



INYO COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

# The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Office of Education

Volume 14, Issue 3

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

October 2021

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic American Heritage Month! Although many helpful resources are found on the website [here](#), a quick search using Cal Snap also revealed some of the following sources of information:



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



## Accelerate, not Remediate

By Ilissa Twomey

Last month's Inyo Insight [article](#) invited educators to reframe the common narrative around learning loss by acknowledging and reflecting on what was gained over the last eighteen months and the importance of diagnosing unfinished learning. Once educators have diagnosed that unfinished learning, what is the best approach to fill those gaps? Sometimes those gaps may feel like we are trying to plug holes in a bucket that is leaking water everywhere, and to compound matters, once we plug one hole another crops up. Sometimes when faced with a crisis and a sense of urgency, educators fall back on remediation as the answer. Remediation is essentially reteaching content that students previously failed to learn, thus assigning work to students that is better suited to an earlier grade. The pitfall with this approach, though well intentioned, is that by focusing on mastering concepts of the past, the gap between where students are and where they need to be continues to widen.

At face value, it seems impossible to teach grade level concepts without addressing those gaps first, which in part is true. However, the idea of learning acceleration starts with the premise of accessing grade level content and strategically building in

concepts when students might need them. According to "The Opportunity Myth", when students who started the year behind had greater access to grade-appropriate assignments, they closed outcome gaps with their peers by more than seven months. With a focus on access to grade level content in every class, every day, teachers can provide scaffolds that students need to engage in the immediate work of the grade. Students have a purpose for learning and applying the new skills, knowledge or content rather than attempting to relearn in isolation. This "just in time" teaching ensures that students spend more time on work of their grade - the key to ultimately catching up. Suzy Pepper Rollins sums it up in her book *Learning in the Fast Lane*: "The primary focus of remediation is mastering concepts of the past. Acceleration, on the other hand, strategically prepares students for success in the present—this week, on this content. Rather than concentrating on a litany of items that students have failed to master, acceleration readies students for new learning. Past concepts and skills are addressed, but always in the purposeful context of future learning."

*Article continued on back*

## Fall into Professional Learning

There is still time to join our awesome ELD PLC. Connect with Inyo and Mono teachers of English Learners to experience model ELD lessons and plan for ELD instruction with the support of experts from California Association for Bilingual Education. Our next meeting is October 14th at 3:15 (or join once school is out). Register [HERE](#). Or, take advantage of free afterschool PD offered through the New Teacher Induction program, which includes [Wellness Wednesdays](#) sessions.

Speaking of taking care of ourselves and others, Inyo educators are welcome to join our Orange County colleagues in the [Fall Mental Health Series](#). Upcoming topics include Compassion Fatigue & Vicarious Trauma and How to Heal Communities: Strategies to Support Mental Health and Wellbeing in our Latinx Communities.

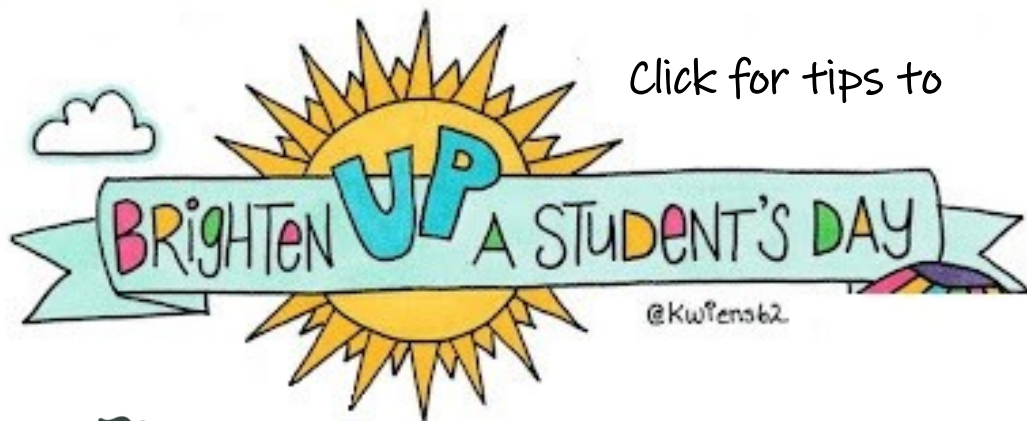
The ability to work with, understand and use data has become an essential life skill. How do we ensure our students have the skills to function in this new and challenging world? Join math education experts Jo Boaler and Cathy Williams to discuss [Embracing Data Science in TK-12](#) on October 27th from 4-7pm.

Continue to check our [PD Calendar](#) for additional events; the calendar will be updated regularly throughout the school year.



Jo and Cathy discuss  
[Embracing Data Science](#)  
in TK-12 on Oct. 27th

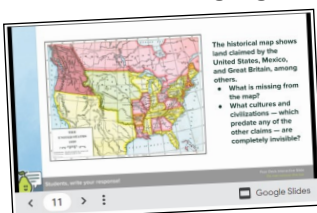
Click for tips to



## Try Pear Deck™ today!

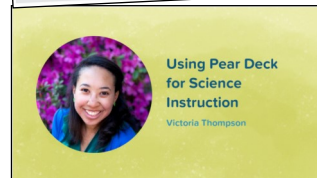
All Inyo county teachers, administrators and students have access to a premium Pear Deck account. That means everyone has a chance to make their presentations more engaging and interactive. Pear Deck is a Google Slides add-on that should be ready for you to use with slides you already have! Just add Peary to slides with a multiple choice, text, drawing or draggable question so that students can respond from their device and only you will be able to view their responses. If you have any questions about accessing this tool or want a quick training on ways to use Pear Deck, please contact Mini Doonan at [mdoonan@inyocoe.org](mailto:mdoonan@inyocoe.org).

Below are some highlights from the Pear Deck news:



### Wonder Pack: Hispanic Heritage Month

We highlighted many great resources to teach about Hispanic Heritage Month on the first page, and here is another! [Click](#) on this already created slide show from Pear Deck for activities that identify the contributions of Latino Americans to the United States.



### Using Pear Deck for Science Instruction

All subjects can benefit from using this formative assessment tool in their classroom. In this [article](#), Victoria Thompson shares four tips for using Pear Deck to engage students in science lessons through critical thinking, digital lab reports, utilizing science templates, and more!

Always check the Pear Deck Orchard for more templates & resources: [peardeck.com/orchard](https://peardeck.com/orchard)

## Save the Date!

**VIRTUAL  
8TH GRADE  
COLLEGE DAY  
OCTOBER 22**



**SPELLING BEE  
FEBRUARY 11  
4th–8th Grades  
Jill Kinmont Boothe School**

**SPEECH CONTEST  
MARCH 11  
6th–8th Grades  
Jill Kinmont  
Boothe School**



**COLLEGE AND  
CAREER DAY  
5th Grade  
April 13, 2022**

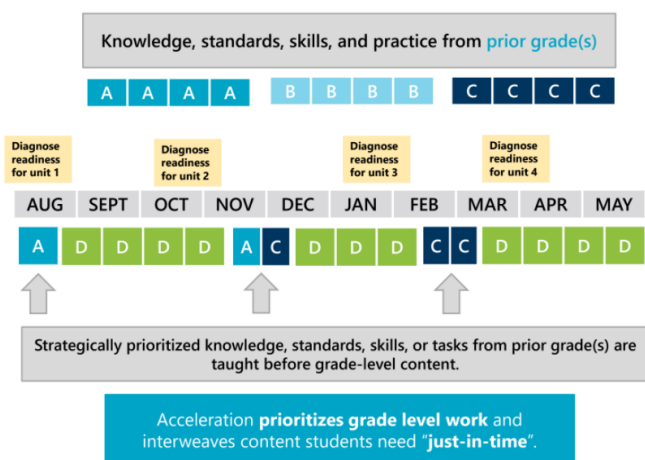
**STEAM SHOWCASE  
APRIL 28, 2022  
TK–12th Grades  
Tri County Fairgrounds**



Please contact Mini at [mdoonan@inyocoe.org](mailto:mdoonan@inyocoe.org) with questions about student events.

## Accelerate, not Remediate *Continued*

**Acceleration provides just-in-time supports when necessary.**



While planning for this purposeful learning can take time, the benefits to student learning are worth the challenge. Educators can start filling the holes in that leaky bucket by prioritizing the most critical prerequisite skills and knowledge for each subject area and grade level. Next, determine what students *can* do and where they need further support through screeners and diagnostics. Finally, plan for Tier 1 instruction matching students with appropriate scaffolds.

For individualized or small group support, contact Ilissa Twomey (ext. 2197) or to learn more please access the following resources:

[Accelerate, Don't Remediate: New Evidence from Elementary Math Classrooms](#)  
[The Opportunity Myth](#)  
[Learning in the Fast Lane](#) (Excerpt from Chapter 1)  
[The Learning Acceleration Guide](#)  
[CCEE's Playbook for Accelerating Learning](#)