June is upon us and the 2022/2023 school year is nearing its close. I want to thank all the educators, here at the county office and out in all the school sites, for the continued commitment to providing our students the best education possible in Nevada County.

Whether it’s attending professional improvement classes to fine tune instructional practices or making sure we provide our students with a warm and caring environment when they walk on our campuses, the educational staff in our county are second to none. I have been fortunate to have seen the positive impacts of this work as I visit campuses across the county.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer and look forward to continuing our work in August.

Scott W. Lay
Established in 2008 by the California Department of Education, the Classified School Employees of the Year program highlights the contributions of employees who have performed exceptionally in support of public school students, from preschool through grade 12.

This year, nine classified school employees, representing all Western Nevada County school districts, were honored at a special breakfast hosted at the historic Holbrooke Hotel in Grass Valley.

County Superintendent of Schools, Scott W. Lay, and School District Superintendents express their heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated work that classified employees perform behind the scenes and in the classroom and beyond for the betterment of Nevada County students. The following school employees were honored with this special recognition for school year 2022-23:

**County-wide CSEY**

Clerical and Administrative Services  
Carol Jackson ~ Scotten Elementary, Grass Valley SD

Custodial & Maintenance Services  
Kenny Fioravanti ~ Union Hill School, Union Hill SD

Health and Student Services  
Blair Baldwin ~ Special Education Services, NCSOS

Paraprofessional  
Sonia Diaz ~ Nevada Joint Union High SD

**School Districts CSEY**

Clerical and Administrative Services  
Sheila Volek ~ Arete Charter Academy, Pleasant Ridge SD  
Linda Astesana ~ Ready Springs School, Penn Valley SD

Health and Student Services  
Judy Stead ~ Grizzly Hill School, Twin Ridges SD

Paraprofessional  
Robin Fields ~ Chicago Park School, Chicago Park SD  
Amber Johnson ~ Deer Creek School, Nevada City SD

Pictured from left to right: Sonia Diaz, NJUHSD; Sheila Volek, PRUSD; Robin Fields, CPUSD; Kenny Fioravanti, UHSD; Carol Jackson, GVSD; Linda Astesana, PVUESD; Blair Baldwin, NCSOS; Amber Johnson, NCSD; Judy Stead, TRESD
Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program hosted the 2nd annual "Raise Them Up" Foster Youth Resource Fair & Appreciation Lunch. Thank you to Twin Cities Church for hosting the event on the church grounds as well as adding special services for the event. The Twin Cities volunteers played games with the attendees and served up a delicious hamburger, hot dog, veggie burger BBQ for everyone to eat. The reptile shows were truly fascinating and engaging to all.

Independent Living Program + Foster Youth Services

There was a chameleon, a red-ear slider turtle recovering from a car accident, snakes, turtles, bearded dragons, and a Monitor Lizard that walked around and said "hi" to the participants.

The Ophir Hill fire engine was on site, and first responder, Sarah Cartmell, let the kids spray the fire hose. What a sight that was to see our future fireman and woman in action.

Kristen Bartell was present and achieved some of the finest face paintings we have ever seen from unicorns, sharks, butterflies and much more that were sparkling with glitter and joy. The kids' faces were lit up!

The community vendors that attended shared out the programs they offer and spoke to the many unique families that spent their time there on Saturday. We enjoyed axe throwing, real life Angry Birds, gardening, a bounce house, a gaga ball pit, musical dots, and other STEAM activities. We had several give aways including gift cards, planter boxes, Lazy Dog ice cream bars, bubbles, and agency swag to name a few.

The real work was truly done during the event when families met or rekindled with other families of similar backgrounds, situations and status.

A simple thank you to all of the partners and participants that joined the festivities would be an understatement but let us try and express the genuine gratitude we feel at Foster Youth Services to ALL of the folks listed here and all those who are not listed but are still doing the work, we THANK YOU: Child Welfare Service, Stanford Sierra Youth & Families, EA Family Services, Ophir Hill Fire Department, Child Abuse Prevention Council/First 5, Ombudsperson, Children Behavioral Health, CASA of Nevada County, Sierra College, Independent Living Program, Grass Valley Police Department, Alliance for Workforce Development, Nevada County Juvenile Probation, Girl Scouts, Indian Education, Social Emotional Learning, STEAM, FREED and Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE).

Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program celebrates eight projected high school graduations in 2023. We are so proud of the students graduating from Forest Charter, Bitney Prep, Mountain Valley, Placer Detention Center, and Silver Springs. We are honored to be in attendance at the graduation ceremonies. The last ILP class was a BBQ with honorary certificates for the class participants, fun games and a time to reflect on the progress, growth and connections we have formed this year. After a great year of togetherness completing taxes, budgeting, a Foster Youth Education Summit, healthy relationships classes, How To Rent, college tours and ILP resource fair booth we come to a bittersweet close of events for this year.

Please help us welcome the new Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program’s Data Technician, Carla Anderson.
The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is a federal and state funded program that encourages school food authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) to provide meals in low-income areas during the summer. The SSO combines features of the NSLP, SBP, and Summer Food Service Program.

Grass Valley School District will be hosting the Seamless Summer program at five sites in the county to all children in the community 18 years and younger.

Madelyn Helling Library
980 Helling Way
Nevada City
M-F June 19 - August 11 (Closed July 4)
Lunch only—Noon

Grass Valley Library – Royce Branch
207 Mill Street
Grass Valley
M-F June 19 - August 11 (Closed July 4)
Lunch only—Noon

Bright Futures for Youth
Deer Creek Elementary School
805 Lindley Ave
Nevada City
M-F June 26 – July 28 (Closed July 4 & 5)
Breakfast 9 – 9:30am
Lunch 12 – 12:30pm

Bright Futures for Youth
Union Hill Elementary School
10879 Bartlett Dr
Grass Valley
M-F June 19 – July 28 (Closed July 4 & 5)
Breakfast 9 – 9:30am
Lunch 12 – 12:30pm

Margaret Scotten Elementary School
10821 Squirrel Creek Road
Grass Valley, Ca 95945
M – F June 20 – July 14 (Closed July 4)
Breakfast 9:50 – 10:45am
Lunch 11:15 – 12:45pm

Nevada County Reads Writing Contest Winners

SHOUT OUT to the Nevada County Reads Student Writing Contest Winners:

1st Place: Kimberly Aguilar-Diaz
2nd Place: Rein Choney
3rd Place: Gabriella Gerster

These winners were honored on Saturday, May 27th at Miner’s and were able to join author Charles Yu for the NCR Author Talk.

NevadaCountyReads.com
As the month of May comes to an end and summer heat settles in, like every May before it, our atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration reached its highest level in 800,000 years. For the next few months, Atmospheric CO2 levels will then begin to drop again until October. This seasonal fluctuation is due to the increased CO2 uptake by plants during the Northern Hemisphere’s spring and summer, which decreases the atmospheric CO2 concentration for part of the year. As the CO2 levels are higher each year, we can sound the alarm for the Earth!

What can you do?

One of the easiest and money saving things we can all do is reduce food waste. From Project Drawdown: [https://drawdown.org/solutions/reduced-food-waste](https://drawdown.org/solutions/reduced-food-waste)

“Roughly one-third of all food produced worldwide is wasted. Where income is low, waste is generally unintentional and occurs on farms or during storage or distribution. In regions of higher income, food waste dominates further along the supply chain. Retailers and consumers reject food based on bumps, bruises, and coloring, or simply order, buy, and serve too much.

When food is wasted, all the energy, resources, and money that went into producing, processing, packaging, and transporting it are wasted, too. Producing uneaten food squanders a whole host of resources—seeds, water, energy, land, fertilizer, hours of labor, financial capital—and generates greenhouse gases at every stage. The food we waste is responsible for roughly 8 percent of global emissions.”

School Gardens, Community Recycling, NGSS Free Resources at CalRecycle.gov

CalRecycle: Free Resources for Educators
### Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 13, 2023</td>
<td>Be the Spark! Ignite Your Core Through Arts Integration (Registration Closed)</td>
<td>8:00 AM—3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 24, 2023</td>
<td>HSI Pediatric Infant &amp; Adult CPR and First Aid FULL</td>
<td>9:00—12:00 PM</td>
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*************** Please note—There will not be a July issue of *The Nugget* due to summer break.***************

**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](#).