



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear UHI Community,

We are now coming to the final weeks of the Jewish month of Elul. In Jewish tradition, the month is a prelude to the essence of Rosh Hashanah. This is the time for Teshuva, repentance. We are told to use the time for introspection, a process of spiritual self-examination so that we focus our efforts for self-

improvement. With a specific plan in hand, we can approach G-d on Rosh Hashanah and plead for a good new year.

As a school, the issue before us is how bring this concept into the lives of the students. I believe that the first step is to remove abstract concepts and words and in their place use easily understood terminology and set specific, concrete goals. This is critical for children and adults as well.

For example, Teshuva, translated as repentance, is a vague notion. If we instead say that we need to be better people, better Jews, better parents, etc., then we can ask ourselves if we lived up to our own standards. Even more, we can ask ourselves if we set our standards high enough so that we actually have a goal for which we must strive. Imagine going for a high level job interview and touting as one of your strengths that you have never murdered someone. I suspect that the interviewer would not be greatly impressed with that credential.

Similarly, if we say to ourselves (and G-d) that we are fine people because we have not stolen money or publicly humiliated anyone, perhaps that is not a high enough moral achievement. The Baalei Mussar (Jewish ethicists) would say that each level of personal success sets the foundation for the next level of improvement. Just as an entrepreneur sees the development of a company as a growth process, so too we should view our own lives as the entity in which we invest our time and effort to be meaningful people.

For children, we must tailor the message so that it is appropriate to the level of the child. In preschool it might mean showing children how to better share toys. In primary elementary it might mean how to treat each other in the playground. In middle school it may mean how to sense when a classmate is suffering and to lend support to one another.

I am pleased to see that this process is ongoing in every class with teachers in every department guiding and modeling kindness and empathy for others. When all those efforts are combined with a uniquely Jewish message that it is imperative that we become good, decent people, we can be optimistic that our children will fulfill the unlimited potential within each of them.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

Letter from PTA President

Dear UHI Parents,

The 2008-2009 school year and hectic pace has begun at UHI. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am the newly appointed President of the UHI PTA. As such, I am dedicated to maintaining the integrity and commitment of this position and the UHI Parent Teacher Association.

This organization has done great things for the school and its students and I wish to continue this tradition, but I need your help. UHI is a small school and the moms (and dads) are asked to assist in its many worthwhile endeavors on a regular basis. The pace is challenging; however, what better incentive is there to go above and beyond than what we can do for our children?

I hope that you will provide me with your ideas and suggestions for new fund raising concepts and projects throughout the year. Also, I would greatly appreciate your taking the time to contact me or the other PTA officers with your commitment to volunteer; we can't do it without you. It is imperative that we work together and stay connected in order to continue to do great things for our children and UHI.

We will be contacting you in the near future with updates and I look forward to hearing from you!

Taly Kornfeld, PTA President (see PTA NEWS, other side)

CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ September 29, 11:45 Dismissal, Rosh Hashanah
- ◆ September 30 & October 1, Rosh Hashanah, School Closed

Mazel tov to:

Ms. Lorraine Mittleman on her daughter's engagement
Dr. & Mrs. Danny Weisberger on the birth of their first grandchild

Condolences to:

Sandy Knouse in memory of Dr. Richard Post
Gabel Family in memory of Ann Marie
Patsy & Eddie Birnbaum in memory of Tillie Reed
Denise & Thomas Rogan in memory of son Joseph
The Sullum Family in memory of Julius

JCC COMMUNITY NOTES

Dear UHI Parents,

Please note the following event sponsored by our Jewish Federation. The UHI receives a major portion of its funding from the Federation. I urge all of you to attend. There will be no solicitation at the event, but it is vital that you show your support by attending.

Sunday, September 21, 7:00 p.m., Federation Campaign Kick-Off at the JCC featuring Leah Stern, TV Correspondent, anchor and editor for IBA News, Israel's only local English language news program.

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.

UHI NOTES & REMINDERS

- ◆ Please use Price Chopper scrip regularly. They are available at the UHI office and the JCC in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$20.
- ◆ We are now using traffic cones to keep cars away from the curb to ensure safety of children and easy access to cars. Otherwise, all procedures are same as last year. Once dismissal begins, please stay in your car and move forward when possible. Please do not call your child to come to your car. If feasible, we will walk students to cars even if you are in back of line. Please park in the center section should you have to leave your car.
- ◆ Until further notice, we will not provide lunch for the children. Please send them to school with a nourishing lunch and drink. We will provide them with necessary cutlery.



- P Path to tzedakah*
- U Uniting to help*
- S Sharing resources*
- H Helping those in need*
- K Keeping our traditions*
- A Always paying tribute to Hashem*

The PUSHKA is an integral part of every home and many offices, too! It is an easy way to perform the mitzvah of tzedakah.

A very touching note was received recently, which contained the true spirit of giving as exemplified by the PUSHKA. Felice and Amy Luka were students at UHI. Their dad, Mr. Robert Luka, wrote to tell me that he was going through the effects of his wife, Eunice, obm. Among them he found a UHI PUSHKA. Mr. Luka sent us a check for the amount that was in the PUSHKA. What a meaningful way to carry on his late wife's wishes and tradition of charity.

The funds that are raised from UHI PUSHKAS are used to continue to offer the best Judaic and secular education to all our students at the UHI. If you do not already have one, please let us know or stop by the office. It is a great way to put all that loose change to work in a positive manner. It is customary to give tzedakah before lighting candles and putting it in the PUSHKA is easy to do!

- P Participate, please*
 - U Use that extra change (or bills) to further education*
 - S Share the joy of helping children*
 - H Have a meaningful experience*
 - K Keep up your support for the school*
 - A Always feel the blessing of encouraging Torah learning.*
- By: Sandy Himmelstein*

PTA NEWS

- ◆ The first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. at UHI. Please make every effort to attend.
- ◆ PTA Gertrude Chocolate Candy Fundraiser is coming soon. Please support this fundraiser and watch for details.
- ◆ 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. Watch for details.