

Hebrew Day Institute

לכבוד שבת

L'chvod Shabbat



September 5, 2008



Welcome Back to School

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2008—2009 school year. I am excited and looking forward to the upcoming year in our new home. A big thank you to all of the teachers and staff who made our relocation a reality. Each of you worked tirelessly in order to get the classrooms and building ready and all of them look wonderful.

Please join me in welcoming our new families, new students, and a new teacher, Chana Fedrick. Marc Hall is back as President of Hebrew Day Institute and Edith Calem and Sue Ellen Sitton are PTO co-Presidents. Please talk to them about volunteering and supporting our school.

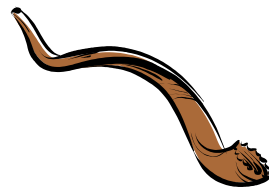
We've begun using our new amazing social studies curriculum which complements our Language Arts program, now in its second year and are entering our third year of Everyday Math, Tal Am and our Tzedakah curriculums. There is an incredible amount of positive energy and excitement in all of the classrooms.

I spent part of the summer in Israel and brought a beautiful shofar back for our school. On our first day, all of us delighted in hearing the sounds of that shofar as we commemorated the start of a new school year. Thank you to Michael Grossman, Executive Director of Tikvat Israel, for helping us to recognize this important moment for our school.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Back to School Night. In the meantime, please check your email for teacher updates and my Friday letter. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Shabbat Shalom!

Maddy



Dates to Remember

Back to School Night

Mark your calendars for Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 11th, at 7 pm. We'll meet in the open space, our Mo'Adon, on the second floor and then you'll have a chance to visit each of your children's classes and hear what the teachers have planned for the year ahead.

Scholastic Book Fair

Join the fun and excitement of our annual book fair! September 8th—14th!

School Shirts

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

Math Night

Back by popular demand, we are hosting Math Night on Wednesday, September 17th at 7pm. Please join us for a fun learning experience and overview of our math curriculum.

Tzedakah of the Month:

National Gaucher Foundation

Please remind your children to bring Tzedakah every Friday!

Scholastic Book Fair Safari

September 8th —14th



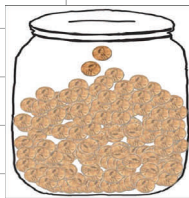
The whole school is excited about our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair Safari, coming to our school September 8th through 14th. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! Good books to read and to give as gifts will be lurking in the shadows of the Hebrew Day Institute jungle.

Mark your calendar for **our Klutz Build-A-Book Family Event on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm**, where the whole family can join in the fun. Please come to browse the shelves and have **lunch with your child on Wednesday, September 10th at noon**. You can also contribute books to your child's classroom library, look for your favorite teacher's Wish List on the display at the Book Fair.

We also need volunteers! It's fun to volunteer at the Book Fair. You can browse through the offerings and see the delight on the children's faces as they discover new books. This year, you'll even get to wear a safari hat! Adults and teens are needed to set up the fair, guide customers to their choices, and to be cashiers. Teens are eligible to receive community service hours for their volunteer time.



Call or email Susan Meiselman at 301-871-5971 or smeiselman@gmail.com to volunteer. Don't miss this chance to light up a young reader's face with a good book. See you at the Book Fair! Check out our school's Book Fair page at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/hdi>



"In the Tradition of Joey's Tzedakah Box" Curriculum

Inspired by Joey Newhouse, graduate of Hebrew Day Institute's class of 1986, "In the Tradition of Joey's Tzedakah Box" curriculum is the cornerstone of our school's Tzedakah program. This program has had rave reviews in the media and community for its creativity, the hands-on, meaningful learning opportunities afforded our students and the impact it has had in helping causes in the community, nationally and around the world.

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

In honor of Joey, we will donate September's Tzedakah money to The National Gaucher Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting and promoting research towards the cause, treatments and a cure for Gaucher Disease.

Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education taps Maddy for Leadership Role



In need of a coordinator for their Professional Development Community of Practice on the East Coast, The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), in cooperation with the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, has asked our very own Head of School to step up and take a leadership role.

“I’m honored to have been asked to coordinate this Community of Practice. Professional development is one of my passions and something that I’ve been committed to my entire professional career,” said Maddy.

PEJE is delighted to be partnering with Maddy and other school-based professionals with responsibility for the ongoing development of faculty in day schools. Members will address topics determined by their shared needs, interests, and concerns. Their phone-based and online discussions will use protocols for sharing information, solving problems, reporting on results, and exchanging resources. Between calls, members will try out new practices back at their schools.

The ultimate goal of the Professional Development CoP (PD CoP) is to make day schools a learning community not only for students, but also for professionals.

“Together we will explore effective professional development strategies, as well as the factors that promote or hinder success,” continued Maddy.

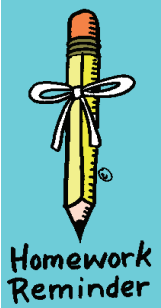
Four important assumptions will guide the CoP. First, that the quality of teacher learning in a school impacts the quality of student learning. Second, an openness to learning and collegial respect are the hallmarks of an effective community. Third, we build out capacity through an ongoing cycle of sharing, implementing, and reflecting. Fourth, the success of our community will depend on your commitment to ongoing participation.

“In the months to come, I will periodically update the school on the accomplishments of the CoP and inform everyone on the professional development growth in our own school,” concluded Maddy.



Parent Education

Homework Tips



Homework Planner

Encourage your child to carefully write down the assignments in his or her planner and ask the teacher if they don't understand what to do. Each day sit down with your child and review the Homework Planner to see all the assignments. Then break the assignments into manageable 'chunks' or subtasks.

Plan a homework schedule with your child. Also, help your child plan the order in which he or she will complete that day's assignments.

Remind your child to only take out one homework item at a time from his or her backpack. If they take out everything they often become overwhelmed just thinking about what there is to do. They should take out one thing, finish it and put it back in the backpack before getting out the next assignment's books.

Calendar

Plan long-range assignments and projects. Get a large calendar, with space for writing things in daily boxes. Tear off the pages and hang up the school months on the wall next to each other, if you have room. That way you can chart projects. Have your child use bold color markers to put in different assignments. Use one color for projects and mark when each part of the project is due. Use a different color for book reports. Use another color for weekly spelling tests. Use another color for Hebrew assignments. This will help your child see what is coming so it doesn't get overlooked. It will also help you fit this work in with the daily homework.

Location

Establishing a consistent workspace is a critical beginning. The precise location for doing homework does not matter as long as it is free from distractions. For example, trying to read a chapter in the middle of the kitchen while a parent is making dinner and siblings are running in and out creates a recipe for failure.

Supplies

At the beginning of each school year, help your child create his own **Homework Survival Kit** with the necessary supplies. Children should learn to take care of the supplies in their Homework Survival Kit, and therefore sharing is not advisable.

Lighting and Posture

Use of an appropriate writing posture should be encouraged. Therefore, an appropriate size desk and chair are necessary. The desk should have adequate lighting. Some children enjoy reading in a different position such as while in a beanbag chair. Ensure that there is also adequate lighting by the beanbag.

General Environment

Some students find it useful to have quiet soft music playing in the background while they work. Classical music works well. Some need silence while working. Some students also need a snack while they're working.

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Organization

Here are some ideas for helping your student organize his book bag or backpack. Check the backpack every day, providing comments and suggestions to help maintain the organization.

- Use different colored folders for different subjects.
- Have a special place for papers that need to come home.
- Have a special place for papers that will be returned to the teacher.
- Develop a consistent routine for your child to replace homework in the appropriate spot in the backpack immediately upon completing it.
- Have a specific place for your child to place the backpack when it is ready to return to school and encourage your child to use this location consistently.
- Praise your child for following through with the routine.

Understanding the Task

Review the basic assignment with your child to ensure that he or she understands what is required. In previewing the assignment with your child, be alert to his or her understanding of vocabulary used. Misinterpreting vocabulary words is a frequent source of frustration for students.

Encouragement

Encouragement can help reduce your child's frustration when the task becomes difficult or he becomes fatigued. An important component of encouragement is to support your child's efforts to work independently and build his or her confidence in doing homework successfully.

- Praise your child's efforts. If questions arise about the assignments, and your child asks for help, ask him or her questions or work through an example rather than simply providing the answer.
- Younger children might need more help from you. Go over homework assignments with your child before he or she starts. You may have to do several problems or questions together, then observe your child doing the next one or two. And please check the completed assignments.
- Emphasize that you have confidence in your child's ability to do the work. Encourage him or her to start with one small part. Start by reading the directions. Then go step by step.

Monitoring Time

Using a timer can make the passage of time more concrete for children. Pick a reasonable amount of time for your child to complete an assignment (or a part of the assignment) and set the timer to ring after that time. It is useful for your child to be able to observe the passage of time, on either the timer or hour-glass.



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Candle Lighting Time

Friday, September 5th 7:14 pm