



# THURSDAY NOTES

April 2, 2009

8 Nisan 5769

Tzav

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 7:21 p.m.



## Lots of Things Going On at School

We have had lots of wonderful things going on at School recently, some of which you are probably aware of and some of which I wanted to share with you:

**Student Council Sponsored Talent Show & Bake Sale:** On Tuesday morning both the ED and EC students had the opportunity to watch the Student Council Sponsored Talent Show. We had 29 acts, involving 38 students, entertain us for an hour with jump roping, piano playing, comedy acts, ballet, gymnastics, public speaking, dancing, magic tricks, comedy, puppetry and so much more. They raised over \$220, some of which will be given to tzedakah, and some of which will be used to purchase equipment and games for the students to use at school.

**New Computer Hardware and Software:** We have recently purchased one new desktop computer for each of our classrooms and have added new updated software programs to further enhance our technology at the school. These new programs include: *Kidspiration*, a fun-filled way for students to enrich their thinking skills, strengthen reading and writing skills, and further build conceptual understanding in math; game software for our math program, *Everyday Math*, which allows the teachers to further enhance the hands-on nature of the Math curriculum in a fun way; *Storybook Weaver*, a program which focuses on the writing process and storytelling skills; as well as some new Hebrew game software. Further, our technology teacher, Guy, is now spending more time working with the younger students in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades on their technology skills.

**New Science Kits:** As part of the enhancement of our Science curriculum, we have purchased new Science Kits for the classrooms. These pre-packaged kits will add to the level and nature of science experiments that the teachers will have at their disposal to integrate with the overall science units they are teaching in the classroom. Some of the topics include: Animal Behavior, Balance and Motion, Solids & Liquids, Plants & Animals, Magnetism/Electricity, Sound, Matter, Landforms, Food & Nutrition, Environments, Soil, and the Solar System. The hands-on experiments will add to the level of experiential learning that we focus on at our school.

As you can see, there are many new and exciting things going on at our school each and every day. I want to wish all of you a very happy Passover – Chag Sameach. I hope that you enjoy the time off from school and will enjoy spending family time together.

## Question of the Week

**Kindergarten-5th Grade:** There are at least 4 things in the Passover Seder which have to do with the number 4. What are they?

**Answer:** The Four Questions, The Four Sons (Children), The Four Names of Pesach, The Four Cups of Wine, The Four Mothers, and the Four Promises of Redemption.

## Birkat Hachamah

All parents are invited to join us on Wednesday, April 8, at 8:15 a.m. during the ED flagpole ceremony, for a special opportunity to say a unique blessing that is only said once every 28 years in Judaism. It is called Birkhat Hachamah – the “Blessing of the Sun.” Rabbi Zalman will lead us in this event, when we commemorate the returning of the sun cycle to its original point of orbit at the time of the creation of the sun at the beginning of time. We look forward to a sunny day as we thank God for the creation of our awesome natural universe.



### Fly on the Wall



### If you were a fly on the wall:

This week I would like to give you some information about our upcoming Tikun Olam / Poetry Evening May 13<sup>th</sup>. As many of you are aware, last year we changed from doing a yearly Science Expo to a new concept. The teachers

worked together to plan a school wide unit which was titled Global Awareness. All classes worked on projects that reflected our strong desire to have our students become aware of our responsibilities as members of society to take care of our natural resources. They studied water conservation, energy sources, clear cutting of trees, and endangered species and talked about the results of not being good stewards of our resources. Our families were invited for a Global Awareness evening where they watched videos made by the students and listened to presentations and debates.

- This year we will be continuing to expand upon the work we began last year. On the evening of May 13<sup>th</sup> we will come together as a school to enjoy an evening which will combine listening to both 'student written' and 'well known' poetry recited by our children, as well as displays and presentations of each grade's Tikun Olam Project.
- The Kindergarten classes are studying nutrition and food supply and their Tzedakah project will be a food collection drive the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes are studying recycling and their Tzedakah project is a clothing drive which will be held the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades are studying literacy and its effect on lives. Their project will be a book drive which will be held the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> grade is combining their study of simple machines with a study of clean water and the lack there of in many parts of the world. More information about their project to follow.

We look forward to sharing with you the results of weeks of work by all the elementary students at the Lerner School. Please be sure to mark your calendars.

Mary

### JCC Spring Break Camp

JCC plans to offer care for children Pre-4 through 5th grade during the intermediate days of Passover. Look for more details and registration to come.

**Dates:** April 13, 14 and 17

**Time:** 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. with early care and after care options

**Location:** TBD

**Cost:** \$55/day, \$40/day for second child

**Register by:** Apr 6

Minimum 10 participants. Online Registration.

### Save the Date!

Sunday Morning,  
May 3

Lerner's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
5K Race & Walk!



### 5K Race Sponsors

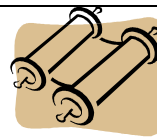
Do you own your own business, or manage one? The Lerner School 5K Committee seeks race sponsors to support the event. Sponsors' logos will figure prominently on the backs of race t-shirts, in event publicity and on posters and information given out on race day. Contact Anne Marie Schneider for information or to become a 5K sponsor!  
[amschneider@mindspring.com](mailto:amschneider@mindspring.com)

### EC Passover Celebration

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Parent Lounge join us as we reenact/tell the story of Passover.

## Parshat Hashavua: Tzav

Prepared by: Rabbi Joyce Newmark



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Parshat Tzav takes the form of a priest's manual, as God tells Moses to instruct Aaron about the rituals by which the kohanim are to offer the various *korbanot* (sacrifices). We learn that the *zevah sh'lamim* (the offering of well-being), was to be brought for three reasons – for thanksgiving, in fulfillment of a vow, or as a freewill or voluntary offering. A person in a state of ritual impurity was not allowed to eat from any of the sacrifices. Portions of these offerings were to be set aside to be given to the priests. God instructs Moses about the ceremony of consecration of the priests. Aaron and his sons are washed, dressed in their ceremonial garments, and anointed. Moses offers sacrifices on their behalf. The ritual of ordination continues for seven days.

From Torah Sparks

[www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org)

Each week we will choose our d'var (explanation) from one of the following websites:

Torah Hayim	(Reform)	<a href="http://www.urj.org">www.urj.org</a>
Divrei Torah	(Reconstructionist)	<a href="http://www.jrf.org">www.jrf.org</a>
Torah Sparks	(Conservative)	<a href="http://www.uscj.org">www.uscj.org</a>
Orthodox Union	(Orthodox)	<a href="http://www.ou.org">www.ou.org</a>

## PAC



### **Volunteers Needed on April 7th:**

- Elementary Division

Passover is just a week away! This year the elementary students will celebrate by visiting multiple stations in the school. Each station will have its own Passover related activity and will need a volunteer to run each activity. If you would like to help, please contact Miriam Cohen Franzen at [mamele@gmail.com](mailto:mamele@gmail.com). The celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th from 1:00 till 2:00, though volunteers will need to arrive 15 minutes early.

- Early Childhood

Planning on joining your child for the Early Childhood Passover seder on Tuesday, April 7th at 9:30? Consider coming at 8:30 to help with preparing seder plates, cutting brownies, and setting up the tables. If you can help out either that day or with shopping beforehand, please contact Miriam Cohen Franzen at [mamele@gmail.com](mailto:mamele@gmail.com).

## **Field Day Date Change!!**

**We are changing the date of Field Day to Friday, May 15th!**

### **Beth El Synagogue Pre-Play Pals Passover**

All 13-20 month-old children and their parents are invited to Beth El Synagogue's Pre-Play Pals morning of Passover crafts, cooking, and music on Friday, April 3, 10:30–12:00. We'll play, do art, eat matzah, and then join the rest of the pre-school for our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat sing-a-long. This is a great opportunity to meet our wonderful Play Pals teachers, get to know other Jewish families with young children and get a feel for Beth El Preschool. No charge. This program will be held at 1004 Watts St., Durham.

RSVP to Lorri at 688-8704 or  
[bethelpreschool@earthlink.net](mailto:bethelpreschool@earthlink.net)

### **Lerner 5K Prizes:**



This just in... **new prizes** for this years Lerner 5K.

To the **1st place** male and female: a pair of Mizuno running shoes, donated by Bull City Running Co.

To the **2nd place** male and female finishers: a massage, donated by Empower.

Look for future news here regarding kid prizes and possible age groupings!!!

Registration forms will go home soon. Early bird registration and guaranteed t-shirt size requests due by April 20 (1st day back from spring break). The earlier the better for the committee- Thanks!

Questions? Contact Anne Marie at  
[amschneider@mindspring.com](mailto:amschneider@mindspring.com) or 490-6634.