



# THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Dear Parents,*

There is a very interesting article published today in the Notices of the American Mathematical Society which seeks to identify why so few women are represented in high-level mathematics competition. The original journal article is 13 pages long but The New York Times has a short summary that is written

without technical jargon.

The study contains a lot of data, and I assume that the information is accurate. It makes a few broad statements, two of which I would like to highlight. First, the United States teams have not scored as well in the highest level of mathematics competition as other countries have, some of which are much poorer than our country. Second, within the United States, girls are underrepresented in the teams that advance to international competition.

The tricky part of research is to draw correlations between the data collected and then explain the correlation. The hardest part is to then make recommendations to correct the problem / situation. I suspect that this study will engender more studies to test the theories espoused.

Two broad reasons were presented to explain the situation in the United States. First, as a culture we do not value math. It's not that our country lacks students with extraordinary talent, it's just that it goes untapped because many students' achievements in math go unnoticed. Second, even for those who show a lot of promise in math, as they go through high school, social pressures steer promising students into more socially acceptable activities. Specifically, teenagers and young adults do not wish to be seen as "nerds." This is especially true of girls who wish to fit in with their peers.

As with many research articles, particularly in education, the solutions offered are pinpoint, surgical ones designed to attack the specific problem. The broader problems and therefore the broader solutions are beyond the scope of the authors. Here is a summary of the solutions proposed:

1. Eliminate the myth that females cannot excel in mathematics.
2. Improve the general population's (and especially those of girls) perspective so that math is culturally acceptable (Think: cool, hip).
3. Have specially trained math

teachers starting in sixth and seventh grade. 4. Have specialty schools that focus on those students who have extraordinary math talent. 5. Coordinate services between middle schools, high schools, and colleges so that students can have access to higher levels of math.

My father, of blessed memory, had a saying, "Everything else you understand and only this is troubling you?" Meaning, if one perceives a situation to be illogical and dysfunctional, do not isolate one element and question that one item. We have a societal problem with education. We are spending huge amounts of money per child without seeing commensurate results. We have vast numbers of high school students who do not even graduate even with watered down requirements, yet the authors present very specific suggestions on how the best and brightest can advance.

I am all for good suggestions. However, the challenges we face in the general educational are so fundamental, that no patchwork solution can address and remedy the problems. However, the suggestions listed above assume that the basic educational system can remain as is and we merely need to implement some additional initiatives for the best and brightest math students.

Questions: How does this relate to UHI? Does Judaism have a better approach to deal with society in general and education specifically? Who are the most qualified, best-equipped people to implement solutions to extricate us from the educational quagmire in which we find ourselves?

Please read the next issue of the UHI Bulletin for the conclusion to this week's article. Hint: My analysis may differ with those of the study's authors.

*Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach,*

*Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky*

## CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ October 16, PTA Sukkot Dinner at UHI, @ 5:30 p.m. (see Page 2 for details)
- ◆ October 16, Lancaster Class Trip, Grades 5 - 7
- ◆ October 17, Sukkah Hop
- ◆ October 19, Sukkot at Six Flags Great Adventure
- ◆ October 24 - Field trip to the Kingston firehouse for Fire Safety Week, Grades 2 and 3, 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. UHI will provide transportation.

Mazel tov to:

Paul Spotts on being selectd for "40 under 40" in Camp Hill, PA

Gett Well to:

Cindy Kruger

Condolences to:

Mrs. Florence Gull in memory of her husband, Edward

**PTA NEWS**

- ◆ Please support the PTA Gertrude Chocolate Candy Fund-raiser! All of the proceeds go directly to our children.
- ◆ Sukkot Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 16, at 5:30. **Volunteers are needed** for set up, serving and cleanup. Please contact Sara Pisarz at 357-4650. Make your reservations as soon as possible.

**ANNUAL PTA SUKKOT DINNER**

Chairperson, Sara Pisarz

October 16, 2008 at 5:30 at UHI

Come and eat in the UHI Sukkah with the UHI Family  
 Delicious baked chicken and chicken nuggets  
 Make a delicious edible Sukkah with Malka Seewald

RSVP to UHI Office 287,9600,

Reservations must be made and paid in advance,  
 \$8.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child (max family \$36.)

In case of inclement weather, it will be held in the  
 Max Roth Auditorium. PTA Installation will take place  
 in the Auditorium at 5:00 p.m.

**A NOTE FROM TALY**

Thanks to all those who attended the first PTA Meeting! It was very well attended and many items were discussed including the upcoming Sukkot Dinner, a UHI lunch program, future events and fundraisers. Also the PTA officers were announced and they will be installed at the upcoming UHI Sukkot Dinner on October 16th beginning at 5:30 p.m. (See list of officers on page 3)

Thank You!

Taly Kornfeld, PTA President



**GERTRUDE HAWK CHOCOLATE**

- ◆ We are now in the midst of the Gertrude Hawk fundraising drive for the P.T.A. I am pleased to see such a high level of participation and was particularly impressed when one parent told me she could not sell the chocolates and offered instead to donate directly to the P.T.A. I am confident that we can have 100% participation in this fundraiser. The chocolate is under the supervision of Star-K, although the label does not indicate this. *R.N.*

**UHI PTA CANDY SALE**

UHI if off to a sweet New Year with the kick-off of the *PTA Gertrude Hawk Candy Fundraiser*. Each family has been asked to sell the entire variety pack of 48 candy bards ay \$1.00 each. The proceeds will be collected on or before Friday, October 30, at the UHI office. Please sell the candy bars to your family, friends and/or co-workers, With your help and participation, we will continue to do great things together for UHI and our children. Contact UHI for additional candy. *Thank You for your help and support!*

**JCC COMMUNITY NOTES**

- ◆ Monday, October 13, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. "When School's Out, The Center is In!" at JCC. Swim-Gym-Lunch/Snack-Activities included. Ages 4 - 11, full day \$20, half day \$10, (children with 1/2 day of school, program will run 12-3 p.m.) Transportation will be available from UHI with pre-registration. Also, a half day program offered on Monday, October 20. Call Gina Malsky, JCC Youth Director, 824-4646.
- ◆ Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 2 the Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel, Ohav Zedek and the Jewish Federation are sponsoring a Scholar-In-Residence Weekend featuring prominent author Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. The theme of this unique weekend is "Creating a More Caring Community. Rabbi Telushkin is named as one of the best speakers in the U.S. by Talk Magazine and is the author of "Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History." For more information and reservations, contact the JCC at 824-4646 for more information .
- ◆ Sundays-R-Fun at the JCC, October 12, 19, 25. Contact Gina Malasky, JCC at 824-4646.

**SAFETY IN UHI PARKING LOT**

All parents are requested to follow all safety precautions and considerations at arrival and dismissal times. Speeding has been noticed and it poses a serious hazard for parents and the children. Thank You for your cooperation! *R.N.*



**HELP OUR SCHOOL GET FREE EQUIPMENT**



Please remember to register your Price Chopper Advantage Card for UHI school code 17362. Our school will automatically earn credit every time you use your card. If you signed up last year, you do not need to re-register. Call UHI 287-9600 with any questions.

## The Scientific Method

*Teacher: Carole Panunzio*

Students in the seventh grade science class at UHI recently discovered that sometimes 2+2 does not appear to equal 4.

During a recent lab experiment, the students were using the scientific method to predict, measure, and observe the mixing of two unknown liquids. They carefully measured 25 mL of two clear liquids into graduated cylinders. They then combined the two samples into another graduated cylinder.

In their hypotheses, the students predicted that the resulting mixture would measure 50mL, however, after completing the procedure they discovered that it actually had a volume of 46.5 mL. They also observed that the clear liquids became cloudy and bubbly for a brief time and emitted some heat.

The students were then informed that liquid A was water and liquid B was alcohol. They also learned that the spaces between the molecules of alcohol became filled with water molecules resulting in a lower volume.



*Fellow students watch on as Glenn Kaplan conducts unknown liquid experiment*

This practice lab enabled the students to use the scientific method and showed them the importance of following safety procedures and precautions. The students also realized that scientists' hypotheses (educated guesses) are not always correct and that researchers can learn as much from their mistakes as their successes.



### **UHI'S FUTURE SCIENTISTS OF AMERICA**

*Above: Abigail Schwartz, Ben Engel, and Meitar Dougherty using a graduated cylinder to measure the unknown liquids.*



#### **2008-2008 PTA OFFICERS ANNOUNCED**

**(Installation on October 16 at 5:00 p.m. at UHI)**

**President, Tali Kornfeld**

**VP of Administration, Malka Seewald**

**Treasurer & Pushke Account, Kathy Roth**

**Recording Secretary, Jill Kranson**

**Financial Secretary - PTA Dues, Tammy Engel**

**VP Candy Sales - Gertrude Hawk, Gerri Kaplan**

**VI Historian, Lydia Lerner**

**VP Passover Candy Sales, Darlene Lieberman & Sara Pisarz**

**VI Picnic Raffle, Adrienne Kaplan & Gerri Kaplan**

**VP Programming, Maria Griver & Jenny Rizel**

**VP Shalock Manot Project, Dr. Barbara Bell**

**COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION 2008**

**Teacher: Lesley Baltimore**

Every four years, a new President is elected. In order for us to understand some of the campaign issues being discussed, Mrs. Welch and I used the Smart board to teach the fifth through seventh graders how to summarize an article. We taught the students to search the articles for the campaign issues. The fifth through seventh graders, planned, organized and kept an eight-day journal using newspaper articles, the internet newspapers, or magazine articles. Each student summarized the articles with emphasis of understanding the issues and the presidential candidates' positions. Their journals concluded with a one-page reaction sheet that explained what he/she learned about the presidential candidates and the campaign issues. Included in the paper was a recommendation of whom he/she would vote for in the upcoming election and reasons to support this decision.

The students learned a valuable lesson by paying attention to the issues. They realized that the media and campaigns use articles, slogans, and commercials to sway the general public. The students now have a better understanding of the issues and the presidential candidates' positions and are now equipped to have a conversation with their families regarding the economy, education, energy and health care, taxes, and Iraq/ Afghanistan. At the end of October, the entire school will be voting in a nationwide poll of school-age children.

*We can not wait to see the results of our school and if they will predict the November 4, 2008 election.*

**YOM KIPPUR AT UHI**



*Daniel Tillman, Aiden Dougherty, Ethan Lieberman, Avi Rizel and Chen Bruce blow their very own shofars.*

*Below: Geveret discusses Yom Kippur with students*



**GETTING READY FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS AT UHI**

**Judaic Teacher: Geveret Pernikoff**

We all took a trip to Kirby Park for Tashlich. As we stood around the pond, we recited our prayers and we threw our "avaivot" (sin) into the water. We also

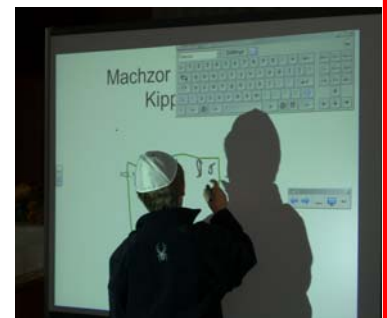


did a mitzvah that day by feeding the fish in the pond. It was an enjoyable day and a meaningful one indeed.



Before Yom Kippur, we gathered for this holiday in an assembly in our auditorium. We were told about this special day and that it was neither a bad nor a sad day. It was a "serious" day and we have to observe it with a happy feeling that Hashem

will listen to our prayers and bless us all with a healthy, good year to come.



Guela Brownstein blessed the candles as her mommy does.

The Kindergarteners sang a special song. Then a quiz was held with many questions on all levels. The older classes also prepared a wonderful quiz as on or "Smart board" that was enjoyed by all. Special posters were made from our prayer theme of "Avinu Malkainu," Our Father, our King. Rabbi Nemetsky blew the Shofar from Israel and we all sang, "Next Year in Jerusalem."

*Next week our focus will be on Sukkot!*