



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

Sometimes our own children, or in my case, the students in this school, wonder if we were ever children. Often this question comes up when the youngsters are faced with a problem that they feel we cannot relate to partially because they feel we have not experienced that which they have.

As we often try to explain to them, we were once children and that we did go through many of the stages that they are going through. Sometimes we lose credibility by emphasizing how difficult things were for us and how easy life is for them. Even if this were to be true, it diminishes the challenges that they face and creates a barrier to open and frank discussion. (I feel those comments are required when the children complain how they must have some specific item that is vital and critical to their existence.)

At the risk of condemning some teachers – or even administrators, I will admit that not every educator started life as an avid learner. Speaking for myself, I felt that vacation time was not only a vacation from school, but also from schooling and I did not wish to review my lessons in Chumash or Gemara. The usual refrain to my father's attempt to convince or coerce me study was, "But it's vacation; we don't have to learn." My father would respond, "If it's vacation then take a vacation from breathing as well."

In retrospect, my father was correct but I feel that there may have been more effective ways to induce me to learn. First, a little incentive can go a long way. Children who feel that extra learning should be recognized and even rewarded are not being unreasonable. If we can find a way to motivate children to do useful tasks, we will not only see greater success, but we will do so with greater cooperation and less resistance.

I mention this topic for two reasons. First, I feel it is important that children do something worthwhile each day of vacation to reinforce the notion that every day is important and as a unique fraction of our lives it should not go to waste. I also feel that a daily routine that includes some learning makes the transition back to school in January a bit smoother. Finally, children do advance incrementally with each bit that they learn, so why not continue that advancement over the break?

The second reason I am writing about incentives for learning is because the school will shortly launch an extension to the AR (Accelerated Reading) program for students in Kindergarten and above. Please look for a letter that will announce this program, which will reward students for additional reading. The mid-winter break is a wonderful time to have children spend some time each day engaged in reading.

Of course, everything mentioned above also applies to the study of Torah. Therefore, the school will be running a fundraiser, which I hope will also motivate students to spend some time over vacation learning Torah and maintaining the spirituality and holiness that comes from studying Torah. Please watch for correspondence regarding this as well.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

A NOTE FROM TALY

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the UHI Holiday Boutique such a festive and successful event. There are too many volunteers to list individually but you know who you are; and we couldn't have done it without you! However, I would like give a special "Thank You" to Jodie Stone for organizing the many vendors that took part in the Boutique. The turnout was a bit under what we expected, but it was very nice to see our many supporters and we can only get better.

We are entering the third week into our lunch program and I'm happy to report that all is going very well and the children love it. This success is due to our wonderful volunteers and we welcome any new moms or dads who would like to volunteer their time. Please remember that there is a free lunch incentive for the children of all volunteers.

It is so very important that we all support the efforts of our Parent Teachers Association as the success of our programs and events directly benefits UHI and ultimately our children. Feel free to give me a call at 574-5525 with any new ideas or should you wish to join our team of volunteers.

Thank You!

Taly Kornfeld, PTA President



CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ **December 12 - Hearing test was rescheduled to Wednesday, January 15, between 9:00 and Noon, Dr. James Ziegler will conduct the hearing test to all UHI children and staff.**
- ◆ **December 17 - First Grade Siddur Presentation**
- ◆ **December 22 - Preschool Chanukah Program**
- ◆ **December 24 to January 2, - Winter Break, School Closed**
- ◆ **January 5 - School Resumes**
- ◆ **January 11 - UHI PTA Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo "Fun" Raiser, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at UHI**

Mazel tov to:

Rabbi & Mrs. Pinney Levitin on the birth of a baby boy

Get Well to:

*Arthur Meyer
Geraldine Hyman*

Condolences to:

*Lillian Kornblatt on the death of her Mother
Edward Guttman on the death of his Mother
Suri Perlman on the death of her Father
Amy Baker on the death of her Father*

UHI LUNCH PROGRAM MENU
 Week Three of the First Session
 Tuesday (12-16): Hamburger & Tater Tots
 Thursday (12-11): Macaroni & Cheese w/corn
 Fresh fruit and salad served at every lunch

Operation Warm-Up
 There will be a collection of new and gently used winter gear. This includes but is not limited to hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, coats, blankets and snow boots. Barrels will be placed at Temple Israel, JCC, Temple B'nai B'rith, and UHI for donations. This is a cooperative effort by Congregations Ohav Zedek, Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel, Temple B'nai B'rith, Bais Menachem, Jewish Federation and the United Hebrew Institute.

PTA NEWS

- ◆ The PTA will sponsor a special luncheon for all students on Monday, December 22, to celebrate Chanuka. Please do not send a lunch with your child that day.
- ◆ Please remember to send in your form for the Teacher/Staff Gift collection. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Engel.
- ◆ Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night "Fun" Raiser, Sunday, January 11, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., \$6 per adult, \$4 per child w/a \$20 family limit. Come and enjoy good food, fun and great people!

If anyone has a copy of the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 PTA Parent Handbook, please contact UHI at 287-9600 or bring the copies to the school at your earliest convenience.
Thank You! Sandy Himmelstein

JCC COMMUNITY NOTES.

- ◆ Calling all children 2nd Grade and up. Join the JCC every Wednesday from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. for the Jewish Community Choir directed by Cantor Ahron Abraham. The choir will perform at the Chanukah Community Celebration, Purim Carnival and other community event. Call the JCC at 824-4646
- ◆ December 14, Chanukah Workshop from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m., hosted by JCC, Temple Israel, Temple B'nai B'rith and UHI. For more information call JCC at 824-4646.
- ◆ December 18, Oy Vegas II at Mohegan Sun, call JCC 824-4646
- ◆ December 21, 2008 Community Hanukkah Dinner at the JCC, Mayruz Run, 5:00 p.m., Outdoor Candle Lighting 6:00 p.m., Barbeque Chicken Dinner, Potato Pancakes & all the trimmings. Cost \$15 for adults, \$6 for children under 12, children under 3 are free, call JCC for more information.
- ◆ December 28 (Sunday), 2008 Summer Day Camp Winter Reunion from 1 - 4 p.m. (slide show at 1:30). Cost \$5/pp, staff free, call JCC for more information.

UHI PTA
 Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night "Fun" Raiser,
 Sunday, January 11 at UHI
 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
 \$6 per adult, \$4 per child w/a \$20 family limit.
 "Come and enjoy good food, fun and great people!"

Please remember to use Price Chopper Scrips over the Holidays! Available at UHI and the JCC. Thank You!

◆ JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

- ◆ Always accepting Kosher, non-perishable food for Sarah's Table.
- ◆ JFS is offering Operation Mattahias and will provide Chanukah gifts to children up to 16 years of age. Special circumstances will be considered. Donors and those interested in participating are to call Lisa Morgan at 823-5137 before December 12.

Friends Helping Friends

There are many ways to become a partner with UHI as you are remembering loved ones, extending wishes for good health, or taking note of a special occasion. Please use one of the following to make your special contribution.

Happy Event, Memorial, Good Health Donation:

\$5.00 (minimum) Regular Card, \$8.00 Scholarship Fold Over Card; and \$18.00 Chai

Library Fund:

\$10.00 per book

Donations for Continued Education:

\$100

Tree of Knowledge:

\$180 Leaf, \$1800 Brick

Memorial Plaque (Auditorium):

\$300 (Annual notification of Yahrzeit)

We are collecting \$1.00 donations for the two-year old boy who was orphaned in Mumbai. Please call UHI 287-9600 or drop off your donation at the school. Please see last week's Principal's article for more information. Thank You!

Hebrew Language Program

UHI is offering an afternoon Hebrew Language Program led by Ms. Einat Davidowitz.

Please see the accompanying flyer.

The first two sessions are FREE so you can "try before you buy." The cost is minimal, 12 sessions for \$60.00, and it includes a snack. Call the office at 287-9600 to join.

LEARN-A-THON

UHI will conduct a "Learn-a-Thon" over the mid-winter break. This will be wonderful for students to continue studying Torah over vacation. Please watch the upcoming bulletins and homework

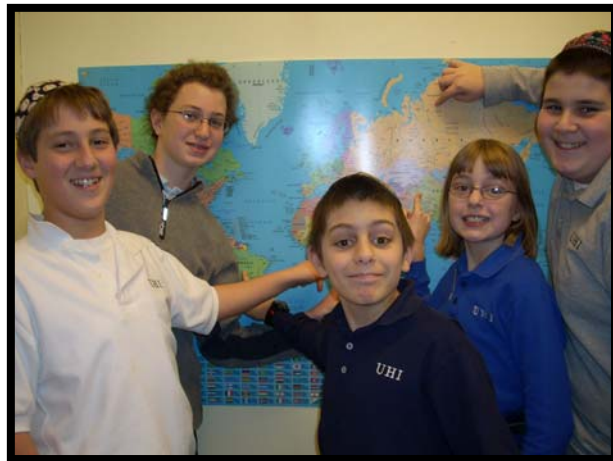
THE WORLD

Teacher: Lesley Baltimore



As the world seems to be at our fingertips through cyberspace, the sixth graders are learning the continents, countries, and capitals. We are studying ancient Egypt, so we decided to start with the continent of Africa.

The students will know the 51 countries and their capitals with a few fast facts. There is a great website at www.sheppardsoftware.com that any age can use and have a lot of fun learning geography. By the end of the year, we will know the countries on the seven continents.



Mrs. Baltimore makes learning about the world interesting and so much fun! Sixth Graders from L to R: Ross Kleinman, Mitch Pizarz, Asher Schwarts, Ashley Kaplan and Micah Kaplan

DON'T FORGET TO HELP OUR SCHOOL GET FREE EQUIPMENT



Please remember to register your Price Chopper Advantage Card for UHI school code 17362 and to use Price Chopper Scripts to purchase your Holiday Orders.

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. Please spread the word! Thank You!!!

WHAT'S IN A NAME

HOW SCIENTISTS CLASSIFY LIVING THINGS

Teacher: Carole Panunzio

“Felis domesticus” means a house cat to scientists in every country throughout the world. This scientific name is based on a system of classification that divides living things into seven categories: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. The official name decided upon consists of the



Ben Kalplan, Andrew Sarnevits, Bailey Fendler & Adina Newcome-Beill dividing the shoes into different categories.

genus and species written in Latin form. To make communication and research easier, scientists classify living things in this orderly and uniform manner.

The fifth grade students at UHI recently participated in a lab activity which allowed them to classify a group of familiar non-living objects. Each student placed several



Adina checking for accuracy!

different types of shoes brought from home on a lab table and worked in research groups. Each group divided the shoes into different categories based on their similarities.

They chose specific features such as color, heel size, and style and divided the shoes into smaller and smaller groups which were alike in some way.

At the end of the activity, the students compared the classification system that they developed with their classmates classification systems. They also discussed how their systems were alike or different. During this activity the students became aware that scientist must work together in order to share their knowledge and insights. They also learned that the organization of material and information is very important in order for the facts to be accurately shared and recorded.



Andrew, Kyle and Bailey working together!

PEN PALS

Teacher: Tim Showalter

I still remember my pen pal in second grade. He was a young boy from China. Its hard to forget the excitement of sending, waiting, and finally receiving the letter. This is exactly what I want the second grade to experience.

Mrs. Nora Tillman deserves most of the credit for the idea. We were speaking last week about potential schools to correspond with. We will also be working with Rabbi Rizel in order to write our message in both Hebrew and English.

We are currently in the process of locating appropriate schools to contact. Our main goal is to find a school that has a strong English foundation as well as Hebrew.

Here is a brief list of some of the potential areas:

- Australia (Perth has already been contacted)
- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Glasgow, Scotland
- Winnipeg, Canada
- Israel
- Johannesburg, South Africa

If anyone in the community has any strong connections or ideas regarding other schools, your suggestions would be strongly appreciated. You may contact me at timothyshowalter@gmail.com. Thank you in advance!

THANKSGIVING AT UHI



Our sixth graders told the audience why they were so grateful and our first grade class brought smiles to all with their enthusiastic performance. It's thumbs up for Quinn Deutschman, he sure enjoys preparing for Thanksgiving!

