



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA



Dear Parents,

This week has been an exciting one for all the students in our school. From 3Y all the way through middle school, the new programs that started this week are sure to enrich the students in many ways. In this week's Bulletin, I will highlight a unique program that the middle began.

As you may recall, last year Mrs. Panunzio, Mrs. Welch and I co-taught a course called Financial Literacy. For most of the year we had the middle school students manage their finances as if they had just graduated college and were now gainfully employed with reasonably well paying jobs. The students learned many facets required for responsible money management. That led to this year's undertaking, Junior Achievement Entrepreneurial Program. In this course, the students will actually form a company that will produce and sell items to generate a profit. This is a twelve-week program, which means it will continue for the balance of the year.

This program is designed for high school students. There is only one high school that has undertaken this program, and we are the ONLY middle school to have adopted this very challenging objective. While some of the elements of forming a corporation have been modified, our students are proceeding much the same as high school students would. I can say this with great confidence because Mrs. Himelstein took this course when she was in high school and currently assisting us.

The students are learning a great many lessons, both within and beyond our curriculum. First, they are learning to write business correspondence as they will communicate with our local community. Second, they are required to track inventory, costs, and profits. This will reinforce many math skills and introduce them to basic accounting principles. In fact, their enterprise will have a checking account. Third, they must work together as a unit to produce a profit for the company. Fourth, they must develop a set of values by which the company will operate. For example, they discussed honesty, customer service, delivering quality and much more. They must also cooperate and take responsibility for different aspects of the company. They will need to run their own meetings and follow specific guidelines to ensure that proper procedure is followed. They will vote on the major issues and thereby learn so basic elements of democracy itself.

I have only skimmed the surface in describing this program. There is so much more to this, but I will leave that to future issues of the Bulletin. Perhaps the public relations staff of the company will write its own press releases! As you can tell, the teachers and students are very excited about this. It makes me very proud to inform you how this project came to be. Taly Kornfeld, President of the PTA saw the value in this program and brought it to the PTA to

underwrite the cost of this project. This is yet another example of PTA providing extra resources to benefit our students.)

Junior Achievement rules require that this program be taught by a volunteer, not a teacher. Who would be the right person to not only engage the students and motivate them to work their hardest to be successful? Who could serve as a mentor for our students by his personal example of persistence and fortitude for the sometimes unfor-giving marketplace? We did not have to look far because our own Mitch Kornfeld agreed immediately to teach the course.

Although Mitch kept reminding me that he is not a teacher, he has already gotten off to a terrific start. The students were very engaged in his presentation and are well on their way to start their business. As I mentioned earlier, this course and Mitch's commitment will extend for most of the rest of the year.

We are greatly indebted (no pun intended) to the PTA and the Kornfelds for their commitment and support of UHI and its students. As a teacher, it is my greatest pleasure to see students learn and discover thing about the world around them and to discover talents within themselves. This course will, G-d willing, achieve these objectives and more.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

A NOTE FROM TALY

The PTA is proud and excited to announce that it has funded An Entrepreneurship specialty course for the fifth, sixth and seventh grade students at UHI. This twelve-session course is being offered through the Junior Achievement Program. A special Thank You to Mitch Kornfeld for volunteering to conduct the first session!

The Spaghetti / Bingo Fun Raiser was a huge success thanks to Lydia Lerner and Zivit Bruce who co-chaired the event and to all the volunteers who helped make it all happen.

Please remember to send in your child's completed lunch form for session two; additional copies are available at the office. The meeting date of the next PTA meeting will be announced.

Taly Kornfeld, PTA President



CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ **January 12 to January 23, Fifth Grade conducting a kosher, non-perishable food drive in conjunction with Jewish Family Services. Please drop food items off at UHI.**
- ◆ **January 17, Shabbaton postponed due to the extreme weather conditions.**

Mazel tov to:

Ted & Linda Schwartz on all the new additions to their family

Get Well to:

Leah Lowy

Mr. Sandy Grasso

Wayne Baer

Condolences to:

Peter Danchek in Memory of his wife

Attorney Richard Bishop in Memory of his father

Paul Appel in Memory of his father

Sylvia Appel in Memory of her husband

Joanna Naylor in Memory of her mother

The Prashker family in Memory of Helena

UHI LUNCH PROGRAM MENU
Week Six of the First Session

Tuesday, January 20: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce and vegetable

Thursday, January 22: Scrambled Eggs and Pancakes

Fresh fruit and salad served at every lunch

PTA NEWS

Over 70 adults and children braved the wintery weather to attend the Spaghetti and Bingo Night "Fun" Raiser' and enjoy a fun-filled evening and a delicious spaghetti dinner. Both the children and adults enjoyed the exciting bingo games and fantastic prizes. This was evident by the huge smiles on everyone's face; and a prize was given to any child who did not win at bingo. This "fun" raiser was a wonderful way to experience the warmth of our caring community while having fun at the same time.

This event was made possible by the hard work of our volunteers and the generous support of its sponsors, Fred Berley of Wyoming Valley Auto Sales and Alan Weinberg of American General Life and Accident Insurance Company. Thank you for your support!

Also, a huge thank you to the event co-chair, Zivit Bruce, especially for her great ideas and exceptional cooking; Malka Seewald and all the middle school students for the delicious brownies; Janice Zarad who shopped and help wrap the great prizes; Mimi Ross for selling tickets at the event; Rabbi Nemetsky for his help with the set-up and clean-up and for calling the bingo games. Finally, thank you to all those who volunteered during the course of the evening with anything that had to be done. Volunteers are an important part of an event!

Hope to see you at our next PTA event!

Lydia Sarnevitz-Lerner
Event Co-Chair



**Have a special day? Or Yahrzeit,
 UHI PTA Invites you to share with:
 Parnas HaYom!**

What is Parnas HaYom? Meaning "sustainer of the day" in Hebrew, Parnas HaYom gives people the opportunity to remember a loved one or celebrate a joyous event by underwriting the study of Torah by UHI students for a day, a week or even a year. Parnas HaYom is now conducted in countless Jewish day schools nationwide, and school supporters use it to remember a Yahrzeit, celebrate a birth, wedding, anniversary or bar/bat mitzvah, or to reap the spiritual benefits for a speed recovery (in Hebrew, *refuah sheleimah*) from illness.

But how does it work? The students are made aware for whom they are learning through an announcement at the beginning of the day, as well as a placard at the entrance of the school noting that day's Parnas HaYom and notices placed in the school newsletter. In addition, a brief biographical sketch (no more than 150 words please) can be read in order to make the children even more fully mindful of that day's dedication.

How can I be part of this? Individual days may be obtained for \$18, a week for \$72 and the rest of the year can be sponsored for \$360. Days in perpetuity, along with a special Etz Chaim plaque, can also be reserved so that your loved one can always be remembered by UHI in a living, vibrant and uniquely Jewish fashion. Please contact Barbara Bell at 570-696-4447, Malka Seewald at 570-288-7317 or return the attached form to the UHI front office at 570-287-9600 in order to reserve a date for your special commemoration.

UHI FOOD DRIVE

January 12 to January 23



The fifth grade class is conducting a kosher, non-perishable food drive in conjunction with the Jewish Family Services. To date we have received over 100 items, please continue to send in your family's food donations so that we may help those in need at this difficult time. Monetary donations are welcomed as well. Checks may be made payable to Jewish Family Service with the notation that it is for "Sarah's Table." To date, over 150 items have been collected.

JCC COMMUNITY NOTES

- ◆ January (Sunday), from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Rabbi Roger Lerner, Rabbi Larry Kaplan and Rabbi Nachman Bruce are leading an Introduction to Judaism class. This will be an 18-week class covering all topics such as history, textual Hebrew and more. Cost is \$18 plus cost of books. JCC 824-4646.
- ◆ January 14 - April 1, JCC Institute of Learning will meet on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Center from January 14th thru April 1, contact JCC for topics and dates, 824-4646.



Please remember to use Price Chopper Scrips and your Advantage Card for UHI's participation in the "Tools for Schools" program (School Code 17362) which will end on February 14, 2009.

FIRST GRADE SIDDUR PRESENTATION

Judaic Teacher: Geveret Pernikoff



December was a very special month at UHI. All the students were excited about Chanukah; but the first graders had another reason to be filled with excitement and joy. They were preparing to receive their very own new Siddur!

There was much to do before this very special day arrived



including making their very own original Siddur covers and, of course, practicing for their play entitled "Shalom

Means Peace," which took place in front of the scenery representing the Kotel (Western Wall) in Jerusalem.



When the day finally arrived, everyone knew their parts and sang happy and meaningful songs accompanied so graciously on the piano by Mrs. Himelstein. Their performance was enjoyed by everyone in the audience! Then came the moment when each child received his / her first siddur from their parents. At the same time, each child was presented with a bag of candy treats by a family sibling. Each child then made a brief "Thank You" speech and received hugs, kisses and applause.

The Siddurim are donated every year by Attorney & Mrs. Larry Keiser in loving memory of their son, Jonathan (Yosef Reuven) who was a student at UHI. Geveret Pernikoff and Rabbi Nemetsky spoke of the significance of the occasion.

***Mazel Tov Kitah Aleph! Congratulations!
We are all so proud of you!***



The children went all over the world to bring peace by passing around the globe and telling a little bit about each country and how they would welcome peace and learning! This was so much fun and brought great applause!



Scenes from Siddur Presentation

DOES FUR HELP ANIMALS STAY WARM?

Teacher: Lesley Baltimore



When it is cold outside, you might put on a jacket or a sweater to keep warm. The third grade experimented by putting cotton batting (fur) around a metal can and nothing around the other. After pouring hot water in each can, we recorded the temperatures in each can

Lily Drak, Jacob Kaplan, Haley Rukofker and Chava Kornblatt enjoyed the "furry" experiment.



every ten minutes. We wanted to see if the "fur" kept the water warmer longer. We found out that fur does keep an animal warmer because the water stayed warmer longer.

The main job of fur is to insulate the animal's body from its surroundings. The class came to a conclusion that it would be hard to measure the temperature of a real animal to find out how fur helps it stay warm, so using a model was a great way to help us learn about animal fur.

ACCELERATED READER AT UHI

Librarian: Jewel Jacobs

What is the purpose of Accelerated Reader? It is an assessment that primarily determines whether or not a student has read a book. The software provides additional information to teachers regarding reading rates, amount of reading and other variables related to reading.

There are three steps to using Accelerated Reader. The first step is students choose and read a fiction or non fiction book. Each month a different genre is assigned ranging from science fiction, mystery, adventure, fantasy, award books, historical fiction, biographies and non-fiction books. Once the student has finished the book, he or she takes a quiz on Accelerated Reader via computer. The quizzes are multiple choice with 5, 10, and 20 questions depending on the book's difficulty and length. The questions ask literal comprehension questions. Students must correctly answer a set number of questions in order to pass an exam, for which they are given a percentage of points associated with the book depending on their achievement on the quiz

The third step is the report. Accelerated Reports are generated on demand and help students, teachers and parents monitor student progress. The TOPS REPORT (The Opportunity to Praise Students) reports quiz results after each quiz is taken. This allows students to immediately review specific concepts with which they had difficulty and to alert teachers to any student having a problem. Diagnostic Reports identify students in need of intervention based on various factors. The Student Record Report is a complete record of the books the student has read including quiz scores.

In AR, the critical skills needed to become lifelong learners are practiced while taking students to places they may never go, meeting people they may never meet, and imagining things they could never dream of without a love of reading.

I asked the students in fifth and seventh grade to write a sentence or two what they thought about the AR program. Kyle Deutschman, "Accelerate Reader helps you to improve your reading skills. You can also learn newer and bigger words." Ben Kaplan, "I like it. It will really help other kids with their reading skills." Bailey Fendler, "The Accelerated Reader program helps us to improve our vocabulary, reading, grammar and much more. It is a lot of fun too." Adina Newcome-Beill, "We should be thankful for AR's and even a library because you soar into imagination and wonder. Some kids don't have AR's and you should love it." Andrew Sarnevitz, "It helps me get better at reading and teaches me new words in the books I read." Meitar Dougherty, "Accelerated Reader is a fun way for kids to read." Abby Schwartz, "I like the Accelerated Reader program because it challenges people to read for many points. It also helps you learn, practice and imagine. It opens up your mind." Glen Kaplan, "I like the AR because I can build up my vocabulary level." Finally, Ben Engel said, "I believe the principal's challenge is a great way to test our reading skills.



L to R: Bailey Fendler, Kyle Deutschman, Andrew Sarnevitz, Ben Kaplan and Adina Newcome-Beill all had great things to say about the Accelerated Reader Program. You all know the importance of Reading in your lives, great job!