

The Bear Facts

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

PFA News

Phew! That was a busy month or so: Science Fair, Dessert Night, plus all the other day-to-day stuff that goes on PFA-wise. I'd normally say it's time for a break, but we still have playground equipment coming soon, a garden to build, Spell-A-Thon, Fund the Arts and more. You are certainly getting your money's worth out of your 2014-15 PFA board, chairs, and volunteers. If you see them, give them a pat on the back. They certainly deserve it!

Budget-wise, we're just about where we need to be, but that doesn't mean that we're going to be taking it easy. Not by any stretch. Every extra cent we earn is as good as spent to keep copy machines copying, sprinklers sprinkling and kilns kilning (ok, so that's not a word, but you get the point). Thank you for your continued and generous support. Jessie Beck is the award-winning school it is because of your enthusiasm and donations.
~Scott Callahan, PFA President

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 documents include: the child's original birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residence, i.e., power bill. Please note: Schools will accept registration paperwork beginning the first week of March. If you have any questions concerning registration, please feel free to contact the office at 689-2520.

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Reading Week

READING WEEK IS COMING!
MARCH 16-20. The highlight of the week will be our assemblies on Tuesday, March 17. World renowned Magician and Author, Justin Impossible, will be visiting Jessie Beck and sharing his magic tricks and emphasizing the importance of reading and writing.

He is selling his award winning picture book "The Amazing Alexander" for \$10.00 (It is selling for \$20.00 at Barnes and Noble.) Pre-order forms went home on March 5. If you want to purchase this book, please return the order form with cash only to your student(s) teacher by March 16. Justin will autograph each book and we will distribute them the day after the assembly.

More information on all the Reading Week activities will be sent home on March 12.

Mrs. Cox,
Librarian

Principal's Pen

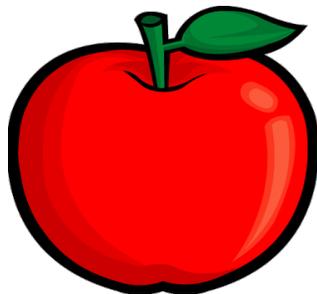
We have received our **teaching allocations** for the 2015/2016 school year. We did not receive full day kindergarten allocations and we will not be offering Two Way Immersion kindergarten. Currently, we can only sign up students for half-day kindergarten sessions. I will release teaching assignments as soon as the WCSD transfer/overage process is complete.

SBAC testing (State Mandated testing) for Grades 3-6 will begin on April 20th and continue through May 8th. I will provide the exact testing schedule to teachers as soon as it is approved.

Parent Input for Student Placement forms for the 2015/2016 school year will be available on May 15th in the office for pick up. This is not mandatory. It is totally optional to fill out the form. The forms must be returned no later than May 27th at 3:30. Parents must pick the form up in the office and must return it to the office. A separate form for each child is necessary.

(Siblings have their own form. Twins have their own forms). While we take your input seriously, there are no guarantees for placement. Do not make an assumption that because you have had a conversation with your child's teacher or because you have had a conversation with me that you do not need to write it down. Please put the educational needs of your child in writing.

By Ruth Williams



Fund the ARTs

Mark your calendars and save the date for Jessie Beck's biggest fund raising event, FUNd the Arts. This year it will be on Friday evening, May 15, 2015. Planning for the event is well under way, and more detailed information will be available soon. We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful Beck families there!

Counselor's Corner

Hello Jessie Beck families! I hope this letter finds you all doing well. In March and April I'll be teaching Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (SHARE) to 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. *The goals of comprehensive sexuality education are to help young people gain a positive view of sexuality and to provide them with developmentally appropriate and medically accurate information about their sex lives now and in the future.* You can find more information about SHARE by going to www.washoeschools.net and searching the term "SHARE resources." I encourage all parents of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders to download and read the Parent Handbook. It is a great resource for talking to your kids before and after they participate in the SHARE program. You can also review the exact lesson plans that I will be teaching. Keep an eye out for parent permission forms, as students must have parent/guardian approval to participate in at least one of the lessons that is included in the SHARE program. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns that I can help with. You can get in touch with me at the main number at Jessie Beck, 689-2520, or via email at redavis@washoeschools.net. I look forward to speaking with you soon!

-Robyn Davis

Scarecrow Kindergarten Winners

In the November newsletter, the winners of the Kindergarten coloring contest were not listed. Please accept our apologies!

Coloring:

- 1st – Allison Boyce
- 2nd – Konnor Hammons
- 3rd – Bear Farrimond

Extra Coloring:

- 1st – Dylan Brock
- 2nd – Molly Raymond
- 3rd – Isabella Minter

Science Fair Success

Science Fair at The Discovery!

My goals for the Science Fair this year were very simple: to make Science a bigger deal at Jessie Beck, to teach students that science is fun and that they can do it. Based on the feedback I have gotten since the event, and just my anecdotal observations throughout the evening, we exceeded my goals better than I could have ever imagined! The kids were excited about science and I am still smiling about their successes and enthusiasm.

I had the most amazing team that pulled this event together, THANK YOU:

Fong Menante, Mrs. Elliott, Dr. Brock, Ms. Harper, Mrs. Champagne, Ed Thomas, Lanny Hershenow, Ms. York, Marin Pilloud, Patty Hammons, Amanda Stachlewitz, Lisa Romero-Camero, Jeanne Monier, Reagan Means, Mrs. Reynolds, Scott Callahan, JP Menante, Patrick Turner, Ethan Champagne, Colby Thomas, Shawnee Thomas.

Also, all behind the scenes, 17 judges volunteered their time the night before to judge the projects, THANK YOU TO THE JUDGES: Ed Thomas, Judge Coordinator
Allen Gray, Jeff Current, Eric Osgard, Scott Callahan, Kelly Rotter, Dr. Brock, George Perreault, Victoria Swenson, Andrew Hoskins, Aaron Ollivier, Amanda Williams, Marielle Black, Chris Maier, Kelly Heim, Phil Migliore, Amanda O'Neill.

Please visit the PFA website for a list of winners and Jessie Beck representatives at the Western Nevada Regional Science Fair March 25-26. www.jessiebeckpfa.com.

If you would like to provide feedback please email me at emosgard@msn.com.

Thank you also to all the teachers and parents who helped students with science projects.

~Faith Osgard
Science Fair Committee Chairperson

Art to Grow

The journey has begun! It is so exciting to see all the uniquely wonderful collaborative art projects coming to life. Each classroom is creatively working on their one-of-a-kind creations for our upcoming Big Event. Given the varied mediums, artist influence and overall enthusiasm, this year's FUNd the ARTs is sure to be a masterpiece.

We have a special treat this month with an extra Clay Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th from 3:15-4:30 in classroom C8. Special guest and local artist, Ann Cascarano, will be teaching an informative hands-on workshop on clay stamps & molds. Plan on attending if you are looking to try something new with clay? RSVP to robinheywood@sbcglobal.net.

Remember it's never too late to become an art volunteer instructor. No special training required, just your enthusiasm to get involved. Training, tools and guidance provided. :)

Robin Heywood
Jessie Beck Art Coordinator

Dessert Night Success

Thank you to all who were able to come out and make Jessie Beck's annual Dessert Night a success! Dessert night would not have been possible without all of the generous donations of sweet treats that helped make this night a delicious hit. We are so grateful to all who were able to contribute. Our deepest gratitude goes to all of you who were able to volunteer to help out with the event. We would also like to acknowledge Wells Fargo, Costco, and Save Mart for their generous donations toward making Dessert Night an evening of family fun. Thank you all!

With sincere appreciation,
Amanda Stachlewitz
Katie Nash-Minter

FREE Money For Our School

Labels for Education News:

Jessie Beck has redeemed its Labels for Education points and will be receiving some great merchandise soon! The Labels you have collected turned into:

- 16 Handbells and Deskbells for Music
- 12 Gator Skin 6" Softi Balls for the playground
- 4 10" Playground Balls
- 2 Tetherballs
- 4 Basketballs (official size)
- 6 Soccer Balls (youth size)
- 2 Soccer Balls (official size)
- 1 Football (official size)
- 3 Footballs (intermediate size)

Keep on collecting Box Tops and Labels for Education. We have two more contests this year held on Friday, April 17th and Friday, June 5th. If you would like to find out more about our "Free Money" Programs that give money or items back to Jessie Beck with no additional cost to you, go to www.jessiebeckpfa.com.

~Jeanne Monier, "Free Money" Coordinator

Playground Update

Upper grade students will finally be seeing some changes. A few pieces of playground equipment for the upper grade playground have been ordered. Installation date is not known at this time, but we will keep you updated as things progress.

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.

Dates to Remember

March 16-20.....	Reading Week
March 24.....	Art Workshop(3:15 C-8)
March 27.....	Report Cards Go Home
March 30-April 10.....	Spring Break
April 13.....	Classes Resume
April 28.....	PFA Meeting (8:15-Library)
May 4.....	El Adobe Night
May 15.....	FUNd the Arts

Early Release on Wednesdays

Spirit Fridays! Wear your gear weekly!

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you! Thank you!

The donations were fantastic. We never could have reached our goal, if it weren't for the wonderful support from the parents, staff and students at Jessie Beck. The response to the call for turkeys was unreal. In a matter of hours, we had a total of 43 turkeys. The extra turkeys were given out at Christmas. There are a few people that we must thank separately. The Wilhite Family for donating a total of 17 turkeys, Kelley Farrell from Conviction Martial Arts for donating the tubs (baskets) for the food and Morrey Distributing for the 25 cases of water. Monetary donations by the Higgins Family, the Means family, the Meier family and a \$500.00 Raley's gift card from the Meyer family were used to purchase items we needed to complete the baskets. The whole amount was not spent, so we will use that at a later date. Again, thanks to all for making it a very special Thanksgiving for the Jessie Beck Families.

Jessie Beck Elementary School

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