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United States
14,497 feet

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
Volume 8, Issue 3 www.inyo.k12.ca.us November & December 2015

Creating a Culture of College and Career Readiness in Inyo County

“The years from ten through fourteen are a crucial turning point in life’s trajectory...Adolescence, in fact, is the last phase of life in which society has reasonably ready access to virtually the entire population, so the potential for constructive influence is great.”

—“Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century,” *The Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development*

Constructive influence in the later years of elementary school, as students transition to middle school, can put students on a successful life path. The careers for which today’s students

are preparing will require the ability to think critically, write clearly, analyze, and compute. In addition, it is estimated that 90% of jobs created will require post-secondary education.

NEW FOR 5TH GRADE!

In an effort to start Inyo’s students on a path toward post-secondary education and to help them enter middle school with a mindset that prepares them for the challenges of the future, 5th grade classes are invited to Cerro Coso’s Bishop campus on April 8th. Following the field trip, it is our hope that participating students will be inspired to embrace a path that leads to college and/or careers.

Students will rotate through several sessions facilitated by Cerro Coso

faculty, ICSOS staff and community members, who will introduce students to a variety of career and college options.

Elementary schools will receive more information about this event soon.

8TH GRADE COLLEGE DAY

Similarly, this month all 8th graders in Inyo County will once again have the opportunity to attend College Day at the Bishop Cerro Coso campus on November 13th. In their “classes” at the college, students will gather information and resources to plan and prepare for college or career training. Classes will cover such topics as financial aid; college eligibility and entrance requirements; college life; the various types of colleges; and the Inyo Promise – a pathway for

all students into higher education.

Dr. McAteer will again lead an engaging session on “Why College?” and answer student questions about the long-term benefits of college and career.

Students will also learn about what Cerro Coso has to offer in terms of vocational training, which can be attained at little or no cost for Inyo County’s high school graduates through the Eastern Sierra Foundation Scholarship program.

Both College Day opportunities are made possible through a joint effort of Inyo County Superintendent of Schools and Cerro Coso Community College.

For further information, contact Ilissa Twomey at 760-873-3262 ext. 429.

A New Year’s Gift for You: Technology Mini-Grants

Your students have digital devices and you’re all getting comfortable in a 1:1 environment, but there’s one more thing you need to make it all take off!

If this describes you, you’ll be glad to know that in the January Insight, ICSOS will publish a request for proposals for mini-grants to fund

technology purchases for the classroom.

Proposals could be for software (video editing software, tablet apps, online subscriptions) or hardware such as tablets, digital audio or video recording equipment, document cameras, scanners, robotics equipment, adaptive equipment for special

needs students, specialized digital probes or other scientific equipment, or anything else that will make a difference for your students.

Mini-grant criteria:

- Individual proposals only. **No group proposals will be considered**

- Maximum amount that may be requested is \$2000
- Proposals must describe how the items to be purchased will contribute to teaching and learning

Watch for more information in our January issue of the *Inyo Insight!*

Go to Camp This Summer Without Leaving Home! (CUE Rock Star Camp, that is!)

We are thrilled to announce that ICSOS will host a CUE Rock Star Camp at Mammoth Middle School on June 15th - 18th, 2016—open to all teachers.

Presented by the nonprofit Computer Using Educators (CUE) and designed for teachers of any subject or grade level, Rock Star Camps offer three days of in-depth, hands-on learning in the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Each day consists of two, two-hour sessions allowing teachers to "dig in deep" and really get to know their topic and build resources to use the next school year. Morning sessions are repeated in the afternoon so that

participants have two different opportunities to attend a given workshop.

Rock Star Camps are small and intimate, with a 1:10 presenter-to-participant ratio and a maximum of 150 participants. This allows teachers to get hands-on support and learn directly from knowledgeable educators.

While the Camp will have an all-star cast of experienced, volunteer presenters, most of whom are classroom teachers, these events aren't about the staff – the participants are the real rock stars, and their knowledge, energy and enthusiasm contribute to the magic these camps produce. Rock

Star Camps focus on bringing out the best in all participants and launching a new crop of edtech leaders. The camps purposely start late, end early, and include extended lunch breaks so that everyone has ample opportunities to collaborate and network as part of a learning community.

Superintendent Terry McAteer has offered to pay registration fees for teachers who wish to attend.

Save the date for this outstanding professional learning opportunity in your own backyard!

Registration will begin in early 2016 at www.cuerockstar.org

For more information, contact Lo Lyness: 873-3262 ext. 403

40th Annual Spelling Bee in Inyo County

ICSOS is pleased to announce the 40th annual countywide Spelling Bee for students in grades 4-8. The Spelling Bee will be held January 21st, at Jill Kinmont Booth School beginning at 6pm.



2014-15 Spelling Bee Champs

Teacher coaches Gemma Arana, Megan Fuchs, Victoria Hamilton, Vivian Hanson, Carmen London, Joe Perez, Lidia Rubio, and Rory Winzenread are working to prepare students for the competition.

Students, families and friends are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Ilissa Twomey: 873-3262 ext. 429

Tech Corner: Get Googly

- Google now has **speech-to-text tool** in Docs. If you teach struggling writers or students who have difficulty with a keyboard, try this. Open a Google Doc, and click Tools > Voice Typing, and click on the microphone icon. Google will use the built-in microphone or any connected microphone.
- With **Fluency Tutor for Google**, teachers assign leveled reading passages; students record themselves reading whenever, wherever; and teachers access the students' audio files at a time

and place of their choosing. Teachers can score students' fluency, give them quick feedback, and track their progress through the app. Choose from among over 400 reading passages at various lexile levels, or upload your own.

- **Find files quickly in Drive:** If you have a lot of files in your Drive you should get acquainted with Drive's search box to speed up your retrieval process. Type words that might be in the file or its title, or for an advanced search option, click the small arrow on the far right: you can search

by file type, by the program that will open the file, or by ownership.

- **Edit URLs to force copying:** Want to be sure students *have* to make a copy of a Google Doc, or can only preview your Doc? The URL usually starts with "docs.google.com" and ends with the word "edit". Delete "edit" and type in "copy" instead, to force the user to copy the file to their Drive before viewing. Or type in "preview" to show a "read-only" version of the file.

INQUIRY AND EXPLORATION CONFERENCE RESOURCE LINKS

Thank you to all who participated in this year's countywide conference hosted by ICSOS! Presentations and resources from many of the conference sessions are available here:

<https://sites.google.com/a/icsos.us/novconf/>