

The Bear Facts

*Sponsored by the Parent Faculty Association
of Jessie Beck Elementary School*

PFA News

I can't believe its February already. We have been busy these past few weeks and have a lot of exciting information to share.

First of all, the new models of the ELMOs became available at the end of December, so we finally ordered all new ELMOs for the teachers. These will be purchased using the technology credit we received from the school district.

Secondly, the staff representatives on the PFA Board (**Ms. Moore, Ms. Harper, and Ms. York**) did an informal survey of the staff and we concluded that the rest of the technology credit should be used to purchase ActivExpressions2 hand-held devices to be used with the ActivBoards in the classrooms. In our last General Meeting, this decision was approved and we ordered 11 sets of 32 with 2 extra hubs last week! Thank you to all who attended the meeting and made the approval vote possible!

PE News: Mrs. Anderson has been working hard finding a replacement PE teacher. Julian Castro is scheduled to start Feb. 13th. Thank you to **Nora Cossentino** for the referral.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Reno Bighorns Jessie Beck Fundraiser day. As a result of the money generated from that, we will be able to add **2 extra days to the PE schedule**. Thank you also to Lanny for all her efforts on the Bighorns event!

PFA Website: Julie Callahan and Michael Morris (both Jessie Beck Parents) have been busy building away and in the very near future, we will launch our very own PFA website and hopefully be able to streamline communications, donations, and tech-savviness! Thanks to both of them for all their time and efforts getting this off the ground!

Revitalization Update- Garage Sale: In an effort to help the teachers, we are holding an all-school Garage Sale. This will be a fun, community building event that teachers, staff, students, and families can all participate in. Lanny has agreed to chair the new Garage Sale Committee, so please contact her if you are interested in helping with planning and organizing. Start gathering your gently used items! More details to follow.

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We also are looking into getting a storage unit for the teachers to store their classroom items over the summer. If you have any insight into the storage world, please let us know.

This month I would like to express our appreciation to **Learning Express** for donating the gift cards used as prizes for the Spell-a-thon, and the **Law Office of Sinai, Schroeder, Mooney, Boetsch, Bradley, and Pace** for their generous donation of a Xerox copy machine. Please help me show our school's gratitude and remember to thank our community supporters whenever you are in contact with them!

The PFA General Meeting will be held Feb. 2 at 6:30 pm instead of the 2nd Thursday of the month due to another meeting in the Multi-Purpose room on the 9th. Officer Cloud will come and give us all the details of the **Walking School Bus** so please plan to attend. *Por favor venga a nuestra reunion general.*

Thank you and see you at school! *Gracias y los espero en la escuela!*

Hemos decidido realizar un Garage Sale para ayudar a la escuela. Todos pueden participar en este evento divertido, maestros, alumnos y padres. Lanny será la encargada de organizar el comité para hecer el garage sale posible, por favor pónganse en contacto con ella si quieren ayudar con la organización del evento. ¡Reúnan todas las cosas que puedan donar! Daremos detalles más adelante.

*~ Faith Osgard, PFA President
emosgard@msn.com*

From the **Principal**

Report cards came home last week and we are officially half way through the year. We have much to do in the next several months. There are many great events taking place including: **Science Fair Family Night** (February 23rd), **Dessert Night** (March 13th), **Jog A Thon** (April 20th), **Art BBQ** (May 11th) and Jessie Beck 's **FunD the Arts Auction and Dinner** (May 18th).

Academics are a strong focus as we are completing MAP testing and gearing up for the April CRT's. The teaching staff has been working hard within our Professional Learning Community to create and assess students on specific skills taken directly from the **Common Core State Standards**. The Common Core State Standards can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/>. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy (Common Core Mission Statement). Within our grade level teams, we analyze the data and then make instructional decisions based on the results. It is an amazing process and allows for not only student growth, but growth as professionals as well.

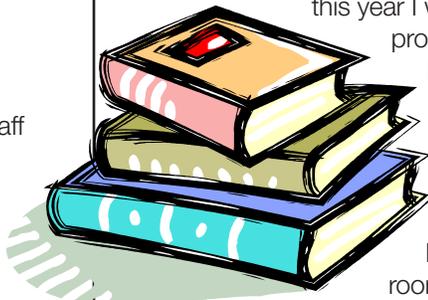
Revitalization is approaching fast. Following the last day of school, Jessie Beck will be closed down to all visitors and staff for the summer. In the place of students and teachers, will be crews of contractors and construction workers bringing our building to current standards. Internet infrastructure will be upgraded allowing for students and staff to have wireless access. The PFA is looking to purchase wireless carts of laptops which will allow students additional time working with technology and preparing as 21st century learners. The revitalization/modernization project involves cross disciplinary work. The work consists of removal of existing systems and replacing with new including windows, flooring, doors, restroom fixtures, sinks and faucets, sink cabinet bases, whiteboards, tackable surfacing, painting, cabinets and cubbies. The list goes on and on.

Thank you for your continued support of the students and staff at Jessie Beck. The success of our students/your child relies on the communication and support between both the school and home.

~ Jenni Anderson, Principal

Library News

Thank you for your support of our November Book Fair. **The Library earned \$1200 in cash and \$990 in Scholastic Dollars** which will be used to purchase library books. The cash profit is generally used to buy books and reading incentives and hire assembly speakers. However, this year I will be using most of the cash proceeds to purchase new mobile bookshelves for the library.



Why does the library need new bookshelves? During revitalization the library will be moved from its existing location to the Kindergarten room. Because that room is configured differently, mobile bookshelves will allow more efficient use of space.

In March **Grassroots Book Store** will sponsor a Book Fair with the proceeds going toward the bookshelves fund. I am excited to use a local company to assist me in this fundraiser. More information will be sent home next month.

With that in mind, please mark these upcoming Library events on your calendars:

MARCH 12-16 - GRASSROOTS BOOK FAIR
APRIL 2-6 READING WEEK

As always, encourage your students to keep reading. And, thank you for all your support of the Library.

~ Mrs. Cox, Librarian

Save the **Date!**

And We'll Save a Slice of Gourmet Pizza for You!

May 18, 2012

Our biggest event is just around the corner. This year we're featuring a live art auction, silent auction, and gourmet edible art - **MasterPizza's**. Look for details to come home with your student soon.



If you are interested in volunteering, or if you would like to donate an item for auction, please contact **Derek Vogel** at derek.vogel@gmail.com.

Art to Grow

2012 is off to a great start with exciting projects in the world of art at Jessie Beck! Our newest addition is the Jessie Beck Art Gallery prominently displayed in our multi purpose room. These gallery walls were designed and installed over the break as a permanent location to feature art created at our school. All classes will have the opportunity to showcase their work on a rotation basis. Special thanks go to **Tom Heywood**



for building and installing our gallery boards, **Tholl Fence Company's** donation of framing materials and to my painting partner, **Lanny Hershenow**. Come in and see the current exhibit created by **Mrs. Bland's student artists**.

In January, we kicked off our Collaborative Art Workshop for both our Staff and Art Volunteers. With the FUNd the ARTs event just around the corner, each class at Jessie Beck is brainstorming and preparing to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece involving all children. Art pieces include photography, painting, collage, clay and everything in between. The process of collaborative art is an amazing journey for both the student and adult involved. From concept to problem solving to triumph; each art piece is a reflection of that process. A preview of all art pieces will be on display one week before our big event at **Jessie Beck's Art on the Green Art Show & BBQ, May 11th**.

Looking for a way to get involved? We always have room and welcome new volunteers with or without art experience. Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of our Art to Grow Program.

~ Robin Heywood, Jessie Beck Art Coordinator

T-Shirt Clearance

There are some odds and ends of shirts for sale. Get em' while they last.

There are a few styles and sizes left - **Bear with sunglasses logo, Bear paw logo, Jessie Beck script logo, Sweatpants - Jessie Beck printed down leg.**

Prices are \$2 - \$7 each. Contact Lanny for available sizes and colors - lhershenow@washoe.k12.nv.us.

Special Thanks

Please remember to patronize our gracious donors and partners.

El Adobe

Learning Express

(Spell-a-thon Gift Cards)

Reno Bighorns

(PE Teacher Fundraiser)

Tom Heywood & Tholl Fence

(Art Gallery)

**Law Office of Sinai, Schroeder,
Mooney, Boetsch, Bradley, & Pace**

(Donation of Copier)

Whole Foods

Hamilton Solar

DRI's Green Power Program

ITS Logistics

Reno Green

(Go Green Club Denim Drive)

Join Beck PFA and Save!

It's never too late to join, and if you join now, you'll

**save \$5 on admission to the annual
FUNd the ARTs event.**

The \$15 Family or \$7 Staff membership gets you a school directory, listing all students at Jessie Beck, a vote on important issues concerning the school, and discounts on events and activities.

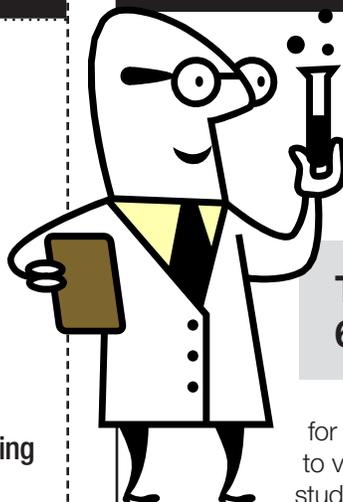
Membership forms are available in the office.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 2.....PFA Meeting (6:30)
Feb. 6.....El Adobe Night
Feb. 9.....Parent University (6-7:30)
Feb. 20.....President's Day - No School
Feb. 21.....Skate Night (5:30-7:30)
Feb. 22.....Science Fair Set-up
Feb. 23.....Science Fair Family Night (6-8:00)
Mar. 5.....El Adobe Night
Mar. 7.....No Early Release - High School Testing
Mar. 8.....PFA Meeting (6:30)
Mar. 11.....Daylight Savings Begins
(Spring Forward 1 hour)
Mar. 13.....Dessert Night
Mar. 17.....St. Patrick's Day

Early Release - Every Wednesday at 2:15, except as noted above

Science Fair 2012



The Jessie Beck Elementary School Science Fair 2012 is just around the corner! We are so very proud of our many young scientists each year who make amazing discoveries. Please join us on -

**Thursday, February 23rd
6 - 8 p.m.**

for our family night and an opportunity to view the projects and celebrate each student's entry.

New this year to our fair:

- "Student Choice Awards" which will be presented following our student body selection as to the "Best Scientific Method," "Best Demonstration," and "Most Amazing Invention" projects entered;
- Sierra Nevada Journeys will be visiting with a special hands-on activity for our students! The students will compete by building a tower with a goal of construction to withstand an earthquake!

We look forward to seeing each student's entry and to seeing you the 23rd!

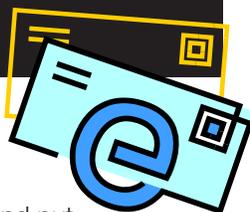
Important Deadline Dates for the fair:

- January 31st - Science Fair Board order form and monies due
- February 3rd - Science Fair Entry form due to the classroom teachers
- February 3rd - IRB form & Participants form due (this Institutional Review Board form is due if the student is using a live subject for their project (i.e. which toy does my pet prefer?) as well as a signed permission slip from each participant
- February 17th - Completed project due in the student's classroom
- February 22nd - Science fair set up and judging
- February 23rd - Family Night for the Jessie Beck Elementary School Science Fair from 6 to 8 p.m. to be held in the multipurpose room, library, and specific teacher classrooms for the student activity.

*Any questions or concerns, please contact
Ms. Serpa or Dr. Brock*

Paper Opt-Out

If you would rather receive "The Bear Facts" via email than paper copy, please follow these simple directions: Send an e-mail to beckpfa@gmail.com and put "opt-out of paper newsletter" in the subject line. In the body of the e-mail, include your name, your child(s) name and their teacher. Opting-out is a great way to save on paper and printing costs. Thank you.



~ Jessie Beck PFA

Jessie Beck Elementary School

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