



**INYO COUNTY**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

# The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools  
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## Teaching Attendance

By Ilissa Twomey

Every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning that can have lasting effects on academic achievement. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year and will be part of California's new multiple-measures accountability system in Fall 2018. This article will explore several Tier 1 strategies for teaching about the importance of attendance.

Understanding parents' attitudes, behaviors and motivators can help the school community to address the factors that are

contributing to chronic absence. According to the California School Attendance Research Project, parents may not necessarily connect absences with a missed opportunity to learn, and do not track their child's absences. They *do* understand, however, that attendance is important. What does this mean for communication? Effective messaging can make a difference:

-Use the word 'absence' vs. 'attendance' to emphasize what the child is losing by missing school (professional instruction,

friendships, and experiences).

-Educate parents that missing just a day or two every month can make it harder to learn to read by the third grade *and* stay on track for graduation; absences - even when sporadic - can add up and impact their child's reading, writing, and math skills.

-Knowing that 100% attendance is unrealistic, define what is considered to be a valid reason for an absence, and emphasize the importance of ensuring that a child is absent only when absolutely necessary.

-Emphasize the importance of building habits and life skills such as attendance, organization, and punctuality that will serve the kids throughout school and life.

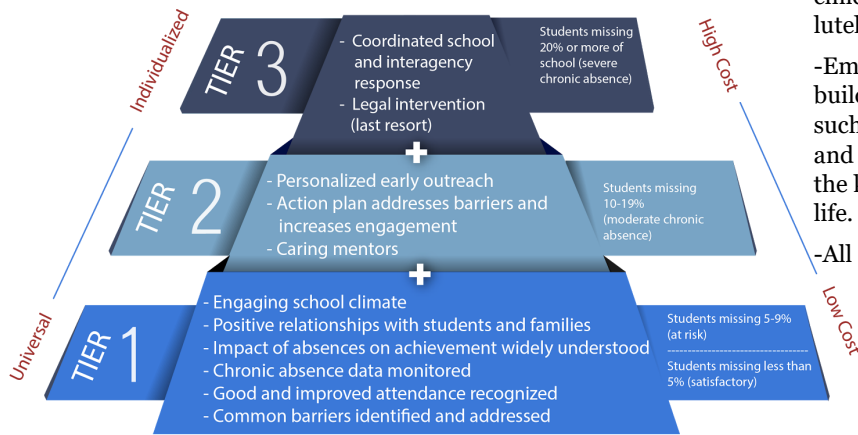
-All families have hopes and dreams for their children. Being in school every day will enable children to do well in school, and graduate from high school ready for



work or college.

Effective messaging may fall on deaf ears if a positive relationship has not already been established. As Teddy Roosevelt once said: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Developing a trusting relationship takes time, but can help school staff to leverage the strengths and assets of a student and family that may help them overcome challenges in getting to school. Building positive relationships can be as simple as a high five or a smile as the students board the bus, or greeting students at the door by name. Find a way to communicate and show students that you are glad they are at school and to welcome them back after an absence.

For more resources on effective messaging and building positive relationships, including parent handout and infographics, see the [Attendance Works website](#).



## Tools for Tolerance Workshop: SPACE STILL AVAILABLE!

Space is still available for any teacher or school district employee wishing to attend the Museum of Tolerance's FREE engaging workshop January 14th and 15th (Sunday/Monday of Martin Luther King weekend).

Click [HERE](#) to view the flyer or register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/AohOF07dApUd3Wix2>.



## FALL CONFERENCE: CONNECTING TEACHERS

Register TODAY for the November 3rd Professional Learning Day!

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 6TH**

Please let us know you will be attending and select sessions of interest at:

<http://inyo.k12oms.org/1781-123290>

Click the + sign next to session titles to view session descriptions or see the following pages.

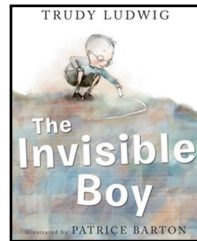
If you have a tech tip or app you'd like to show for 3-5 minutes during our lunchtime slam session, please contact Lo: [llyness@icsos.us](mailto:llyness@icsos.us) or ext. 2103

# Promoting Kindness & Ending Domestic Violence in Inyo County

By Dr. Lisa Fontana

Happy Fall, fellow educators and thank you again for your continued work to support Inyo County children and youth. You make a positive difference every day and I can see that for myself when I visit schools and have the opportunity to chat with you. I am visiting all schools in October as part of my statutory duties as County Superintendent, and also because it's my favorite thing to do. There are so many wonderful things happening in our schools and I cannot thank each of you enough for your individual roles in these efforts.

Please remember to continue to model and teach about kindness and use the [inyokindness.us](http://inyokindness.us) web site to post those acts of kind-



ness. And participate in the kindness contest. Once your class has logged 100 acts of kindness, send me an email. [Click here](#) for more detailed information. We are aiming for One Million Acts of Kindness... aim high!

As I'm visiting schools this month, I will bring a new copy of the book, *The Invisible Boy*, by Trudy Ludwig with beautiful illustrations by Patrice Barton. Be sure to check out the book and read the Questions for Discussion and Recommended Reading lists at the end of the book. I will also donate an autographed edition of *Tales along the El Camino Sierra* by local authors David and Gayle Woodruff. The book is written in wonderful short segments that provide quick

reads. The local history is so fun to read! Another interesting tidbit about the book is that the authors donate some of the proceeds from book sales to help with local needs. They are such kind members of our local communities!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please join me in wearing purple on October 19<sup>th</sup> as a way to highlight efforts to end domestic violence. I'm joining Wild Iris and their work on behalf of families by wearing purple and posting pictures to the ICSOS Facebook page to show we are participating. For more information about working to prevent domestic violence, see the Wild Iris website at [wild-iris.org](http://wild-iris.org).



## Literacy and Kindness Rock

Spellbinder Books and Altrusa of the Eastern Sierra are hosting its Annual Children's Book Week from November 5 - November 11!

Do your students enjoy writing stories? There will be a story writing contest for all children ages 0-18 (pre-literate children can dictate a story to adults). Entries are due November 11, but can be turned in earlier at the bookstore. Illustrated entries can be up to 10 pages long, typed or handwritten entries can be up to three pages long. One entry per person. Winners will be announced November 25th. The theme for this year's writing contest is Kindness.

In addition to the writing contest, Spellbinder and Altrusa are sponsoring Kindness Rocks! <http://thekindnessrocksproject.com/> All week long, residents are invited to come into the store to decorate a rock with an inspirational word, phrase, image or message. Rock artists will be invited to pick up their rocks and place them around town.

All week, children's books will be 20% off, with Altrusa generously matching the discount for an total of 40% off for the first \$500.00 in discounts! For more information visit Spellbinder's website or Facebook page.



## Language Development Courses

There is still time to enroll in Stanford's Understanding Language online courses:

[Constructive Classroom Conversations: Improving Student-to-Student Interactions](#) - will help teachers prepare students, and particularly language learners, to have in-depth conversations about content area concepts and topics.

[Integrating Language Development and Content Learning in Math: Focus on Reasoning](#) - will help teachers improve their design and development of learning activities that foster mathematical reasoning and its language.

*If you're planning to take one of these courses, please let us know so that we can connect participants. Units are available. Contact Ilissa at ext. 2197 or [itwomey@icsos.us](mailto:itwomey@icsos.us) for more information.*

## FREE Adult Education Classes

Spread the word! ICSOS is offering free classes for adults interested in learning more technology skills or preparing for the GED. Read below for class descriptions, dates, and location:

- **Basic Computer Literacy**—learn basic computer skills and how to navigate the digital world. Class starts: Wednesday, October 11th at 7pm. Location: Bishop Union High School Tech Center
- **GED Prep**—brush up on Math, Science, Social Science, and English ... and get ready to take the GED! Class starts: Monday, October 9th at 7pm and is ongoing. Location: Big Pine Blessed Church

For more information, contact Karen Kong at 760-873-3262 x2112 or email: [kkong@icsos.us](mailto:kkong@icsos.us)

# Fall Conference: Connecting Teachers

Professional Learning Day for Inyo Teachers—November 3, 2017 at HSMS

## Session I 8:15-9:30

### **Everything Google: Tips, Tricks, Ideas, Hacks (K-12)**

Frank Pinheiro

A fast-paced session slammed with teacher and student ideas for Everything Google: Drive, Docs, Slides, Forms, Sheets, Drawings, and Chrome. Participants will come away with new approaches that make everyday teacher tasks more efficient and see examples of how students might use these apps in the classroom. Session intended for beginner to intermediate users.

### **Reuse STEAM (K-8)**

Erin Livingston

Explore a STEAM arts module through the lens of creative reuse. The module inspires students to learn about environmental education and waste reduction while fusing problem solving with creative reuse. Students learn aesthetic values while recognizing that it is not enough to only recycle: things must be reused, re-imagined, and redesigned.

### **Organizing a Google Site for ease of use (K-12), Jonathan Willy**

Learn the basics of using Google Sites to create a classroom website. This will allow you to organize information and resources to be easily accessible to your students 24/7.

### **Interactive Notebooks in Math and Science (3-12)**

Beth Usher

Interactive notebooks are a growing trend for good reason. Interactive notebooks are a way to have students take notes and complete independent activities directly related to the notes in an organized manner. Done right, Interactive Notebooks can not only enhance student learning, but also streamline grading and reduce the number of lost notebooks. In this session, you will learn strategies to help your students to set up and use Interactive Notebooks.

### **CalsNAP (MediaSnap): The Basics for Using Digital Resources Across the Curriculum (K-12)**

Julie Drake and Laura Smith

From video, to images, to sound files, explore the basics for using the great media resources in CalsNAP (MediaSnap), your single sign-on, single search solution for curated educational digital content. With time for exploration and sharing, this session will provide an overview of how to find visual resources to support teaching and learning -- including how to encourage scholars of ages to be good digital citizens. ICSOS has purchased CalsNAP subscriptions for students and teachers.

### **Protocols for Engagement (Grades 3-12)**

Dave Fulkerson

Are your students passive learners? Do they lack motivation or excitement towards learning some skills or procedures? If yes, this hands-on demonstration will introduce you to a world beyond worksheets and independent practice, by getting your students moving, communicating and enjoying even the most mundane topics. Learn a variety of practical classroom activities that engage students through active participation, ultimately taking learning into their own hands.

### **Effective Methods for Improving Student Behavior (6-12)**

Teresa Poirier

In this session teachers will receive a refresher on Positive Behavior Interventions and Strategies (PBIS) and how to implement tier 1 and tier 2 strategies in their classrooms. We will also focus on verbal de-escalation skills, setting effective limits and avoiding power struggles. Participants will learn how to use strategies such as distraction, behavior contracts and natural rewards and consequences throughout the school day to manage behavior positively and create a welcoming learning environment.

## Session II 9:45-11:00

### **HyperDocs: Digital Lesson Design Using Google Apps (K-8)**

Frank Pinheiro

Prepare to explore the powerful inquiry based learning tools known as HyperDocs. Participants will learn how to transform Google Apps into interactive, multi-layered personal learning experiences for their students. The session begins with the basics of HyperDocs and moves to digital lesson design and tips/tricks to get you started. Leave with exciting ideas and examples you can edit and use in your classroom next week!

### **Effective Methods for Improving Student Behavior (K-5)**

Teresa Poirier

In this session K-5 teachers will receive a refresher in Positive Behavior Interventions and Strategies (PBIS) and how to implement tier 1 and tier 2 strategies in the classroom. We will also focus on utilizing verbal de-escalation skills, setting limits and avoiding power struggles. Participants will learn how to use strategies such as distraction, behavior contracts and natural rewards and consequences to manage behavior more positively and maintain a welcoming learning environment for all students.

### **CalsNAP (MediaSnap): Using Digital Resources for Inquiry (6-12)**

Julie Drake and Laura Smith

With a need for high-quality digital resources, this session will approach cross-curricular inquiry with a focus on the new California History-Social Science Framework. Explore digital primary and secondary sources available from CalsNAP, experience sample lessons, and create a Resource List to support your classroom. ICSOS has purchased CalsNAP subscriptions for students and teachers.

### **Distance Learning Through the Arts: Equal Access for All (K-8)**

Erin Livingston

Introduce your students to internationally renowned music, dance, and theatre performers and culturally diverse learning experiences that are rich in historical context. Learn how to access new Curriculum Guides; how they are organized; and how to use them to integrate the arts into other subject areas to meet VAPA and literacy standards. Teachers will have time to select a lesson to integrate into an upcoming unit.

### **Using Desmos for Math Success (6-12), Dave Fulkerson**

Is Desmos the most important tool in a math classroom since compass and straightedge? Do you agree? During this session we will explore many facets of the Desmos interface as well as share best practices for maximizing classroom and CAASPP success. All math teachers, geeks and curious administrators are welcome from novice to expert. Be sure to bring a charged laptop.

### **Projects with Piktochart (3-12)**

Candice Tonseth

Piktochart is a fun, FREE program that lets your students design their own infographics with ease. Your students will produce beautiful, high quality posters, presentations, reports and flyers all designed to print on the spot! Your classroom walls will thank you!

### **Growth Mindset: Increasing Motivation and Perseverance (K-5)**

Abby Sada

In this session we will explore ways to grow students' ability to persevere and maintain a positive attitude in the face of challenges. Teachers will leave with lesson ideas to help build a classroom culture of resiliency.

# Fall Conference: Connecting Teachers

Professional Learning Day for Inyo Teachers—November 3, 2017 at HSMS

## Session III 11:15-12:30

### Using Depth of Knowledge (DOK) to Increase Rigor (6-12)

Demetria Gianopoulos

In this session we will delve into DOK as defined by the National Education Association. We will reflect on the types of questions being asked in our classrooms (PLEASE bring a few sample questions and/or a textbook) and we will re-write questions to expand the DOK and increase the rigor. We will also discuss how to incorporate active learning strategies (such as pair-share) to encourage rich student conversations.

### Technology Tools for Teaching Young Students (K-2), Paul Elwell

Come learn some of the latest programs, apps, and Internet resources that can enhance student learning in the classroom. These resources are specific to younger students and are easy to implement in your classroom!

### HyperDocs: Digital Lesson Design Using Google Apps (6-12)

Frank Pinheiro

See description in Session II, HyperDocs: Digital Lesson Design Using Google Apps (K-8).

### Checking for Understanding with Quizizz (K-12), Adrian Sears

Kahoot is a lot of fun, but what if you want to be able to use technology to help you "drill down" to get detailed information about what your students do and don't know? Quizizz might be the answer for you! Learn how to create quick assessments to check your students' understanding before you move on to new content. Quizizz allows teachers to quickly gather real-time data about each student, allowing you to address their misconceptions immediately. The technology lets you know where every student stands, not just the ones who raise their hands!

### How, When and Why to Bring the Learning Outdoors (K-8)

Erin Boehme, Chris Cintas, Tracy Magan

Join us for an open discussion of when, why and how to incorporate nature in curriculum planning. Find out how to build awareness through interaction with nature and understand how this supports healthy development. We will touch on nature mentoring, the art of questioning, holding the answer, and how to bring nature connection indoors. Empower yourself to find comfort in not having all the answers and discover the learning and magic that evolves when nature mysteries unfold in your classroom.

### CalSNAP (MediaSnap): Using Digital Resources for Inquiry (K-5)

Julie Drake and Laura Smith

With a need for high-quality digital resources, this session will approach cross-curricular inquiry with a focus on the new California History-Social Science Framework. Explore digital primary and secondary sources available from CalSNAP (MediaSnap), experience sample lessons, and create a Resource List to support your classroom. ICSOS has purchased CalSNAP subscriptions for students and teachers.

### Restorative Circles in Your Classroom (6-12)

Dr. Gretchen Skrotzki

Come find out how to use restorative practices to build positive relationships in your classroom and improve school culture. It's a relatively easy protocol for handling conflict when challenges arise. Instead of the student simply being punished for breaking a rule, it is hoped that through the right questioning, the deeper impact of a behavior will be understood, thus decreasing that particular behavior in the future. This workshop will increase your knowledge of using RP practices in the classroom to decrease certain behaviors.

## Session IV 1:45-3:00

### Simplify your Digital Life with Google Classroom (3-12)

Alicia Ginter

Google Classroom is a blended learning platform developed by Google for schools. Teachers will explore ways to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. Teachers can also quickly see who has completed the work, and give direct, real-time feedback and grades. (This session is intended for new Google Classroom users.)

### Graphing with Google (3-12)

Matt Wilson

Figures and graphs are all over the place these days - newspapers, magazines, websites, financial reports, etc. A great way to help students understand graphs is by having them create them. It's easy to make graphs in Google Sheets and students enjoy making them. In this session, you will organize data and make graphs in Google Sheets, and explore how you might use this tool in a variety of subjects and classrooms.

### Restorative Circles in Your Classroom (K-5), Dr. Gretchen Skrotzki

See description in Session III, Restorative Circles in Your Classroom (6-12).

### Storytelling and Song as Teaching Tools (K-12)

Erin Boehme, Chris Cintas, Tracy Magan

Join us to learn the art of storytelling, song, and poetry as tools to create smoother transitions, a more joyful atmosphere, deeper learning, and lasting memory; as well as to redirect unwanted behavior, and to support children with diverse learning styles in your class. Empower yourself as the teacher to enjoy bringing lessons through creative, rich vocabulary, body movement, imagination and song.

### Visual Learning -- I See It! (K-12)

Julie Drake and Laura Smith

CalSNAP (MediaSnap) has amazing visual resources for both teachers and students. Explore the shift of encouraging students to be not just consumers of media, but to be producers as well-- all while encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and communication. Participants will experience top-notch student-produced exemplars from the across the K-12 curriculum and learn about opportunities, including the California Streaming Photo Contest. ICSOS has purchased CalSNAP subscriptions for students and teachers.

### Increasing Student Engagement with Web 2.0 Tools (K-12)

Frank Pinheiro

Web 2.0 tools are content creation tools that engage learners in developing content and collaborating with others. While these tools are amazing for promoting 21st Century skills in the classroom, the process of selecting tools involves time, resources, and a certain amount of risk. In this session participants will interact with Web 2.0 tools and learn how to choose tools that align with their learning objectives.

### Breakout EDU (4-12)

Jen Batcheller & Joslyn Hernandez

BreakoutEDU is an educational game that encourages critical thinking, problem solving, troubleshooting, and working collaboratively to solve reasoning puzzles. Participants will play one 45-minute BreakoutEDU game connected to high school Language Arts, and will leave with the tools and resources to find other BreakoutEDU games or create their own games for their classroom. Although this is a high school oriented lesson on The Great Gatsby, there are many Breakout lessons available for grades 4-12. Session will be limited to 30 participants.