



THE UHI BULLETIN

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi Nemetsky

Rabbi Nemetsky is in Washington, D.C., with our graduating eighth grade class. His closing message for the school year 2009-2010 will appear in the bulletin next week.



Flea Market at UHI Mary Lee Conway

Sunday, May 16th, was a beautiful, warm, sunny day and the Flea Market at UHI was in full swing! There were twenty-two vendors, food, friends, and a lot of fun!

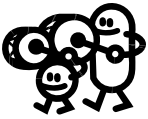
Eva Excaliber, Steve Nachlis, and Jason Cohen ran the UHI table. The Fendler family helped to set up along with many of our UHI friends. Our school benefited thanks to the many donations and spaces rented.

It was a "team" effort, and it certainly reflects how much our school means to all of us! Many, many thanks to all!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 6/7 Nursery Closing Exercises 10:00 AM
- 6/8 Kindergarten Graduation 10:15 AM
- 6/9 8th Grade Graduation 7:30 PM
- 6/10 Last Day of School 11:45 Dismissal
- 7/25 UHI & JCC Picnic 3:00-7:30 at Holiday House



Music Education
Maureen Salley, Teacher

Prior to Thanksgiving, I taught the children “A Song of Thanksgiving”. They learned the words “thank you” in a variety of languages. We discussed how there are differences in people. We are interested in and respectful of the ways of others while affirming who we are.

Every week I quizzed the students on what language each word for thank you was. “Arigato”, I said; “Japanese,” they answered: asante—Swahili; danke—German ;gracias—Spanish; grazie—Italian; thank you—English; and they smiled at each other and shouted their response because they speak English. “Spacibo,” I said; and Lily in fourth grade giggled in recognition because she is Russian. “Todah,” I said; and I watched what all of you would have been pleased to see. They looked at each other with that same joyous look of recognition as for the English word. “Hebrew,” came the gleeful response proclaiming louder than words could say, “Of course, we know that word, Miss Salley, that’s Hebrew. It’s who we are.”

As this community stands on the brink of such dramatic change, we are grateful for the parents, teachers, and school for giving our young a firm foundation of who they are, and hope for our community’s future.

Physical Education – The End of the Year!
Don Flynn, Teacher

Last week I looked at the calendar, and it finally hit me—it’s June 1 this week. My first thought was not just that it’s the end of the year, but did I do everything I wanted to do with the kids. I don’t think you really ever cover everything you want to, but you can come close.

I hope that the kids got a feeling for physical activity and team sports, physical fitness, coordination, agility, control, a wide experience in skills and games, an opportunity to be part of a group and team, and to develop self-reliance, self-worth, and a sense of fair play.

So in looking back over the year I saw the improvement in all the above areas with our kids; but most important to me, I hope our kids have learned to understand that fitness and fundamentals all equal one thing—fun; and I hope they had that. Have a good summer.



Art
Sara Eneboe, Teacher

Art students enjoyed learning about art created around the globe. Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 learned about mammals, birds, and reptiles in the rainforest. They drew areas of the tree canopy complete with brightly colored inhabitants.

Kindergarten and second grade used patterns of line and color in their original hot air balloon paintings. Watercolor is a very wet painting media. The children loved learning how to paint as did famous French artists such as Cezanne and Matisse.

Our wonderful 4Y children enjoyed painting forsythia flowers with bright yellow paint. The dot to dot method works well for blossoms.

The 5th through 8th grade artists carved linoleum blocks to create prints. The print making method dates back to ancient times. Scarabs, coins, and books were carved and printed in a similar fashion.

Our artistic adventures were fun-filled.





Geveret Sophie Pernikoff

It is June. The school year is almost over. We were asked to write a closing article about anything. This is my article.

Was it a good year? Yes, it was. It was a great year! If we complete a year where everyone is well ב"ה, where everyone is learning at a high level, where everyone is happy and glad to be going up to their next level—I would say, “Yes, it was a great year!”

Where do we go from here? Well, we all know that we will be moving, G_d willing, to the JCC this summer. Wherever we will be, we will not be any different. Our location may change, but our school remains the same. In our Hebrew Department, our main subject that we will be teaching is still Torah which can never be changed. Our commitment to excellence remains in both departments, and we will continue to pursue our main goals. With the help of the Al_mighty, we will succeed. I pledge to do my best.

Frances Slocum Fun!

Teacher: Amy Baylor

On a warm day there is no better place to be than under the wooded canopy of the Frances Slocum State Park trails with Kathy Kelchner as our environmental educator and guide. The Kindergarten through fourth grade students enjoyed an afternoon of fun and learning all in one.

The trip began with releasing the frogs that have been cared for at UHI for almost two months. At UHI the students watched them develop from tiny tadpoles to frogs. They fed them well and read them many stories. At Frances Slocum they returned the tadpoles (now frogs) to their original home. The students witnessed the frogs crawling down into the leaves. The frogs will live in that area and in time will begin a new cycle of life.

Next the students enjoyed a walk through the trail. They played games and learned how animals used their instincts to hide from predators and how predators hunt for prey. The students caught bugs in bug boxes and Miss Kathy identified them. One student caught a salamander! The students also learned some history as Miss Kathy told the story of Frances Slocum at the Historic Rock Shelter.

It was a beautiful day at the park. All the teachers would like to thank Mrs. Rutta, Mrs. Roth, Rabbi Brownstein, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Dougherty, Mrs. Kranson, Mrs. Zarad, and Jeanette Good for driving, chaperoning, and being good sports as we played our games! THANK YOU!!!



Alef Bet Ice Cream Party Jenny Rizel, Teacher

The preschool children accomplished a wonderful thing this week. They finished learning the Alef Bet! The children have been working hard all year learning and mastering each letter. We started the Alef Bet right after Sukkot and have been focusing on a different letter each week. Every week we have practiced writing the letter, making its sound, and learning new words that begin with that letter. Well, last week we finally got up to Taf! To celebrate this great accomplishment we had an ice cream party! The children are so proud of themselves and I can't wait to see them accomplish more great things in their very bright future.



Butterflies Miss Angela Kalie

As a tradition, the Pre-Kindergarten observes the metamorphosis of caterpillars. They were amazed by all of the changes they had witnessed. The release of the butterflies was a wonderful experience for the children. Each child had multiple turns at releasing two or three butterflies each. I placed the butterflies in their hands. They were able to let each butterfly fly out of their hands. They loved the feeling of the butterfly walking on their hands and the tickle of its wings.



Second Grade's Journey Across the United States – with a little help from Sixth Grade!

Karen Traver, Teacher

UHI's second grade students "traveled" across the United States beginning in Maine and ending in Hawaii. Their journey consisted of "visiting" each individual state and learning basic and fun facts. A student was selected to color in the state visited and another selected a fun fact. All students received a state book to complete. For each state, the students recorded the name and abbreviation of the state, its capital, and the state nickname. The students also learned some real as well as some fun (and oftentimes strange) facts for each state. For example, "In California, a Belvedere city council order reads: No dog shall be in a public place without a master on a leash." And "In Arkansas, alligators may not be kept in bathtubs." And "In Topeka, Kansas, it is illegal to worry a squirrel."

To enhance the students' journey across the United States, sixth grade student Andrew Sarnevitz brought in his extensive collection of state souvenirs. He shared all the state items he has acquired over the years. We were all amazed and impressed with his collection! And we are grateful he agreed to present them to us.



Rabbi Yaakov Rizel

It's hard to believe but another great year has come to a close. We have learned and grown tremendously. I would like to highlight one of the greater accomplishments we have had this year. In the Hebrew language we have what is called a shoshon or root word. Depending on its usage, these roots are changed through the addition of prefixes and/or suffixes. Once the basic roots along with various prefixes and suffixes are mastered, one is able to decipher Hebrew words with much greater ease. Through the use of flashcards along with various exercises the second and third grades have mastered a substantial amount of these root words. However, it is of utmost importance that the students continue to practice these words over the summer vacation, so that we will be able to continue building on their word base in the coming year.

Jewish Studies – Our Year in Review

Malka Seewald, Teacher

As we conclude another successful year of learning at UHI, it is wonderful to see how much our students have grown, learned, and matured. It has been a privilege to teach your children and watch them develop into young adults of whom we are all so proud.

The 4th grade students are comfortable learning from the *Chumash* and have improved their reading and understanding of Rashi. We have learned all the holidays in depth as well as many other Jewish laws pertaining to our daily life. We have completed the entire book of *Yehosua* and the amazing conquest of Eretz Yisroel by the Jewish people. It has been a challenging yet extremely rewarding year as we prepare to join middle school.

Our goal of independent learning for the 6th -8th graders has been successful and will hopefully encourage our students to open a *Chumash* or a *Navi* and learn on their own. It is of utmost important that the students feel comfortable and confident in their abilities to learn *Torah* and understand its meaning, even when not in the classroom. We have researched the parshas each week and have spent a lot of time learning the deeper meaning of the *Torah*. The 8th grade has completed the entire book of *Devarim* which was Moshe's farewell speech to the Jewish people. In *Navi* we learned about the good and the bad kings of Israel as well as the prophets who always guided our nations. In *Mishna* we covered topics ranging from the laws of Shema, to the blessings for food as well as the construction of a Sukka. We have learned all the holidays and Shabbat in depth as well as many other Jewish laws pertaining to our daily life.

It is my sincere hope that the lessons which we learned this past year guide our students and help them to grow into the best that they can be.

Have a happy and healthy summer.



Surgery for Beginners Carole Panunzio, Teacher

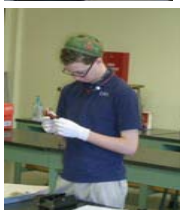
During the last several weeks the seventh grade students completed several specimen dissections in lab class. Although many were not sure that they would enjoy the experience, they all quickly became fascinated by this learning activity.

The students first dissected a clam, which was not a very complicated procedure because the clam is a structurally simple animal. They then proceeded to an earthworm, starfish, and crayfish. All of these animals are invertebrates; however, their internal structure is increasingly complex.

After completing the invertebrates listed, the students moved on to a fish (perch) and a frog, both of which have a backbone and more complex nervous system. They were especially amazed by how similar the internal structure of a frog is to the internal structure of a human (as seen in drawings, of course).

Ashley said she liked dissecting because she never knew what the inside of a starfish, earthworm, and clam looked like. Mikey especially liked dissecting the earthworm because it was so small, and he had to concentrate. Asher and Ross found it interesting to see exactly what was in these organisms, and Mitchell thought comparing a frog's internal anatomy to that of a human was really "cool."

I personally think that there may be some future surgeons in this group of seventh grade students.



Sweet Treat for Sweet Success Barbara Welch, Teacher

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 to use grant money to educate others about the Holocaust so people won't forget. The seventh and eighth grade students also wrote document-based essays with pre-service teachers from Wilkes University and their professor, Dr. Robert S. Gardner. Associate English Professor Dr. Thomas A. Hamill, also from Wilkes, taught our middle schoolers how to write scripts, and the seventh and eighth graders finished the academic year by writing their research papers.

After writing several forms of poetry, each of our students selected a poem from his/her collection and submitted it to the Anthology of Poetry for Young Americans for publication. 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 to be recognized for one's written efforts.

This year, all of the middle school students achieved recognition for their writing. Some were recognized for their poetry, some won essay contests, and others were celebrated for the quality of their writing in both areas. The middle school students celebrated this achievement with a sweet treat – giant yummy cookies! We commend them all for their effort and for their achievement as we look forward to another year of learning -- and writing -- at UHI.



Computer Classes
Karen Traver, Teacher

UHI's seventh and eighth grade students learned the basic concepts of computer programming this year. Thanks to the free program from Microsoft, the students were able to experience and learn the "basics" of Visual Basic 2005 Express.

Second grade students competed in math races using a variety of web sites. The website, www.arcademicskillbuilders.com, became a quick favorite with the students.

Other grades visited a variety of educational websites. Preschool, kindergarten, and first grade students found many educational activities online at www.fisher-price.com and www.pbskids.org. The logical, problem solving game of "Red Remover" interested students of all ages.



To the PTA
for providing
lunch for our trip
to Frances Slocum Park.
Kindergarten –Grade 4



One more snapshot from our trip.