

THURSDAY NOTES



April 23, 2009

29 Nisan 5769

Tazria/Metzora

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 7:38 p.m.



Come Visit the New EC Playground

If you have not recently visited our newly-outfitted Early Childhood playground, I invite you to do so. Over the spring break the final large piece of climbing equipment was installed, and it is wonderful. It was great to see the smiles on the faces of our students as they came outside to play for the first time since returning from vacation and they saw what they called their new 'toy.'

Since opening the playground in the fall we have added back the bicycle 'race-track', added a new, large covered sand box and five new pieces of large climbing equipment. All of the new equipment is designed to increase our EC students' gross motor skills, improve their hand-eye coordination, increase their cardio-vascular conditioning, improve their muscle tone, and of course give them the opportunity to have fun, run around, climb, slide, and tumble.

We want to thank the Bertsch Family Foundation for its ongoing and generous support of our school, including a generous donation for these final few pieces of large playground equipment. Funding for the playground itself and for some of the other equipment came from the Partnership for a Jewish Center (PJC). The PJC is a partnership between Lerner and the Federation to raise the \$7 million that funded our new EC wing (\$1.2 million) and will fund the construction of a JCC right next door. We anticipate that the construction of the JCC will begin some time this summer or early fall. If you haven't yet made a pledge to the PJC, or joined one of the many committees and would like to, please contact Ivy Wingate at develop@lernerschool.org for more information.

So, come soon and play on our new EC playground – we can promise you will have a great time!

From The President of Our Board

Dear Lerner Families,

Each year the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill gives us a very generous allocation. This year we received \$40,000 dollars which was used for financial aid for our families.

This allocation accounts for about 1/3 of the tuition assistance we give to our families. We are very grateful for the money we receive and thank the Federation for making Lerner a priority in this growing Jewish Community. I would like to encourage our families to consider a donation to the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill's campaign for Jewish needs.

It's very easy to donate online by going to www.shalomdch.org. A donation to the Federation is not only a commitment to our Lerner community, but to "Jewish, young and old, at home, in Israel and around the world" Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Harris
Lerner Board Chair

Question of the Week

Kindergarten-5th Grade: In ancient days how many people were required to witness the new moon for it to be official, and to whom did they need to report this observation?

Answer: Two people were required to witness a new moon. This observation had to be reported to the Rabbis of the Sanhedrin

Book Drive



The 2nd and 3rd graders are having a book drive from Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1. If you have any books you don't need anymore, please put them in the box outside the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. We are collecting books as part of our unit about literacy. Literacy is the ability to read and write. We are going to give the books to families who don't have many books so they will have books and can learn to read better. Without reading you can't understand street signs, instructions, and you can't get an education or help your family get an education. Books should be gently used, not broken, and in good condition. We are collecting books for children and adults, so you can bring books for all ages and different levels. All people deserve to read stories; it's a good use of time. Thank you for helping!

Sincerely,

The 2nd and 3rd graders

Parent-to-Parent

Two new UNC professors are seeking a house to rent for the 2009-2010 academic year (beginning July/August 2009). Chapel Hill/Carrboro preferred, but will consider Durham as well. We are non-smokers, but rental must be kid- and pet-friendly. Please contact Joan at jkrause@central.uh.edu or Rich at rsaver@central.uh.edu with any suggestions.

The Lerner School 3rd Annual 5K Race & Walk



Do you like to run? Do you like to walk? Then come out and support the Lerner School at the 3rd Annual 5K Race and Walk. The race is next Sunday May 3 with an 8 a.m. start time. Great prizes this year for kids and adults. **Registration is still open!** You may also register on race day, but come early (7:15 am) to have enough time. Bring a friend! Is your family running but you don't want to? Come help us out!

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!!!

Questions? Contact Anne Marie at 919-490-6634 or amschneider@mindspring.com

Parshat Hashavua: Tazria/Metzora

Prepared by: Rabbi Joyce Newmark

God gives Moses instructions for the rites of purification and the sacrifices that must be made in order to complete the process of ritual purification. Provisions are made so a poor person can bring less costly sacrifices.

God also tells Moses that once the people have settled in the land of Canaan a person may discover some sort of plague on the walls of his home. A priest must examine it; if he declares that the house is afflicted with tzara'at, (a "rash") the affected stones must be removed and replaced. If the tzara'at returns, the house must be demolished. If it does not return, the priest will perform the specified ritual of purification.

From Torah Sparks

www.uscj.org



תזריע-מצורע

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

Torah Hayim	(Reform)	www.urj.org
Divrei Torah	(Reconstructionist)	www.jrf.org
Torah Sparks	(Conservative)	www.uscj.org
Orthodox Union	(Orthodox)	www.ou.org

PAC Corner

A big Thank You to Rachel Cohen, Joelle Friedman, Rebecca Hull, Julie Anders, Sara Forman, Saba Jim, Christy Brooks, Mim Ochsenbein, Stella Finkelstein, Bern Becker, and Aimee Zaas for helping out with the Passover festivities. Your efforts made for a wonderful and educational experience for the children.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut will be Wednesday, April 29th. The students at Lerner will celebrate with food, activities, and fun! If you would like to cook falafel that morning or run one of the activity stations for the students, please contact Miriam Cohen Franzen at mamele@gmail.com.

Summer Camp in The Early Childhood Pavilion!!

Don't forget to reserve your child's place in the
Early Childhood program!
Carolyn will be happy to answer any questions.
Registration forms are available at school.



If you were a fly on the wall:

Tikkun Olam / Poetry Evening: *Repairing the World Verse by Verse*
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 7:00 PM- 8:00 PM

It has been interesting visiting the classes as they work on their Tikkun Olam projects: if you were in school this week you might have seen the 2nd and 3rd grade students listening intently as Susan Springer talked to them about the problem of illiteracy in Durham; or you may have stepped into the kindergarten as they were talking about their food drive and why some children right here in our area may not have enough to eat; you might have run into a few 1st grade students collecting recycling from each of the classrooms; or you might have seen other 1st graders collecting the trash from each class and weighing it to find out the total amount of trash we generate here at Lerner each day; you might even have seen the 4th and 5th grade students walking the track with baskets filled with weights on their heads as Fiona and Jordan helped them understand some of the challenges that are faced by many people in our world in just bringing water to their homes.

As the students have been working on these projects they have also been reading and writing poetry. On the evening of the 13th you will have any opportunity to see the results of the work they have been doing as well as to hear poetry recitation in each class.

Tikkun Olam Projects – Watch for the Flyers!

April 27th – May 1st 2nd/ 3rd grade Book Drive
May 4th – 8th 1st grade Clothing Drive
May 11th – May 18th Kindergarten Food Drive

I hope to see you all on May 13th!
Mary