 PM for updates on nevcoexpo.org announcing the STEAM 22 showcase winners and to view the virtual showcase of student work through nevcoexpo.org.

Want to learn more about STEAM 22, check out our interview on KVMR Educationally Speaking - Listen HERE!

If you have questions, please email Carolyn Ferrero at cferrero@nevco.org. We look forward to celebrating student learning in STEAM with Nevada County schools!

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**STEAM COMPETITION 2022**

**Educationally Speaking** is a bi-monthly radio talk show on **KMR 89.5** with hosts Superintendent, Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing. Featuring teachers, students, and Nevada County community members discussing various topics and themes.

We would love to have you and your teachers/students on the show, showcasing and sharing out. Send Kimberly an email with your topic or event at: kewing@nevco.org.
Nevada County Colleagues in STEAM & Potential STEAM 22 Competition Judge:

The fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) are imperative to the future success of our students and our country. It is this thought that led to the creation of the Nevada County STEAM Expo, which is sponsored annually by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office. This free, countywide STEAM Showcase and Competition invites students in grades K-12 to use real-world STEAM application skills to research, generate ideas, develop prototypes, and draw conclusions to solve a problem in their community!

Because schools countywide submit projects, we need help from experts like you who are passionate about STEAM and would like to volunteer to judge student project entries for the scientific inquiry & arts STEAM competitions. Volunteering is easy, all projects are submitted online, and the judging of student projects is also handled online. If you decide to judge, we will walk you through the process. We ask that you have a computer with internet access available and to please join us for a judges’ check-in and training session on Thursday, March 24th.

As a STEAM judge, you’ll spend your time (self-paced) during the open judging window between 9am-9pm on Thursday, March 24, 2022 to review and score on student project submissions. We ask volunteers to score 6 - 10 submissions, which on average, takes 20 minutes per submission. Our online project platform (zFair) provides a clear judging rubric for all submissions as well as technical support from the Judges’ Volunteer Team.

Registration for judging on zFair is easy – just click here and create an account today. Need more help, view our training video for registering here.

This year, judges can check-in to the competition for judging via the in-person or virtual options shared below. Judging support will be provided during the day on March 24th from 9am-3pm (both in person and virtually via Zoom). We request that all judges check-in as this helps to ensure that they have access to the zFair platform and for our STEAM team to assist in monitoring projects in need of evaluation. Judges are not required to stay the entire time and may grade projects from remote locations after checking-in on March 24th. The judging window will close at 9pm on Thursday, March 24th. Project winners will be announced by the STEAM Team and NCSoS on nevexpo.org at 1pm on Friday, March 25th, 2022.

If you have questions regarding joining our Nevada County STEAM Team as a project judge, please contact Carolyn Ferrero at cferreiro@nevco.org.
The Independent Living Program has officially hired a new youth mentor for the mentor program. The mentors that are hired have lived experience and have been a part of the Nevada County Independent Living Program for several years. This experience allows them the space to use their stories to help others with close guidance and training from staff.

The Independent Living Program "Teen Talk" class, partnered with Children's Behavioral Health staff, hosted a live cooking class, and made chocolate covered strawberries. The chocolate was rich and so was the "healthy relationships" discussion. See the picture featuring a few of the participants finished products. This was a well-attended class!!

**Foster Youth Services Program** is hosting an upcoming Fair.

"Raise 'Em Up- A Foster Youth Services Discovery Fair and Appreciation Lunch"

Saturday, May 14th from 10am-1pm
Located at Twin Cities Church
11726 Rough & Ready Hwy, Grass Valley Ca 95945

A social-media free (confidential) event where we can gather, play games, give away fun items, have family photo shoots, eat lunch together and even get faces painted for FREE. We will have bounce houses and family fun activities while you can discover the services offered at the vendor booths to learn about post-secondary education options, counseling services, after school programs and more community resources. This system of care will WOW the community with Nevada County resources, social emotional learning activities, mentorship with people who formerly received care, and activities that promote individual and family unit wellness. This May event will highlight foster parent appreciation in true "foster care awareness month" fashion and open the doors for resource family recruitment where you can get all your questions answered. So, if you are in care, provide care, offer services to those in the system of care or want to learn about how YOU can become part of this community, please join us.

If you provide services to the populations listed above in Nevada County, the Foster Youth Services staff will be reaching out to the you to host a vendor booth where you can highlight your services within the community.

**The Transitional Housing Plus Program** is working with the Youth Action Board comprised of youth in our programs and other programs in Nevada County who serve young people that are experiencing housing insecurities on the Nevada County Youth Point in Time count. The Youth Action Board has met weekly and created flyers along with social media campaign posts to promote the "come and be counted" events. They are also working with the Homeless Liaisons from the middle and high schools to use the counts within the schools that capture those experiencing housing insecurities from ages 12 to 25. The brave young people who have been working on this project, have shown great resilience, dedication, and tenacity. We are very grateful to have their learned expertise throughout this process!
Every year Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSOS) hosts a Writing Tournament where students from local middle schools gather at the Miners Foundry for a day of writing. The tournament lasts most of the day as students compete in three categories: Informative Writing, Creative Writing, and Persuasive Writing.

Since Covid-19 struck, a new event emerged to take its place: The Creative Writing Competition. In its second year, the Creative Writing Competition has given Nevada County students an opportunity to demonstrate their writing skills in a Covid-safe virtual environment.

Eighteen (18) seventh and eighth grade students from twelve local schools were chosen as the best of their grade, to represent their school in the county-wide competition. They were asked to respond to one of the following prompts:

1. Compose a story using characters from one book or movie in the setting of a different book or movie.
2. You discover a secret door in your home. What happens next?
3. Compose a story inspired by this piece of art:

“The Confrontation” by Hughie Lee-Smith, 1970 (Smithsonian American Art Museum)

The stories were judged by a panel of five volunteer judges, made up of former teachers.

The winners of the 2022 Creative Writing Competition are:

7th Grade:
1st Place – Wilder McGrew, Nevada City School of the Arts
2nd Place – Lena Cooke (Helen), Forest Lake Christian
3rd Place – Scarlett Uhlig, Uhlig Academy Homeschool

8th Grade:
1st Place – Ruby Makoutz, Twin Ridges
2nd Place – Eleni Keriotis, Grass Valley Charter School
3rd Place – Josh Theim, Forest Charter School

Timothy May, Nevada County Board of Education member was one of the judges. About the winning seventh grade piece, May said, “The story within, told in flashback, addresses Prompt 3 ("Confrontation") beautifully, with a story that both characterizes the two girls and plausibly interprets the visual elements of the painting. The narrative details the sophisticated setting for the adult narrator, the recollection of events years earlier on the anniversary of her sister's death—all the elements of the story are quite impressive for a 7th grade writer.”

The eighth-grade winner wrote in response to the second prompt and its narrator fell through a secret door, landing in a school's janitor closet. “The author has written a great story about the rewards that come to young person who, surrounded by peer conformity, imagines a way to be their own person.” said May.
Nevada County Media Center (NCM) is offering every student in Nevada County a FREE membership in 2022. NCM is the community hub to create, collaborate and learn MEDIA ARTS and more. Create with fellow students, collaborate with industry experts and learn about media!

Contact Ramona Howard for more information: stationmanager@nevadacountytv.org

Click here for upcoming events.

InConcert Sierra invites ALL youth between the ages of 5-17 to attend our classical chamber concerts FREE with an adult. Free tickets are limited and pre-reservation is suggested. The upcoming MARCH 2022 concerts include:

**Sunday, March 20, 2022 - 3pm - Composers Project with Mark Vance: Poetry in Song**

Presenting 17 new compositions by 17 young composers age 12-21 performed by professional musicians and accomplished vocalists. For more information, contact Mark Vance mark@inconcertsierra.org

The Center for the Arts, one of Nevada County’s Performing Arts Centers, provides free public events, like Family Fun Days twice a year, along with student matinees and after-school arts education classes and opportunities.

**March: CREATE** is a free event highlighting the value & importance of ALL students receiving ARTS EDUCATION.

Date: Thursday, March 31st from 5:30—6:30 PM
Did you know?
You and your school district are offered:
• A free PD on the 2019 California Arts Standards and Framework
• A free PD on Arts Integration Teacher Skills and Tools
• A free PD on Social Emotional Learning and The Arts
These PD offers can be either live or virtual.
Please contact NCSOS Arts Education Coordinator:
Kim Ewing at kewing@nevco.org for more information and scheduling.

Sierra College invites students and teachers to Nevada City where you can visit the Uba Seo Gallery, a new exhibition space owned and operated by the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

In conjunction with the current Exhibition, “Erased”, is a site-specific theater showing a short film collaboration titled “Uba Seo” by San Francisco based artist, Heidi Quante and Shelly Covert (Tribal Spokesperson).

Gallery hours:
Thursday 1-6pm, Friday/Saturday 1-5pm
Location: Uba Seo Gallery, 225 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA

Free for all. For more information, contact Matt Gottchalk at mgottschalk@sierracollege.edu

4th Annual Art Contest
In celebration of children and families during Child Abuse Prevention Month, The Office of Child Abuse Prevention & The Child Abuse Prevention Center is inviting kids to show their creativity with a Kid’s Art Contest! What does “My favorite way to show love” mean to you?
Click here for the application or email kidsday@dss.ca.gov for more information.
Nurturing Parenting
Spring 2022 Virtual Seminar

Nurturing Parenting (8 Weeks)
8 Week Evening Series:
Weds 6:30-8:15pm
March 23–May 18 (no class April 13)

8 Week Morning Series:
Tues 10-11:45am
March 29–May 24 (no class April 12)

Registration Info
530-238-5608 | janderson@nevco.org

Presenter: Jinnae Anderson, Parenting Specialist

Take the stress out of parenting with Nurturing Parenting’s interactive approach. For 35 years, this program has helped parents to deepen and strengthen their family relationships in all types of situations. Topics include: Ages and Stages, Communicating with Respect, Discipline and Consequences, Building Self-Worth, Brain Development and more!

I felt seen and accepted for where I was on my journey.
-Mother of 4 yr old

Introduction to Nurturing Parenting (Monthly)
FREE
2nd Monday every month @ 11:30am
This is an opportunity to explore how your life experiences impact your parenting. Learn about upcoming workshops, meet staff and other parents. We can work together to provide 1:1 parenting support to meet your needs as a parent or guardian.

Registration Info
530-273-4059 | vedoris@nevco.org
NEVADA COUNTY

Schools Job Fair

MARCH 26, 2022
Saturday | 10 AM - 2 PM
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office
380 Crown Point Circle
Grass Valley, CA

WWW.NEVC0.ORG/N0BFAIR

Nevada County
Superintendent of Schools
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 1, 2022</td>
<td>KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with Hosts: Scott Lay and Kim Ewing talk about “One Book, One Community” annual event called Nevada County Reads. Guests include Sydney Joyce from County Libraries, Josie Andrews, NUHS Librarian, and Student LOGO ART Winner, Austin Reyes from BRHS.</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 1—Friday, March 4, 2022</td>
<td>Tech Test Jr.—Proctoring occurs at participating school sites</td>
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| Wednesday, March 2, 2022 | SEL—COP 2022 Session #4 Attending to How Identities are Represented in the Learning Space presented by Nicole Tucker-Smith  
[Click to register](#)                                                                 | 3:30 PM—5:00 PM |
| Wednesday, March 9, 2022 | ASHI Basic Life Support for Health Professionals,  
[Click to register](#)                                                                                                                                  | 12:30 — 4:30 PM |
| Thursday, March 10, 2022 | Pediatric Plus CPR, AED, First Aid for Child/Infant/Adult  
[Click to register](#)                                                                                                                                   | 3:45 PM—5:45 PM |
| Tuesday, March 15, 2022  | KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with Hosts: Scott Lay, Kim Ewing and special guests  
[Click to register](#)                                                                                                                                  | 6:30 PM    |
| Thursday, March 22, 2022 | Basic Plus CPR, AED, Adult  
[Click to register](#)                                                                                                                                     | 3:45 — 5:45 PM |
| Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | STEAM Project Registration Deadline  
[Click to register](#)                                                                                                                                     | 5:00 PM    |
| Friday, March 25, 2022   | STEAM Projects Winners Announced  
[Click to register](#)                                                                                                                                     |            |

**Submissions for future Nugget issues:**

Please submit your request by the 15th of the preceding month. Not all content received will be published as approval will be required for publication.

Email: ocarson@nevco.org  
Prior issues of *The Nugget* can be found [here](#).