

Corinne Griswold, RCMS:



December's iHistorian

When considering ways to engage students in history/social studies classes, creativity may be just what you need. According to the National Council for the Social Studies, re-enactments can turn your class into [A Living History Classroom](#). In Corinne Griswold's class,

[<<more>>](#)

Adobe ... more than just a PDF viewer

Adobe Education Exchange has dozens of free collaborative courses, taught by educators for educators, to learn how to integrate digital media into your curriculum and take your skills to the next level..

[<<more>>](#)

Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

This year's Common Assessment deadline is approaching. Plan ahead for best results. Read all the details and how to submit your scores.

[<<more>>](#)

Focus on Mission and Belief Statements

Over the past year, PSUSD leaders and stakeholders have been developing and refining our Mission/Belief ...

[<<more>>](#)

Resources Review

- [The True Size](#) - It is hard to represent our spherical world on a flat piece of paper. This app will allow users to compare the true size of countries.
- [Izzit.org](#) - offers FREE, high-quality educational materials to educators: teachers, homeschoolers, parents - to anyone interested in learning!

For tutorials, applications, and more click:

[<<more>>](#)

Special Feature - Trivia Contest

Last month, we had a Trivia Contest about Thomas Jefferson ... and the winner is ... [Mario Estrada](#) from DSMS who scored a perfect 15 out of 15. ([ANSWERS](#)) This month, test your knowledge of New Year's Traditions!

[<<more>>](#)

Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

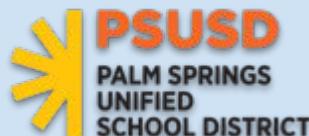
Did you know that this year, PSUSD is going through a textbook adoption process to select new curriculum materials for the 2019/2020 school year and beyond? Pilot Teachers are nearing the end of the onsite trial ...

[<<more>>](#)

Upcoming Dates

- 12/2-12/10 - [Chanukah](#)
- 12/7 - [National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance](#)
- 12/7 - "[There Ought to be a Law](#)" Deadline

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Corinne Griswold, RCMS: December's iHistorian

History comes alive each year in their re-enactment of the Constitutional Convention.

Corinne was born in New York City, but grew up in Sacramento, CA. She has a Bachelor's Degree in History with a minor in Spanish from U.C. Riverside and Masters in Educational Technology from Azusa Pacific University. Her current assignment is 8th grade U.S. History at Raymond Cree Middle School. She has been in education for 33 years (all with PSUSD).

Corinne tries to make American History something the students will remember. She uses total physical response to teach the Bill of Rights and her Honors classes re-enact the Constitutional Convention each year. They are each assigned a delegate to research and write a short speech. Students address the four common core literacy [anchor standards](#) of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Besides these standards, students are also engaged in the "[Four Cs](#)" of education (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity).

Corinne's class was the focus of a recent news story on [CBS Local 2](#). An overview of the whole project has been documented in a video that her class produced last year ([Constitutional Convention Re-Enactment](#)).

"Be Bold", "Think Outside the Box", "Go Big, Or Go Home," and any other phrase that motivates your teaching and students learning to another level, is how Corinne Griswold approaches each year. Please feel free to reach out to Corinne if you have any questions at cgriswold@psusd.us.

Are you doing something innovative, creative, unique? Know someone who is? Send an email with details to reves@psusd.us.

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Resources Review

- [The True Size](#) - Cartographers use something called a "projection" to morph the globe into 2D map. The most popular of these is the Mercator projection. Every map projection introduces distortion, and each has its own set of problems. One of the most common criticisms of the Mercator map is that it exaggerates the size of countries nearer the poles (US, Russia, Europe), while downplaying the size of those near the equator (the African Continent). On the Mercator projection Greenland appears to be roughly the same size as Africa. In reality, Greenland is 0.8 million sq. miles and Africa is 11.6 million sq. miles, nearly 14 and a half times larger. This easy to use app allows students to investigate the "true size".
- [Izzit.org](#) - Entertaining & educational videos come with tons of additional resources – Teachers Guides, activities, quizzes, and much more! We also offer Current Events lessons – 2 each school day with vocabulary words and discussion questions. Izzit believes that education can enhance the power of individuals to solve problems for themselves, their families, communities, and society at large using:
 - Critical-thinking skills
 - Scientific methodology
 - Civil discourse skills

[What makes izzit.org different?](#)

(Have a suggestion for a great resource you'd like to share, email reves@psusd.us or check out other resources @ www.psusdhistory.us.)

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Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

of 3 programs at each site. They will be meeting with other stakeholders such as librarians, administrators, and TOSAs in mid-December to discuss their recommendations. Their work and feedback from students will be used to make a recommendation to the school board in January.

After the school board moves on the adoption issue, ordering of new materials and scheduling trainings can begin.

If you have any questions regarding the program or process, please seek out one of super pilot teachers at your site or email reves@psusd.us.

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Adobe ... more than just a PDF viewer

If you are looking to increase your skill set (before your students leave you behind), you may want to look into the many FREE courses Adobe has to offer. They have courses geared specifically for beginners all the way to advanced users. They offer courses in both video and audio production and integration. Courses run from as little as 2 hours to over 25 hours for advanced learning. For information visit Adobe [Education Exchange @ https://edex.adobe.com/en/professional-development/courses](https://edex.adobe.com/en/professional-development/courses)

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Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

This year, the Common Assessments has expanded to include 6th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade Civics ... so, now 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 Civics are administering a district-wide common assessment. A committee of teachers, representing each grade and all secondary schools, met near the end of the 2017-2018 school year to set norms for the test and to come to a consensus on the topic for each grade for the assessment. Here are the [Consensus Topics and Norms](#) for each grade. The agreed upon [Scoring Rubric](#) is a slightly modified version of the Holistic Rubric within the DBQ Project. While the Common Assessment calls for teachers to administer and score one DBQ during the year, teachers are encouraged to complete multiple DBQ or DBQ-like activities during the year to adequately prepare their students. [Teachers may use the DBQ Online format for the assessment OR the paper format from the binders OR a combination thereof]. The reporting format has been developed and sent out to all secondary H/SS teachers. Check your email, or send reves@psusd.us a request for a replacement email. The [Consensus Topics and Norms](#) is updated to include “[How](#)” and “[Where](#)” to submit your students scores. Please see your department lead teacher if you have any follow up questions. Ava Armacost, our DBQ Online Representative is also available to answer questions, offer webinars to walk you through the DBQ process [but not the reporting of scores]. She can be reached directly at ava@dbqproject.com. Or email reves@psusd.us for more information / details.

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Focus on Mission and Belief Statements

statements. There are a total of five [PSUSD Belief Statements](#) in the areas of:

- Student Success;
- Culture, Relationships, and Social Emotional Health;
- Deep, Meaningful Learning and Opportunities;
- Professionalism, Communication, and Collaboration;
- Community and Parent Engagement.

This month's focus is on Deep, Meaningful Learning and Opportunities. As a district, we promote:

- Critical thinking skills and complex problem-solving
- Instruction that allows students multiple ways to demonstrate their learning
- Creativity and innovation
- Communication through writing, speaking, and the creation of multimedia
- Creative and strategic student-use of technology
- Learning that includes self-reflection and the development of perseverance

During the month of December, reflect on your own teaching. What areas are your strongest? Which are you developing? Share your thoughts with us @ reves@psusd.us. While not all reflections can be published, some may be shared anonymously in the next issue.

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Special Feature - Trivia Contest

Answer the questions in one sitting, do not look up answers, and the results will be anonymously posted next month (this is on the HONOR System). First teacher to score 100% (or the highest score of the month) will be announced in the next issue. Contest will close on December 31, 2018 @ 11:59 P.M.

<Click the link to start the quiz>

[New Year's Traditions](#)

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Upcoming Dates

- 12/11 - H/SS Adoption Committee Meets to form Recommendation for the School Board
- 12/11 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 12/21 - End of [2nd Quarter \(HS\)](#)
- 12/24-1/14/19 - [Winter Recess](#)
- 12/25 - [Christmas](#)
- 12/26 - [Boxing Day](#)
- 12/31 - [New Year's Eve](#)
- 1/7-1/11 - [DL01 Digital Storytelling Basics](#) - PDLinks
- 1/7-1/11 - [DL02 Cinematic Digital Storytelling](#) - PDLinks
- 1/7-1/11 - [DL03 Digital Storytelling & Curriculum Integrations](#) - PDLinks
- 1/7-1/11 - [DL05 Advanced Production Techniques](#) - PDLinks
- 1/14 - Return from [Winter Break](#)
- 1/19 - [Cooperative Learning Structures](#) - PDLinks
- 1/21 - [MLK, Jr. Day](#) - Observed

Do you have upcoming events at your site others should know about? Email reves@psusd.us and let us know.