

The Bear Facts

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

PFA News

Congratulations to all the students and teachers for making it to the end of yet another grading period! **Dessert Night** was a huge success and so much fun! Thank you to **Mischelle Leach, Lanny**, and everyone who helped to make it a great evening! Please make an effort to appreciate **Tahoe Creamery, Tami Norcross** for donating all the yummy ice cream for the event. You can find locations and check them out on their website <http://tahoecreamery.com/locations.html>. Thank you Tahoe Creamery!

Our **Walking School Bus** has started making its rounds thanks to **Laurie Lough** and bus "drivers": **Alissa Turner, Heather Butler, Heidi Cooper-Panrucker, Desiree Bowlen**, and **Kathryn Milliken**. Please contact Laurie if you/your child would like to start walking or if you need more information about this program. We hope the routes will be able to expand once the program gets more established.

The biggest Jessie Beck fundraiser is a month away! **FUND the Arts Auction and Dinner** is on Friday, May 18th. If you have not attended this event in past years, please plan to come and have a really fun evening with fellow Jessie Beck parents and staff. It is an adult-only event with dinner and cocktails, "funky-fresh" fun in the historical California Building at Idlewild Park. Derek Vogel and the Auction Committee are planning a different twist this year with gourmet **MasterPizzas** from **Slice of the Peak** for dinner; and the collaborative art pieces from each classroom will sell in a live auction for the first time! **Robin Heywood** and the amazing parent art volunteers are frantic right now trying to get the class masterpieces complete and ready for the big Gala! I am amazed each year at the art that started this whole event and even more so at the process by which the kids create these masterpieces. Although I consider myself a math and science person, Art in the classroom is so important on so many different levels and our Art Program is one of the best things about Jessie Beck. I am proud to be a PFA supporter as well as an active participant in the Art Program and I hope to see you at the event!

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PFA Board Elections will be held this month at our General Meeting, **Thursday, April 19th 6:30 PM**. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to vote, look for the absentee ballots that will be available the first day after Spring Break. You must be a PFA Member in order to vote.

Some of the teachers were able to "touch and feel" the **Intel Clamshell** laptop computers last month and provided PFA positive feedback. This is good news for our mobile computer cart project because these Clamshells are half the price of a regular laptop and should meet the classroom needs! With the lower price, we are hoping to be able to afford one cart of 30 laptops per building. We are researching cart options now. **Mark Skoff** a teacher at Veterans Elementary and District "tech guy" was instrumental in saving us thousands of dollars on this project.

Jog-A-Thon is coming up April 20th. Please look for information on this coming home soon. As always, if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or other feedback, please contact me or another Board Member anytime. We have a lot of work still to do till the end of the year, and need your help.

Have a great Spring Break and hope to see you at our next General Meeting, Thursday April 19th at 6:30.

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

From the Principal

As April is upon us, I have definitely starting thinking about and planning for the 2012-13 school year. A question that has come up several times is how I will be handling parent requests. Before I share with you my decision, I would like for you to understand a couple of changes that are taking place in Washoe County School District. For the next school year, among many other changes, teachers will be evaluated using an updated and modified evaluation tool. This tool will not only encourage a continuing move towards increased student performance, but teacher performance as well. Nevada legislature last year determined that data will be tied in as part of each teacher evaluation as well. This focus on data supports my belief in balanced classrooms. Balanced classrooms means, there is an even mixture of students based on performance, demographics, and boys/girls.

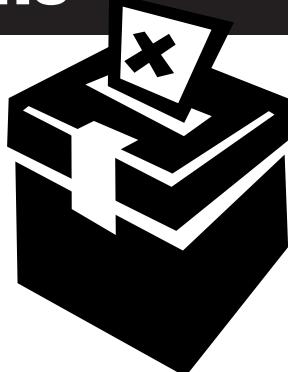
This year at Jessie Beck, I asked teachers to modify their intervention/enrichment blocks to allow for sharing of students between classes. This change meant that students didn't stay with the same teacher all day long as they previously had. This format for intervention/enrichment will continue into the 2012-13 school year.

As far as teacher requests are concerned, a form can be picked up by parents from the office and needs to be returned by **April 30th**. Our first priority will be to create balanced and appropriate classrooms. I will rely on the current year grade level team to ensure that we are in fact balancing classes and taking into account student personalities and relationships. My intention is to also be able to give you the name of your next year teacher with your final report card for the year.

~ Jenni Anderson, Principal

PFA Elections

We will be holding annual elections of PFA officers for the 2012-13 school year during the April General Membership meeting, **Thursday April 19, at 6:30 pm**. You must be a PFA member to vote, and you can sign up that night.



Library News

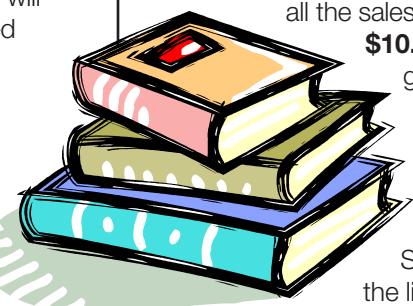
YOU DID IT AGAIN! YOU ARE AMAZING, ASTOUNDING, MARVELOUS, FABULOUS, STUPENDOUS, AND GENEROUS! THANK YOU JESSIE BECK FAMILIES!

Your overwhelming support of our **Grassroots Books Book Fair** made it a huge success. The library profit from all the sales was **\$691.97**, plus we received a

\$10.00 credit towards the purchase of

gently used books from their store.

All the proceeds from this Fair will go towards purchasing mobile book shelves for our new library location.



Speaking of moving, in order to get the library packed up and ready for revitalization, I will be closing the library earlier than usual. I don't have the exact date yet, but it will be sometime in May. So, I'm asking that you help your students keep track of all the library books they have checked out and make sure they are returned on time. If a book is lost, your student is responsible for the cost of the book or for a replacement book. Thanks for helping me with this.

~ Mrs. Cox, Librarian

Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus is off to a great start!



On Monday, March 26, we made our maiden voyage to school with the help of three news crews (channels 4, 11, and 27)! Thanks to all the parents and kids who are already participating and to our principal, Jenni Anderson, and the rest of the teachers and staff for their support. Any questions, comments, or offers to volunteer can be directed to **Laurie Lough**, WSB Parent Coordinator, at LarsieL@gmail.com. Come walk with us!



Art to **Grow**

Make it a date with Art!

Mark your calendars for a very special event **Friday, May 11th** at Jessie Beck. It's our **Art on the Green, Annual Art Show & BBQ** and your chance for families and friends to stroll our campus and take in all the amazing art that is created at our school! Bring a lunch or purchase one and enjoy on the green with your children. All attending will have an opportunity to see the phenomenal collaborative art projects that will be on auction at our **FUND the ARTs** the following Friday. More information to come as we get closer.

Keep creating!

~ Robin Heywood, Jessie Beck Art Coordinator

Special **Thanks**

Please remember to patronize our gracious donors and partners.

**El Adobe
Tahoe Creamery
Whole Foods
Silver Peak Restaurant & Brewery
Total Wine and More
Sierra Meat**

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.

FUND the **ARTs**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF



May 18, 2012

5:30 - 9:30 pm

An Evening of Art, Auctions & Gourmet Pizza

California Building - Idlewild Park



Don't Miss the 5th Annual FUND the ARTs Auction and Dinner!

This adults-only event features the artwork of Jessie Beck's talented students, a silent auction, food music and fun.

This year we're also featuring edible art - **Gourmet Master Pizzas**, created especially for the event by **Silver Peak** owner and chef, **David Silverman**.

But there's much more.

Tickets go on sale this week, and look for your invitation with details coming home with your student this week.

If you would like to donate an item for auction, please contact **Lanny Hershenson** at l hershenow@washoe.k12.nv.us. If you would like to volunteer during the event, contact **Derek Vogel** at derek.vogel@gmail.com.

Dates to Remember

April 8 Easter Sunday
April 9-13 Spring Break - No School
April 17 Skate Night (5:30-7:30)
April 19 PFA Meeting (6:30)
April 20 Jog-a-Thon
April 22 Earth Day
Aprio 30 New Kindergarten
Two-way Immersion Info Night
April 30-May4.....CRT's (Grades 3-6)
May 5 Cinco de Mayo
May 7 El Adobe Night
May 8 National Teacher Day
May 10 PFA Meeting (6:30)
May 11 Art on the Green BBQ
Early Release - Every Wednesday at 2:15, except as noted above

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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Absence Line: 689-2520

Principal: Jenni Anderson
email: jaanderson@washoeschools.net

Secretary: Marianne Norwiche
email: mnorwiche@washoe.k12.nv.us

Jog-a-Thon

Get your running shoes out!

Jesse Beck's jog-a-thon is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for **Friday, April 20th**. Great prizes!!! Look for sponsor envelopes and more information to come home shortly. Let's have fun and make this the best jog-a-thon ever!!!!

~ The Jog-a-Thon Committee

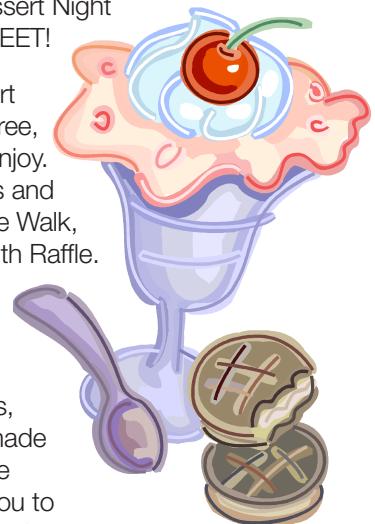


Dessert Night

DESSERT NIGHT WAS SWEET!!!

Jessie Beck held its 2012 Dessert Night on March 13th and it was SWEET!

An old school tradition, Dessert Night is just a fun, practically free, social evening for families to enjoy. We had free dessert – cookies and ice cream – for everyone, Cake Walk, BINGO, and a Share the Wealth Raffle. In addition, we partnered with the library for our Grassroots Book Fair.



Thank you to all the organizers, bakers, and volunteers who made this old-fashioned night a huge success! And a huge thank you to **Tahoe Creamery** for donating the delicious ice cream!

Already licking my lips and looking forward to next year!

~ Mischelle Leach, Dessert Night Chair