



JICES Newsletter February 2012



Dear JICES Families,

This last week had several “hot topics” going on in the world of education: handwriting and School Choice – and both have been in strong evidence at JICES since we first open our doors in the fall of 2005.

The first topic, handwriting, is one dear to our heart. Monday, January 23, marked “**National Handwriting Day**”, so chosen because that date is the birthday of John Hancock, “that most famous exemplar of penmanship.” We find it *very* interesting that handwriting has found new emphasis from educational experts who fear its importance has been overlooked in our age of technology. Please stop by our lobby to read the posted article from Education Week about how researchers see systematic, consistent instruction in handwriting is important.

Second, last week was “National School Choice Week”: events across the nation were organized to support parents exercising their options of *choosing a school* for their children. Last Monday night, January 23, there was a local presentation about school choice with **Michelle Malkin** being the featured speaker. (Her column is published nationally, and she is on Fox news every Thursday morning.) The theme of her presentation was for citizens to “restore American exceptionalism with school choice.” Ms. Malkin moved to Colorado Springs in order to send her child to a charter school in the area. The host of the evening was **Jeff Crank** (KVOR), and visiting community members included **State Sen. Keith King** (who helped start our James Irwin Charter High School), **Rev. Al Loma** (also a recent visitor at JICES, a D-11 Board member as well as a board member of a local charter school), **Peggy Littleton** (Board of County Commissioners, former member of the State Board of Education) and others. We appreciate greatly all those who use their voice actively to support school choice.

In connection with the second “hot topic”, I have to make mention of the contributions of our volunteers who give unfailingly of their time. Every year we are honored by the faithful support of our school volunteers, and the hours logged in continue to increase:

2009-10, 2 nd Quarter	<u>823</u>	volunteer hours logged
2010-11, 2 nd Quarter	<u>1,336</u>	volunteer hours logged
2011-12, 2 nd Quarter	<u>1,406</u>	volunteer hours logged

Look for the “Top 10” contributors who were part of our **new record high in volunteer hours for the quarter in this newsletter**. Thank you, all our volunteers. You truly have supported “school choice” for ALL the families at JICES!

Thank you from all of the staff at JICES!

Elizabeth A. Berg

Principal, James Irwin Charter Elementary School

CSAP Countdown	2
This and That	2
Character Awards	3
PTO	3
News around School	4
Up Coming Events	5
Lunch Menu	6



*TCAP Countdown

Our Grade 3 classes will kick off our TCAP testing in reading on February 15-16, 2012.

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

*Please note that CSAP is now known as TCAP.

*TCAP

Testing Window

Feb. 15-16

3rd Gr. Reading

March 12-23

3rd-5th Gr.

**Please keep these dates
free of travel plans and
out-of-school
appointments.**

THIS AND THAT

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

The *Ronald McDonald Care Mobile* will be at JICES on February 17th from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. They will be offering dental care to children through the age of 21. Medicaid, CHP+ and sliding scale applications for those without insurance are accepted and trained staff are available to assist in the registration process. Please call the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile at 866-6789 to schedule an appointment.

“GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY” is a national program that provides kids with free dental treatment and education. This is an event to help children without access to dental care. This event will take place on **Friday, February 3, 2012. Treatment and education will be provided in private dental offices, dental clinics and schools across the state.** February is National Children’s Dental Month. **For appointments, please visit: www.cdaonline.org/gkaspatient**

Perfect Attendance

We would like to thank **Jack In The Box** for providing our Perfect Attendance Awards for first semester. They included free fries, free shake, and a free kid’s meal.

We so value the community partnerships with local businesses. Please consider supporting them with your patronage of their business.

JICES Yearbooks

Keep the memories from this school year by purchasing a JICES yearbook! Order forms went home with students and are also available in the front office.

The cost is \$14.00.

If you have any pictures of school events, functions, classroom parties, etc.,... that could be used in the yearbook, please email them to cindymiller50@hotmail.com

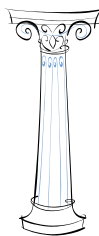
These pictures would need to be in by February 14th, 2012.

Character Awards

Second Quarter 2012

Honesty

Natalie Peters
Gr. K
Mrs. Daniels



Integrity

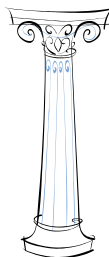
Levi Hoffer
Gr. 1
Mrs. Hill

Respect

Ethan Campagna
Gr. 4
Mr. Dolan

Responsibility

Rafael Lima-Avalos
Gr. K
Miss Chaires



Excellence

Lillyana Brenner
Gr. 3
Mrs. Warbington

PTO

TCAP Snacks! PTO will be providing snacks for our TCAPs starting next month for our Grade 3 students and then again in March for our Grades 3-5 students.

Any donations are welcome. Juice boxes, goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, granola bars are some examples of items requested. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact PTO at 302-9000 ext. 2005 or jicespto@jamesirwin.org.



MOVIE NIGHT

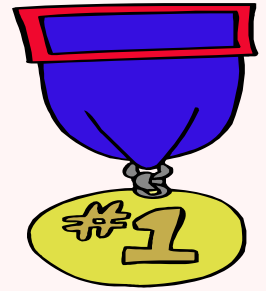
You asked for another movie night, and PTO answered. Mark your calendars for **February 24th**. The movie will be **Treasure Buddies**. Doors open at 5:30 PM and the movie will start at 6:00 PM. We are asking for a ream of copy paper or a \$4.00 donation at the door. This donation is admittance for your family. Please remember to bring some spending money. PTO **will be selling nachos, corn dogs, popcorn, candy, and soda.**

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Character Trait Winners for
“Sincerity” in December

Alexander Pollock - Gr. K
Pedro Martinez - Gr. 1
Valentina Diaz - Gr. 2

Corrine Rands - Gr. 3
Crystal Weitzel - Gr.4
Rylan Fish - Gr. 5



We would like to thank our volunteers for their continued dedication. Thanks to their hard work we have topped last year's quarter by 70 hours. We had a total of **1406 hours for the 2nd quarter**. We would like to highlight the top ten volunteers:

Holly LeBlanc - 267
Rene Frost - 171
Macayla LeBlanc - 109
Stacie Smith - 95
Melissa Noe - 70.02

Darlene Anesi - 62
Arlene Supulveda - 58.67
Nicole Niles - 41
Heather Haar - 38.17
Debbie Clark - 35.25



**Volunteer
Services**

Art - *Mrs. Gregory* has been keeping her students busy making various art projects. Please take a stroll down to the end of the 5th grade hallway and take a look at the various art work on display.



Music - *Miss Hennel* has started her Spring Children's Choir. Choir is an optional activity for kids who would like extra training in singing and reading music. All choir participants will learn basic vocal skills along with preparation for their performance in the Spring Concert. Look for details in the coming months regarding the Spring Concert.

P.E. - *Mrs. Peters* is working hard keeping our students in shape. Please feel free to stop by and watch your students in action. You may find them playing dodge ball, learning volley ball skills, running an obstacle course, rolling around on their scooters, playing kick ball, doing sit-ups or push-ups to name some of the activities.

Just a reminder to parents, **please remember to turn in your Jazzy-Jags forms**. These are due on Mondays and are part of your student's grade.



Harvest of the Month
~February 2012~
~Avocados~
James Irwin

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Baked Chicken Cole Slaw Chilled Mixed Fruit Warm Roll	2 Italian Dunkers Garden Salad Applesauce	3 Pork Roast Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Kiwi Fresh Roll
6 Sloppy Joe Cucumber Slices & Carrot Sticks w/ dip Sliced Pears	7 Super Nachos w/ Guacamole Fresh Apple Slices w/ Yogurt Dip	8 Egg Roll Chicken LoMein Broccoli Salad Chilled Peaches	9 Chicken Parmesan Steamed Mixed Veggies Orange Smiles Roll	10 Beef Stir Fry Chilled Pineapple Tidbits Celery & Carrots Sticks
13 Cheeseburger w/ lettuce & Tomato Seasoned Wedges Tangerines	14 Soft Beefy Taco Steamed Carrots Strawberries 	15 Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich Garden Salad Fresh Pear Yogurt	16 Chicken Gumbo Pea Pods & Cherry Tomato Chilled Peaches Breadstick	17 Fish Sandwich Steamed Corn Red & Green Grapes Fresh Roll
20 NO SCHOOL	21 Chicken Fajita Spanish Rice Green Beans Diced Pears	22 Potato Soup $\frac{1}{2}$ Sandwich Red Pear Yogurt	23 Baked Pasta Garden Salad Rosy Applesauce Bread Stick	24 Teriyaki Dippers Baked Potato Sliced Oranges Warm Biscuit
27 Chicken BBQ Sandwich Pickle Chips Seasoned Fries Fresh Fruit Salad	28 Beef & Bean Burrito w/Guacamole Refried Beans Corn on the Cob Warm Cinn Apples	29 Baked Chicken Green Bean Salad Mixed Fruit Roll		