



INYO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools

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Local Educators Participate in Powerful Learning Experience

By Ilissa Twomey

In January, educators from the Owens Valley immersed themselves in the experiential learning environment of the Museum of Tolerance, the educational arm of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international human rights organization. Bishop Unified's Teresa Eckland secured a grant to provide transportation, lodging and the two-day Tools for Tolerance® training. Led by experienced facilitators, the training began with a discussion of the meaning of tolerance. The Museum's mission centers around the UNESCO definition of tolerance, referenced in the United Nations' charter: "...to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind...that for these ends...**to practice tolerance** and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors (UN charter signed on June 26, 1945)."

The interactive exhibits and discussions at the Museum are rooted in the active pursuit of tolerance and our ability to value each and every person. Themes of social justice, the power of words and images, and diversity



and democracy came alive as we traveled through the museum's compelling exhibits. After each exhibit, facilitators allowed time for discussion and creating connections with our work as educators and as members of a democracy. At the Museum, Holocaust survivors regularly volunteer their time to speak with visitors about their experiences during World War II. Our group was fortunate enough to meet Elisabeth Mann, who chronicled her horrific experience and how it shaped her. Ms. Mann was truly inspiring, holding no hatred in her heart for the injustices committed against her and her family. She has chosen to

share her story and live her life in a way that truly embodies tolerance.

Many of the participants spoke highly of the experience and would recommend visiting the Museum to other educators and older students. The Museum offers free [Open Enrollment Institutes](#) for individual teachers including *Rock Your World: Online Curriculum for Social Action and Young Adult Literature that Teaches Identity, History and Choices*. Lessons for teaching the Holocaust, the dynamics of discrimination, bullying prevention, human rights, the power of words, and taking

action can be found on the [Museum of Tolerance website](#). Additional resources for teaching tolerance can be found at the [Southern Poverty Law Center's website](#).

If you would like to join the conversation and get support, please join the local Google Class: *Teaching and Tolerance Educators* by visiting <https://classroom.google.com>, login using your district-issued email, click on the plus button to join the class and enter the class code **9499h6**. This group will host virtual and face to face discussions and be a place to post questions and share resources.

Spelling Bee Results

Twenty-eight students from local elementary and middle schools participated in the 2017-18 countywide Spelling Bee at Jill Kinmont Boothe School. The winners were:

- 1st—Rose Bracken, HSMS
- 2nd—Cooper Beard, BES
- 3rd—Lyndsey Rowan, HSMS

After much competition with words like zabaglione, lachrymator, and matronymic, the winning word was: preemptive.

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

Representing Inyo County at the Elementary State Bee in May will be Cooper Beard and Noah Reade. Rose Bracken and Lyndsey Rowan will represent Inyo county at the Junior High State Bee in May. Congratulations to all the student participants!



Inyo County Community Reads

Community Reads offers books, activities, and free community events for all ages. In addition to the public events listed below, students will be engaged in the classroom with books and activities that inspire kindness! This year's Community Reads book selection includes: *Wonder*, *The Kindness Quilt*, and *Charlotte's Web*.



Community Dinner—Fri. 3/9, 4:30-8pm (Tri-County Fairgrounds)

Fun and free community dinner with art projects, raffle/book giveaways, and an opportunity to get to know some of the organizations doing good work in our community! Get your ticket in advance at ICA.

IMAH Courtyard Makeover—Sat. 3/17, 9am-noon (IMAH Thrift Mall)

Help paint, clean, and plant drought tolerant plants. RSVP by 3/14 to execdir@imahstars.org or 760-873-8668.

Altrusa Foundation Tea—Sat. 3/24, 11am (Bishop Methodist Church)

Traditional tea fundraiser for the Altrusa Foundation. For tickets, call Gail at 920-7497.

Lone Pine Community Dinner-Featuring Storyteller Michael Katz!—Tues. 4/3, 4:30-8pm (Lo-Inyo Multipurpose Room)

A Fun and free community dinner in Lone Pine—featuring art projects for all ages, dinner, and a special public performance by renowned storyteller Michael Katz!

Storytelling Workshop with Wild Roots—Sat. 4/21, 9am-noon (Inyo Council for the Arts)

Learn the guidelines and structure of storytelling and practice these techniques together as a group. Expand your imagination, learn to talk in pictures, and build the confidence to become a storyteller! Space is limited—Please RSVP to ICA, 760-873-8014.

Local Science Fair Results

By Lo Lyness



The Inyo County Science Fair was held on February 6th. Five schools participated this year: Big Pine School (6th-8th grades); Bishop Elementary (4th grade); Home Street Middle School (7th-8th grades); Lone Pine (4th -10th grades); Owens Valley (4th grade); and Round Valley (4th-8th grades). These schools sent a total of sixty-five students to the county competition. Of these sixty-five students, the following ten students were selected to move on to the regional science fair, to be held in Fontana, California on April 3rd:

Ben Rowan (BES, 4th):
"The Effect Of Parachute Size"

Amy Lee (HSMS, 7th)
"How Well do Soaps Work In Washing Hands"

Blake Winzenread (RV, 5th)
"Want Dinner? Use the Winner!"

Nicolette Maxey (HSMS, 7th)
"Do Children Have the Same Gender Stereotyping Mindset as Adults?"

Luci Flores & Paige Johnson (BP, 7th)
"School Zone Speed and the SLOW DOWN Marquee"

Owen Hildenbrand (HSMS, 8th)
"Alfalfa, Is It As Tough As We Think?"

Amelia Blakey (HSMS, 7th)
"What Color Attracts The Most Insects"

Rylee Arcularius & Evelina Dondero
(RV, 8th) - "Flood Irrigation Efficiency"

ICSOS congratulates these students and thanks all of our student scientists across the county for their hard work and participation! ICSOS also greatly appreciates the time and effort invested by all of the adults who worked to make this event possible:

Student coaches: Jan Hart, Wayne Linse, Matt Wilson and Jonathan Willy, Allison Peeler, Sarah Civitano, Maryann Buck, and Laurel, and Randee Arcularius.

Volunteer judges: Dustin Blakey, Maggie Riley, Mark Hodges, Michele Slaton, Howard Walker, Jim Gilbreath, Sheena Waters, Zach Nelson, Sherri Lisius, Darla Heil, Tyler Starbard, Phil Pister, Hilary Parish, and Ian Bell.



Elementary School Winners



Middle School Winners

8th Annual

WHEN: February 15, 2018 at 6pm

National Writing Project



WHERE: Inyo Council for the Arts

137 South Main Street, Bishop, California
WWW.INYO.ORG 760/873-8014

FEATURING STUDENTS FROM:

Big Pine High School
Bishop Union High School
Owens Valley High School
Palisades Glacier High School





What does it mean to be American? What holds us together in turbulent times? How can you express your American Creed through action? You and your students are invited to add your voice to this conversation via the NWP's American Creed Youth Publishing Project. As a part of this project, you may bring the free film [American Creed](#) to your classroom, and support your students in responding to one of the five prompts through writing, art, and media. If you're interested in this opportunity, see the website [HERE](#).