



Nebo News



VOLUME III ISSUE IV

DECEMBER 2013



NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nebo District has over 31,000 students 2013-2014.
- Nebo District has over 3,500 employees.
- Nebo District is the 6th largest district in Utah.
- Nebo District is the 5th largest employer in Utah County.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dates to Celebrate	2
Respond to Common Core Concerns	2
Annual Measurement Achievement	3
November PEAK Awards	3
Celebrations	4
Christmas Card Winners	4

A Sunshine Christmas

For many years I have enjoyed this true Christmas story that so effectively demonstrates our "Come Join Us" theme. It is titled "A Sunshine Christmas."

"Many years ago I found myself as part of occupation troops in a foreign land just at the end of a terrible war. It was not long after we arrived in this country before we developed a great love and concern for the people we were there to watch over. This was especially true of the young people, the children. Many times we would find them scavenging in our garbage cans looking for food to keep themselves alive. This deeply touched us, and we wanted to make a more substantial contribution to them. We raised what money we could and found a local religious group that was willing to open an orphanage for them. We donated as much time as possible to improve the facilities and provided them with the operating funds they needed.

"As Christmas approached, we sent letters home to our families asking that, instead of sending gifts to us, they send toys for the children in the orphanage. The response of our families was overwhelming! Toys arrived daily from our homes.

"We found a tree suitable to use as a Christmas tree, but we had no traditional decorations for it. A lady taught us how to make little birds by folding square pieces of paper, and these became the major part of the decorations for the tree. The presents were wrapped mostly in discarded Stars and Stripes newspapers. I'll never forget Christmas Eve with those children. I am sure many of them had never seen a Christmas tree in their lives.

"We sang Christmas carols to them, but we weren't very good at this. They had been rehearsing for weeks so they could sing a song to us in English. It was not a Christmas carol, but it was beautiful. They sang, 'You Are My Sunshine.' We were deeply touched with the spirit of the children that Christmas Eve, especially as they opened the presents sent from our families. I suppose some of them had not had a toy in many, many years.

"This is a Christmas I'll never forget because we were learning the true meaning of this great holiday season. The greatest joy we can receive in life is giving -- to bring into the life of someone else a little joy and happiness."
<http://shaylondon.blogspot.com/2006/12/christmas-story.html>

Thank you for your daily "gift giving" to children and Merry Christmas!

Christmas Card First Place



First Place: Rebecca Carter, Sixth Grade, Larsen Elementary, Teacher: Gwen Sorensen. Rebecca's art work will be the front cover of the Nebo School District Christmas Card for 2013.



"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."

~Walt Disney

Dates to Celebrate

Dec. 1

Rosa Parks Day — Civil Rights event

Dec. 3

International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Dec. 4

World Wildlife Conservation Day

Dec. 10

Human Rights Day — Declaration Adoption 1948

Nobel Prize Day — Awarded for "scientific exploration of great value for mankind"

Dec. 15

Bill of Rights Day — The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution were ratified on this day in 1791

Dec. 17

Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' flight

Dec. 21

First day of Winter

Dec. 25

Christmas Day

"I always encourage kids to reach beyond their dreams. Don't try to be like me. Be better than me."

~ Florence Griffith Joyner

Information to Help You Respond to Questions and Concerns about Common Core State Standards

Principals & teachers face a challenge when it comes to communicating about Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In many districts, the opponents are bombarding parents with a litany of misrepresentations and myths.

"Grassroots Effort" and "Shared Success"

Most principals and their teachers have been aware of CCSS for several years. Work began on them in 2007, with educators, state legislators, school board members and business leaders involved in this grassroots effort. Following intense public review of drafts, standards in English/language arts and mathematics for grades K-12 were released in 2010. They *define what students should know at each grade level, and set consistent outcomes from state to state.*

Up until 2012, CCSS made sense to everyone. The initiative was a shared success between states, educators and communities. To date, 45 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have adopted these voluntary standards.

Organized Misinformation Campaign

Last year, politically motivated critics began circulating misinformation about CCSS. Principals started receiving formal

"requests for information," and school districts have recently been asked to hold "public forums" where well-organized opponents rail against the proposed standards by shouting down any supporters.

Here are some of the *talking points opponents are using:*

- CCSS is a curriculum that will usurp local control of schools.
- The federal government initiated the standards; CCSS represents socialized education.
- CCSS was developed by a closed, secretive process. The resulting standards are no better than previous standards.
- Teachers will be forced to use intrusive technology and digitalized testing results to "brainwash" students. Testing results will be provided by schools to corporations for marketing purposes.

Of course this is a smokescreen to hide a larger political agenda. Principals know schools have always had standards; the process to create CCSS was open and voluntary; and very little, if anything, has changed in how schools operate.

That caring teachers and administrators would ever allow students to be manipulated or their thoughts sold to the highest bidder is an unusually vile insult, even for the pro-choice, anti-public-schools crowd.

Tips to Help You Move Forward

The following suggestions (based on sound public relations practices) can help you move forward with CCSS.

- **Keep informed and armed with information about CCSS.**
- **Focus on learning.** Most of the myths are about things that "might happen in a worst case scenario." Note that those things are NOT happening; then talk about the good things that are.
- **Talk about the progress that has already been made in your school.** CCSS started in 2007! Teachers have had training and many are using the standards to improve learning in their classes.
- **Be sure your supporters and parents know what is at stake.** The United States cannot afford to lose a generation of children to low standards.
- **Don't oversell CCSS.** It covers only two subject areas, and it's only a modest first step in improving outcomes for children.
- **Be ready for test scores to go down.** Parents will not overreact to test score drops if they know the reasons they went down and what the school is doing to help their children.
- **Build a constituency! Be political!** Get together a group of supporters who will come to meetings and speak up for their children and school. This is called "outside confirmation," and nothing is more powerful in quelling rumors and defusing outrageous accusations.
- **Become an expert on CCSS**
- **Show your leadership.** Be generous, understanding and considerate - but don't let people be rude to the staff.

Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives

Part of federal law requires that districts meet AMAOs (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives). AMAOs evaluate the effectiveness of our English as a Second Language (ESL) services.

The three **required** AMAOs look at the percentage of English Language Learners who:

1. Students make progress in learning English.
2. Students actually reach the fluent level.
3. Students meet the same AYP (Math, Language Arts, and Science) goals as set for all students in the district.

It seems that federal goals are set higher and higher making it harder to reach those goals.

We want to thank all those in Nebo, especially the ESL endorsed teachers and ESL technicians for working so diligently with our English Language Learners (ELLs).

CONGRATULATIONS are in order. Nebo met the AMAOs for the 2012/2013 school year. Our ESL endorsed teachers do a great job providing ELLs with English language instruction and making it possible for students to access the curriculum.

Our ESL endorsed teachers do this by teaching Direct English Language Develop-

ment (DELD) specific to the students' needs, focusing on academic vocabulary, sheltering instruction in the content area, and using ESL strategies in their teaching.

Our ESL technicians pull ELLs out for a period of time each day and focus instruction on speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English. They also use a computer program called Imagine Learning English. Our ESL technicians provide a valuable service that supports the regular classroom teacher and helps the students and families bridge the gap between home and school.

Thanks again for all your hard work!

November PEAK Awards Celebrated



Nominators Principal Angie Killian, Cindy Sanders, Susie Perrett, PEAK Award Lisa Pruitt, Secretary Mt. Loafer Elem. Superintendent Rick Nielsen, School Board President Rick Ainge



Nominators District Office Staff, PEAK Award Kathy Carling, Secretary Operations, Superintendent Rick Nielsen, School Board President Rick Ainge



Nominator Kim Andrews, PEAK Award Gary Gibson, Custodian Orchard Hills, Superintendent Rick Nielsen, School Board President Rick Ainge



Nominator Principal Mike Brown, PEAK Award Drew Weech, ELL Teacher Springville High Superintendent Rick Nielsen, School Board President Rick Ainge



Nominators Counseling Department, PEAK Award Richard Kimball, Counselor Diamond Fork Junior Superintendent Rick Nielsen, School Board President Rick Ainge



Nominators Principal Kaye Isakson, Alice Wilson PEAK Award Veronica Solorzano, ESL Educator Mt. Nebo Junior Superintendent Rick Nielsen, School Board President Rick Ainge

Nebo District's Celebrations



Nebo School District

350 South Main
Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Phone: 801-354-7400

Fax: 801-798-4010

Email: iana.hiskey@nebo.edu

www.nebo.edu



Nebo's Mission is to provide each student with quality instruction, learning opportunities, and educational environments which inspire classroom success, personal excellence, and responsible citizenship.

Students:

Academic All-State winners:
Girls' Cross Country Combined GPA 4.0
Brenda Quintana, Maple Mountain 4A
Joslyn Haynie, Maple Mountain 4A
Braden Gardner, Spanish Fork 4A
Jackie Tagg, Spanish Fork 4A

Boys' Cross Country Combined GPA: 4.0
Anthony Carter, Maple Mountain 4A
Caleb Stephens, Spanish Fork 4A
Caden Jensen, Springville 4A
Brenn Manwaring, Springville 4A
Christopher Taylor, Springville 4A

Girls' Soccer Combined GPA: 4.0
Lindsay Williamson, Maple Mountain 4A
Jackie Tagg, Spanish Fork 4A
Ciera Lundberg, Payson 3A
Shelby Blauer, Payson 3A
Jessica Barker, Payson 3A

Volleyball Combined GPA: 3.998
Shelby Miner, Maple Mountain 4A
Bailee Thurgood, Maple Mountain 4A
Allison Bailey, Springville 4A
Mikayla Crystal, Springville 4A

Football Combined GPA: 4.0 & 3.997
Maxwell Robison, Salem Hills 4A
Max Schreiner, Springville 4A
Brody Adams, Payson 3A
Michael Sonderegger, Payson 3A

Girls' Tennis Combined GPA: 4.0
Sarah Vorkink, Maple Mountain 4A
Kirtlyn Bohling, Salem Hills 4A
Taylor Murphy, Springville 4A
Savannah Park, Springville 4A

Students Cont.:

Kirtlyn Bohling, SHHS, signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball at Weber State University

Madeline Froerer, Laney Melton, and Jamie Topham, MMHS, made 4A All-State Drill Team

Rachel Bingham, MMHS, selected 1st Annual Girls' High School All-American game

Michael Wood, PHS, Ahnika Belle White, SHHS, & Mishayla White, MJHS, auditioned and performed with "We Are Hope" concert.

Anastacia Kadomtsev, Diamond Fork Junior won \$1000 for the Make Your Mark bookmark contest sponsored by Utah Education Savings Plan.



Anastacia's bookmark

Employees & Programs:

Brent Coffman received the Utah School Psychologist of the Year Award by Utah Association of School Psychologists.

Nancy Miramontes received the Utah Barbara Bennett Excellence in Diversity Award by Utah Association of School Psychologists.

If your successes are not listed, please get awards to iana.hiskey@nebo.edu with Award Nebo News in the subject line. (I may pull items off your school website if time permits.)

Christmas Card Winners



Second Place: Abby Garrett, Sixth Grade, Hobbie Creek Elementary, Teacher: Lisa Nissen. Abby's art work will be the front cover of the Nebo Education Foundation Christmas Card for 2013



Third Place: Emma Shuman, Fifth Grade, Sierra Bonita Elementary, Teacher: Melissa Green.

Honorable Mention:

Vanessa Memmot, Fifth Grade, Sierra Bonita, Teacher: Laura Elzinga
Emma Mousser, Fifth Grade, Hobbie Creek, Teacher: Allison Snow