



**Mt. Whitney
Highest Summit
in the Contiguous
United States
14,497 feet**

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
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Water Awareness and Conservation Program to Launch This Spring

As California faces a fourth year of desperate drought there have been widespread calls for statewide water conservation. These go largely unheeded in Inyo County due to prevalent beliefs that “all our water goes to Los Angeles anyway” and “Los Angeles users are wasteful.” Yet few people realize that, by some estimates, per capita water use in our area is 4 times that of a typical LADWP customer. Furthermore, LADWP only exported 70,000 acre-feet of the 265,000 acre-feet available to the Owens Valley during the last run-off year (April 2014-March 2015). Because of the drought, Los Angeles has curtailed its exports of “our” water to 25%.

Because misconceptions about water abound, The Inyo County Superintendent of Schools will be offering a water awareness/ water conservation program for Inyo County students K-12. We have sought input from local science teachers and agency specialists about how best to emphasize the current need to restrict water waste.

In designing instructional materials for grades 5-12, we’ve received help from Bob Harrington, Director of the Inyo County Water Department; Dave Grah, Director of the City of Bishop Public Works; Dustin Blakey, Director of Inyo-Mono U.C. Cooperative Extension; and Mark Drew, Sierra Headwaters Regional Director for California Trout and the

Director of Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Students will start with a quiz to assess what they already know about local and statewide water use. They will also be encouraged to use figures from the U.S. Census Bureau and the 2013 Bishop Water Rate Study to calculate how much water would be saved each day in Inyo County if we were to match Governor Brown’s call for 25% reductions in water use. Students will then generate and share lists of ways they can personally conserve water. Additional activities can include having students read informational texts on “virtual

water,” which is the water it takes to produce their food and other goods. For those students with access to computers, there’s also the National Geographic Water Footprint Calculator, which takes into account both direct

and indirect (virtual) water consumption.

The main goal of the curriculum is to motivate and empower young people to take action in the face of California’s current water crisis.

Calling All Gumshoes!



As part of the ICSOS water awareness program, K-4 students will be asked to become “Water Detectives.” Each child will receive a kit designed to introduce them to water conservation. Kits will include: a water conservation activity book; detective badge stickers; easy-to-install Toilet Tank Banks that save .8 gallons per flush; and more. With kits in hand, students will be given the assignment (should they choose to accept it) of looking for and pointing out opportunities for saving water at home and school.

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR TEACHERS!

JUNE 8 - JUNE 9

Teaching with Technology

Get ideas and inspiration for your 1:1 technology implementation at the **2015**

Teaching with Technology

Conference. This event—to be held from 9:00am until 3:00pm on **June 8th and 9th**—will feature fun, hands-on workshops in an informal and collaborative setting.

In this supportive environment, you will learn practical methods to enhance your curriculum with technology. At least half of each workshop will be devoted to developing products and assignments you

can use in your classroom next year.

Presenters will include local, “lead learner” teachers who are already using technology in innovative ways in their own classrooms. They will share how they’ve used web-based tools in the classroom and what they’ve learned along the way. They also will walk you through creating your own products to use in your classroom.

Workshops will be available for all levels from beginner to advanced—including a special TechTools 101 strand for those new to technology integration and/or Google Apps. Some of the workshops in this series include:

Conference Highlights

- Choose two hands-on workshops each day
- Morning workshops repeat in the afternoon so you won’t miss key topics
- “101” entry-level strand
- Sign up for 1 – 4 sessions
- Cool Tool talks: 15-minute demos of great digital tools for learning and creating
- Time for networking
- Lunch provided for all-day participants

(Continued on page 2)

Speech & Writing Contest Results

This spring Inyo county middle schools participated in two student events hosted by ICSOS – the 63rd annual speech contest and the 4th annual writing contest.

The speech contest was held on March 12th with seven students representing three middle schools speaking on the topic “Should the National Park Service be recruiting more visitorship?” If students took the position in favor of increased visitorship, they were required to indicate what would increase visits from his or her age group and families.

In preparation for the contest, students recalled personal experiences with National Parks and conducted research on various aspects of the National Parks including visitor statistics. Participating students took varying stances on the issue – some believing that a cap should be placed on certain overly accessed parks while others felt that in order to preserve such treasures as Denali, Yellowstone and Yosemite the next generation needs to become familiar with the parks. “I found what the students were able to discover about our National Parks enlightening,” said Deputy Superintendent and speech contest judge Pamela Jones.

Jones and the other judges were impressed with the students’ obvious preparation, composure, and the content of their speeches. “The quality of the speeches this year was exceptional,” Jones said.

In the end the top three prizes were awarded to Naiya Warren (1st place – OV school, coached by Ms. Hanson), Steven Mather (2nd place –also of OV) and Arianna Pope (3rd place – HSMS, coached by Ms. Fuchs). ICSOS congratulates these students and the other contest

participants—Shawnau Johnson (OV), Estreya Federman, Taylor McCormick, and Haley Yarborough (representing Round Valley, coached by Ms. Morales)—all of whom are a credit to our schools.



1st place, speech contest winner, Naiya Warren

The middle school writing contest also generated many high quality, interesting pieces. Participating students from 5 different school districts were charged with writing a public interest story about Manzanar National Historic Site.

Students accessed an ICSOS-generated website that housed resources the students could use in researching their piece – an excerpt from an article entitled “A Life in the Relocation Centers,” links to Manzanar’s National Park Service website, and a video interview of Manzanar’s Superintendent Bernadette Johnson and Ranger Rose Masters.

ICSOS received 50 entries and, while there were many fine pieces of work, the following students placed in the top three for their news articles: Aubrey Hart from Lo-Inyo school, Steven Mather from Owens Valley, and Ella Boehme from Round Valley school. The top three essays appeared in the March 19th edition of the Sierra Reader.

This concludes the ICSOS student events for the 2014-15 school year! Looking ahead... watch for information on 5th/6th grade Science Camp, College Day at Cerro Coso (8th grade), Middle School Writing Contest, Spelling Bee (grades 4-8), Science Fair (open to grades 4 and up), Middle School Speech Contest and a revamped High School Geography Bowl contest.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact: ilissa_twomey@inyo.k12.ca.us.

Teaching with Technology

(Continued from page 1)

- ◆ Haiku 101: Create your Class in the Cloud
- ◆ Drive 101: Learn to Drive with Google!
- ◆ Make Close Reading Interactive with Google Docs and Online Resources
- ◆ Digital Storytelling
- ◆ Infographics Bring Information and Data Alive!
- ◆ May the Forms Be With You: Google Forms for Everything
- ◆ Turn Your Students into Search Wizards!

- ◆ Writing for Authentic Audiences: Introduction to Blogging
- ◆ Screencasting for Visible Thinking and Learning
- ◆ Free, Fast, Formative Assessment

Do you want your students to show more interest in class? Be more engaged? Retain knowledge? Be successful? Come participate in this year’s Teaching with Technology Conference and develop a plan that could help make it happen!

Register now at <http://inyo.k12oms.org/1781-97088>

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 27TH!

or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/inyoedtech> for full conference information



Sierra Adventure Summer Camp

Open to all Inyo County students entering 7th grade!

Join us for 5 days and 4 nights of fun and adventure!
Students will stay in Sierra Adventure Center cabins near Big Pine and enjoy meals and evening campfires plus these great activities:

Survival Skills	Birding	Starwatching	Nature Study	Crafts
Hiking	Outdoor Cooking	Archery	Songs	Nature Art

	Boys' Camp 6/29– 7/3		Girls' Camp 7/6– 7/10	
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Cost: \$20 per student

Sign Up by May 1st:

Or Contact:
Hillary Behr, ICSOS
166 Grandview Ln. Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873- 3262 x. 431
hillary_behr@inyo.k12.ca.us

Celebrating 50 Years of Outdoor School!

Fifty years ago, the first middle school students from Inyo County came to camp to learn about natural science and spend a week away from home. On May 30th, everyone gets to come to camp!

You're invited!
May 30th, 10am–2pm
Sierra Adventure Center

Join the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools for a

day of fun activities to celebrate the ongoing Outdoor School at the Sierra Adventure Center. Throughout the day, local experts will lead nature hikes, bird walks, and watercolor painting. Come enjoy live music, games & contests for kids, archery, a free cookout, and other fun activities.

For more information, contact Hillary Behr at (760)873- 3262 x431.