



# JICES December Newsletter 2009



## Words of Wisdom From Mrs. Berg

Dear Families of Students at JICES,

What is important at JICES? Well, what do we dedicate our time to?

We know our mandate is clear: we *have to make sure our students have the basic foundational skills in reading, writing, and math*. Our students **need** to be prepared to use their brains, knowledge, and skills well to be ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century requirements. Equally important, they need to have *strong character* to provide habits of good judgment in making ethical decisions: “character **is** destiny.” When JICES had not yet opened, we determined what our “critical paths” were. (See the “Critical Paths” insert on page 3.) The Critical Paths express the few goals that **MUST** be accomplished in elementary school to lay a strong foundation: they are ground zero.

We also believe that **music is important!** We certainly hope that you were able to join us last Wednesday evening for the Christmas-Holiday Concert showcasing our students’ musical achievements. Mr. Reed truly deserves HUGE commendations for the work he is doing with the students and the quality of music the grade levels and choirs have achieved. Parents have expressed to Mr. Reed how “exciting” the program was, a tribute to how confident the students were and their enthusiasm in the music and accompanying motions. A number of parents called the next morning just to say how great the whole program was. We greatly appreciate the encouragement!

We also hope you can join us on the Friday Morning Assemblies when different grade levels present combinations of the various things they have learned; whether geography, history, science, poetry, grammar, it is always impressive how their brains are growing. We also take time during the assemblies to recognize student achievement in excellent cursive or in math facts fluency. In fact, we recently had an all-time high when a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student created a new “club” – the “110’s Club” - when he did 110 division problems correctly in one minute.

At the Friday Assembly on January 14, we will honor the students who have been nominated by teachers for our Character Recognition Awards in demonstrating exemplary honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, and excellence. These students are chosen at the end of each quarter, and their pictures will be displayed in our lobby in the Character Posters until the next quarter begins.

We know parents have entrusted to us what is most precious to them – their children. Their education, character, and future is “what is important at JICES”: we want to be faithful to that charge.

Have a wonderful break, and we look forward to continuing our “critical paths” next year in 2010.

*Elizabeth Berg*  
Principal



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Just a reminder. . . There is **NO SCHOOL** on Friday, December 18, 2009



## Cold Weather Is Here...

Please be alert to any delays/cancellations due to weather by listening to the following radio stations and TV stations for current information:

**RADIO:** KRDO AM, KVOR AM, Q102.7 FM, Magic FM, KGFT, 100.7, KTLF 90.5

**TV:** KOAA 5/30, KKTV 11, KRDO 13

You may also call the ES Office and listen to the recording

302-9000



**NO AM Kindergarten on a 2 hour delay. 10:00 AM start time for grades 1-5 and Extended Day Kindergarten.**



## CSAP Countdown

Our Grade 3 classes will kick off our CSAP testing in reading on February 16, 2010.

Reading good stories and literature out loud to your children helps develop vocabulary comprehension skills as well as build good character values as you discuss what you read.

### CSAP

#### Testing Window

**Feb. 16-19**

3rd Gr. Reading

**March 8-19**

3rd-5th Gr.

## Lost and Found

**GLOVES, CAPS, KNEE PADS, JUMPERS, SKIRTS, UNIFORM SHIRTS, NICE HEAVY WINTER COATS, SWEATERS, HOODIES, ZIP SWEATSHIRTS LUNCH BOXES, WATER BOTTLES, GLASSES, JEWELRY**

**PLEASE stop by the lobby to check for any items that you might be missing. We will be taking all left over items to Goodwill!**

In compliance with federal and state regulation, please be informed that there are no known sources of asbestos containing materials in James Irwin Charter School buildings. Potential sources are properly sealed or covered to prevent the escape of asbestos fiber into the air. The asbestos management plan and the latest inspection results may be viewed at the JICS Business Office during normal business hours.

Check out our website [Jamesirwin.org](http://Jamesirwin.org) (look under the Elementary link).



# James Irwin Charter Elementary School



## Our Critical Paths to Success

### Literacy

- Reading accurately & fluently with strong comprehension
- Gaining knowledge and appreciation for our heritage and literature
- Writing with clarity, well-chosen vocabulary, and purpose

### Math Skills

- Fluency in basic skills • Developing effective conceptual ability
- Mastery and accuracy of math applications
- Confidence based on demonstrated competence

### Character

- Academic skills are supported by noble character and disciplines of **RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY**
- Learning the value and application of **HONESTY & INTEGRITY**
- Demonstration of **EXCELLENCE** in all efforts



# Upcoming Events... JICES Calendar

## December

Fri. Dec. 18 Staff Day – NO STUDENTS

## January

Mon. Jan. 4 Staff Day– NO STUDENTS

Tue. Jan. 5 Students return

Fri. Jan. 15 Staff Day– NO STUDENTS

Mon. Jan. 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day– NO SCHOOL

## February

Mon. Feb. 15 Presidents’ Day – NO STUDENTS

Feb. 17–18 Grade 3 Reading CSAP (normal schedule)

### Friday Assembly

**Schedule 8:00-8:15 AM**

**January 8-Grade 5**

**22-Grade 3**

**29-Grade 2**

### Boys and Girls Club

Just a reminder that the Boys and Girls Club offers before and after school care for our JICES families. They accept CCAP, and NACCRRA (military financial aid). Please contact Janice Stewart for more information.

## NEW PROCEDURE BEGINS JANUARY 2010

Please be advised that JICES will begin a new procedure starting January 5, 2010. For students not picked up by 4:00 pm/ 2:00 pm, JICES will charge \$20.00\* for repeat offenders. All parents completed the “Parent Commitment Signature Sheet” during enrollment. This included the statement below:

**As a supportive JICES parent, I will ensure my child is picked up before 3:45 PM Monday through Thursday, and 1:45 PM on Friday. Before 7:30 AM and after 4:00 PM (2:00 PM on Friday), I understand my child will be waiting outside, (unsupervised), regardless of weather conditions.**

This was initialed by every parent/guardian. We appreciate our parents showing good character to their students by honoring this time commitment. If students are not picked up, we do not want to have to pay staff overtime to monitor students. If you are interested in using the Boys and Girls Club on those occasions when you cannot pick up your student up prior to 4:00/2:00 pm, please see Janice Stewart for information to register “Drop-ins.”

\* This is the same fee that Boys and Girls Club charges for “Drop-ins.”