

The Bear Facts

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

PFA News

Can you believe the year is half over? My sixth grade daughter will be leaving Jessie Beck at the end of the year. It seems like a blink ago that she was in Mrs. Thaxton's first grade class!

Speaking of time flying by, the past couple months have been a blur. But there are lots of things going on, including the recent BIG NEWS that Jessie Beck earned a **5-Star Rating** from the school district. I hope you'll take a few minutes, and personally thank your child's teacher for making Jessie Beck one of the best schools in the state.

Thank you teachers and staff!

Meetings

Please note that the next PFA general meeting is **Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 6:30 pm**. We changed the day to Tuesday so all you love birds can celebrate Valentines Day on Thursday.

Aaron Grossman will be our guest speaker, and he will be discussing Common Core Standards, and how they are changing instruction at Jessie Beck and the district.

Please plan to attend!

Events

Math-a-thon - Testing begins tomorrow. Please plan to participate in this important fundraiser. See inside for details.

Science Fair, Feb. 28, 6-8:00 pm - Sierra Nevada Journeys will once again be doing a hands-on project. This year it's a bridge-building competition. Stop by Dr. Brock's room to participate. **We need judges!** Please contact **Mischelle Leach, Ryan Brock**, or **Ed Thomas** if you can help. See page 4 for details.

Family Archery Nite, Monday, Feb. 11, 6-8:00 pm at Wasting Arrows Indoor Archery Range - Introduce your family to one of the oldest Olympic sports. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a new sport that the whole family can participate in. See page 3 for details.

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Fund the Arts Auction and Dinner, May 17 - It's just around the corner, so make sure you save the date!

News

6th grade party - Chana Wilhite and committee are doing a fantastic job raising money for the end of year party. They are holding a Bake Sale on February 8th and Crazy Sock Day on February 22nd. Encourage your kids to participate.

Science Coordinator - Faith Osgard has been busy inventorying, organizing and re-stocking science supplies and working with teachers, district personnel, parents, and Sierra Nevada Journeys to bring more science into the classrooms. Contact Faith if you would like to get involved - emosgard@smn.com.

Fundraising and Thanks

Please remember to save your **Box Tops** and **Labels**, and turn them in. It means easy money for Jessie Beck. When shopping online, please remember to use **iGive** (www.iGive.com). And don't forget to use your **SaveMart** card and **Raley's Something Extra** number when buying groceries.

And please remember to say thank you to our generous partners **El Adobe, 775 Gastropub**, and all those who donate throughout the year, by buying their products and supporting their businesses.

And finally, be sure to use our web site for updates and information - www.jessiebeckpfa.com.

~ **Derek Vogel, PFA President**
derek.vogel@gmail.com

From the **Principal**

Jessie Beck parents and families,

We are officially halfway through the school year. We have accomplished a lot and have much more to do before we end this year. I wanted to touch bases with you on a few items.

The first is school safety. We have formed a small committee made up of staff and a small group of parents. This committee has met once and made recommendations as to increasing the safety in our school. We will continue to revisit this on a regular basis and implement suggestions as appropriate. It is important that all parents and visitors realize that they must sign in at the office between the hours of 9 and 3. If a child arrives at school after 9:00, parents will be asked to leave them at the front doors. This is both for safety and to help protect the classroom from disruptions that take away from students learning time.

The second bit of information I need to share with you is that Jessie Beck was recognized recently as a **5 star school**. The district is moving to a very different accountability model looking at many different areas of performance. Student growth plays heavily into this as does: proficiency, parent involvement and student engagement. Congratulations to our amazing staff and talented students on their accomplishment.

Finally, it is my hope that by moving to less frequent PFA meetings, we can increase our parent involvement/attendance. Please join us on **Tuesday, Feb. 12th** for our meeting. **Aaron Grossman** will be presenting on Common Core State Standards and the difference that they are making in teaching and learning. He is an expert in the field and a great asset at Jessie Beck!

Our Two Way Immersion program continues to grow and do well now into 4th grade. The TWI team has been given the opportunity to attend a national conference on bilingual education in February and we hope to bring back many great ideas. The school district will also be working with a consultant at the end of the month to analyze our programs and give us useful feedback about what we can do to make improvements. I am very excited to be having important conversations at the district level about TWI.

Thank you for all that you do to help us at school and keep the connection strong with students home. Jessie Beck is an amazing place because of our dedicated staff, present parents and attentive students. No amount of help is too small. Please be sure to keep in touch with your classroom teacher to see what you can do to help out. There is always something...

~ Jenni Anderson, Principal

Math-a-Thon

Get Ready, Get Set, it's the 2013 MATH-A-THON PFA Fundraiser!

The dates are set and the pledge packets with detailed information about the Math-A-Thon went home on Thursday, January 24.

This year we are raising money to provide tools necessary to teach our children, such as science supplies, computers, library books, art supplies and physical education supplies.



Math Test - Friday, February 8

Money Due - Wednesday, February 20

The children will take a math test on **Friday, February 8**, and then will be ready to collect on their pledges! All money is due back **Wednesday, February 20**. Prizes available for collecting money include popcorn parties, Gift Certificates and a special lunch with Mrs. Anderson.

Please contact **Karen Bradley** at kebnerbradley@nvcbell.net or **Shannon Lotito** at shannonlotito@gmail.com with any questions and many thanks for your support of the 2013 MATH-A-THON!

Save the **Date!**

May 17, 2013

Our biggest event is just around the corner. The live art auction is back this year, as well as the silent auction. 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 **Fong Menante** at fong@jpmenante.com or **Laurie Lough** at larsiel@gmail.com.



Art to **Grow**

Art to Grow is Rocking 2013!

2013 is off to a great start with exciting projects in the world of art at Jessie Beck! We have new works of art on the Jessie Beck Art Gallery. Current exhibits are brought to you by Mrs. Schmidt's and Mrs. Haygood's classes. We invite to you to stop by and take a peak.



We kicked off our **Annual 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 10th**. This year is sure exhibit the best of the Jessie Beck Art experience!

If you are looking for a way to get involved to make a difference at our school; become an art volunteer. 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

Volunteer of the Month

Jessie Beck events and activities are successful because of our amazing volunteers.

**Karen Bradley,
Shannon Lotito**
for Math-a-thon

This is Karen's LAST Math-a-thon, so please say a special thanks to her for her years of service.

Thank you!

Family **Archery Night**

Looking for a fun family activity to do on the dark evenings this winter? Introduce your family to the fantastic sport of archery, one of the oldest Olympic sports.

Jessie Beck Elementary School has teamed up with the new indoor archery facility Wasting Arrows (<http://wastingarrows.com>) to offer a family night of fun!

When: Monday, February 11th 6:00-8:00 PM

Where: Wasting Arrows Indoor Archery Range
8975 Double Diamond Parkway, Ste. A8 Reno, NV

Cost: \$12 per person

Initial visit includes: lesson, bow/arrow rental, range time

Sign up in advance:

Participants must sign up and pay in advance with Dr. Brock in room C6.

Simply make checks payable to Wasting Arrows for \$12 a person. Make sure to let Dr. Brock know the names of the people who will participate.

Science **Coordinator**

In response to parents' preference and in collaboration with teachers and Mrs. Anderson, Faith Osgard has started coordinating our new Science Program.

Following is a list of items needed to stock the program:

empty, washed 2 liter plastic bottles, glass jars with lids, large mixing bowls, measuring spoons, modeling clay, wire strainers, baking soda, cornstarch, vinegar, food coloring, plastic wrap, paper towels, Ziploc bags, plastic ice trays, D-size batteries, plant seeds, potting soil, large plant pots, small portable freezer, earthquake table, 20 small clear plastic bins with lids or drawer sets, any science equipment (beakers, test tubes, flasks, petri dishes, etc.).

Please bring any items you may want to donate to the Boiler Room, labeled "Science" and leave your contact information if you would like a tax receipt. Cash donations are also appreciated for perishable supplies and other necessities – go to www.jessiebeckpfa.com to donate via our PayPal account, or send a check to Jessie Beck PFA. Please make sure to designate your donation for "Science". Thank you.

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 8.....Math-a-thon Testing Begins
 - Feb. 12.....PFA Meeting (6:30)
 - Feb. 18.....President's Day - No School
 - Feb. 27.....Science Fair Set-up
 - Feb. 28.....Science Fair Family Night (6-8:00)
 - Mar. 4.....El Adobe Night
 - Mar. 6.....No Early Release - High School Testing
 - Mar. 10.....Daylight Savings Begins
(Spring Forward 1 hour)
 - Mar. 14.....PFA Meeting (6:30)
 - Mar. 17.....St. Patrick's Day
 - Mar. 19.....Dessert Night
 - Mar. 21.....Spring Pictures
 - Mar. 26.....Skate Night
- Early Release - Every Wednesday at 2:15, except as noted above**



Science Fair 2013



The Jessie Beck Elementary School Science Fair 2013 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 28th
6 - 8 p.m.**

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

Returning 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 bridge with a goal of construction to withstand an earthquake!

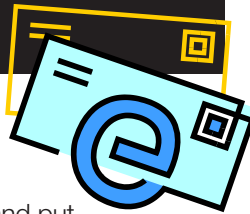
We look forward to seeing each student's entry and to seeing you the 28th!

Important Deadline Dates for the fair:

- February 21 - Completed project due in the student's classroom
- February 27nd - Science fair set up and judging
- February 28rd - 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
Mischelle Leach 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

1900 Sharon Way, Reno, NV 89509
Phone: 689-2520 Fax: 689-2598
www.washoecountyschools.org/beck

Absence Line: 689-2520

Principal: Jenni Anderson
email: jaanderson@washoeschools.net

Secretary: Marianne Norwich
email: mnorwich@washoe.k12.nv.us

SCIENCE FAIR ECONOBOARDS BOARDS AVAILABLE

We have received a large order of econoboards in various colors.

If anyone is still in need of a board, you may purchase the board for \$4.00.