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The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
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Student Entrepreneurs Awarded \$10,000

The second annual “Innovate! Inyo” student contest recently awarded \$10,000 to budding high school entrepreneurs. The contest, sponsored by the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, is designed to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit in our youth and is modeled after the popular television show—“Shark Tank.”

Students are required to develop a detailed, written business plan and orally present the plan which is publicly scrutinized by a panel of judges. The “Innovate! Inyo” judging panel included Tawni Thomson, Executive Director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Mazzu, owner of the Mammoth Lakes, Bishop and Lone Pine McDonald’s Restaurants and



Finalists and judges for the “Innovate! Inyo” Contest. Judges Kevin Mazzu (far left), Tawni Thomson (4th from left) and Terry McAteer (far right) while winners were Olivia Grah (2nd from right), Alex Greer and Colton Riesen (6th and 7th respectively from the left).

County Superintendent of Schools Terry McAteer. The largest award of \$5,000 was presented to Bishop High senior Olivia Grah and her “Elevated Cuisine” concept which would develop an on-

line and store front operation providing customized backpacking meals for locals and visitors. Bishop High seniors Colton Riesen and his Bishop Miniature Golf business plan and Alex Greer

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NSTA Conference

As part of the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Science Initiative, seventeen local science teachers boarded county vans to travel to Long Beach for the National Science Teachers Association conference in early December. The theme this year was “Catch the Wave,” referring to the surge of reform coming with the adoption the Next Generation Science Standards. The new standards place more emphasis on instruction at the lower grades, as well as science and engineering practices and the interconnectedness between different disciplines of science. Although many Inyo teachers already incorporate these ideas, they are also committed to continually improving their effectiveness with kids.

The NSTA conference afforded many excellent opportunities. Aside from the innumerable presentations and hands-on workshops, teachers representing grades 3-12 got to spend time together to share what they were learning, as well as exchange great ideas of their own. They also got to see science equipment and resources at an exhibit featuring over 130 vendors.

As we move from the NGSS “awareness” year to the “transition” next fall, local teachers are eager for new ideas that help to both align to the new standards and inspire their students. Although the trip involved four long days of immersion in all things science, BUHS teacher Adrian Sears closed with a telling question: “When do we go again?”

Substitute Recruitment Response Outstanding

“We could not get a sub!” Those are words that no teacher, who is desperately ill or needing to get to an appointment, wants to hear from the school secretary. There is no doubt that all of our Districts are hearing that refrain more often in recent months. However, help is on the way!

“This will make a difference for teachers in Inyo County classrooms for years to come.”

Districts about the lack of qualified substitute teachers available to support our classrooms. We sent out postcards to all Inyo County residents and offered to pay the costs associated with obtaining the 30-day substitute permit. We expected a good response, but were delighted to have over 50 applicants attend the North and South county substitute training venues. Dr. McAteer commented, “This will make a difference for teachers in Inyo County classrooms for years to come.”

Ilissa Twomey and Pamela Jones presented a number of tips and techniques for classroom management to the potential substitutes, and reviewed with them the forms, registrations, tests and finger printing that are necessary. Undaunted by the flood of paper, the participants were smiling and eager to follow the many steps needed to qualify for the credential.

The candidates are in the process of rolling through the finger printing process, taking the CBEST, and getting their forms filed. We expect to see many new names in the sub pool by February 2015.

In December, Terry McAteer and the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Curriculum Department responded to the concern from

“An excellent mathematics program requires effective teaching that engages students in meaningful learning through individual and collaborative experiences that promote their ability to make sense of mathematical ideas and reason mathematically.” ~ NCTM

It has been almost a year since the ICSOS day-long grade span workshops for teachers to delve into grade level standards and the standards for math practices. In those workshops we looked at these shifts in math:

- Focus: strongly where the standards focus
- Coherence: think across grades, and link to major topics within grades
- Rigor: Equal intensity in conceptual understanding, procedural skill/fluency, and application

Teachers also explored the framework in order to gain an understanding of the big ideas at each grade level as well as review recommended pedagogy. Below, is a brief synopsis of some of the topics

presented last year.

What Teachers Can Do to Support the CCSSM

- Teach for conceptual understanding - students are learning through problem-solving.
- Facilitate student discourse – students talk to each other and present explanations to their peers, critique solutions to problems, and engage in collaborative problem solving.
- Choose tasks – students are engaged in cognitively demanding, relevant work with multiple entry-points that are directly related to the concept(s) being learned.

For more information, see [Principles to Action: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All \(NCTM\)](#), the [California Math Framework](#), and the [Inyo County website: https://sites.google.com/site/inymath/](https://sites.google.com/site/inymath/)

Evaluating Math Materials Materials should:

- Focus on the major work of the grade and not introduce topics outside the grade level.
- Have complex, multi-step and realistic application problems with varied solutions in addition to single step problems that support fluency.
- Have a balance between conceptual understanding, procedural skill and application.
- Support mathematical reasoning by explicitly attending to the language of math, supporting students in producing arguments, explanations, diagrams models, etc.
- Include appropriate scaffolding, differentiation, intervention and support for a broad range of learners.

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for her Mountain Bike Storage, Cleaning and Repair business plan were each awarded \$1750. Winners of \$500 included Big Pine’s Erin Lind, Bishop High’s Thomas Sills and the team of Karen Banuelos and Alicia Christensen.

“These students are the next business entrepreneurs and we want to nurture and promote this type of creativity,” said “Innovate! Inyo” judge Terry McAteer. McAteer also credited Bishop High teacher Tara Auld and Big Pine’s Tim Steele for their assistance in preparing the local students for the competition.

Upcoming Student Events

Spelling Bee:

The 39th Annual Spelling Bee will be held on January 15th at 6pm in the Great Room at JKBS. Each district will be sending their top five spellers in grades 4-8 to the Bee (sponsored by Altrusa). Students, families and friends are welcome to attend.



Spelling Bee students in December 2013

Writing Contest:

Given the educational landscape in which we currently find ourselves - specifically 1:1 computing and the Common Core standards for ELA - we felt that it might be an opportune time to revamp our writing contest for middle school students. In the past we have asked that students generate two pieces of writing on the spot - a news article based on an interview that we broad-

casted via polycom and another piece that has varied in content over the years. In an effort to craft an activity that would mirror an SBAC performance task, we will ask students to do only one piece of writing, in which they have time to engage in a pre-writing activity, draft a piece, then edit

and submit a piece. Resources for students (video, images and short texts) will be available on an ICSOS-generated website in late January. Each school will submit their top 10 pieces to ICSOS by February 26th. Look for the top pieces in the March 7th edition of the Inyo Register.

Geography Bee:

NEW DATE! The 4th annual Geography Bee for high school students will be held on March 26th at 6pm in the Great Room at JKBS. This year’s theme will be US Geography with an emphasis on our National Parks. Please join us for a fun evening of Geography trivia.

For more information on these events, please contact *Ilissa Twomey* at 769-873-3262 ext. 429.

A workshop for Inyo County teachers

Explore the New ELA/ELD Framework

Participants will:

- Get an overview of the framework and what is in each chapter
- Experience models of Common Core classroom instruction through vignettes and videos
- Explore the Framework’s grade-level-specific tools and strategies for their own grade levels
- Learn how the new ELD standards connect to the ELA standards and how they can be used to support literacy development for ELS

Dinner will be provided

Two Dates & Locations:

In Bishop:

January 14, 2015
3:45PM–7:00PM

George Lozito Conference Room
166 Grandview Drive, Bishop

TO REGISTER FOR BISHOP:

rsdss.k12oms.org/522-93245

In Independence:

January 29, 2015
3:45PM–7:00PM

Munis Conference Room
555 S Clay Street, Independence

TO REGISTER FOR INDEPENDENCE:

rsdss.k12oms.org/522-93246