

The Bear Facts

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

PFA News

Of Fundraisers and Carrots

It's May, a tenuous month at best from a PFA president's viewpoint. Fund the Arts occurs this month, which provides the lion's share of our money for the next year. The list of what's needed around Jessie Beck never seems to get any shorter, so a good night is always a blessing. The opposite, I don't want to even think about.

To distract myself from such weighty matters, I've taken to pondering our new school garden. It's a fantastic garden in every way. I remember my own first garden, not much bigger than a dining room table. When I couldn't stand the wait any longer I yanked up the first of my garden progeny, a fat little carrot. It tasted like none I'd ever had: there was the grittiness of the dirt and a sweetness that I didn't think carrots could possess. I have to tell you, that was one inspirational carrot. Maybe I am who I am because of that carrot. Probably not, but I like to think that carrot had a little say in the matter.

In the end, I think that might be why we do what we do as parents and faculty members. In some way, we hope to give our kids a chance to experience the things that meant something to us, the things that in small ways shaped us into who we are. If it's a carrot, so be it.

P.S. If there are any carrots planted, I'd like to claim one now.

Scott Callahan
PFA Co-President

May 2015

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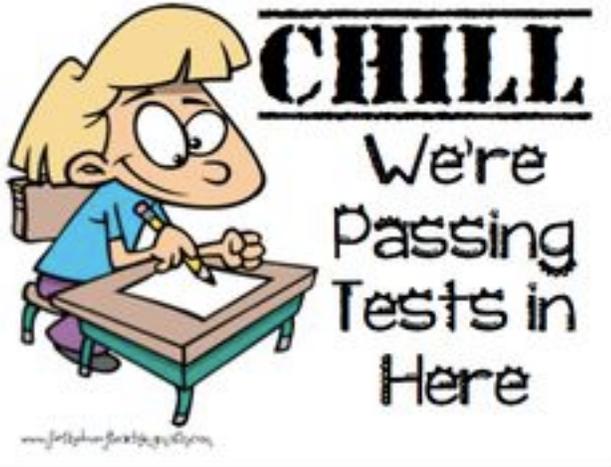


Kindergarten Registration

Online Kindergarten registration coincides with 1st-6th grade at the elementary schools. After completing online registration for your students who already attend Jessie Beck, you will ADD a student for Kindergarten. Parents will then submit documents required by the school into the office in order to complete their enrollment. These document include: the child's original birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residence, i.e., power bill.

If you have any questions concerning registration, please feel free to contact the office at (775) 689-2520.

Principal's Pen

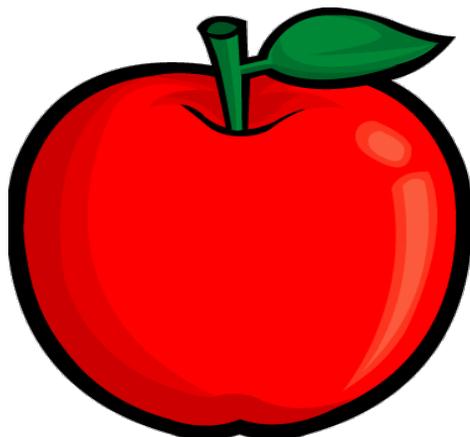


SBAC testing should be complete, with the exception of a few make-ups, by May 8th. The teachers and the students have done a fantastic job. Nicole, our Computer Tech, was an invaluable asset. Thank you, parents, for your patience and understanding during the weeks of testing when there was limited access to the school.

We are very hopeful that we will be offering an All Day Tuition Based TWI and an All Day English only Tuition Based Kindergarten. We will also have a half-day kindergarten. We should be able to confirm all kindergarten classes by the end of May.

On May 15th Parent Input forms for Student Placement for the 2015/2016 school year will be available in the office. They must be returned no later than 12:00/noon on May 27th. (This is a change)

Thank you,
Ruth Williams



Counselor's Corner

With testing underway at Jessie Beck, I would like to share an idea from Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck. Dr. Dweck's research is related to our interest and ability to tackle tough problems. In one of Dweck's studies, children who were praised for being smart chose to complete easier puzzles. The praise given to those students created a **fixed mindset** where the children worked to maintain the researcher's perception of them as smart. In contrast, children who were praised for working hard believed that they had the ability to solve puzzles that may be quite difficult for them. Those children were said to have a **growth mindset**.

We should carefully consider our own responses to kids' successes and challenges. Statements like "You're so smart!" and "That test was too hard" foster a fixed mindset in which a child might become discouraged by anything less than perfection, lose motivation to keep trying to do better, or give up altogether. However, we can encourage a growth mindset in children by acknowledging the effort they have put forth as part of the learning process. Supporting development of a growth mindset helps children to work hard even when tasks become more difficult, to be resilient even when they don't do well, and to set and achieve more substantial goals. You can find more information about Dr. Dweck and her research at <http://mindsetonline.com/index.html>, or by searching "Carol Dweck" at www.youtube.com.

Robyn Davis
Counselor

FUNd the ARTs

There's still time to buy your tickets for the May 15 FUNd The Arts' dinner. Come enjoy food and drinks with Beck parents and staff. In addition to the hosted wine and beer, there will



be a premium wine bar where you will be able to purchase a glass of California's finest red or white wines. The food will be fantastic with catering by several long time Jessie Beck supporters. All this will lead up to the silent and live

auction. In addition to the priceless art pieces created by the students of Jessie Beck, there are over 100 great items to bid on and win. Disneyland tickets, Reno Aces luxury suite, a \$1,000 gift certificate from Closets By Design, and a Della Santa bicycle frame custom built for the high bidder by Reno's own Roland Della Santa, just to name a few. You can go to the PFA website (jessiebeckpfa.com) to see a list of even more items.

Tickets will be sold for \$45 in front of the school from 2:45 to 3:15 on Monday, May 11 and Tuesday, May 12, and from 2:00 – 2:30 on Wednesday, May 13. Tickets will also be available for \$60 at the door.

For more information, please visit the website or if you have additional questions, you can email us at beckpfa@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Fund the Arts Committee

Art to Grow

Thank you to all those who attended our annual strolling Art Show on Wednesday, May 6th. Families came and enjoyed art represented from every student in every class during normal lunch period(s). Lunch on the green with children and parents and teachers was a wonderful experience. It was visual delight for all to enjoy! Attendees had a chance to preview all of the wonderful collaborative art pieces before they are up for auction at FUNd the ARTs on May 15.

As we round out the year, I would like to extend a very special thank you to all our teachers and volunteer art instructors for yet another AMAZING journey of art discovery and exploration! This year Jessie Beck's Art to Grow program had over forty-five art volunteer instructors assisting, teaching and enriching our love of art at Jessie Beck. Thank you for all you do and for making the difference at our school and in our community.

Robin Heywood
Jessie Beck Art Coordinator

Natalie Berumen Scholarship

Thank you for making our **El Adobe** nights a huge success this year. Because of that, we were able to give out 5 scholarships to Reno High graduating seniors who are all former Jessie Beck students. Congratulations to this year's Natalia Berumen Scholarship winners:

Mikaella Alvarez
Sam Auld
Annie Rose Healion
Nicholas Martin
Jessie Montgomery

The Berumen family presented each of these seniors with a check for \$500 on May 4th at our monthly El Adobe Night.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
The Natalia Berumen Scholarship Fund Committee

Jessie Beck Garden



Jessie Beck Garden Grows

Last month a small group of parents and teachers got together and re-built our JB Garden! Thank you to Ms. Harper, Ms. York, Dr. and Dr. & Dylan Brock, Robert Butler of Green Earth Landscaping and son, Ben, Kalani and Jenny Kanekoa, Scott and Whitney Weed, Johathan and Emily Cliff, Jill and Ben Rogers, Scott, Seth and Lewis Callahan, Julie Cardinalli, Jessica, Scott and Eric Osgard for helping to build the next Jessie Beck Legacy! Thank you also to Eric and Kendra Thompson of Parker Landscapes for donating the concrete bricks, Paris of Reno Rock for helping us out with the triple mix and seat rocks, and John Aramini and Western Nevada Supply for donating the irrigation supplies.

A few classes have already begun planting in the new beds, and we will be looking for helpers over the summer to keep the garden growing. Since this is a new activity for the school in recent years, it is a great time to get involved! Please send me an email if you are interested in getting involved in the planning for next year and/or helping over the summer.

Garden benefits to our kids: fresh air, science, patience, discovery, wonder, and hands-on learning. Come grow with us!

Faith Osgard, JB Garden Committee Chair
emosgard@msn.com

Dates to Remember

- May 11.....6th Grade Galena Creek Park Field Trip
- May 15.....FUNd the ARTS Night
- May 21.....5th Grade Music Performance 2:15
- May 25.....Memorial Day (no school)
- May 28.....4th Grade Music Performance 2:15
- June 8.....6th Grade Music Performance 11:00
- June 9.....PFA General Meeting 8:15
- June 11.....All School Field Day
- June 12.....Last Day of School

Early Release on Wednesdays

Spirit Fridays! Wear your gear weekly!



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 Elementary School

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