



**INYO COUNTY**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

# The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools  
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## A Vast Array of Digital Resources Now Available Free to Inyo's Teachers

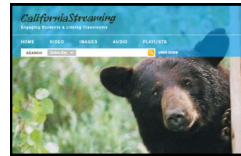
*Video streaming, Grolier Encyclopedia, ebooks, audiobooks, primary sources and more!*

Looking for high quality videos? Copyright-free images? Free books your students can read and listen to at the same time? The right primary sources to bring your history lessons to life? You're in luck! ICSOS has purchased subscriptions to MediaSnap, an integrated search tool featuring California Streaming, Grolier's Encyclopedia and 10 other web-based sources of digital media, for every teacher and student in the county. With one search, teachers and student can find high quality videos; articles; historical resources

such as documents, photos and speeches; picture books and original stories with audio; high quality copyright-free images; a variety of audio and digital books; and even web-based interactives that allow students to explore concepts in math and science. Users can quickly add resources to playlists, which can then be shared. This is a terrific tool for students who are conducting research or creating multimedia products, and for teachers who want to enhance their instruction with video, audio, and images.

Your principal will provide you with login information for you and your students so you can start using the database immediately. ICSOS staff hope to offer mini-workshops for all our districts to give teachers a chance to explore the many features the content sources offer.

[Descriptions of content sources](#)  
[Getting started guide](#)



## Save the Date!

**ALTRUSA SPELLING BEE**  
JAN 26, 2017—6PM  
Jill Kinmont Boothe School

**POETRY OUT LOUD**  
FEB 9, 2017—6:30PM  
11th & 12th Grades  
Inyo Council for the Arts

**HISTORY DAY**  
MARCH 13, 2017  
4th— 12th Grades

**COLLEGE & CAREER DAY**  
MAY 19, 2017  
5th Grade  
Cerro Coso College, Bishop

For more details on upcoming events, contact Tiffany at [trandall@icsos.us](mailto:trandall@icsos.us)

All are Welcome!

Fun Community Event!

## All Students CAN Do Math!

This is the message Jo Boaler, professor of math education at Stanford University, both preaches *and* practices. Boaler has partnered with Carol Dweck, who has written extensively about the need for learners to have what she calls a "growth mindset" rather than a "fixed mindset", to promote ideas from brain science about how we can better support all students to be successful in math. In addition to directly challenging the widespread belief that each of us is either "a math person" or "not a math person", Boaler makes the case for giving students access to rich, open-ended mathematical tasks; freedom to make mistakes; many opportunities to represent mathematical thinking visually; and plenty of time to grapple with problems. Click [here](#) for a visual summary of many of her teaching ideas. In her search to promote a world in which all students can learn math equitably and to prevent what she describes as widespread math anxiety, Boaler challenges some commonly-held beliefs about mathematics teaching. For instance, she makes the case that timed math tests, rather than serving as a means to promote "fluency", instead can cause stress, which prevents the brain from accessing working memory

where math facts reside. This leads to anxiety for many children which may turn them off to math at an early age, preventing them from pursuing higher mathematics and potentially closing academic doors. Mathematical thinking, she says, is about *depth*, not speed. She cites the names of many prominent mathematicians who work slowly and states a better way to promote fluency is to give children many opportunities to develop deep number sense. Her article [Fluency Without Fear](#) references a number of engaging games teachers can use to develop students' number sense and their ability to think mathematically. In her speaking and writing, Boaler also challenges beliefs about homework, citing research that provides evidence that much of what is assigned as homework in math does not help students learn. Specifically, she opposes the practice of assigning students pages of similar problems to solve at home. If the student already knows how to do the problem, the task serves no useful purpose beyond the first few problems which demonstrate that the child has mastered the skill. If the student has *not* understood or mastered the necessary skill, the task again serves no purpose. "If you

want to retain homework, then I recommend changing the nature of homework," Boaler suggests. "Instead of giving questions students need to answer in a performance orientation, give reflection questions to encourage students to think back on the mathematics lesson and focus on the big ideas."

If these ideas intrigue you -- and we hope they do! -- you can begin by exploring some free resources on Boaler's website, Youcubed, at [www.youcubed.org](http://www.youcubed.org). Below are three particularly interesting and potentially useful resources:

1. Boaler has created a free, 6-lesson online class for students and teachers called *How to Learn Math*. The first 3 lessons are 10 minutes long, and the last three are about 20 minutes long. The series actively involves students and teachers in learning about mindset, correcting misconceptions about what math is, and giving "learners of math the information they need to become powerful math learners". The course is available in English and Spanish here: <https://www.youcubed.org/category/mooc/>
2. Week of Inspirational Math: "This week is about inspiring students through open, beautiful and creative math. We have chosen the different tasks so that students see math as a broad, interesting and visual subject that involves deep thinking. Students will learn important growth mindset messages that will help them feel confident, try harder all year, persist with open and difficult problems and embrace mistakes and challenge. All tasks are low floor and high ceiling -- they are accessible to all students and they extend to high levels." Boaler has posted two 5-days sets of these "iMath" lessons. Teachers can download all the materials (free!) and try any of the lessons with their students.
3. How to Learn Math for Teachers: this is a self-paced course that takes approximately 30 hours to complete and which has been extremely popular among teachers. The course includes:
  - New brain and learning research
  - Teaching strategies for increasing students' math skills
  - Teaching strategies for increasing students' number sense and understanding and for making algebra exciting

Article continued on next page

## All Students CAN Do Math!

Continued

and meaningful

- Teaching strategies for reaching all students and for motivating demotivated students
- Research-based good practice for assessment and grading

Additional information about the course is available here:



<https://www.youcubed.org/category/mooc/>. If you might be interested in taking this course either on your own or with a group of other teachers, please contact Lo at [llyness@icsos.us](mailto:llyness@icsos.us) or by phone at extension 2103.

To learn more about Jo Boaler's work, read her book *Mathematical Mindsets* (available to check out from ICSOS) and/or listen to her [TED talk](#).

## ICSOS 6th-8th Grade Writing Contest

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2016-17 Writing Contest. The prompt was: "How did an individual person make a positive change in our world? What character traits, actions and values led this person to become a hero of change, and what can we all learn from the difference that one person made in our world?"

We had the privilege to read many fantastic essays from creative young minds who have found inspiration from some very special heroes. People such as: local war veterans, teachers, scientists, artists, musicians, Civil Rights leaders, animal activists, local protectors of land and resources, and many more. Throughout this process, in addition to improving their writing, many students came to the conclusion that they, too, can be

a hero of change in this world. Judges found themselves quite inspired by our students, and their wonderful teachers who teach and guide them every day.

Here is a list of placements:

### Winners:

- 6th—Delia Boyer (HS) & Alexandra Morales (RV)
- 7th—Santana Rodrigues (OV) & Brooke Winzenread (HS)
- 8th—Ella Boehme (RV) & Natalie Blakey (HS)



### Runners-Up:

#### Round Valley

- Jack Slovacek, 6th
- Sophie Gutierrez, 7th
- Kylee Jorgensen, 8th

#### Owens Valley

- Laura Watterson, 7th
- Airam Avalos, 7th

#### Big Pine

- Noelani In the Woods, 7th

#### Lone Pine

- Walker Rost Kruger, 7th

#### Home Street Middle School

- Nicolette Maxey, 6th

- Cora Van Nest, 6th
- Kaki Saulque, 6th
- Emma Thornburg, 6th
- Katelan Spratt, 7th
- Maile Munro, 7th
- Jacee Carpenter, 7th
- Sierra Burror, 8th
- Malena Twomey, 8th
- Mark Wilkinsen, 8th

## Inyo County One Million Acts of Kindness Campaign

Please join me, *Dr. Lisa Fontana*, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, as we count acts of kindness through the end of the school year, June 9, 2017, with the goal of reaching One Million Acts of Kindness. If you perform, witness or are the recipient of an act of kindness, simply log onto [inyokindness.us](http://inyokindness.us) and click on the counter, refresh the page and you'll see your act of kindness added to our running total. You can choose to post a story or not, add your name or keep it anonymous, but please do visit [inyokindness.us](http://inyokindness.us) and "click here if you are kind". We would love to select stories of kindness throughout the campaign and share them on our Facebook page and newsletters. Follow us on [Facebook](#) where we will share kindness ideas. Please join me in sharing with the world that **Inyo County is a place where Kindness Counts!**

## College Exploration Opportunities

Over 150 8th grade students from Inyo County were able to visit Cerro Coso and UNR this fall. Students met with professors and college students, they learned about various pathways and different career choices, and they enjoyed the experience of preparing for their futures alongside their peers. At UNR, students were able to attend a basketball game, see a film at the Fleischmann Planetarium, get "hands-on" with robots and drones in the engineering labs, and more!

Upon returning from UNR, students responded to the following prompt: When I am on a university campus, I feel...

"... free to learn anything." Andrea, HS

"... natural because of how I am surrounded by so many smart people with good intentions." Andrew, HS

"... very accepted and like I am in my environment" Kylee, Round Valley

"... a sense of awe at everything a college is." Ace, Home Street

"... excited to learn more about the auto flying drone & programming!" Steven, OV

"I will go to UNR because they have what I need to learn, they even had a room for 3-d printing and everyone can use it! I will make new friends there with the same interests as me too." Ariana, BP



## Family Science Nights

ICSOS presents Family Science Nights! A free evening of fun and educational hands-on science activities for the whole family. Below are locations & dates:

- Lone Pine—February 8th
- Round Valley—February 9th
- Big Pine—February 15th
- Owens Valley—February 22nd
- Bishop—February 23rd

Stay tuned for more information from Hillary Behr!



## Students Are Invited To Share Their Vision!

Student Voices invites **students in grades 7-12** to create videos that respond to the prompt, "**What's your vision for your school?**"

In California, students are guaranteed a voice in planning and budgeting for their school district. The Student Voices Campaign, launched by the California Alliance for Arts Education, is a creative way for young people to make their voices heard in their local school district!



Sign up to receive the Student Voices [Classroom Guide](#)

Watch the Student Voices Campaign introduction [video](#) to learn more!