

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
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Summer Wishes from Dr. Lisa Fontana

One of the guiding principles that has lit my path through my adulthood is this quote from author Stephen Grellet: "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." This wisdom made it easy to select an initiative on which to focus my energies as County Superintendent of Schools. Thus One Million Acts of Kindness (inyokindness.us) exists as a way for all of us, adults and children alike, to tally and share about, the acts of kindness occurring across our county every day. If you haven't logged an act of kindness, do it now! It feels so good to focus on the positive!

The amazing folks at Inyo Council for the Arts partnered with our office again this year to bring Community Reads to Inyo County. I hope you had the opportunity to participate in some of our events this year. The book we

selected, *Wonder* by RJ Palacio really is an amazing book in many ways, including keeping the theme of kindness front and center. Our theme for the whole Community Reads schedule of events was *Kindness Counts: Celebrating Kindness, Civility and Service in Our Community*.

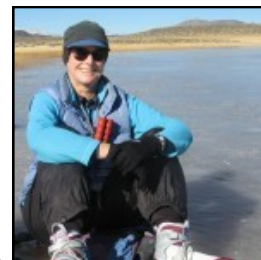
I would like to continue to extend support to the classrooms across the county with a focus on kindness so our office will be sending to all schools enough books with the kindness theme so that every student in Inyo County has access to these books. Along with *Wonder*, we've made a selection of other kindness related books. *Teachers, be on the lookout for books to enjoy with your students!*

Let me also take the opportunity to thank all of you for all you do every single day on behalf of the children and youth of Inyo County. It is my hope that you will enjoy a summer filled with peace, joy, rest and adventure! Happiest of summer months to all of you!

Congratulations Lo!

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Lo Lyness as she retires this June. We are so happy to see her skate into to her next adventure, but she will be greatly missed. Lo's career spanned two decades in Inyo county schools serving students at science camp and science fair; teachers and administrators with a broad array of coaching and professional learning opportunities; and championing technology integration for students and teachers. Lo leaves behind a legacy of integrity, collaboration and strong work ethic that will persist in the C&I department and all those she has worked with.

When you see Lo, please join us in wishing her well and be sure to share your favorite hiking or camping spots to keep her busy in retirement.



Making the Most of the End of the Year

By Tiffany Randall

Tips and tricks to help mitigate spring fever, increase attendance and learning while enjoying the end of the year with your students!

1. Rhythm: As best as you can, stick to the routines and structures your students have learned. This will keep everyone feeling grounded, and will allow the momentum of learning to continue. That being said, a few, intentional and well-explained changes will encourage this time of the year to be fresh and engaging.

2. Reflect: Provide structured opportunities for you and your students to read, write, and talk about the year. How have you changed and grown? Favorite memories and stories? What did you learn? What did you enjoy? What challenges did you overcome? What made you most proud?

3. Connect: Slow down and take the time to connect with your colleagues. Stop by and have a conversation, a cup of coffee, check in, compliment, laugh, chat and listen. Keep your community of teachers healthy and strong.

4. De-stress: Recent research links teachers with the highest levels of stress and coping difficulties to poorer student outcomes and achievement in the classroom. What helps you de-stress? Prioritize those healthy activities, knowing that doing so contributes to increasing student achievement, and also allows for you to be the stability your students need.

5. Projects: Integrate some project based learning into the

day. Share what you're passionate about, which will keep you energized and will directly reflect in your students' learning. Weaving in the visual and performing arts can also increase engagement.

6. Exercise: If you find yourself in a slump, head to the great outdoors and get your heartrate up. You might experience a boost in your mood, productivity, and ability to handle stress. Students may need to get out and increase their heart rates as well. Try sharing the type of exercise you enjoy with your students.

7. Prepare: Overplan to avoid the "dreadful downtime." For example, plan 60 minutes of content for each 50 minute lesson. This way, when a lesson takes less time than expected, you can keep calm and teach on. For backup, have a favorite read-aloud book you've been wanting to share with your students handy.

8. Celebrate: Hold a class awards ceremony to celebrate the community you have created. Have fun planning it and making it your own. Invite parents if they are part of your class community. You could write a little poem for each student, honoring their efforts and strengths, and maybe add some inside jokes. Encouraging your students to read the poems aloud will get everyone reminiscing and having good fun.

9. Letters: There are so many fun ideas for letter writing! Students could write a letter to next year's students, including tips for surviving your class.

Article continued on back

End of Year *Continued*

Students could become pen pals, or could write letters via class blog. Try giving each student an addressed, stamped envelope and encourage them to write to you over the summer. Or, encourage students to write an email letter to a college admissions counselor.

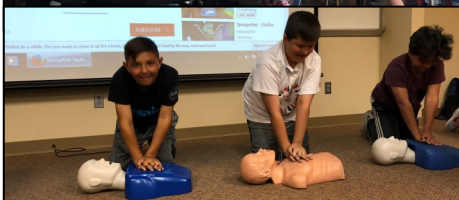
10. Consistency: After-school programs, sports and clubs are important up until the last day of school. Boost attendance by keeping these extracurricular activities consistent.

11. Count Up: Count up acts of kindness: the things for which you're grateful, the times you've failed, and all you've learned this year. Instead of spending the last month of school counting down the days, enjoy each day with each child by counting up!

College & Career Day!



Nearly 200 5th grade students from Inyo County visited Cerro Coso Community College on April 27th to learn and experience various career pathways.



Innovate! Inyo 2018

Innovate! Inyo is a county-wide high school competition to foster creativity among our young adults through the development of an entrepreneurial business concept. Our capitalist economic system demands creativity and funds to help these start-ups.

The Inyo County Superintendent of Schools office, in conjunction with our local business community, sponsored this program to promote an entrepreneurial spirit within our youth. \$10,000 in prize money was awarded and the contest was divided into three phases: an 'Elevator Pitch' video to Youtube; a detailed business plan including budget; and a pitch by selected students to the "Shark Tank" panel of business and educational leaders.

Congratulations to our innovative winners this year: Steven Mather, Kitrina Daugherty, and Tanin Cook. Many thanks to our judges: Dr. Deanna Campbell, Gary Olson, Tawni Thomson, David Hefner, and Jean Turner. And a very special thanks to the students' coaches: Bryan Mack and Doug Thornburg.

For more information contact Kim Cash-Miller.

Speech Contest Results

The 58th Annual Inyo County Speech contest was held on April 11, 2018. Students from Round Valley, Seventh Day Adventist, Home Street Middle, Owen's Valley, and Big Pine all participated. The topic was: *One scientist's work we should all understand*. All speeches were evaluated on content and delivery by a panel of three community judges. Students presented well researched subjects about marine biology, hydrology, radiology,

bees, and many more fascinating topics. Audience members were impressed by the insightful and inspiring speeches from creative middle-schoolers striving to make our world a better place. ICSOS would like to thank the students, coaches, teachers, parents, and administrators for their hard work making the event a success. In addition we'd like to thank Jake Rasmuson of Bishop Real Estate for sponsoring the event.



1st—Kyle Schaniel, SDA

2nd—Laurel McElroy, RV

3rd—Abbey Gabriel, HSMS

Also representing their schools: Willam Young, Amy Lee, Sarah Faircloth, Santana Rodriguez, Jacob Gilbert, Alexandra Morales, and Isabel Rodriguez.

Poetry Reading and Conversation

*With Dana Gioia
California Poet Laureate*

Joined by Samantha Burns & Grace Morisset, County Poetry Out Loud Student Champions.

Monday May 14th at 7pm

Inyo Council for the Arts

For more information please call 760-873-8014 or visit www.inyo.org



Summer Learning Opportunities for Teachers

Join fellow educators at a free un-conference event at Mammoth Middle School on July 2nd. Please look for more information in the coming months, and see www.edcamp.org for more information about this unique learning format.

Tulare County Office of Education has many great multi or one day offerings for technology, math, ELA and more! See their [website](#) for more information; some offerings have several date options to choose from—scroll down to see what's offered each month.

FIT (forestry Institute for Teachers) has four high quality professional development trainings that emphasize and model Common Core and NGSS while examining current forestry issues. The training is FREE. Visit their [website](#) for more information and to apply.

The Teacher Ranger Teacher program is a professional development opportunity for accredited teachers to spend Summer 2018 developing a major educational project. Teachers receive a \$3000.00 stipend upon completion of the project and graduate course. For a full description and to apply, [please visit this link](#).

ICSOS Summer Camp

Reminder: The deadline for 5th-7th grade students to sign up for Sierra Adventure Summer Camp is May 25th!

If there are students that you think would greatly benefit from a camp experience over the summer, please let us know. We can work with their family to sign them up! [Follow this link to register](#).

Questions? Call Maggie at x2131 or email mriley@icsos.us

