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The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
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A Message from the Superintendent



As planned, I will be retiring as your County Superintendent at the end of this school year. After nearly 22 years as a County Superintendent (eight here in Inyo County and fourteen in Nevada County), I believe that nearly all of my initiatives that I have undertaken for Inyo Schools are underway and firmly in place. My wife, Liz, and I will be returning to our home base of Nevada County which is much closer to our two children—Jeanne, a special education teacher in Santa Rosa and, Gregory, an assistant to Governor Brown in Sacramento.

I will not completely disappear from Inyo as I have agreed to continue to provide oversight and leadership for our three Los Angeles-based charter schools for the next five years. Therefore, I will return to Inyo often on charter business and to visit friends.

Together, you and I have made great strides in improving education in Inyo County. I wish to thank you very much for your collaborative and collegial approach which has made these changes possible. I leave with the COE in a very healthy fiscal state and with a remarkable staff. I'm very proud of our record which includes:

- Restructuring of Programs for At-Risk Youth (Strengthening SARB, Refocusing JKBS, Juvenile Hall transition, Establishing the North Star Counseling Center, Instituting PBIS Countywide)
- Infusion of classroom-based programs for our youth (ie. Trout in the Classroom, Sex Ed, Art Docent, Brummitt-Taylor Music, YEP, Paiute Curriculum, Eastern Sierra Watershed Project)
- 100% Technology Infusion into All Schools—Laptops and Infrastructure to Support Them; Making Inyo County Schools the Most Technologically Advanced Public Schools in California
- Charter Schools: Assist LA Youth and generate



local funds annually for Inyo Schools

- Strengthening of ROP and Transitioning to Districts (Skills for Success, Ag, etc)



- Inyo Schools Establishing the Second Lowest Truancy Rate in the State
- Strong K-12 to College Partnerships (Cerro Coso Day, Cerro Coso Refurbishing, Development of the Inyo Promise and the Endowment of the Eastern Sierra Foundation)
- Unification of Bishop Schools—Streamlining & Generating an Additional \$700,000 Annually
- Improved School Infrastructure—New School Furniture for 6-12th Graders and Teachers, Funding New Bishop HS Commons, Lo-Inyo Science Center, Big Pine Pre-School and a countywide school phone system
- Revitalized Youth Afterschool Activities—(Rebrand and revitalize the Sierra Adventure Center, Summer Camp Opportunities, Afterschool Arts Classes, Scholar Day at the Fair)

Since I am retiring mid-term, the County Board of Education is empowered by law to appoint my successor. I have great faith and trust in them and their abilities to find a fine replacement to complete my term. The job opening is currently posted on EdJoin and the application deadline is February 26th. If you know of qualified applicants, please encourage them to apply.



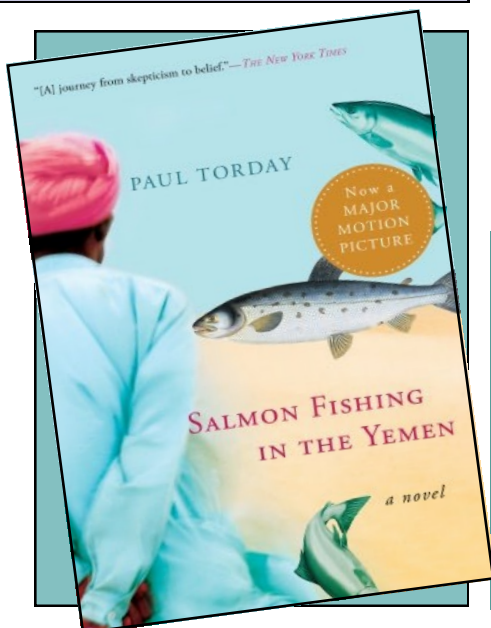
February 3rd

Poetry Out Loud

The Inyo Council for the Arts will be hosting the county-wide, final competitions of Poetry Out Loud on **February 3rd** at 6:30pm in the Inyo Council for the Arts gallery.

Poetry Out-Loud is a contest that encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. The program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

For more information, visit the Inyo Council for the Arts website at inyo.org or call them at (760)873-8014.



8th Annual Community Reads

JANUARY

Kick-Off Party - Wed. Jan. 13, 5-6:30pm - ICA; join us for fish foods, beverages, live music, and fishing stories - tales, and whoppers!

ICA Gallery Show - Jan 11-Feb 26 - ICA; Come in to the ICA gallery and peruse a selection of fine fishing themed art from talented local artists.

Film Screening: "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" - Wed. Jan 20, 7pm at ICA and Thurs. Jan 21, 7pm at LPFM; Come see the critically acclaimed film adaptation of the novel.

Fly Tying - Wed. Jan. 27, 6:30-8pm - ICA; Learn how 'Flies' are made and try your hand at tying a fly. For Kids and Adults. Space is limited, call ICA to sign up.

Fish Art - Sat. Jan. 30, 1-3:30, JKBS; Gytaku Fish Printing, Wind Socks & Fish Origami. For Kids and Adults.

FEBRUARY

Film Screening: "Manzanar Fishing Club" - Sat. Feb. 13, 1:00pm - Manzanar National Historic Site; The uplifting story of the internees who sought and found moments of freedom to fish in the famed Eastern Sierra.

Fly Tying - Wed. Feb. 17, 6:30-8pm - ICA; Learn how 'Flies' are made and try your hand at tying a fly. For Kids & Adults. Space is limited, call ICA to sign up.

Hatchery Tour - Sat. Feb. 20, 10am - Historic Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery; Friends of Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery will lead a guided tour. Bring a picnic lunch. Access off of Hwy 395 on Fish Hatchery Road, two miles north of Independence. For more information and sign-up contact ICA.

"Species in a Bucket" - Wed. Feb 24, 6:30-8pm - ICA; Presentation by Phil Pister, a retired fishery biologist with California Department of Fish and Game and a pioneer of desert fish conservation.

Fly Casting Demo - Sat. Feb 27, Noon-3:30pm - Bishop City Park; Learn the basics of fly casting with Fred Rowe and friends. Contact ICA to sign up.

MARCH

Film Screening: "Kiss the Water" - Wed. March 2, 7pm at ICA and Thurs.

March 3, 7pm at LPFM; A documentary that spins the story of famed Scottish fly maker Megan Boyd's life into a stunning film about the craft of fly tying.

Early Opener Trout Derby - Sat. March 5 - Diaz Lake; Contact Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce for info: 760-876-4444

Sushi Night - Wed. March 9, 5:30-7pm - JKBS; Learn to make a fantastic sushi meal with Lynn Zayer. Space is limited, call ICA to sign up.

Blake Jones Fishing Tournament, Sat. March 12 - Contact Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce for info: 760-873-8405

ICA – Inyo Council for the Arts: 137 S. Main St., Bishop (760) 873-8014

LPFHM – Lone Pine Film History Museum: 701 S. Main St., Lone Pine (760) 876-9909

JKBS – Jill Kinmont Boothe School: 166 Grandview Dr., Bishop (760) 873-3262

This year's book:

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen by Paul Today

All Community Reads events are FREE and open to the public!

For more information, visit the Inyo Council for the Arts website at inyo.org or call (760) 873-8014.

Register NOW for Countywide Professional Learning Day!

Building Brain Compatible Classrooms - February 29th

If It's Our Job to Develop the Mind, Shouldn't We Know How The Brain Works?



Dr. Kenneth Wesson

Registration is now open for our upcoming Countywide Professional Learning Day.

Dr. Kenneth Wesson will join us to offer Inyo County teachers the latest findings in the neuroscience of learning. According to Dr. Wesson, "The brain is not only the most complex organ in the human body, but this 'three-pound universe' has also been described as the most complex object known to mankind. Understanding how the young brain learns will help educators design classrooms that are 'brain-considerate' – where we capitalize on the brain's natural inclinations for learning. Joseph Epstein stated that 'We are what we read.' Neuroscientists, however, would offer a differing viewpoint highlighting that 'we are what we experience' instead".

Join us to learn how to apply the best "brain-compatible" teaching practices in your classroom.

Please register TODAY at <http://inyo.k12oms.org/1781-109482>

Registration closes February 12th.

Upcoming Student Events

February

FEB 3, 6:30pm: Poetry Out Loud
@ Inyo Council for the Arts
(See page 2 for additional details)

FEB 10, 6pm: Countywide Science Fair
@ Home Economics Building, Tri-County Fairgrounds.

The public is invited to attend the Inyo County Science Fair. Winning projects from our schools' science fairs will be on display from 6 to 6:30 with awards announced starting at 6:30. Student projects will be judged earlier that day.

March

MAR 10, 6pm: Speech Contest
(Grades 6-8) @ Jill Kinmont Boothe School (JKBS).

The topic this year is: In your opinion, what questions should our presidential candidates address?

Students in grades 6-8 from all school districts in Inyo County are eligible to participate in the competition. Each school will hold their own speech contest where one or two winning students will be selected to compete in the Inyo County Speech Contest. With five districts set to participate, we are looking forward to an evening of interesting and thought-provoking discourse.

A panel of 3-5 judges will critique the speakers and judge them on the basis of content, effectiveness, delivery, poise, voice, and language. The goal of the contest is to cultivate effective public speaking skills, create

confidence and an earned sense of achievement and leadership.

The public is encouraged to attend the event.

MAR 24, 6pm: High School Geography Bee @ Jill Kinmont Boothe School (JKBS)

April

APR 8: 5th Grade College Day @ Cerro Coso College, Bishop.

5th grade classes are invited to the Bishop Cerro Coso campus to participate in a series of sessions focused on exposing students to a variety of college and career options.

For more information on student events, please contact Ilissa Twomey at 760-873-3262 ext. 2197.

Rose Bracken Earns First in Spelling Bee

We are pleased to announce that **Rose Bracken** of **Bishop Elementary School** won first place in the Inyo County Spelling Bee, sponsored by Altrusa.

Twenty-five students from local elementary and middle schools

participated in the 2015-16 countywide Spelling Bee last week at Jill Kinmont Boothe School. Sixteen students made it to the final rounds. The winners of the competition were:

1st Place	Rose Bracken Bishop Elementary
2nd Place	Mahdi Ayman Home Street
3rd Place	Lyndsey Rowan Home Street



Rose Bracken, Inyo County Spelling Bee

After much fierce competition with words like desuetude, obeisance and exuviae, the winning word was: punchy. The spelling

contestants included: Rainah Dewey, Ashley Fitt, Rocko Moore and Bodie Steinwand from Big Pine; Dev Bhakta, Graciela Gutierrez, Korina Isidro, and

Jenna McGuire of Lone Pine; Sarah Faircloth, Erik Martinez, Mark McAlister and Orion Nash of Owens Valley; Branden Gardea from Bishop schools; Rylee Arcularius, Jilly Maurice, Braeden McGrale and Alex Morales from Round Valley. Several students also joined the preliminary competition as alternates to get practice for next year: Paul Rodriguez from Lo-Inyo, Carlos Roriguez-Gonzales from Bishop, Dante Allen and Julian Carter from Owens Valley, and Greg Tordoff from Round Valley.

Thank you to coaches Melinda Dardenne-Ankringa, Megan Fuchs, Carmen London, Victoria Hamilton, Rory Winzenread, Bryan Mack, Gemma Arana and Lidia Rubio for working with the students to prepare them for the bee.

The local Altrusa chapter sponsored the competition. Margee Neer, Sarah Sheehan and Vi Tripp were on hand to distribute awards to students and judge the competition. Lynne Almeida of Spellbinder Books graciously accepted the position as the Pronouncer for this year's competition. The Round Valley PTO donated \$5 to the "last person standing" from each of the five districts competing. The recipients of those awards were:

Clarissa Castro: Owens Valley
Hana Hogan: Round Valley
Tyler Mahlum-Hambleton: Big Pine
Angelica Mendoza: Lo-Inyo
Ace Selters: Home Street

ICSOS Funds All Mini-Grant Proposals!

ICSOS received technology mini-grant proposals from 41 teachers from preschool through high school and has funded them all!

Proposals came from the Bishop, Big Pine, and Lone Pine districts and ICSOS preschools. Most proposals fell into 3 broad categories: interactive whiteboards (Smart, Promethean); projection systems that turn a regular whiteboard into a

"smart" (interactive) whiteboard; and iPad sets for center and small-group activities such as video creation and use of science, math, or language arts apps.

Unique items requested included preschool teacher Forrest Smith's programmable "Ozobots"; Jonathan Willy's handheld thermal detection devices; and special education teacher Tim Tiernan's Osmo Genius game to promote social intelligence.



Last Person Standing Award recipients with Margee Neer of Altrusa International
Pictured (left to right): Margee Neer, Angelica Mendoza, Clarissa Castro, Tyler Mahlum-Hambleton, Hana Hogan, Ace Selters

Representing Inyo County at the Elementary State Bee in April will be Lyndsey Rowan and Rose Bracken. Ace Selters and Mahdi Ayman will represent Inyo county at the Junior High State Bee in May.

Congratulations to all the student participants!