

Hebrew Day Institute

לכבוד שבת

L'chvod Shabbat

Technology Center

By Charles Nelson



November 2, 2007



Dear Parents:

Now that the joy and celebration of all of our chagim are over, we have now settled into quite a routine in technology class. We are integrating class/grade assignments into our technology curriculum and the students remain engaged throughout class time. Our kids are “getting it”!

We started of the year with a hands-on examination of the internal and external parts of a computer. We checked out everything from the monitor, keyboard, and mouse to the motherboard, memory chips, and batteries. A “Do It yourself” computer is on semi permanent display in the Media and Technology Center. This year, I am emphasizing, “Coming to class ready to learn”: for the lower grades- entering quickly, taking a seat quietly, and actively listening and following instructions. For the upper grades, this means bringing a pencil and paper to class for note taking, entering the classroom properly, actively listening and taking notes about the lesson.

**Kindergarten-** We built a “LED” circuit similar to the one the computer and monitor. We are practicing how to do the following items:

- Turning on and off the computer and monitor
- Telling if the computer and or monitor is on or off
- Logging on using a password
- Controlling a mouse
- Starting and stopping Microsoft Paint
- Using Microsoft Paint to color letters of the alphabet and Jewish Holiday pictures
- Logging off without shutting down the computer

**First Grade-** We are learning, practicing, and reviewing the items learned in Kindergarten. In addition to Microsoft Paint, we are learning a new program called Kidspiration. We are seeing how Kidspiration compares to Microsoft Paint and how to use it to create a picture.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

#### Tzedakah of the Month:

*Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless*

Please remind your children to bring in their Tzedakah every Friday!

#### Professional Day— School Closed

Please remember there is no school this Friday, Nov. 2nd.

#### JCC Book Festival

Our students, grades 3—6 will attend the book fair and a special program on Nov. 7th. They will have time to make purchases, so please send money if you choose to.

#### Early Dismissal Begins

On Friday, November 9th, dismissal is at 2:30 pm.

#### Club Ed Friday Closings

November 2007 through February 2008 - 4:00 pm

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# Technology Center

By Charles Nelson

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**Second Grade-** We are learning, practicing, and reviewing how to log on and log off the computer and the difference between the computer and the monitor. We are continuing to learn how to use Kidspiration in picture mode to tell a story or capture and organize ideas about an experience or project. We explored how to change the size, color, and location of the elements of our picture. We learned how to recover from a mistake and how to save our work.

## **Third/ Fourth Grade**

We are learning keyboarding using Senselang (free download). When your child is practicing at home, please reinforce sitting correctly and using all ten fingers. This year, we will learn how to transform the brainstorming ideas captured in mind maps into outlines and how to transform the outline into a Word document. We also introduced the use of spreadsheet for capturing data.

## **Fifth Grade**

We continued to sharpen our typing skills using Senselang (free download). Your child should be practicing typing between 15 to 30 minutes on a regular basis. Using the Hebrew Day Institute's web site as our starting point, we showed each student how to create properly formatted bibliography entries for upcoming projects. Each student used Kidspiration for capturing brainstorming ideas for the Israeli city tour project. Using the tour projects as a basis of discussion, we talked about how to use and evaluate web sites when doing research.

## **Sixth Grade**

We reviewed using Word to format assignments. Our review concentrated on using headings, capitalization, and page numbers. As a warm-up activity for the upcoming science and Torah Fairs, we sharpened our research skills using encyclopedias, books, newspapers and the web. Using the Hebrew Day Institute's web site, each student learned how to create properly formatted bibliography entries. Using Peanut Butter Wiki, each student created learning web pages. Moreover, we are in the process of learning how to organize, interlink, and insert video content into the pages.



## Volunteer—It's good for your soul

### Why I Volunteer

By Julie Boynton, proud parent of Aaron Rubinstein

The funny thing about kids is that they are always watching us as parents. I believe that they see where we spend our time and resources and they take note of our priorities. Whether we realize it or not, we are communicating all the time. If we spend a lot of time in front of the TV, that says something. If we spend time with them in family activities, that also says something. If we spend time on their activities, clubs and school, that too, makes a statement of our values.

I volunteer because I know that without the assistance of volunteers, our school would have a difficult if not impossible time pulling off the many, many activities and special events that our kids enjoy. Parent volunteers greatly expand and enhance the reach of many of our programs. Many times, having parent volunteers makes the difference between having the program and going without it.

However, I also know that by volunteering, I am sending a message to my child. That message is, "You are very important to me and your school experience is a high priority for me." I would encourage any parent to consider getting involved, at any level. Whether it's helping out with a field trip, organizing/assisting with a fundraiser, speaking at Career Day, or supporting the PTO, your participation sends a very positive and encouraging message to your child.



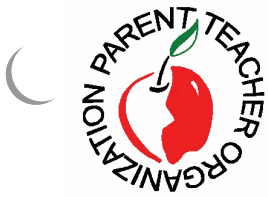
## Parent Education—Homework Tips

Research shows that when parents become involved in their children's schoolwork, the children do better in school. One way you can get involved is by helping your child with homework. It will benefit both your child's school work and self-esteem.

Here are proven tips to help with homework:

1. Set a schedule, including both a beginning and an ending time. Most kids need some time to unwind after school before they tackle their homework. Doing it too close to bedtime may make it difficult due to fatigue.
2. Encourage your child to divide the homework assignment into "What I can do myself" and "What I need help with." You should help only with that part of the homework your child cannot do independently, such as using flashcards, practicing spelling tests, and clarifying assignments. This builds responsibility and independence in your child.
3. Use "Grandma's Rule." Remember that Grandma is reputed to have said that there is no dessert until you are finished with your spinach. Hold off on watching TV and other fun activities until homework is completed.

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## PTO Corner by Edith Calem

### PTO Announcements

The Fall Boutique show was amazing. We had over 20 vendors participating and all who attended, shopped till they dropped! Thank you to all of our volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you and a special, special thank you to Noya Shilo. Without you, we couldn't have done it.



Scholastic Book Fair will be held Monday, November 26th—Friday, November 30th. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Sue Meiselman at 301-871-5971 or email at [smeiselman@gmail.com](mailto:smeiselman@gmail.com)

Max's Night is back! Tuesday, November 6th eat at Max's and bring in your receipts the next day!

**Volunteer—it's good for your soul!!**

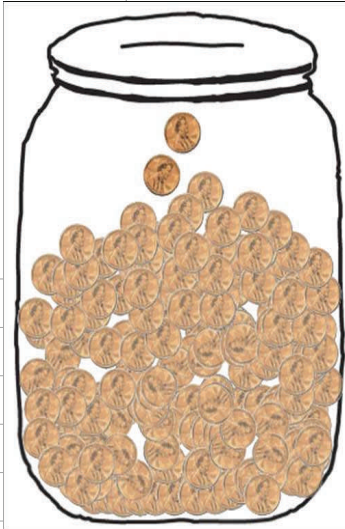


## Parent Education

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4. Use direct praise for doing the homework and even more for accomplishment. "You've spelled 18 out of 20 words correctly--that's the best you've done this semester!"
5. Be available when your child is doing homework, so that you can answer a question if there is confusion. If possible, it is better for you to be in another room, so you are easily accessible and yet not a distraction.
6. Look over the homework when it is completed. Do not correct it unless you have checked with the teacher. Seeing the pattern of errors is often helpful to a teacher.
7. Study groups are often a good strategy. Your child may benefit from studying with one or two classmates. However, make sure they are using the time to study.
8. Allow bathroom, drink, and/or snack breaks, but insist on completion of tasks.

Reprinted from the Parent Journal, Autumn 2004



## *“In the Tradition of Joey’s Tzedakah Box” Curriculum*

Each month, Hebrew Day Institute selects an organization to receive the Tzedakah money collected during our Kabbalat Shabbat program. Thank you to all of the families who support this weekly mitzvah. It is vital for us to achieve 100% participation. Please give, and give as generously as you can.

This month, we have selected a local organization that touches our lives almost every day. Please support the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. Below is a brief description of MCCH.

### Overview

Last year over 4,500 men, women and children experienced homelessness in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless is a leading organization dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness, as well as assisting those in need.

MCCH programs include:

- **Breaking Down Barriers:** facilitating rapid re-housing of families and individuals by resolving their impediments to housing
- **Men’s Emergency Shelter:** providing year-round shelter and services for homeless men
- **Partnership for Permanent Housing:** an innovative program moving homeless families into permanent housing
- **Safe Havens:** providing shelter and supportive services for homeless, mentally ill adults
- **Seneca Heights Apartments:** individual living units of permanent housing for single adults and transitional housing for families

In addition to these direct services, MCCH is an umbrella membership organization, serving the provider network in Montgomery County through advocacy efforts, legislative alerts, program coordination and educational activities.



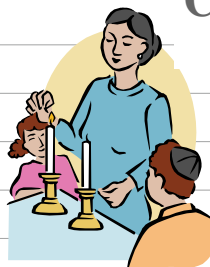
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## Candle Lighting Time



**Friday, November 2 5:49 pm**