



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA



Dear Parents,

This is the last issue of the UHI Bulletin for this school year. The time has truly flown by. I still cannot grasp that we have just one week left for classes (for the elementary school). When school is over, I feel sad because I miss seeing the children's smiling faces and the wonderful interaction with the staff that I so enjoy throughout the school year.

However, when I look back over how many improvements we have made this year, I feel that the time seemed to fly by because it was such a successful year. On every level, I feel that as principal this has been one of the most fulfilling years of my entire administrative career of twenty-two years. One article cannot summarize, let alone describe the achievements of this year.

Here is an overview. The students won more awards, both school sponsored and community generated, than in recent years. The students took a wider variety of classes this year than any other. During school, Mrs. Seewald conducted a special cooking class for grades 2 & 3, while Mitch Kornfeld led a Junior Achievement entrepreneurial class with the entire middle school. Students attended a voluntary Hebrew language class with Einat Davidowitz and I taught a Bar Mitzvah preparation class.

We upgraded our school with 3 SmartBoards, something that Wyoming Seminary parents are raising funds to accomplish next year. We also added 2 Mac computers to provide a richer computer science program. We had distinguished guests from many arenas, including our own Wachovia Arena, and our students visited many other sites to round out their education.

Our parents were very active this year with a PTA schedule of activities that dwarfs those of much larger schools. They ran a successful, sustainable lunch program, and initiated Yom Limud, a day for sponsoring the learning in our school which has been wildly popular. Best of all, the parents were happy to lend a hand and did not feel put upon to give of their time and energy.

We are already gearing up for next year so that our future is an enhancement to our current productivity and success. I look forward to your input. I plan on being at the school for most of the summer and I invite you to come by and share your ideas and thoughts. I know the teachers have already started planning for the students to learn and develop to truly fulfill their potential.

In all candor, I feel so privileged to have enjoyed your support and active participation during my second year. We have continued providing excellence in Judaic and General Studies for the next generation of Jewish children in the Greater Wyoming Valley community. On behalf of the entire staff, I thank you for investing your confidence in us to care for, teach, and help develop your child. It is a great responsibility and we look for to doing so next year and beyond.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

A NOTE FROM TALY



Wow, what a year this has been for the UHI PTA! I truly feel the need to express gratitude to all those who have helped me make this a successful year. The PTA has revived itself in so many ways this year.

I have received numerous e-mails, calls, conversations and even being stopped at the supermarket to thank me for doing such a great job. As nice as it feels to hear this, I stop and tell them that as much as I would like to take the full credit, I can't. I explain to them that this success is because I have had such a great group of parents. A lot of this year's activities came about from parent's suggestions and willingness to create new events and taking full charge to making them successful.

Thank you to everyone for giving me this opportunity and trusting me with the PTA Presidency. I have gained a lot of knowledge and had the opportunity to work with people that maybe I would never had the chance to otherwise. *It's been great!* I have also had the pleasure of getting to know many of you on a more personal level and consider you *my friends (good friends)!*

A special thank you to Malka Seewald, PTA Vice President, to all the members of the PTA Board, and to all of the parents who have truly been there for me in so many ways. As much as I would love to thank everyone for all their help this year, it is impossible to list all your names without forgetting a name or two and I really do not want to end the school year with that. So, this is a genuine *THANK YOU to EVERYONE that has helped me in so many ways!*

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Nemetzky, the UHI administration, and teachers. Without all of your help from answering my calls, making calls, mailing etc. none of the projects would have been successful. UHI truly has a parent-teacher association! We all recognize the work and effort that you do for us on top of all your other responsibilities with our children. *The students of UHI are very lucky to have all of you in their lives!*

To Anne, we will miss you in so many ways. There aren't enough words to describe how much you have helped me. I will miss you! You have helped me with my weekly articles, with new ideas for the PTA, and you have also been such a great friend. I am glad that I had this opportunity to meet and work with you. The students will really miss you; your absence will be felt. We all wish you best of luck and we hope that you will not forget us and come visit us frequently.

Taly Kornfeld
PTA President



CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ June 9, Preschool Closing Exercises, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ June 10, Kindergarten Graduation, beginning at 10:15 a.m. (photos will be taken by photographer beginning at 9:45 a.m.)
- ◆ June 12, Last Day of School, 11:45 Dismissal

Mazel tov to:

Bruce & Missy Saidman on the graduation of son Jake
 Rose Fierman on her graduation
 The Alinikoff Family on your son's graduation from college & your daughter's graduation from law school
 Tim Showalter on upcoming marriage
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Fendler (and Bailey) on the marriage of daughter and sister Samantha Siles
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard German on the birth of a great grandson
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Rifkin on the birth of a great grandson
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rifkin on the birth of a grandson
 Rabbi & Mrs. Zvi Perlman on the birth of a granddaughter
 Robert D. Schaub, Esq. on the "Distinguished Alumni Award" presented by Leadership Wilkes-Barre

Get Well to:

Natalie Lidz
 Raphael Nemetsky
 Mimi Cohen
 Martin Meyer
 Susan Levinson
 Maxwell Marcus

Condolences to:

Dan Oshinski & Family in memory of grandmother, Lillian Wisniewski
 Harriet Gray in memory of brother, David Thalenfeld
 The Yelen family in memory of Mary
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Maskinas in memory of Fabian
 Mr. Harvey Trachtenberg in memory of Marian

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There will be additional communication throughout the summer. I am also planning for one more edition of the UHI Bulletin during the summer that will highlight our end of year award ceremony. I will also share with you the plans for next year regarding staffing, scheduling, and curricular goals. Please check your email periodically, or you may request a copy of any publication from the front office. *Rabbi Nemetsky*

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Under the auspices of the Al* & Leah Ufberg Concert, made possible by Margie and Murray Ufberg, the Israeli Scouts will be at the JCC, 60 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm. The caravan will consist of 10 Tzofim and two group leaders ranging in age from 17-18, who will cross North America and perform songs and dances.

The teens will interact with the audience and lead groups in educational and social activities. The caravan brings Israeli culture and good will through their unique blend of smiles, songs and dances in English, Hebrew and Yiddish. The Scouts will share their personal stories and dreams with the audience.

The program will be preceded by a congregational meal. Reservations can be made by calling 824-4646. Reception to follow. Any questions, call Barbara Sugarman at 824-4646.

*Of blessed memory

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

Jewish Family Service
 Live Auction by Marva
 Tuesday, June 9, 2009
 at Temple B'nai B'rith
 408 Wyoming Avenue
 Kingston
 5:00 pm - ?

Joan Rivers Collection ~ Gift certificates to many restaurants ~ PNC Private Box for 20 people at July 18 Yankee Game ~ Steven Vale Lasik Surgery ~ Bell Home Furnishings Stone Centerpiece ~ Movie Passes ~ Theater Tickets

Artwork by: Tobi Balin Grossman, Frank Kluk, Georgiana Cray Bart, Arthur Miller, John Pacovsky & More!

For more information call 823-5137

WILKES-BARRE
 JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
 DAY CAMP
 JUNE 22-AUGUST 14
 (NO CAMP FRIDAY, JULY 3)
 CHILDREN 2-15 YEARS OF AGE
 WELCOME
 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
 MONDAY-FRIDAY

LUNCH-SNACK-TRANSPORTATION
 INCLUDED IN CAMP FEE

OVER 20 DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES
 OFFERED WEEKLY

CALL RICK EVANS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 824-4646 OR 947-6766



LITTLE MENSCHEN



K'TON TON

NAGILA/
 KADIMA



MITZVAH



NOAR



**THE UHI KINDERGARTEN READS TO THE . . .
TADPOLES?**

Teacher: Amy Baylor

Learning to read is an exciting and fulfilling accomplishment for the kindergarten children this time of the year. The children enjoy time spent in the classroom library and on the computer using this new rewarding skill. They can be seen reading to themselves during silent reading time and to a partner every day. In the past few weeks, the children had a unique opportunity to practice their oral reading and fluency skills.



The kindergarten children read stories to the tadpoles in our science center! The kindergarten children said, "It will help them grow and feel like we are their friends." One child said, "I heard it works

Chenny Bruce (above) and Aiden Dougherty enjoyed reading stories to the attentive tadpoles!

for plants!" Reading to the tadpoles has become a fun time to practice reading in Kindergarten everyday!



The UHI teachers gave their dear friend and co-worker, Tim Showalter, a surprise Grooming Shower! Mr. Showalter was very SURPRISED and a sweet time was had by all. Congratulations, Tim!

THE YANKEES VISIT UHI



(Above) Pitcher Mark Melancon signs autographs for Dovid Seewald and Natalie Zarad while all the students anxiously awaited their turn! (Below) Mark Melancon, along with Mark Vander-Woud, radio announcer for the Yankees, and Coach Don Flynn took part in the presentation and helped answer any questions pertaining to baseball.

UHI students were thrilled by the visit of Mark Melancon, pitcher with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees, who signed autographs and spoke to them about how he got started in baseball. He also told them about how education played a great part in his baseball career. The students also got a first hand instruction on how to throw a baseball. Mark is the highest prospect in the New York Yankees system and UHI was honored that he was able to visit with our students. Thanks to Coach Don Flynn for making his visit possible!



Mitch Kornfeld was honored recently at UHI for his volunteer instruction to the Junior Achievement class. The UHI administration, staff, teachers, students and parents greatly appreciate his dedication to UHI and its mission!

CELEBRATING UHI' MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITERS

Language Arts Teacher: Barbara Welch



Throughout the grades at UHI, writing is emphasized. Using the Writing Process, students are encouraged to assess their audience, brainstorm about their topic, write an initial draft or “sloppy copy,” revise, proof, and share what they have written. This year was no exception. Middle school students wrote essays about veterans and their contributions and even wrote of their plans for Holocaust memorial. The seventh grade students also wrote two document-based essays with pre-service teachers from Wilkes University and their professor, Dr. Robert S. Gardner.



After writing several forms of poetry, each of our students selected a poem from his/her collection and submitted it to Creative Communication for publication. During this spring, the middle school students wrote and revised short stories with Wilkes University’s English honor students and Dr. Thomas A. Hamill. In all, it was a busy year for writing at UHI, and while writing to learn and to communicate effectively is a worthy goal in and of itself, it is always great for the students to be recognized for their written efforts.



This year, all of the middle school students achieved recognition for their writing in different genre which was then submitted to several contests. We commend them all for their effort and for their achievement as we look forward to another year of learning -- and writing -- at UHI.