



# THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, Pennsylvania, USA

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

This week saw the delayed presentations of awards to four of our students. The winners of the Veteran's Day Essay Contest had an opportunity to read their essays and receive a gift card from the school. Glenn Kaplan in third place, Ben Kaplan in second place, and

Ross Kleinman in first place each took their well deserved place in front of their peers and were duly applauded and congratulated.

Mr. Sam Greenberg delivered a short but very meaningful address to the students. He told them how proud he was each year of the work the students submitted to the contest judges. Although we are a small school competing against many other, much larger ones, UHI is always disproportionately represented in the list of awards. I take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who invest much hard work into educating our students and developing their writing skills.

Mr. Greenberg is a proud Jew and a proud American. He certainly served our country during World War II, but he did so as a proud Jew. He noted the contributions that Jews have made in the United States military. Did you know that fifty percent of the first graduating class of West Point was Jewish? Ok, there were only two graduates. He also discussed Mickey Marcus, an officer in the US Army, who subsequently assisted the Israel Defense Force during the War of Independence in 1948.

Mr. Greenberg concluded with an interesting blessing he gave the students. He said he wished that none of them would become Jewish war veterans. Not that he was discouraging them from entering the military, but that he hoped that in their lifetime there would be no necessity for warfare. Truth be told, he was not overly optimistic that that would occur anytime soon.

One of the aspects of the essays that impressed me was the way the students wrote about how the veterans inspired them. Beyond bravery, they spoke of the qualities that their heroes had and how those attributes contributed to their personal success and the advancement of our country. I am proud that our students saw the greatness in those veterans as an inspiration for their own lives. It is important to have deserving heroes, and we should always seek inspiration to elevate ourselves.

One great attribute for success is perseverance. This means continuing to strive in the face of adversity. One challenge all students have is to keep up the study of Torah and performance of mitzvot when school is not in session. The continuity of Judaism is certainly a challenge for the Jewish population in this country. If we are to stem the tide of assimilation, we must start when children are still young.

To that end, the school will again participate in a Learn-a-thon/Mitzvathon that will extend until the end of the midwinter break. Students are encouraged to participate in this project which will raise money for UHI and Ezer Mitzion, an organization that helps the poor in Israel. Students solicit sponsors who will contribute money based upon their performance or time spent properly. Students will record the time they spend either learning something Jewish or performing a mitzvah. Then money raised will be divided between UHI and Ezer Mitzion, who provide all the materials as well as the prizes. I hope that all students will participate so that the midwinter break will be productive. At the same time, the students will raise needed funds for tzedakah. I will sponsor any students who wish to participate. I look forward to all students participating so that their spare time will also include additional meaningful activities.

Shabbat Shalom. Rabbi Raphael J. Nemetsky

### REMINDER

UHI will once again participate in Chai Lifeline.

Please bring new unwrapped, toys which will be presented to children who are seriously ill.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 6 Book Fair & Chanukah Workshop JCC
- Dec. 15 Chanukah Skate Party
- Dec. 18 Chanukah Presentation 3Y - 4Y
- Dec. 22 Siddur Presentation Grade 1
- Dec. 24—Jan. 1 Midwinter Break

## Mitzva Obstacle Course

Jenny Rizel, Teacher

Lately, in 4Y, we have been discussing the topic of Mitzvot. The word Mitzvot is loosely translated as good deeds. The past couple of weeks while learning about the Torah portion of the week, we have been discussing Yaakov and Esav (Jacob and Esau). Yaakov loved to do Mitzvot, while Esav did not. The 4Y children all gave examples of Mitzvot that they do at home such as cleaning up toys, sharing, helping our parents, and feeding our pets.

We then decided to make a Mitzva obstacle course to see how well we can do a bunch of Mitzvot. The obstacle course first started with us running to shul (synagogue), and then we had to share a toy and cook food for Shabbat. Last but not least, we raced to a tzedakah box to put a penny in. We had so much fun accomplishing so many special Mitzvot!



PTA is working hard on getting ready for our Scholastic Book Fair which will take place this Sunday at the JCC from 10:30 to 5:00. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our volunteers. If anyone else is interested in volunteering please contact me before Sunday. We ask that you all make a point to visit our fair. Our children benefit by the books that are sold at the fair. Scholastic provides us with a credit based on our percentage of sale; we then use that to select books and resources from their wide range of selections.

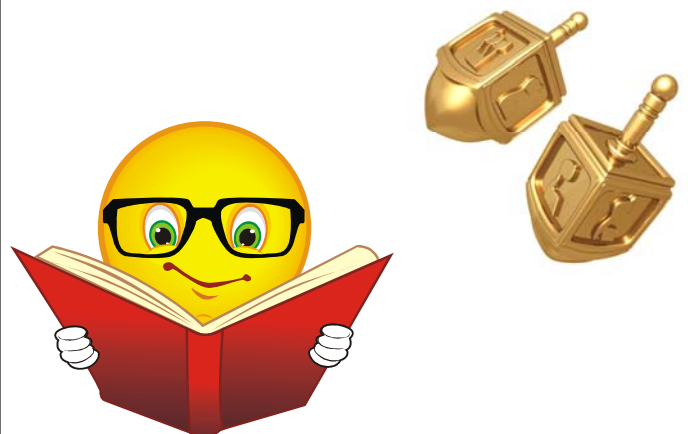
I would like to thank Tammy Engel for continuing to chair this year's teacher and administrative PTA gift project. I ask that you review the paper work that Tammy has put together; and if you choose to participate, please submit it as soon as possible. It is a great and easy way to show our teachers how much we appreciate all that they do for us.

PTA will continue to sponsor a Chanukah lunch for the students on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This lunch is provided for all of the students not just the ones who are signed up for the lunch session. Molly Rutta will again chair this lunch and she is looking for volunteers. Anyone interested please contact Molly at 947-7606. She is planning a delicious lunch with a menu consisting of baked chicken and potato latkes.

If you are planning on shopping at 5 Below please make sure to use our 5 Below flier so that the school can benefit from your purchases. Extra fliers are located at the UHI office for your convenience.

Wishing you all a Shabbat Shalom and looking forward to seeing you at the Book Fair on Sunday.

Taly Kornfeld



## Art at UHI

Sara Eneboe, Teacher

The past weeks have been filled with three-dimensional imaging for all art students. We are so lucky at UHI to have a variety of mediums for creating. Currently, the sixth through eighth graders are designing their very own tile mosaics. These mosaics echo the ancient design of floors and walls worldwide. The mosaics will be a functional form of art. Also, congratulations to middle school artists for wonderful river rock paintings. The theme was of animals curling or posing on the round surface.

The young 4Y students had a chance to design a paper tile creation in the form of Indian corn. Please note the decoration for the front windows. Our 4Y class is so proud of their art. Fine motor skills are flexed when the paper is positioned on the corn shape. The 4Y created textured acorns for fall. How tall must the squirrel be to eat these large specimens? We also strung our special American Indian necklaces in a pattern with colored noodles!

Recently, the sixth through eighth graders completed a "walk on the wild side." We studied Maurice Sendak's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*. The illustrations are similar to the eighteenth century print images found in bound books. Each student explored his/her imagination to draw original, not-so-scary monsters to convey emotions. We enjoyed the book read aloud in our classroom. The class had a grand time discussing how a "monster" should or should not smile so as not to be too intense for a young audience. Points of marketing were discussed, such as target audience and market sales. Some students were lucky to view the new movie based on the story, *Where the Wild Things Are*. The third grade also participated in the illustrations from the story.

The second grade students loved to draw their hands. The exercise can be tricky because we must use both hands to draw, and this places concentration on both sides of the brain. We then drew things for which we are thankful. This finished art is called *Thankful Hands*. We used oil pastels to blend unique skin tones to reflect our skin.

First grade and kindergarten have studied American Indians artifacts and costumes. Kindergarten has drawn the human body in movement. We then made American Indian costumes for the bodies. These young students can draw and estimate size and cut with scissors with ease. Great work! First grade students have created their very own paper totem poles. These were on display on the table in the front hall for the Thanksgiving program.

Our fourth grade students enjoyed creating 3-D pilgrim heads. We blended oil pastels for the skin tone. We then used scrap paper and yarn to finish our faces to make them look realistic. Look for these hanging in the front window.



# Thanksgiving Program 2009

Amy Baylor, Teacher

Every year the Thanksgiving program is a little different and always special. It is special to those who prepare the program and to those who perform.

The Preschool sang the beautiful song "Hashem's the World." The lyrics were touching, especially when sung by young children. We enjoyed their performance of "The Turkey Parade" as well.

We were tempted to clap along with Kindergarten and first grade as they sang "Mitzvot Make You Happy!" We enjoyed joining them when the time was right! When the second grade joined them for "We are Thankful" and "A Song of Thanksgiving," the children sang with excitement and enthusiasm!

"Still It Would Not Be Enough" was sung in a heartfelt, meaningful way by grades two and three. We are always left speechless by the words of songs such as these and by the delivery of the words by children.

Third and fourth grade performed a creative skit entitled "Dear Diary: Then and Now." With their teacher's guidance, they wrote the script and delivered it magnificently!

The middle school Power Point presentations were sensational! Many hours of work went into the presentations, and it showed. The encore of "The Albuquerque Turkey" made us all laugh as we joined in to sing!

With the backdrop of decorations made by the students and directed by Mrs. Sara Eneboe, the musical accompaniment of Mrs. Sandra Himmelstein and the students' performances, the morning before Thanksgiving was one in which we were all thankful!

