



THURSDAY NOTES

January 15, 2008

19 Tevet 5769

Shemot

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 5:08 p.m.



What's Happening at Lerner?

I want to welcome everyone back from Winter Break. I hope that you had a very enjoyable and restful break from the regular school schedule, and that all of you are re-energized for the second half of the school year. Here are some of the things happening at Lerner:

Presidential Inauguration - All of the ED students will be doing programs next Tuesday in their classrooms relating to the inauguration and will have the opportunity to watch 'live' the swearing-in and Inaugural Address of Barack Obama. The EC students will also watch part of the ceremony.

Security - Several parents have been in communication with me about what the school is doing in regards to security at the school in light of the current situation in the Mid-East. I was in contact with the Durham Police District Commander, Captain John Peter, during the school break and they have agreed to do several 'drive-throughs' during the day on their regular patrols. Further, we have increased our level of vigilance among the staff to be on the lookout for anything that seems out of the ordinary, and have made several changes to our procedures to heighten the level of security at the school. I have also been in contact with other law enforcement and security agencies, and we will continue to make sure that the safety of the children and staff is of the highest importance.

Tu B'Shevat Family Seder Program - We hope that you will be able to join us on Monday, February 9th, at Judea Reform for our first annual whole-school Family Tu B'Shevat Seder Program from 10:00 a.m-11:00ish a.m. All of the Early Childhood and Elementary students will be 'walking down the hill' to Judea Reform and we hope that you will be able to join us. We will be reading from our Tu B'Shevat Haggadah and each of the classes will have a part in the program with singing, dance and tasting all of our wonderful fruits and nuts that we have gathered. Each child will be asked to bring in a particular 'food item' for the Seder - teachers will give you plenty of advance notice of what needs to be brought in. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Well, I think that is it for now...have a wonderful MLK Weekend.

Congratulations to Gracie Morris and Julianne Schneider, who along with their teammates Emily Falise and Emily Bradfield shattered the 8 and under 200 yard relay record by 11 seconds this past Sunday afternoon at the Duke Aquatics winter invitational swim meet. Wish them luck as they try to set another team record in the medley relay the weekend of January 24 and 25th.



January

19th- Martin Luther King Day- School Closed

February

8th- PJC Dedication -New Early Childhood Pavilion

9th- Tu B'Shevat Family Seder- Details to follow!

20th- VIP/Grandparent's Day

21st- Auction/School Bar Mitzvah Celebration

PAC CORNER

For all parents interested in joining the Mishloach Manot/Purim baskets fundraiser committee, there will be a meeting at Lerner on Friday, January 16th at 1:30. It will be held in the meeting room. This is a fundraiser to which you can make either a large or a small contribution of time. If you are interested in joining this committee but cannot come to the meeting, please contact Miriam Cohen Franzen at mamele@gmail.com.

Celebration & Dedication



Please come and celebrate our beautiful new Early Childhood Pavilion as we show it to the community that helped to make it possible.

The Partnership for a Jewish Center (PJC) is holding a dedication of the new Lerner Early Childhood Pavilion on Sunday, February 8, 2009 from 2-4pm.

The event will include a short presentation of the project's initial success and a look at the upcoming Jewish Community Center (JCC) project. Along with the dedication and hanging a mezuzah, Lerner students will perform and plant trees on the property in honor of Tu B'Shevat. Guests will have the opportunity to look at floor plans and artist renderings of the JCC, tour the new Lerner School addition, visit with one another, and enjoy wine and refreshments in a relaxed setting.



If you were a fly on the wall:

Welcome back children and parents. I hope you all had a wonderful Winter Break!

Here are a few of the things that have been happening around Lerner School since we came back January 5th.

- First Student Council meeting.
- 3rd grade students used microscopes and slides to compare/contrast animal and plant cells.
- 2nd grade students talked about the Food Web and Ecosystems.
- 1st grade students began their author study by looking at the works of Leo Lionni.
- Kindergarten students learned about the properties of magnets.
- 4th and 5th grade students are finishing their study of landforms by writing a critical essay on the positive and/or negative impact of a landform in a particular area.
- Kindergarten students enjoyed a performance by Jeff the Mime
- Early Childhood students welcomed a new friend, Mikaela, in the Tzfarde'im class.

Mary

Here's this week's Auction update!



A Week at the Outer Banks

Spend a beautiful off-season week at the beach, courtesy of the Fraser family!!! More details to follow, but this private home will accommodate two families.

Planning a Simcha?

Two wonderful Auction items may help:

- Freylach Time will provide klezmer entertainment at your event for half the cost of their usual fee!
 - \$600 gift cert for DJ services by Brian McGuire at MCSound Productions.

Jonathan Blitz Ceramics

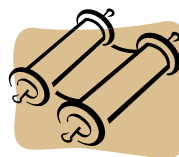
Beautiful handcrafted Havdalah set and 10" decorative covered jar.

Have additional items to donate?: Please contact Caitlin Pitt 294-6370, 914-844-7460 or caitlinpitt1@gmail.com or Tal Lewin Wittle at 484-9479, 475-3337 or tal@wittle.net

Parents remember: babysitting will be available on Auction night 7-11pm!!

Parshat Hashavuah: Shemot

From: Parshat in a Nutshell



שמות

The Children of Israel multiply in Egypt. Threatened by their growing numbers, Pharaoh enslaves them and commands his people to cast the Hebrew babies into the Nile. A son is born to Jocheved and placed in a basket on the river, while the baby's sister, Miriam, stands watch from afar. Pharaoh's Daughter discovers the boy, raises him as her son, and names him Moses. As a young man, Moses sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and kills the Egyptian. Moses is forced to flee to Midian. There he marries Zipporah and becomes a shepherd of his father-in-law's flocks. G-d appears to Moses in a burning bush at the foot of Mount Sinai and instructs him to go to Pharaoh and demand: "Let my people go, so that they may serve me." Pharaoh refuses to let them go, and even intensifies the suffering of Israel.

www.chabad.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

Lerner parents (who join Board committees) are ...

- a.) highly educated
- b.) extremely talented
- c.) passionate about their children's education
- d.) all of the above**

The Committee on Trustees draws from Lerner parents and the wider Jewish community to nominate new Board members. We use our Board committees to involve parents in areas that interest them and generally nominate Board Chairs from the committees. Perhaps you are ready to share your expertise with us. Committees include Finance, PR, Facilities, Policy, Technology, Religious Practices and of course, Fundraising. While Finance has a monthly meeting, other committees meet as needed to get projects done. If there is an area that you'd like to get involved in please let me know at pwild@nc.rr.com or contact any other member of the Committee on Trustees: Susan Springer, Jeff Koweek, Carolyn Morris and Julie Harris.

*Thank you,
Patty Wild
Chair, Committee on Trustees*

Financial Assistance Notice



If you would like to apply for financial assistance for the 2009-10 school year, please contact Elizabeth Sewell in the Business Office at 919-286-5517 or email elizabeth@lernerschool.org.

Elizabeth can give you the financial assistance application to prepare your online filing. In order to not miss any deadlines, contact Elizabeth as soon as possible to go over the application process. Your current year tax information (2008) is needed early for the financial assistance application.

Mazel Tov to Rob & Anne Marie Schneider!

Our very own, Anne Marie and Rob Schneider, parents of Alex and Julianne, were given this year's Gladys and Earl Siegel Young Leadership Award at the Federation Kickoff dinner last month..

Working behind the scenes, Anne Marie has been a fundraising force for the Lerner School, the Federation and the PJC for many years. She ran Lerner's annual auction for two years and raised more money than ever before. She initiated our 5K Walk/Run two years ago, has served on the Lerner board for many years and is always willing to step in and help out with any and all projects here at school. She serves as a wonderful role model for young families looking for ways to get involved in local Jewish life.

Rob also works in a quiet way, but gets things done. Currently he is working on the Building Committee and the specific plans for the JCC fitness center. Rob is also involved in school life at Lerner (often supporting Anne Marie's many projects), and is an active member of Judea Reform.. Anne Marie and Rob represent the best of the Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish community and we are delighted that they were recognized by our Federation. Congratulations Anne Marie and Rob!



SCHOOL DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

We are preparing to send out an updated school directory. If you have had a change in in your information or if your current directory has any mistakes please be sure to let Foley know by **Friday, January 16th.**

We are still collecting non-perishable food items and diapers for the Durham women's shelter. If you have extra diapers that your baby has outgrown, this is a great way to donate them!

Contact Ofra with any questions.

