



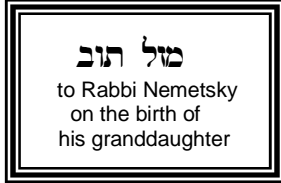
THE UHI BULLETIN

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi Nemetsky



Dear Parents,

This past week has been a very active one. I have attended many meetings, but have been spared a few as well. For those who made the rounds for the conferences, meetings, group emails and more, I am in awe of your perseverance and stamina. The very same issues had to be thrashed out by directors of all three institutions involved. In some instances it may have seemed as Yogi Berra described, "Déjà vu all over again."

I am pleased to report that we, and by we I refer to our entire community, have made much progress. UHI and the JCC are finalizing the details to enable our school to relocate. To facilitate this move, the Jewish Federation has pledged additional support in addition to their allocation to both the JCC and UHI.

In the next week we will be assigning the rooms for next year's classes and determining our requirements for phones, computers, and security. Working with the JCC, contractors will refurbish (moderately) the third floor and then make everything look fresh for our incoming students and teachers. We will have less square footage in the JCC, so it is essential that we use the space most efficiently. We are very fortunate to have Murray Miller, an architect with considerable expertise and strong commitment to the Jewish community, assist and guide us through this process.

Meanwhile, the staff and volunteers at the JCC have already begun emptying rooms on the third floor. In addition, preliminary plans have been devised to have the Kinderlach program on the lower level. Other facilities currently on the third floor will be moved to the first floor. I am pleased that the JCC is moving rapidly to make the transition as smooth as possible.

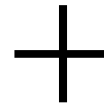
We are also working on the many issues, big and small, so that everything will work smoothly and efficiently. Some of the procedures we are planning include arrival and dismissal both by car and by school bus. On that note, I am pleased to inform you that Wyoming Valley West will provide transportation and Mrs. Himelstein has begun processing the paperwork. We will coordinate the supervision of our students as they arrive and leave so that it is safe and quick. There are many other details, too numerous to list here, so if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email me or call the office.

On another front, Congregation Ohav Zedek at its board meeting this past Wednesday night voted to offer me the position of rabbi for the coming year. While my schedule will remain roughly the same as this year, UHI will see a significant improvement to its operating costs. I look forward to serving the school, the synagogue, and the community. All these organizations and others in the community are focused on maintaining the community, the services provided, and enhancing Jewish life in Wyoming Valley and its environs.

One final thought: There are many rumors swirling about regarding the consolidation, the UHI, JCC, etc. Many of them are completely without basis, some are conjecture, and others are partially correct. Each organization is committed to disseminating accurate reports to its constituents. If you hear a report or a plan that has not come directly from the organization responsible for its implementation, please bear in mind that it is likely inaccurate in part or whole. Everyone involved wishes to keep the community abreast of all developments when they are finalized. I thank you again for your involvement, patience, and confidence as all of us navigate into the future of our community.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Raphael J. Nemetsky



Transportation to the UHI at the JCC for next year will be provided by the Wyoming Valley West School District for all students in Kindergarten or higher who live in the WWV District .

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5/2 Lag B'Omer
- 5/9 Mothers' Day
- 5/12 Yom Yerushalayim
- 5/18 Shavuot Bake and Take at JCC 1-3 PM
- 6/2 Field Trip to Frances Slocum Park K-4

Wilkes Social Studies Class Visits the United Hebrew Institute

Recently, Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Robert S. Gardner and his Education 360 class from Wilkes University conducted workshops for the seventh and eighth grade social studies students at the United Hebrew Institute. During the first social studies workshop, Dr. Gardner's class worked with the seventh grade students to analyze primary source documents which reflected the views of colonial leaders and their final attempt to secure peace with the British Crown. The Wilkes students' careful and thorough instruction concerning these primary sources enabled our students to learn the information, reflect on the documents' implications, and then write their essays in which they demonstrated an understanding of the king's and colonists' thoughts and actions at that time in our nation's history. The eighth grade students analyzed primary source documents which reflected different views on the slavery issue and then wrote their essays in which they determined that the Constitution, at that time, was not clear about the slavery issue thus leading to different interpretations.

Here are some of our students' reflections of the Wilkes class's visits to UHI.

"The two people I worked with to polish my essay were very nice. I love when they come."

"I learned how to write a DBE with the right paragraph structure. I learned a lot about the authors of the documents."

"They taught us what the documents mean."

"I learned always to revise my paper and to use higher-level language in my essay."

"Once again, it was a great experience."

"I learned additional information such as the Constitutional amendment that abolished slavery."

"The Wilkes students were good at explaining the documents in order for us to write good essays."

"They helped me learn to use different words instead of repeating them."

"The Wilkes students taught me that the first draft is never perfect and revising is key in writing a good paper."

"It was a treat to have them come twice this year because it was a great experience, and they were great teachers; they know so much, and I learned so much."

Dr. Gardner and his students returned for the next workshop where they helped the students to revise their document-based essays successfully. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Gardner and the members of his Education 360 class.



A Musical Spring at UHI

Maureen Salley, Teacher

In the upcoming weeks, we are doing a unit on the musical instruments of the orchestra. Our music students should be well familiar with percussion instruments as they play on the cymbals, floor toms, bells, and snare drums, to name just a few. In the weeks to come, they will color pictures of the string, flute, reed, brass, large percussion, and small percussion instruments. As they color, they will be watching a video where various instruments will be playing an orchestral piece.

I played some of the video recently as I introduced the unit. The children were interested and fascinated by the various sounds of the orchestral instruments, and I am excited in anticipation of the upcoming weeks.



Respecting One Another

Mrs. Seewald, Teacher

As we approach the holiday of Lag Ba'omer, the middle school students are busy learning about this important day. Lag Ba'omer is the day that Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai passed away. He specifically requested that this day be a joyous day. It is also the day that thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students stopped dying. They were plagued due to their lack of Ahavat Yisroel for each other. This is the time to focus on the way we treat our friends. We have been doing many different activities and hearing stories to emphasize the importance of respecting one another.

Each day of Sefira (forty-nine days between Pesach and Shavuot), we try to improve in at least one way in order to prepare for the receiving of the Torah on Shavuot. Aside from discussing the Ten Commandments and the deeper meaning behind them, we are also learning the story of Ruth which is read annually on this holiday. Ruth was a convert who gave up a life of luxury and chose to follow the Torah even though she encountered many difficult times. It was very inspiring to learn about her sacrifices and her dedication to Torah and Hashem. We realize how fortunate we are to be the chosen nation.

May we always be proud of our heritage.

Shabbat Shalom



Because we did not use all the days allotted for snow days, the last day of school will be Thursday, June 10. There will be an 11:45 dismissal.

The Tadpoles Have Arrived!

Amy Baylor, Teacher

Our tadpole visitors arrived in the kindergarten and first grade classroom last week! All of the children are enjoying their stay. The tadpoles just hatched from their eggs.

The children are amazed to see how quickly the tadpoles grow and begin to look like frogs! The eyes and mouth can be seen clearly, and their tails are getting bigger. The kindergarten is keeping track of the tadpoles' growth and developments in life cycle journals.

The kindergarten enjoys reading stories to the tadpoles. Kindergarten believes that the stories help tadpoles grow!



Chumash in First Grade

Geveret Pernikoff, Teacher

Pesach was over. Everyone had a wonderful break from school. The weather was beautiful. The change was good for all. Now it was time to get back to work.

In Kitah Alef, in first grade, our class was very excited. Everyone was happy to be back. We were anxious to get on with the third level of our early education. First we learned how to read and write in Ivrit (Hebrew). Second, we received our very own Siddur with great pomp and circumstance. Now the third and most important step of all was about to take place. That morning we were going to start to learn Chumash, the Torah, the holy Bible. We were ready!

In honor of this occasion, Geveret Pernikoff invited Rabbi Nemetsky to speak to us. He came, he spoke about the importance of learning Torah, he presented us with our own Chumash, and he gave us a sweet treat so that we could know how sweet the words of the Torah are. Yes, it was a memorable morning. Since that morning, we learn one pasuk (sentence) of the Torah each day. Chumash is not easy, but it is very interesting. We feel very important that we are carrying on this great tradition. We were told that you could finish learning all five books of the Torah and then start all over again. Wow! We don't think we could do that this year!



We will be packing up! Please help us by bringing in boxes of medium size (like a liquor box or slightly larger).



SAVE THE DATE

May 18

Shavuot Bake & Take

At JCC 1 to 3 PM

Sponsored by UHI PTA & JCC

More information to follow



FUN! FOOD! CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES at the LAG B'OMER CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 2, 2010 at NESBITT PARK (near the Market Street Bridge)

4:00 PM Parade from JCC to Nesbitt Park

4:30—6:00 PM Bar-B-Q

Bonfire Lighting at Dusk



Call Ohav Zedek (825-6619) to make reservations. Food tickets must be purchased at the park. \$7.00 includes 2 Bar-B-Q items and all the trimmings. Rita's Ices will also be on sale.

Bring a chair and/or blanket. Tables are not available.