

Celebrate #LearningForward during the Pandemic

The past 18 months are widely accepted as challenging times for everyone. Administrators, teachers, students, parents, and education support staff have shared emotions of loss for activities, events, programs, and most important - education. The common sentiment is to focus on these challenges as learning losses. What if we instead shifted our mindset to focus on these challenges as learning gains?

Edutopia author, Jamie Kobs, introduces hard skills and soft skills in relation to teaching and learning. Hard skills are measurable and objective, such as a core subject proficiency exam score. Soft skills include interpersonal qualities, such as ability to communicate, punctuality, and teamwork. It is important that spaces are created to practice both of these skills.

During the past academic year, learning was experienced through a variety of formats, all of which are worth celebrating. Students learning through a virtual format practiced independence, time management, and communication on zoom or through email. Students in seat stayed flexible with changing protocols

and adapted to new learning routines. All of these skills are considered “soft skills” and might not be practiced so frequently during a typical academic year, yet are imperative for creating well rounded 21st century learners.

Yes, sports and school events were cancelled, the number of instructional minutes was less than a “normal year”, and academic achievement data may reflect decreases, but this does not mean there was nothing gained. Diagnosing unfinished learning and giving access to grade level work will enable students to perform well academically and gain social emotional competencies. The real challenge is accounting for and continuing to incorporate spaces for effective communication, discussions, and independence. As Kobs concludes, “It would be a shame to return to normal without acknowledging any growth that occurred during the pandemic. A reflection that helps us learn more about our students and celebrate their accomplishments and resilience is the perfect way to begin this year.”

For ideas on reflection and to read the full article, [click here](#).



Teacher Spotlight - Interview about CalSnap

What grades do you teach? I teach Physics of the Universe, Biology - The Living Earth, Chemistry in the Earth System, Environmental Science, and Intro to Soil and Plant Science.

How do you incorporate CalSnap into your instruction? I will often include in my lessons articles and videos from CalSnap that correspond with the lessons I am teaching. For example, right now in my Chemistry class, I am using some videos and articles on Matter and Energy. The students follow the links in the HyperDoc and get to explore and be introduced to what we will be covering in lessons to come.

Do you have suggestions for other teachers that are looking for ways to incorporate this into their instruction? If they aren't using CalSnap, I would encourage them to give it a try. There are a lot of good resources and it's really easy to use. All you need to do is search a keyword...from there you can refine your search to include grade levels, media types, content standards etc. It's definitely a great tool to have in our tool bags! I would encourage others to start off with some videos to incorporate into their instruction, it's an easy and effective way to get your feet wet.

If you would like a login for CalSnap, please fill out this [form](#). Read the full interview [here](#).

Mathematical Mindsets

Over the summer, several teachers joined a virtual Mathematical Mindset training presented by Jo Boaler and Stanford University's youcubed team. The training focused on pedagogy and teaching math with a growth mindset. ICOE facilitated an in person portion to allow for collaboration and deeper discussions. The content was engaging, inspiring and challenging. Lessons like dot and number talks,

building shapes, and the border problem include fun activities to encourage students to think with a growth mindset. Owens Valley teacher, Amber Gratz did the Boat Building Project with her students during summer school (pictured here) as an engaging activity that encouraged group work and collaboration. And it was fun! Many teachers will agree that the main challenge with the content presented



is shifting our mindset as educators.
Article continued on back page.



September is Suicide Prevention Month!

We can all help prevent suicide. Every year, mental health organizations and individuals across the U.S. and around the world raise awareness of suicide prevention during September. Suicide is a serious public health problem among all age groups. In 2017, there were more than 6,200 suicide deaths in the U.S. among adolescents and young adults ages 15-24, making it the second-leading cause of death for that age group. Additionally, youth suicidal ideation, attempt and completion are on the rise. However, we do know that teen suicide is preventable and you are a part of that prevention. Suicide rates for at-risk youth can be substantially reduced by: knowing the signs, making it more difficult for an individual to die in an act of deliberate self-harm, and improving access to mental health resources. [LivingWorks](#) is once again offering a free training on suicide prevention (required for all 7th-12th grade staff). This 90-minute training will provide you with the signs to identify a student in crisis as well as give strategies to help a youth through this difficult time. LivingWorks training is also available to all middle and high school students following the same link. It is a requirement that students participate in suicide prevention activities each year and this is a great and engaging way to support this mandate. In addition to these trainings, ICOE will continue to host free Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) trainings starting September 23rd with the goal of training educators and community members on how to help youth in non-crisis and crisis situations; a flyer will be sent soon. Also, we now have three mental health therapists with North Star Counseling Center to help support all your school staff, students and families mental health needs. Here are some resources we recommend you store in your phone so you are able to connect youth to support: 1) Local Crisis # 1-800-841-5011, 2) National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255, 3) OR text 741-741, the crisis text line. For more information or to find support, please contact Heather Carr at hcarr@inyocoe.org or North Star Counseling Center at northstar@inyocoe.org.

Elevating Summer Learning

Students from Bishop Elementary and Big Pine schools elevated their summer learning through an engaging math program. For 19 days, students experienced math through a growth mindset curriculum that focused on elevating student achievement by challenging students' perceptions about math. The curriculum was presented locally, with the interactive virtual support of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Students also received weekly lessons from a local college mentor to prepare for success in college and careers.

College mentors and teachers shared the following about their experience:

"Giving lessons to the kids, especially about my educational journey, has really helped the kids open up." -*Big Pine College Mentor*

[This program] "was something that I wish I was exposed to when I was younger. I absolutely loved being a college mentor because I really felt like I was making a big difference in the student's lives." -*Bishop College Mentor*

"The Elevate Math program has supported teaching high level, engaging mathematics to students this summer. Students especially had ample practice communicating their mathematical thinking and collaborating on rigorous tasks." -*Big Pine, MS Teacher*

We thank Bishop Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs for sponsoring this program. Additionally, we would like to recognize Michelle Kubiak, Nick Stavros, and Christina Longhini from Bishop Elementary for leading students in grades 3-5 through this program, as well as Alison Amberg and Alex Evans from Big Pine Unified for leading students in middle and high school. We also thank our local college mentors, Anthony Chavez and Cassandra Meza, for encouraging students to learn about and consider postsecondary education. [Full article](#)



Math Mindset Cont.

If you would like access to the resources presented during the training or would like support in your classroom, please reach out to Mini at mdoonan@inyocoe.org.

The youcubed website ([linked here](#)) also has many spectacular resources for math and data science. Many of the tasks on their website are "Low-floor, high-ceiling" showing students that everyone can engage in problem solving and succeed in mathematics. During the training, Jo Boaler recommended doing [Week of Inspirational Math](#). K-12 teachers can create a custom lesson plan by selecting a video, positive math(s) resource, and task to complete each day of the week. What a great way to start the year and build confidence in math!



Canva for Education has created a series of ready to use, editable templates designed specifically with Pear Deck in mind!

[View the templates here](#)

Join [ICOE Tech Wednesdays](#) on 9/8 to learn ways to engage your students with Pear Deck!

Millpond Music Festival 13th Annual "Night for Educators" Friday, September 17th

Reserve your free Friday night passes by Tuesday Sept. 7th!
760-873-3262 ext. 2102



On August 24th, a student-led statewide effort was launched in Sacramento to help support students and their families, impacted by the California wildfires. The California Kids Fire Relief Fund was established to provide financial support, as well as emotional support by having students write notes of encouragement to send to their fellow students in the communities impacted by fires.

View the [launch video](#) and this [flyer](#) for more information on ways that you can support.

Tech Wednesdays with ICOE!

All of September
Wednesday at
3:30pm

Sept. 1



CalSnap

Learn all that CalSnap has to offer! CalSnap is a searchable, curated collection of safe and vetted K-12 resources for teachers **and** students. If you would like a login for CalSnap before the learning session, please fill out this [form](#).

Sept. 8



Pear Deck 101

Ready to create engaging and interactive lessons? Join us for an introduction to this awesome Google slides add-on tool that you already have! Attendees will:

- Experience a Pear Deck presentation
- Learn how to create their own presentation

Sept. 15



How to Use Britannica School & Escolar in your Classroom

Attendees will learn about special features, including:

- Informational text and content in various formats
- Creating a new user account to collect, organize, and share favorite content
- Expanded video and media content, including a video download feature
- Creating standards-aligned lesson plans with the lesson plan builder

Sept. 22



Teaching Books: Brings Books to Life

Learn about an engaging set of resources like author talks, supporting texts for your books of choice and much more that bring books to life! Teaching Books offers 262,044 resources about children's and young adult books. Join this session for an introduction on all that Teaching Books has to offer.

Sept. 29



Tech Café

Have questions or want to dig deeper and learn more about one of these tech tools? Grab a beverage of your choice and join our Tech Café for an informal tutorial.

Register Here:
bit.ly/3zm8Jlu



See you on
zoom