

THURSDAY NOTES



November 12, 2009

25 Cheshvan 5770

Chaye Sarah

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:52 p.m.



THANKSGIVING TIME

The month of November is a time when we as American Jews sit down together at our Thanksgiving tables to give thanks for all of the abundance in our lives. It is a time to give thanks to God for our family, our friends and all that we cherish. We know, of course, that the very first American holiday, which was initiated by the Pilgrims to thank God for helping them survive their first year in a new land, was based on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which we all celebrated together at school a few weeks ago. The harvest festival of Sukkot is one which Jews have been celebrating since Biblical times.

Judaism has helped to shape many of the core ethics and values upon which our American society is based. We should be proud of the fact that the Pilgrims “borrowed” the idea of Thanksgiving from our Jewish heritage, and we should always remember that our country today is richer and more spiritually enriched because of the Jewish teachings and traditions that make us a “light onto the nations.”

Our school has much to be thankful for this year: we are using new technology in our classrooms; we have a wonderful group of teachers and staff at our school; we have had a terrific start to the school year; we are partners with the community in building a new JCC next door to our school; and we have all made many new friends.

I am thankful for the wonderful, dedicated, committed and hard-working staff which I have the honor to work with every day, and for the terrific students and families which we have in our school.

On this year’s Thanksgiving Day let us with our families and closest friends, find a way to share the bounty which we have with others less fortunate than ourselves, and thank God for the “harvest” which we have in our daily lives.

Lerner School Open House: Sunday Dec. 6th, 1:30-3:30

Word of mouth is the most effective way to get families interested in our school! Our Open House is coming up, and this is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your child's experience with your friends! Please invite somebody to attend! Open House postcards will be available to distribute next week. Please contact Jordana Brown at school if you want some cards to give out, or if you need more information!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Kindergarten– 1st Grade Question: How many years did Sarah Live?

Answer: 127 years

2nd- 5th Grade Question: Abraham buries Sarah in the Cave of Machpelah. How much money did Abraham pay to buy the cave from the Hittites?

Answer: 400 shekels

Jewish Parenting Series—

“Time-Out or Spanking: How People’s Beliefs About Parenting Unlock the Door to Their Political World Views”. Join us for coffee and discussion led by Dr. Jonathan Weiler, alumni parent and author of *Authoritarianism and Polarization in American Politics*. Jonathan is the Chair of International Studies at UNC and teaches in that department. His new book has recently been featured on WUNC's radio show, "The State of Things", as well on radio shows throughout the country. He is also a regular contributor to the political blog "Huffington Post". Join us on Tuesday Nov. 17th, 8:15-9:00 a.m. in the Parent Lounge, for what should be a very interesting discussion.

Calendar

Sunday, November 15th

Parlor Meeting— Briar Creek- 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17th

Jewish Parenting Series

Mon. – Fri., November 16th-20th

Book Fair Week

Thursday, November 19th

ED— Celebration of Learning— 6:30 p.m.

Wed.– Fri., November 25th-27th

Thanksgiving— School Closed

Tuesday, December 1st

2nd Grade Family Program

Sunday, December 6th

Lerner School Open House—1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 16th

Chanukah Program— EC and ED— 6:00 p.m.

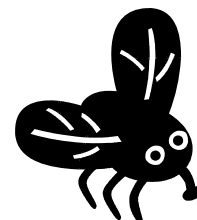
Mon.– Thurs., December 21st-31st

Winter Break— School Closed

Fly on the Wall....

Exciting things happening at the Lerner School!

- Kindergarten snails having babies
- 4th/5th grade students presenting their Native American research projects
- 1st Grade children performing their play In the Shade of the Old Oak Tree
- 3rd grade students watching *Fiddler on the Roof* as part of their study of Jewish life in Eastern Europe
- 2nd grade students classifying instruments in music class as they continue to integrate their study of Sound into other areas of the curriculum
- Early Childhood students joining with the Elementary students for Flag Pole where they sang and celebrated their November birthdays



Please remember to join us for our **Celebration of Learning**, November 19th from 6:30 – 7:45. Class work will be on display, the Book Fair will be open and you will have an opportunity to enjoy fun interactive activities with your child. You can come for part or all of the evening. Activities are for children Kindergarten through 5th grade and their parents. Please call if you have any questions.
Mary

Mommy, Daddy, and Me:

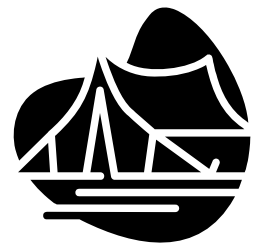
Meet other families while welcoming Shabbat with games, songs, and dance. The program is led by Lerner School's talented and warm Early Childhood staff. Call 286-5517 to save a space. Ages 2-4 and their parent. **Friday Nov. 20th at 10:00 a.m.**



Parlor Meeting

Have any friends in Raleigh? Regina Sander, parent of 1st grader Sarah, is hosting a Parlor Meeting in Briar Creek on Sunday, Nov. 15th at 4:30. Bini, Jordana and others will be on hand to answer questions and talk about the school. Please let Jordana know if you know any families in the Raleigh area who would be interested in hearing more about our wonderful school!

PAC Corner:



We hope by now all who attended the Havdalah Sleepover have caught up on their sleep! With over 45 families and 150 people attending, this event turned out to be much larger than we had anticipated. There were volunteers who organized the activities, helped bake, shop, cook breakfast, set-up, clean-up, start the bonfire and lead services. So many of you helped out on the spot where you saw need or stepped up when asked to help. Please know **all** efforts were greatly appreciated and once again the uniqueness of our Lerner School community really shined!

Many, many thanks to all who helped plan and execute the details of this celebration:

Richard Goldberg, Elyza Halev, Rachel and Nathan Bearman, Sonya Fischer, Alexis Poss, Greg and Caryn Louie, Sarah Goldberg, Aharon Grossman, Michele and Ziggy Rivkin-Fish, Abby and Rabbi Michael Goldman, Dana Levertov, Helena (friend of Dana), Brian Chmura, Anne Marie Schneider, Lisa Wittenstein, Galit Beresteanu, Jeremy Browner, as well as guidance and participation from our faculty and staff: Hinda Lind, Ofra Sheetrit, Guy Ben-Eliyah, Foley Coleman, and Bini Silver.

We hope to make the Havdalah sleepover even better next year. While the weekend is fresh in our minds, we'd like to get feedback from you on how we can improve the event. (Don't worry, it's already been noted that we need to communicate better with the Durham Police, so that they don't conduct a training session in the Judea Reform parking lot at 5 am!) Anyway, please contact Richard with your suggestions before next Monday morning at rgoldberg2@nc.rr.com.