

Jackson Hole News & Guide

Jackson, Wyoming

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

50 cents

JACKSON HOLE NEWS&GUIDE, Wednesday, January 20, 2010 - 7B

Kids make ceramic bowls to help hungry

Journeys School students prep for dinner to benefit food pantry.

By Sarah Lison

Journeys School students glazing bowls last week for a fundraiser agreed: It's sad that people go hungry.

And what about the Empty Bowls project to benefit the Jackson Food Cupboard that they've been working on?

It's good.

About 40 students in the school's lower elementary – kindergarten through second grade – visited Wednesday with Sam Dowd and Emily Boespflug at the Art Association's multipurpose ceramics studios at the Center for the Arts.

As a group of kids stood around a large work table in the upstairs studio, Boespflug asked them to raise their hands if they'd glazed before.

Hands went up all around.

"Only once before," one child said.

Boespflug went over some instructions – keep the brushes with the glazes, don't glaze the bottom, apply at least two layers – and the kids began their work.

Whitney Ball, 8, covered her bowl with purple glaze. She said she planned to add dots.

"The project is really good because it fills the bowls," she said. "Well, we hope to."

Warren Levy, 7, had painted blue on the inside and green on the outside of his bowl.

"We have to raise money for people who can't afford food," he said. "Or else no one would be able to survive."

Kalen Ritz Kleyman, a teacher at Journeys School, said Wednesday's visit to the ceramics studio was the creative component of a larger service-based project.

Empty Bowls is an international effort to raise awareness of hunger, and the kids have been working to stage a dinner fundraiser Jan. 28.

Local potters donated glazed and unglazed bowls, and the children worked with Dowd and his wife, Jenny, during previous visits to the studio to throw clay, create pinch pots and coil bowls, and glaze their and the artists' creations, Kleyman said. The kids also had an opportunity to interview professional ceramics artists.

To understand the issue of hunger, the kids dis-



NEWSGUIDE PHOTO BY BRADLY J. BONER

Journeys School first- and second-graders Wilson Bucholz, Trevor Watson, Cannon Daverin, Zander Ulmer and Henry Hershock glaze bowls for a fundraiser they plan for Jan. 28.

cussed why someone might not eat breakfast and how skipping the meal feels, Kleyman said. Their answers ranged from simply hungry to frustrated, impatient, angry and not ready to learn, she said.

The kids also are working on marketing the fundraiser.

Kleyman said organizers decided to keep proceeds from this year's event in the community.

"Lower elementary students – they're grounded in this place and they can understand giving back to this place," she said.

Money from ticket sales will go to the Jackson Food Cupboard. Local restaurants will donate soup to fill more than 200 bowls, Kleyman said.

The dinner is set for 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 28 at Teton Science Schools' Jackson Campus. Tickets, which are limited to the number of bowls, cost \$20

for adults and \$10 for kids ages 5 and up. Ticketholders will be encouraged to take their bowls home as a reminder that hunger remains a problem.

Children younger than 5 will not need a ticket, but organizers ask that parents make a donation. Younger children will not get a take-home bowl.

To buy tickets, contact Kleyman at 734-9849 or Kalen.kleyman@journeysschool.org.

The project was funded by a \$800 grant from pARTners, an organization that pairs students and artists, and support from Teton Science Schools, said Shannon Shuptrine, a teacher at Journeys School and board member for pARTners.

As Lyla Kirkpatrick, 7, worked on an earthy-red-colored bowl, she said she felt good about the project.

"It reminds us of how lucky we are to have food," she said.