



THURSDAY NOTES

December 18, 2008

21 Kislev 5769

Vayeshev

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:47 p.m.



The Power of the Lights of Chanukah

In our Jewish tradition the concept of lights and candles plays a very important role: we light the Shabbat candles on Friday night to signify the beginning of Shabbat; we light the Havdallah candle to separate the end of Shabbat from the beginning of a new week; we light a Yahrzeit candle to mark the anniversary of the death of someone we cared about and loved; and of course, we light the Chanukiah on Chanukah to remember the miracle of the holiday. The lighting of all these candles helps us to create Jewish memories for ourselves and our families, and mark the sacredness of time in our daily Jewish existence. All of us can remember the beauty of the Chanukah menorah being lit as children as we stood with our family and friends. The Chanukah lights play a special role in Judaism - its symbolic value is of great importance.

The Talmud teaches us that there was only enough oil for one day when the Maccabees re-dedicated the Temple in 165 B.C.E. The miracle of the holiday is that the oil lasted for eight days, until a new supply could be found. Interestingly, there was a dispute between Hillel and Shammai concerning how many candles should be lit on the first night of Chanukah. Shammai said to start with eight candles and then each night one less candle should be lit, to parallel the dwindling oil supply of the menorah in the Temple. Hillel disagreed – he taught that we should light one candle each night, and build up to eight candles corresponding to the eight days that the one day's supply of oil lasted. Hillel reasoned that it was only through the power which we invest in our Jewish lives that the oil continued to burn that extra day. We constantly need to re-energize the source if it is to provide us with enlightenment and warmth. In the end, the Rabbis agreed with Hillel and until today his teaching prevails.

May the light we all kindle this Chanukah season sustain us, rejuvenate us, and propel us forward in our never-ending quest as individuals, families and as a school. May we continue to create Jewish memories for our children as we stand around the Chanukiah each night and add one more candle, one more spark, one more light during our holiday of lights. I wish all of you a Chag Sameach!

CALENDAR

December

18 Chanukah Program & Pavilion Dedication (Early Childhood & Elementary 6pm)

22-31 Winter Break- School Closed

January

1-2 Winter Break-School Closed

5 School Resumes

PAC CORNER

- The Mishloach Manot Committee will be meeting in January to begin planning for the Purim basket fundraiser. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please tell Miriam Cohen Franzen at mamele@gmail.com.
- Thank you to the Halev family for the Alef Beit floor foam puzzles that they generously donated.
- This year's Book Fair has come to a close and we've had another fun and successful fundraising event! For one week, the new Early Childhood Pavilion Family Lounge was transformed into a beautiful bookstore for the entire Lerner family and for the surrounding community to peruse and enjoy. We couldn't have done it without a veritable army of volunteers. A special thanks to all of you who made it possible:

Julie Anders, Jennifer Bachman, Rachel Bearman, Christy Brooks, Miriam Cohen Franzen, Tama Evron, Sonya Fischer, Jenifer Fraser, Lisa Gordon Stella, Benson Hoffman, Jennifer Hoffman, Evgenia Litwin Logan, Sean Meltzer, Jill Rose, Caryn Rosenberg, Anne Marie Schneider, Stephanie Simon, Susan Springer, Lindsey Volin, Marlo Wilcox.



Fly on the Wall...

This has been a really busy past few weeks!

- The Kindergarten classes went to Charles House, an adult Day Care Center in Carrboro to sing Chanukah songs.
- The 3rd grade students presented to their families and peers, their Family History Projects. The family histories were both moving and thought provoking.
- Student Council elections were held this past Tuesday. On Monday nine candidates, running for four positions, made posters and wrote and delivered speeches to the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. All speeches were well written and beautifully presented.
- The kindergarten and 2nd grade students enjoyed a performance by a Canadian musician who played and had them dancing to Klezmer music.
- We all have been enjoying listening to the Early Childhood students singing in the Open Area as they practiced for their performance at the Dedication/Chanukah Celebration.
- Rocks, rocks and more rocks in the 1st grade classrooms. During their study of rocks they spent many days together going through Rock Star Stations as they measured, identified, scratched, weighed and categorized rocks. They even opened a geode!

I wish you all a Happy Chanukah and a safe and relaxing Winter Break.

Mary

Here's this week's Auction update!



A Week on Glorious Kauai, Hawaii

A week in a Princeville condo –OR- another RCI location of your choosing, based on availability. Enjoy this timeshare getaway, generously donated by Jodi Bakst, area realtor and former Lerner parent!

Slapshot in Raleigh!!

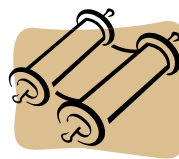
Enjoy an evening of hockey! Four (4) fabulous seats and a Premier Parking Pass to the Carolina Hurricanes vs. NY Rangers hockey game on 3/9/09 (Section 102, Row 3)

Camp Riverlea

Durham's most sought-after summer camp is offering Two (2) Free Weeks of Summer Camp to the lucky bidder! There is a waiting list at this camp and first priority goes to former campers, so contact Riverlea today if you're interested in bidding on this item:866-394-3922

Parashat Hashavah: Vayeshev - "And He Lived"

**Prepared by: Rabbi Joyce Newmark
Teaneck, New Jersey**



וישב

Jacob and his family are now settled in Canaan. The parshah begins when Joseph is 17 years old, the favorite of his father, who has given him the famous "coat of many colors." Because of this and because Joseph is a tattletale, his brothers hate and envy him. Joseph's reports of his dreams, in which his brothers bow down to him, only make matters worse. When Jacob sends Joseph to find out how his brothers and the family's flocks are getting along, the brothers resolve to kill him. Reuven convinces them not to commit murder, so they decide to sell Joseph into slavery. They dip his special tunic in goat's blood and bring it to Jacob as evidence of his favorite son's fate. Meanwhile, Joseph is brought to Egypt where he becomes a slave in the household of Pharaoh's courtier Potiphar.

From the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Torah Sparks
www.uscj.org

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

Congratulations to the Levinson and Forman families on the births of:

- Savanna Kate Levinson (7lbs-6oz)
- Elijah William Forman (7lbs-13oz)



Support Lerner's Annual Fund and win a night on the town!



Thank you to the 60% of families who have already donated over \$33,000 to Lerner's Annual Fund!

There are only two days left to make a pledge and be entered in a raffle for a chance to win an all-expense paid night on the town, complete with dinner and babysitting!

So don't delay, and please give generously. Every gift is important.

Use the envelope you received in the mail, pick one up at the front desk, or contact Ivy Wingate at develop@lernerschool.org or 286-5517.

Lerner Jewish Community Day School

Student Council Election

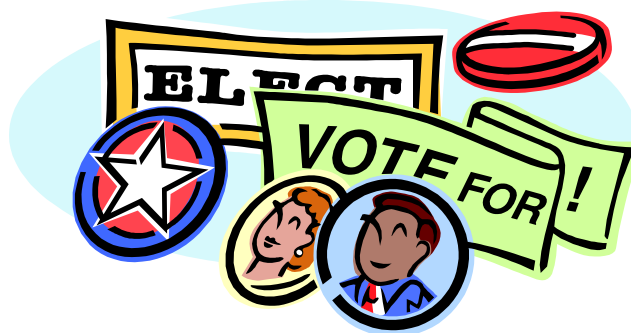
Final Results

President- Davida Halev

Vice President- Itai Rivkin-Fish

Secretary- Aden Fisher-Brown

Treasurer- Julie Wechsler



Congratulations to all of our new Student Council Officers!!!

Question of the Week

Kindergarten-1st Grade: Name three special things we do to celebrate Chanukah.

Answer: *Play dreidel, eat sufganiote and latkes, give presents and gelt, sing Chanukah songs, light the Chanukiah*

2nd-5th Grade: What were the names of the four brothers of Judah Maccabee?

Answer: *Yonatan, Shimon, Eliezer and Yochanan*