



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, PA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

I have long maintained that among the many goals a Jewish day school must accomplish, it must produce good American citizens. A number of questions immediately come to mind.

What is a good American citizen? Upon which skills and knowledge is citizenship built? A more delicate problem is how to discuss the issues that confront us, especially political

ones, without appearing partisan or biased.

I believe that every citizen has the obligation to seek the betterment of his country. Citizenship demands that we remain loyal to our country and try to improve it where possible. There are many levels on which one can serve to improve a country. The most basic level of involvement is to vote – intelligently. The democratic process is critical to the evolution of a country and its society. Voting provides the mechanism for a country to adapt and overcome new challenges. However, people must be motivated to vote. Unfortunately, in the United States, there is a great deal of apathy when it comes to casting a ballot.

How can our school ensure that its graduates engage in active democracy? First, our students must be informed. I am pleased to report that the social studies content recently has focused on some of the issues at play in this election. Second, our students must be informed so that they can come to a conclusion and decide how they would vote if they had the opportunity. Third, they must feel that not only does each vote count; but, they have a moral obligation to vote their conscience and convictions. Finally, they should love our country so much that all of the factors enumerated above have meaning and relevance to their lives.

This year's election cycle has provided much material to analyze and debate. Doing so appropriately can enthuse the students so that they become actively engaged in the election process. Some of our students have volunteered to help local candidates. This is also a productive way to introduce children to the world of electioneering.

In class, the teachers discuss the political topics in the news but do not advocate one candidate or issue over another. Students are asked for their positions and reasoning. The students also research and produce supporting arguments for their positions. Besides informing students, these exercises can create a life-long interest in seeing all sides of complex issues.

It saddens and frustrates me that in some colleges around the country this same level of impartiality is not maintained. Blatant bias

and overt indoctrination is completely acceptable in higher education. Two recent examples come to mind, but these types of incidents are all too common. At one leading university, the president of Iran who calls America "The great Satan" is a welcome guest, but a member of the Bush Administration is rioted off the stage. Militant Islamic organizations are invited to maintain a presence on campus, but ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp –which recruits for our volunteer military) is banned.

Finally, we must imbue the students with a genuine love for our country. I feel this is actually the easiest of all to accomplish. I firmly believe that we live in the greatest country in the world and that the United States has so much for which we can stand tall. I can admit that as a country we have made mistakes. However, we have accomplished and improved the world to a degree unmatched by any other country. I believe that most Americans think highly of our country. I have traveled to other countries and have yet to see so many national flags and symbols displayed voluntarily by its citizens as I do in our country.

In summary, in addition to the students receiving an outstanding education with a substantial and meaningful Jewish background, they are receiving the training that will empower them to make the kind of decisions that will be required of them as citizens and leaders in their future communities.

Shabbat Shalom and Shana Tova

A NOTE FROM TALY



The first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at 7:30 P.M. at UHI. Please bring your ideas with you as this will be a brainstorming session to find new ways to raise money that will directly benefit our children. Also, you will be updated on new and ongoing PTA/school matters. Thank you and see you at the meeting!

Taly Kornfeld, PTA President

CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ September 29, 11:45 Dismissal, Rosh Hashanah
- ◆ September 30 & October 1, Rosh Hashanah, School Closed
- ◆ October 7 - first PTA meeting
- ◆ October 16, PTA Sukkot Dinner at UHI, @ 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ October 17, Sukkah hop
- ◆ 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:

Dr. David and Molly Rutta on the birth of their first grandchild (it's a girl)

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Drak (and Lili) on birth of daughter Ilana

Get well to:

Dr. Burton Benowitz

Mrs. Lois May

Lila Kanter

Shelia Fendler

Condolences to:

Ed Feinberg & Family in memory of his father Saul

Dori Sobin & the Shertz Family in memory of Perry

Larry Sayah in memory of his wife Deborah

JCC COMMUNITY NOTES

- ◆ Sundays-R-Fun at the JCC. October 5, 12, 19, 25. 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Dance, Gymnastics, Drama, Swim, Science, Art, Karate, Lacrosse, Bowling. Age Groups 3 & 4, 5 - 7, 8 - 10 year olds. \$20 day/\$75 per month. Call Gina Malsky, Youth Director, 824-4646, to register.
- ◆ 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.

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.

2008-2009 PA SCHOOL HEALTH MANDATES



Kindergarten Immunizations - Proof of immunization was required for all K students prior to the start of the school year. DPT - 4 doses, the 4th after age 4; Polio - 3 doses; Hepatitis B - 3 doses;

MMR - 2 doses; Varicella - 1 dose or proof of having chickenpox.

Several students have not met all of the requirements, and this is a matter of concern. Therefore, please insure that your children have met all of the State health and immunization requirements.

Your cooperation is expected and will be reflected in your child's health report to the State. Should you have any questions, please contact UHI at 287-9600 and I will get back to you.

Also, I recently sent home (with the students) the 2009/2010 state mandated vaccination requirements for children in all grades. If you did not receive your copy, please contact UHI at 287-9600 or stop at the school for additional copies.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Donna Martin, School Nurse

ANNUAL PTA SUKKOT DINNER

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 by October 7 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.

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.

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.

SEPTEMBER HAS BEEN BUSY IN 3Y

Teacher: Sara Eneboe

The three year old group has participated in a variety of fun activities. The themes of travel, gardening, and alphabet letters have been sources of learning throughout September.

Each morning the children take turns placing weather symbols on the board. Also, the month and date are learned each day. Songs follow to begin a learning activity. Old MacDonald's Farm relates farms, plants and animals to our lessons. This Old Man song reviews counting from 1 to 10 and the The Alphabet song reviews our English letters. Each day the children participate in an art lesson.

A favorite multi-sensory experience was to pretend that we were squirrels. Then we hunted for acorns and planted them. Next they created brown textured acorn picture. The children then chose to "travel" by train or car on imaginary trips. This activity involved dressing up with hats, back packs and other appropriate travel garb. The children eagerly watched for the "real" train to go by outside. They also love to get ready to go to the beach.

We look forward to learning more about animals and their care. Grooming ourselves (hair, teeth, clothing) will be discussed in the classroom. Also, we look forward to making dough and baking in October.



Lia Stone, Chloe Levi and Simmi Hershkop pack for a trip



Cole Kranson, Ita Brownstein and Julianna Good are dressed for a day of Safari



Chaya Seewald, Molly Romanowski and Chezky Rizel are having fun traveling on the train



Chloe Levi and Simmi Hershkop enjoy creating the letter B with buttons



After counting his acorns, Chezky Rizel displays them

Molly Romanowski proudly shows her acorn find



FRIDAY IS SHOW AND TELL DAY IN 3Y

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World

Teacher: Amy Baylor

Children's literature has a way of captivating young minds, stimulating thoughts, and fostering imagination. Also, it can teach children about people, places and things worldwide without ever leaving the classroom. Our first children's book of the year is entitled How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World by Marjorie Priceman. This book is designed as an introduction to many countries of the world. Through the misadventures of a young girl determined to make an apple pie, the readers are swept to England for its finest milk, France for its elegant eggs, Sri Lanka for its ground cinnamon, Jamaica for its freshly chopped sugar cane and a scoop of sea water, and Vermont for its delicious apples.



Last Friday, our worldwide experience brought us to France with a visit from Dr. Diane Polachek from Wilkes University.

Diane provided a tour through France by teaching the class about French artists and language. Diane brought her guitar and led the children through various French greetings with her music and songs. The children sang beautifully in French, and Diane praised them by using French words that are similar to English words but pronounced differently. Then Diane and the children played a game of Simon Says using only French words for the parts of the body. All the children learned the words very quickly, and Eric Berley won the game! Lastly, Diane read a story to the children entitled Katie Meets the Impressionists. The children were introduced to the characteristics of impressionist art and artists. From the story, the children saw the famous works of Claude Monet and Auguste Renoir. The children said, "It only looks like colorful dots, but when you step away it's a picture!" The children learned to identify many of the colors they saw and express them in French.



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AVINU MALKEINU

Judaic Teacher: Malka Seewald

Our 5th, 6th and 7th grade students have been busy learning about the Tefilla (prayer) of "Avinu Malkeinu" which is cited on the high holidays and fast days. This Tefilla is based on a story from the time of Mishna. There was once a drought in Israel and Rabbi Eliezer was called upon to lead the people in saying the 24 payers made especially for such occasions. However, no rain fell. Rabbi Akiva then came forward and said five sentences, each beginning with the words "Avinu Malkainu."

When the sages noted that this prayer had brought a speedy answer from heaven, they added more sentences and designated it as a prayer of Teshuva for all future generations.

Avinu Malkeinu is translated as our father, our king. The titles reflect two aspects of G-d's relationship to us. Hashem is our father in his desire to help us and a king in his power to help us.

May Hashem answer all of our prayers for a happy and sweet New Year.

(Baylor "See the World" article continued)

Beast and Swiper from Dora the Explorer. Together they continued their trip through France and expanded their understanding and association with the French language and art. Now we are preparing for next week's trip to Sri Lanka!



Eric Berley wins the Simon Says game in French!

Sara Seewald learns guitar

