



Inyo County Office of Education
Barry D. Simpson, Superintendent

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Office of Education
Volume 11, Issue 6

www.inyocoe.org

March 2019

Have a problem you'd like to solve? Improvement Science can help!

With support from Inyo County Office of Education, some Inyo County districts, schools, and teachers have been implementing the research-based Improvement Science process in order to achieve their goals. One such school is showcased below.

Sample Improvement Science process: The Palisade Glacier High School staff has been implementing the Improvement Science process as a model to address their current school wide goal (also called an "aim statement"):

Aim statement: PGHS will increase students' credit earning rates from 76% to 85% by the end of each block for all students.

Improvement science asks us to answer 3 big questions to focus our work in an area we want to improve:

1. **What specifically are we trying to accomplish?**
 - PGHS aim: Increase students' credit earning rates
2. **What change might we introduce and why?**
 - PGHS change ideas: explicitly teach and integrate resiliency strategies into the school day
3. **How will we know that a change is actually an improvement?**
 - PGHS: data/metrics/measures demonstrating success: credit earning rates, student use of resiliency strategies

PGHS' change ideas are focused around the idea that if students had specific strategies to rely on to help themselves self-regulate and better manage their emotions, they would be able to focus in class, complete their schoolwork, and earn credit.

What are teachers and students saying?

"Using the Improvement Science model at Pali has allowed us the opportunity for truly effective professional development. By working with Tiffany as a group and individuals we are able to

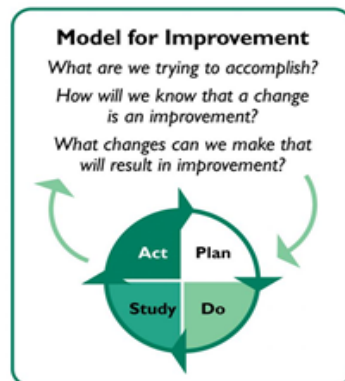
deeply and broadly apply a variety of resiliency strategies that work for our individual students and classrooms, as well as having a school-wide vocabulary and implementation. We are working through the kinks and clearing hurdles to better our classrooms and school, giving kids the tools they need to be healthy and successful later in life. The targeted approach and regular support have been key to that process." - Rose Sabo

"In twenty-five years in public schools, this is only my second experience where site/district/county PD was singularly focused and complimented a system wide initiative, that included facets of the Adult Learning Theory; this provides busy professionals the time, space, and support to learn, practice, and implement new learning!" - Amy Dutton

According to a recent school newspaper article written by students about the topic, *"(Resiliency strategies) indeed provide some sort of assistance... Whether it just be brain breaks, deep breathing, or counting down from 100, some students do find it helps when taken seriously."*

Through the Improvement Science processes and protocols, Palisade Glacier High School is looking at credit earning and pre/post resiliency survey data each block to determine if these efforts are making the intended impact.

For more information on the Improvement Cycle process and how it might fit into your setting, please reach out to Ilissa Twomey at itwomey@inyocoe.org



Poetry Out Loud Results

Sophomore Samantha Burns, from Bishop Union High School, received the title of Inyo County Poetry Out Loud Champion, for the second year in a row, at the county finals held in Bishop on February 6, 2019. The runner-up was Erik Martinez, from Owens Valley High School.

This was the ninth year that Inyo Council for the Arts has hosted Poetry Out Loud, which is sponsored by Inyo County Office of Education, California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, and The Poetry Foundation. Poet Teacher in the schools, Sandy Burns, worked in Inyo County schools, with teachers and students to im-

plement the curriculum and mentor the student competitors.

At the county finals, Poetry Out Loud contestants performed works they selected from an anthology of more than 650 classic and contemporary poems. Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The students' performances were judged on presence, evidence of understanding, dramatic performance, and accuracy.

Burns moves on to compete in Sacramento March 10th and 11th, representing Inyo



County in the California State Championship. The California State Champion will compete for the national title in Washington, D.C. in April. For more information about how to follow this exciting national competition, visit www.poetryoutloud.org.

Education has a Ripple Effect!

Through our partnership with RIMS (Riverside, Inyo, Mono and San Bernardino) county offices of education, we are pleased to announce a 10% tuition discount for all district employees, their spouses and parents through the University of Phoenix.

The discount applies to all new students for associate, bachelors, masters or doctoral degree, as well as certificate programs, and individual courses.

Contact Penny Roberts to learn more about this education benefit: penny.roberts@phoenix.edu or at 714-642-5855.



Family Science Nights



During the month of February, families across the county enjoyed learning why jackrabbits have big ears, explored cloud formation, uncovered archeological artifacts, and so much more!

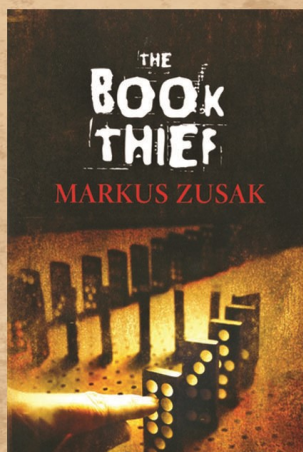
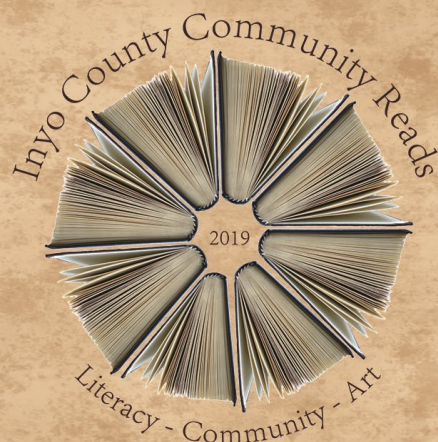


Celebrate the kick off of Inyo County Community Reads 2019!

March 15th / 5:00-7:30pm

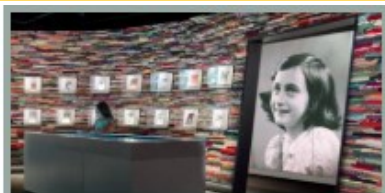
Tri-County Fairgrounds - Heritage Arts Building
FREE Ticketed Event

Tickets available at Inyo Council for the Arts
137 S Main St. / (760)873-8014



Community Dinner / Used Book Exchange
Prizes / Bookmark Design Contest

Professional Learning Opportunities



Looking for a PD opportunity this spring? If you are teaching about the Holocaust, you might be interested in the Museum of Tolerance two-day workshop **Voice and Choice of Young People During the Holocaust** – what factors contributed to their identity, what choices they made, and what students today can learn by studying the Holocaust to better understand ordinary people and human behavior.

Completion of this institute allows participants access to [Facing History and Ourselves](#) resources including coaching, publications, online network and a free lending library. Choose from several options: March 26 & 27, April 16 & 17 or June 17 & 18.

Graduate level credit may be available. Registration information can be found [here](#). For more information, see the Museum of Tolerance [website](#).