

# Hebrew Day Institute's L'chvod Shabbat



January 15, 2009

## Exciting Happenings at School

In the upcoming weeks, we will be providing several dynamic programs and events. A brief list follows.

- ❑ Integrated Martin Luther King Jr. and Inauguration Day Program—Making the connection between these two great men.
- ❑ Sixth grade Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser—benefits the sixth grade graduation trip!!
- ❑ Physics is Phun interactive Science Fair—see your child's experiment and enjoy make-n-takes, games & more!
- ❑ Tu B"Shvat Seder & learning activities
- ❑ Third Grade Havdallah Milestone Program
- ❑ "Welcome to the Tween/Teen Years" in partnership with Jewish Social Service Agency—Puberty is not easy on anyone, parent or child. This workshop, designed for children in grades 4 - 6 and their parents, will explore how we communicate with each other and learn how to listen to each other during this developmental period.
- ❑ "Fiddler on the Roof" - Auditions are beginning and rehearsals will follow. Get in on all of the excitement!

Parents: Please join us for these amazing events. We strongly encourage you to be active participants in your children's learning! ☺ ☺

## Dates to Remember

### School Closed

No classes for students on Friday, Jan. 16 due to a Professional Day for teachers and staff. No school on Monday, January 19 in celebration of Martin Luther King Day.

### Spaghetti Dinner & Science Fair

Tuesday, January 27th at 5:30 pm. Join us for a delicious dinner (6th grade fundraiser) and our Physics is Phun Science Fair.

### School Shirts

On Fridays, all students should wear their blue Hebrew Day Institute shirts, with blue or khaki bottoms.

**Tzedakah of the Month: Magen David Adom (MDA)**

Please remind your children to bring Tzedakah every day!



# Breakfast in Kindergarten

Our kindergarten students had a wonderful week learning about healthy breakfast foods. The children recited a poem about Yoash, using a puppet that they made; played a matching game; made a placemat, and shared with each other what they eat for breakfast.



## What our Parents are Saying about us...

### Please pass along to parents who are interested in a day school education!

To anyone who is considering Jewish Day School, I would like to encourage you to check out Hebrew Day Institute. We are so fortunate in our community to have so many different options for our children, both for day school, public school and religious school. I also know that no one school is the best fit for every child and that this can be a difficult decision to make. I just wanted to share a little of my experience and explain why we chose HDI for our daughter. I encourage everyone who is looking at day schools to come to HDI.

Our daughter Aviva is in the second grade. Three years ago when we were looking at schools, our main priority was a school that would be the right fit for her. For us, that turned out to be HDI. The class sizes and nurturing environment were the biggest selling point. We also wanted a school that would be a continuation of the Tikvat Israel ECC Hebrew Immersion program - which Aviva attended for two years. At HDI, half of every day is in Hebrew. Each class has two teachers, one General Studies and one Hebrew/Judaics. Aviva is currently able to understand Hebrew and speaks it with an Israeli accent! This is without any Hebrew spoken in her home. She is also very comfortable with the daily prayers and has even led te-filla on occasion (which the entire 2-6th grade does together).

Another thing we love about HDI is that the different ages/grades do so many activities together. As I already mentioned, the older kids pray together every day. The weekly Shabbat program is also school wide. Recess, on the wonderful new playground, and lunch include the entire school. Aviva has friends in other grades and sits with them at lunch.

The older children are very nurturing and caring with the younger ones. When Aviva was in kindergarten, many of the older girls took her under their wings, and now I see Aviva doing the same thing with new kindergarteners. This type of informal multi-age/grade friendship and mentoring is just not possible at a larger school where children tend to be segregated by grade.

I would also like to rave about Hebrew Day Institute families; HDI families are friendly, caring, and down to earth.

As for academics, all of the curriculums HDI uses are very strong. I especially like the Every Day Math curriculum (which is used at other day schools in this area as well). Aviva loves math. She loves to read. She basically loves everything about school at HDI.


If you are considering day school and would like to talk to an HDI parent please ask Renee Salzberg for my contact information. Good luck and I hope to see you at HDI soon!



## Shabbat Hachnasat Orchim – Welcoming of Guests

We would like to launch a new program at Hebrew Day Institute. Shabbat Orchim, or Welcoming of Guests. Rooted in Shabbat Parashat Vayera, Avraham and Sara demonstrate the model of hachnasat orchim- the welcoming of guests.

Please invite someone outside your typical circle of friends to join you for a Shabbat meal. If you have met new families to the school but have not had the chance to invite them please consider doing so. If there are families you have known for years but have never gotten around to inviting them this is your chance. Ask your children for ideas- perhaps the family of a child that they would like to connect with will turn out to be a great match for your family. We believe that it is the shared commitment to the 5 core values of Torah, Wisdom (Chochma), Derech Eretz, Responsibility (Achrayut) and Yisrael that binds the members of our community. Aside from allowing us to expand our social horizons, Shabbat Hachnasat Orchim presents a tremendous opportunity to reinforce the core values of derech eretz and responsibility within our homes.



Whether you invite a member of our school community or someone from your broader community, your children will see firsthand the importance of hachnasat orchim to our community.

These are financially difficult and tumultuous times. Coming together in ways that strengthen community is especially important during such times. We hope you will join us in participating in this initiative so that the tent of Hebrew Day Institute truly resembles that of our forefathers and mothers.

For more information or if you would like names of new families or of families who have expressed interest in the school, please feel free to contact Renee Salzberg at [rsalzberg@hebrewdayinstitute.org](mailto:rsalzberg@hebrewdayinstitute.org) or 240-399-6100.



### Mazel Tov!

Creative Communication, A Celebration of Today's Writers, has selected poems to publish in their annual anthology written by five students in our 4/5 class. We are so very proud of all of you!!

Rebecca Hall "Life is a Comic Book"

Elon Kline "The Feast"

Hadas Elazar Mittelman "Dancer"

Aviv Elazar Mittelman "The World"

Samantha Noland "I Wish"



*In the tradition of ...*

# Joey's Tzedakah Box

In light of the current war going on in Israel, tzedakah collected during the months of January and February will be earmarked for Magen David Adom (MDA). MDA provides Israeli's pre-hospital emergency medical needs, including medical, disaster, ambulance and blood services.

Throughout its more than 70 year history, MDA has been and continues to serve as a critical second line of defense, responding to hundreds of thousands of emergency calls each year. During the summer of 2006, MDA responded to 1,500 incidents in Israel's north and treated more than 2,600 wounded citizens. Their efforts continue today and into the future with over 100 Emergency Medical Stations and 11 dispatch centers throughout Israel.

Hebrew Day Institute is proud to announce, ok, k'vell, that our school raised \$180 in Tzedakah to donate towards the Tikvat Israel Africa Fund! Way to go!



Hebrew Day Institute  
2200-B Baltimore Road  
Rockville, MD 20851  
T: 240.399.6100  
[www.hebrewdayinstitute.org](http://www.hebrewdayinstitute.org)



## Candle Lighting Time

Friday, January 16th 4:52 pm