Welcome New Educators!

Congratulations to all of the following individuals who have accepted new positions in our schools.

Big Pine USD
Sunny Meza

Bishop USD
Home Street MS: Linda Sandoval
Bishop Union HS: Laurence Blocker

ICSOS
Levi Aguilera
Nichelle Alva
Susan Distel
Lindsey Hughes
Heather Johnston
Lori Miller
Karla Orozco Garcia
Maggie Riley
Kristen Swanson
Shauna Trim

Lone Pine HS
Donna Carson
Laurel Taylor

Round Valley JESD
Gerry Tanksley
Elise Morrison

Owens Valley USD
Annie Blakey
Allison Peeler
Amber Gratz
Margaret Keener

Welcome back to school for the 2017-2018 school year! We are off to a great start for a fabulous year ahead! Thank you to all of you, the hard working educators across Inyo County, who worked tirelessly to get everything ready to greet your students for their new school year.

Speaking of new, we have been working on a new way to promote our One Million Acts of Kindness initiative this year. We are carrying the project into this year with the addition of the Kindness Contest open to all classrooms in all schools in Inyo County. We want to encourage even more acts of kindness with this contest.

Here’s how it works:
Classes will keep track of the acts of kindness their students and teachers log at inyokindness.us. When the class has logged 100 acts of kindness, send an email to me, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lisa Fontana at lfontana@icsos.us to let me know you’ve reached 100 acts of kindness. The class will be featured on our Facebook page.

If a class logs 200 acts of kindness before December 1, the prizes will be double in amount!

All classes who log 500 or more acts of kindness by May 1, 2018 will receive a prize box with appropriate books and treats and will be featured on our Facebook page. Everyone who reached that goal, will receive a book bag filled with new age-appropriate books and treats and will be featured on our Facebook page.

If you have any questions, you can email me at kcashmiller@icsos.us. Please feel free to reach out with any questions and/or comments.

Announcing: ICSOS Kindness Contest

By: Dr. Lisa Fontana

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Thanks for your feedback!

Last spring we asked for feedback and interest for Professional Learning offerings. Everyone who responded was placed into a raffle drawing and the lucky winner was: Demetra Gianopoulos

Prize for Writing

2017 Mary Austin Prize for Writing Contest!

Prompt: Write a 600 word essay on an outdoor experience in Inyo or Mono County. Students in 10th-12th grade

Essays due by October 4, 2017

Follow this link for more information

Math Conference

California Mathematics Council

Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th

Location: Palm Springs Convention Center

Register by September 8th: $195. Price goes up after.

For more details about the conference, visit this link.
Welcome Maggie Riley to ICSOS

The Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Office welcomes Maggie Riley to our Curriculum & Instruction Department as the new Outdoor Education and Science Specialist.

Maggie started work in June, coordinating with Hillary Behr, the outgoing Outdoor Education Coordinator, at Summer Camp. Maggie will be coordinating our Science Camps, Eastern Sierra Watershed Project field trips and classroom kits, the 3rd Grade Taking Root programs, and our Summer Camps. She is thrilled to be working in this position which facilitates such wonderful outdoor field science programs for Inyo County students from grades 2-8, and also high school students who serve as counselors and counselors in training (CITs) for the camps.

Maggie has a wealth of experience. In addition to 15 years of teaching field science at country-run Outdoor Science School programs, she was a middle school Science, Math and Technology classroom teacher, and worked as an Interpretive Park Ranger in Yosemite for 9 seasons. Her academic background is in Biology (Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics) and Botany, and she has a multiple subject teaching credential. She brings this experience, and her love of children, science, nature, and playing outdoors to her new position. We are happy to have her on our team!

Be the Change! Tools for Tolerance: An Outstanding Learning Opportunity at the L.A. Museum of Tolerance

All Inyo County school staff are invited to participate in a FREE, highly-acclaimed 2-day program offered by and presented at the Museum of Tolerance (MOT) in Los Angeles on Jan. 14th and 15th, 2018. The costs for lunches, shared lodging (2 people per room), and transportation by charter bus will be covered, thanks to a MOT grant obtained by Teresa Eckland of the Bishop Unified District.

This is a unique opportunity for members of the Inyo County school community to come together for an experience designed exclusively for us. The Museum uses an experiential, immersive approach along with innovative museum resources to create powerful learning experiences for participants. Consider attending with a school team, and gain tools to help you make your school climate even more positive and inclusive. The presentation will include topics such as cultural proficiency, addressing equity, bullying prevention, and restorative justice. In addition to enjoying an inspiring experience at the Museum, participants will take home valuable Museum of Tolerance resource materials to enhance their work in promoting equity and tolerance.

Space is limited and registration will be closed as soon as the workshop fills. To register, please complete and submit this form as soon as possible:
Registration deadline is September 22nd.

Hone your Technology Teaching Skills with Local Online Course

If you’re looking to learn more about enhancing your classroom curriculum with technology tools, consider taking Inyo County’s self-paced online Techsperts course. The course will be available from October 2 through June 1. Participants will explore Google's G-Suite for Education, a variety of other web-based technology tools, and will learn basic principles of technology integration and digital citizenship. Although teachers will learn to use tools such as Google Classroom that enhance their own productivity, students' use of technology lies at the heart of the class. The course is being redesigned to offer different resources and assignments for elementary and secondary teachers. Phone, email, and face-to-face support will be available throughout the course. If a few participants are interested in units, we will set up a university course, and participants will be able to choose from a 3 semester-unit option (4.5 quarter-units, 45 hours) or a 2 semester-unit option (3 quarter-units, 30 hours). Interested? Please contact Lo Lyness at llyness@icsos.us.

Online Professional Learning Opportunities

If you’re planning to take one of these courses, please let us know so that we can connect participants. If enough people want to take a course, ICSOS will look into setting up an Extension course for units.

1. Teaching Foundational Reading Skills
   This course will help you more effectively prepare your students in grades K–3 with the skills they need to become successful readers. You will learn research-based practices to teach students the skills to read words, relate those words to their oral language, and read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to understand what they read. Link to Course Info.

2. The Science of Learning—What Every Teacher Should Know
   A teaching course for K-12 teachers about the science of learning and how to use current research to improve classroom outcomes.
   From Columbia Teacher’s College. Link to Course Information

3. Learning Differences
   In order to help you expand the way your students learn, this course will deepen your knowledge related to learning differences, provide actionable strategies to impact the learning experience of your students, and cultivate a growth mindset related to learning differences. Link to Course Information

Save the Date!

COLLEGE DAY
OCTOBER 13, 2017
8th Grade
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

WRITING CONTEST
OCTOBER 30—DECEMBER 1
6th—8th Grade
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

UNR
NOVEMBER 28-29, 2017
8th Grade
University of Nevada, Reno

SPELLING BEE
JANUARY 18, 2018
4th—8th Grade
Jill Kinmont Boothe School

POETRY OUT LOUD
FEBRUARY 1, 2018—6PM
9th-12th Grade
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

SCIENCE FAIR
FEBRUARY 6, 2018
4th-12th Grade
Tri-County Fairgrounds

SPEECH CONTEST
APRIL 11, 2018
6th-8th Grade
Jill Kinmont Boothe School

COLLEGE AND CAREER DAY
APRIL 27, 2018
5th Grade
Cerro Coso College, Bishop