

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools

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A Million Acts of Kindness for Inyo County

Lisa Fontana, Inyo County Superintendent

In an era of divisiveness, volatility and rude treatment of others it is refreshing and transformational to focus instead on *kindness and civility*. That is the central theme of a new initiative from your County Office of Education. As your County Superintendent of Schools, I would like to share the effectiveness of a similar initiative in my past experience and begin a new kindness-focused initiative here in Inyo County.

Several years ago I implemented a county-wide Choose Civility Campaign elsewhere in California. The ideas were based on a book, Choose Civility: Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Conduct, by P.M. Forni, cofounder of the Johns Hopkins Civility Project. This project considerably improved the way children and adults behaved and

treated one another all across our county. Some of the greatest impacts were the way we began to think the best of one another, being inclusive in our interactions, and respecting others' opinions even when those opinions were vastly different from our own.

Because I have witnessed first-hand the powerful and positive impacts of a county-wide initiative and because of comments I've heard about the presence of hate and disrespect in our schools by some of our own students in Inyo County, I would like to begin a new **One Million Acts of Kindness** initiative across our county. The idea is simple: let's teach our students about kindness, modeling kindness in our daily lives and then share those acts of kindness

in a web presence keeping tally with the goal of reaching One Million Acts of Kindness by the end of this school year.

Kindness is so simple to teach to our students through picture books, classroom themes, biographies, current events, class meetings, Character Counts and other school-wide character building programs, PBIS, guest speakers, and the list goes on. I believe the best way to teach about kindness is to model kind behavior toward others. Even our youngest children can learn to treat others with kindness and to be kind to animals and the environment.

Watch for more information about Inyo County's One Million Acts of Kindness Initiative coming soon and pledge to be a role model of kindness and caring.

TECHSTRAVAGANZA RESOURCES

Last month, ICSOS offered a conference style event for the fall countywide professional development day. Resources for each session are now posted on the [WEBSITE](https://goo.gl/r3E06z)
<https://goo.gl/r3E06z>

Save the Date!

COLDWELL BANKER SPEECH CONTEST

DECEMBER 14, 2016—6PM

6th - 8th Grades

Jill Kinmont Boothe School

ALTRUSA SPELLING BEE

JANUARY 26, 2017—6PM

Jill Kinmont Boothe School

POETRY OUT LOUD

FEBRUARY 9, 2017—6:30PM

11th & 12th Grades

Inyo Council for the Arts

COLLEGE & CAREER DAY

MAY 19, 2017

5th Grade

Cerro Coso College, Bishop

Outdoor Education

The Eastern Sierra Watershed Project (ESWP) has been running since 2002 and is a hands-on field science program for 2nd, 4th, 6th-8th grades. Through ESWP, Inyo County students explore natural communities in our local watersheds. On each field trip, students work in small groups with trained docents, using scientific tools to collect data that sheds light on the interrelationships among the physical and biological components in the watershed.

This year, coordination and management of the field trip program is transferring from the Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education (ESICE) to ICSOS, under the guidance of Hillary Behr and with support from ESICE staff.

- 2nd grade: partnership with BLM Hands on the Land @ Fish Slough- desert ecology and aquatic macroinvertebrates
- 4th grade: partnership with BLM Hands on the Land @ Fish Slough- geology, archaeology, pupfish habitat restoration
- 6th grade: Creek studies (vegetation, water quality, fish, aquatic macroinvertebrates) at local creeks near each school
- 7th grade: Lower Owens River Project at Blackrock site- invasive species, aquatic macroinvertebrates, skulls and animal tracks, vegetation
- 8th grade: Lower Owens River Project at Blackrock site- stream channel morphology, vegetation and soil studies, water quality



ICA is calling all High School ELA Teachers!

Starting in your classroom you can offer students the opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, learn about their literary heritage, compete for more than \$100,000 in awards, and a chance to represent CA at the National Finals in Washington D.C.

To learn how to integrate this program into your curriculum, contact Erin Livingston, ICA School Arts Coordinator at:

SchoolArts@inyo.org
760-873-8014.

Visit www.PoetryOutLoud.org to learn more and download the Teacher's Guide.



Become an Instructional Techspert!

Your students all have access to technology in the classroom. Now what?? For teachers who want to learn more about digital tools that support teaching and learning and how to integrate those tools into their instruction, ICSOS will be offering a new online course, Inyo County Instructional Techsperts, to meet your needs.

The course begins on November 28th and ends May 1. It will consist of three "strands": Strand 1, Tools of the Trade, builds teachers' foundational knowledge of Google's Apps (now called G-Suite for Education), screencasting and video apps, and an opportunity to investigate other useful web-based apps.

Participants will create several products with the various tools for classroom use. Strand 2, Teaching

with Technology, covers topics such as managing a 1:1 classroom and models and examples of powerful technology integration. Participants will develop and teach technology-integrated lessons to demonstrate their learning. In Strand 3, Understanding and Teaching Digital Citizenship, teachers review the basics of information literacy and explore topics such as privacy, cyberbullying, digital footprint, and appropriate online communication. They will identify lessons and resources for teaching their students about digital citizenship.

Course participants will work at their own pace to complete tasks within the strands, and will need to submit their products by

the end date for each strand.

Some districts will offer incentives for their teachers to complete the course: check with your principal. In addition, if participants are interested in continuing education credits, ICSOS will work with a university to make up to four units available. At the end of the course, participants will attend a face-to-face session to share a selection of products they have completed with their colleagues.

If you're interested, please register at <http://inyo.k12oms.org/1781-125059>.

For more information, call or email Lo Lyness: 760-873-3262 x2103, llyness@icsos.us.



History Day!

Teachers in grades 4-12 interested in participating in History Day, read on!

Taking a Stand is this year's theme for History Day, a project based learning experience for students. After selecting a historical topic that relates to the theme, students conduct research, then analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history, and create final projects that present their work.

Students may work individually or in groups of 2-5, with several project categories to choose from: paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, website or poster (grades 4 and 5 only).



Helpful resources to get you started:

[California History Day Website](#) - includes teacher resources, support materials, and timelines
[Rule Book](#) and [Example topics](#)

If districts would like to participate, ICSOS can hold a county competition in March. Please contact Tiffany Randall (trandall@icsos.us) or Ilissa Twomey (itwomey@icsos.us) to participate or for more information.

Tech Corner

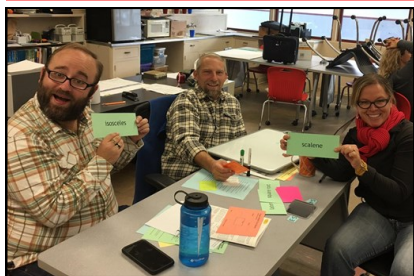
Looking for a digital resource for student research?

Try the [Digital Public Library of America](#). Students can explore over 14 million items from libraries, archives and museums. Teachers can explore Primary Source Sets and peruse History Day resources - found under the education tab.

Another source for inspirational discovery is the [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#). Teachers can create and share curated resources using material from the Smithsonian collections.

[US News Map](#) allows researchers to search newspapers from 1789-1922; using key terms and phrases researchers will see a heatmap of how often those terms appeared in news stories throughout the states during your chosen time period. To delve deeper, students can click on the map and examine specific newspapers from the time period that mention the terms.

Fall Countywide Professional Development Day



Brian Mack, Ken Dutton & Amber Popp chose Literacy in Mathematics for the first session.



Karen Kong presented on emerging drug trends affecting the classroom.



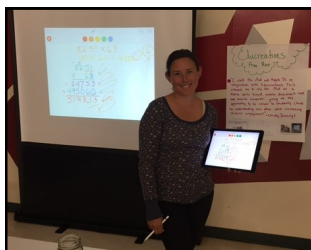
Bob Jellison, Paul Elwell, Tracy Johnston and Mark Desrocher share what they learned.



Teresa Poirier presented to K-12 teachers on Mindfulness and Dealing with Disruptive Behaviors.



Teachers, such as Melinda Dardenne-Ankring pictured here, shared how students use technology in the classrooms.



Christy Jennings models projecting student work with iPad and Apple TV.



Cross school site conversations took place between Dave Fulkerson (BUHS), Jan Hart (Big Pine) and Sylvia Cooke (Palisade).