



Inyo County Office of Education  
Barry D. Simpson, Superintendent

# The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Office of Education

Volume 12, Issue 6

[www.inyocoe.org](http://www.inyocoe.org)

April 2020

## Message from Inyo County Superintendent

Dear Inyo County Educators,

I would like to thank you for your dedication to our students during this difficult and uncertain time. While we are all hoping to return to some normalcy, I think it is important that we recognize our current reality may not end anytime soon. To be honest, while no final decision has been made, it seems highly unlikely that we will reopen our schools for the remainder of this school year. While our immediate future is still unclear, one thing is perfectly clear, we must forge ahead and provide our students with the educational opportunities that they deserve.

That being said, it is my full belief that you as professional educators can meet this challenge! We can and will continue to connect with our students through

distance learning and provide meaningful learning experiences. I not only know that you can do it, but I must remind you that we also have a responsibility to do it! We are blessed to be in a profession that provides an ongoing source of income during a time where many of our families are struggling. For that reason alone, we should commit ourselves to doing all we can for our students and families during this crisis.

Finally, I believe we should also commit ourselves to be better prepared for the future. During the COVID-19 crisis ICOE has only one goal: **Let's be stronger when this crisis is over than when it began.** To that end we are committed to providing our school districts with resources, funding, staff-development, or

any other critical need in an effort to support students and student learning. Should we ever meet another crisis like this in the future, I want our educators to be prepared to connect with our students seamlessly so that learning can continue without interruption.

I hope all of you will join me in meeting this goal. During this crisis I hope each of you will strive to learn a new skill, try new technologies, find creative ways to connect with students via distance learning and let's share what is working. Together we can meet this challenge and together we will be stronger when this crisis is over. As always, thank you for all you do for our students and our community.

Best regards to you and yours,  
Barry



Inyo Distance Learning

[Home](#) [Teachers](#) [Parents/Caregivers](#) [Administrators](#) [COVID 19](#)

## Distance Learning

As districts around the nation turn to a distance learning model for the remainder of the school year, we here at ICOE want you to know that we are here for you! The Information Technology and Education Services departments have collaborated on a resource to support this transition. On the website [learn.inyocoe.org](http://learn.inyocoe.org), teachers can find tips for distance learning, content area resources, technology and planning support as well as professional learning opportunities. Additional resources will be added as they become available and as you share them. Please

visit the [teacher page](#) and fill out the form to make suggestions for additional resources to share. The website also contains a [page for parents and caregivers](#) which includes tips for success during this time, resources for supporting learning at home and support services and hotlines for assistance. Please feel free to share this website with families.

If you need assistance with tools such as Google Classroom or are looking for a particular resource to support the learning, please contact [edservices@inyocoe.org](mailto:edservices@inyocoe.org).



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING + ARTS • MATHEMATICS

## Showcase 2020

Website Link: [sites.google.com/inyocoe.org/steam](https://sites.google.com/inyocoe.org/steam)

Contacts: [mduonan@inyocoe.org](mailto:mduonan@inyocoe.org) & [itwomey@inyocoe.org](mailto:itwomey@inyocoe.org)

It is with great regret that we will be cancelling the April 30th STEAM Showcase as per CDC guidance and school closures. It is our hope that we can reschedule this event for Fall 2020. We recognize that many teachers and students have put in substantial efforts thus far, and would be allowed to enter that work in the Fall event should we proceed with that option. If you have any questions or feedback regarding the rescheduling of this event, [please complete this form](#).

# Connecting with Social Emotional Learning

By Ilissa Twomey

Many students and teachers are missing that familiar warm feeling that our daily interactions and connections provide. How can we continue to connect with students during distance learning and what can we do as teachers to support students? Video greetings or recordings of morning meetings can help students see you during this time of physical separation. For students without internet connectivity, try calling by phone or making a home visit and waving from a safe distance—consider rotating through small groups of students each day to make this a more manageable task. Students are missing socialization so consider providing that virtually or with pen and paper through a pen pal system. Students also may be feeling fearful and will have

varying reactions to the pandemic. Your presence as a caring, supportive adult can help students through the trauma they may be experiencing. Being able to provide support to students means taking care of yourself. Consider establishing a daily routine that includes breaks for physical activity and engaging in your own enrichment activities ([see examples here](#)).

While students and teachers may be feeling nostalgic for the school setting, in distance learning we will not be able to mimic the school day exactly. How might pedagogy shift during times of physical distancing? All of us are familiar with giving students instructions orally in front of the class only to need to repeat and rephrase those directions at least three times. In a distance

learning format keeping instructions simple and chunking the instruction becomes very important. Since learning is much more self-directed, consider offering student choice in how they show what they know - students can record and audio or video of themselves and send to you, draw a picture, or share a written reflection. Now is the time for teachers to tap into the creative side of lesson design and make learning activities as engaging as possible....think scavenger hunts, interviews of an elder, making observations out the window, or students choosing their own learning path. See this resource for [creative offline ideas](#) or if you would like assistance with planning, please contact: [itwomey@inyocoe.org](mailto:itwomey@inyocoe.org) or ext. 2197.

## Spelling Bee Results

Twenty-seven students from local elementary and middle schools participated in the 2019-20 countywide Spelling Bee competition at Jill Kinmont Boothe School. The winners were:

- 1st—Bryce Winzenread, RV
- 2nd—Robin Linse, HSMS
- 3rd—Bryce Cokeley, HSMS

After much competition with words like condign, rapscallion, and anathema, the winning word was: paduasoy.

Thank you coaches for working with students to prepare for the bee, and the local Altrusa Chapter for sponsoring the Spelling Bee competition.

Bryce Winzenread and Bryce Cokeley will be recognized as participants of the State Elementary Bee. Robin Linse and Trinity Diaz will represent Inyo at the tentatively scheduled virtual Junior High State Bee in May.

Congratulations to all the student participants!



## Professional Learning

For up to date offerings see our [webpage](#)

- Video Series from Dr. Bruce Perry (developmentally sensitive, neurobiology-informed approach) - <https://www.neurosequential.com/covid-19-resources>
- Whole Child Virtual Summit - April 13-24; Register at <http://www.wholechildvirtualsummit.com/>
- Spring CUE went virtual - watch recorded sessions here: <https://www.facebook.com/cueinc/videos/526857411352277/>

Looking for something in particular? Contact [itwomey@inyocoe.org](mailto:itwomey@inyocoe.org) or ext. 2197.

### Virtual field trips of State Parks with PORTS

Sequoias, Crystal Cove, Gold Rush Communities, etc.

Register for a FREE class learning opportunity today: <http://ports.parks.ca.gov/>



## Poetry Out Loud Results

Senior Erik Martinez, from Owens Valley High School, received the title of Inyo County Poetry Out Loud Champion at the county finals held in Bishop at Inyo Council for the Arts on February 5th. The runner-up was Joy Law, from Bishop Union High School.

This was the tenth year that Inyo Council for the Arts (ICA) has hosted Poetry Out Loud. ICA's Poet Teacher in the schools, Claiborne Mitchell, worked with teachers and students to implement the curriculum and mentor the student competitors as they prepared for their public performances. Speaking from the stage to the student competitors, Mitchell said she was "Incredibly impressed with how you have chosen poems that resonate with you in one way or another, own it, and get your lips around the word, and to have the valor to come and do this!"

Martinez moved on to compete in the California State Championship on March 15th and 16th and submitted three prepared poems via recorded video along with all the other competitors. Martinez commented on his experience saying "my experience in Poetry Out Loud was way beyond what it was. I will admit having to record the three poems was something unexpected, but I understand the circumstances as to why. As county winner I was surprised to progress to state, and it showed me that "the impossible is indeed possible."

