

MISSION STATEMENT
Pardes Jewish Day School prepares students to become outstanding members of society through a rigorous secular and Judaic education, a nurturing community, and a foundation in Reform Judaism that welcomes all Jewish traditions.
Approved May '08



FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Year 2 of the PEJE School Improvement Journey Grant: What does this mean for our school?



Through the generosity of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), our school was awarded a three-year School Improvement Journey Grant. PEJE makes these grants to schools that embark on an in-depth self-analysis that results in a higher level of excellence in all areas of operation - from academics to business systems. Last year, as part of the first year of the grant, we received a comprehensive school evaluation from Independent School Management (ISM), a leader in the field of private school education.

Based on our analysis, this year we were awarded funding for a three-day consultation from The National Business Officers Association (NBOA), an outstanding organization devoted to helping shape state-of-the-art business practices. I am pleased to announce that Linda Dennison, Associate Director of NBOA, and Kathy Peters, Chief Operating Officer of Phoenix Country Day School and a consultant with NBOA, are visiting our campus.

They arrived on Monday and spent a long day meeting with members of the Leadership Team. Tuesday and Wednesday included meetings with members of the Board as well as members of the Finance Committee. Their consultation will produce a recommendation for an integrated software system for the Leadership Team and clearer policies for financial aid and for the business office - all of which will result in more streamlined processes and procedures for our parent body. I will share additional information with you when Linda and Kathy complete their written report including their recommendations to our Leadership Team and Board.

Overlapping with the NBOA consultation is our five-year Quality Assurance Review (QAR) for continued accreditation with the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. A tremendous amount of data was compiled over the last three years that demonstrate the great gains our students make over the course of the school year. The QAR representatives will review all this material and will also meet with leadership and staff, as well as faculty and parents. Both these steps are important benchmarks in developing best practices at Pardes and ensuring that excellence is a standard for us. I look forward to sharing the results of both visits with you in the near future.

Jill Kessler
Head of School

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND TODAY
Form at the end of this issue**

YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Head of School



Jewish Life at Pardes from Rabbi Erica

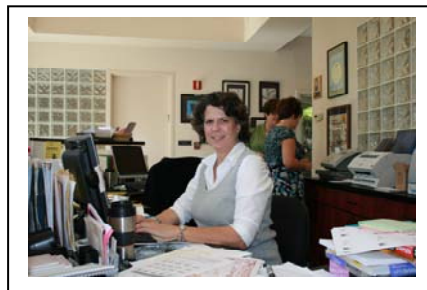
Whomever you voted for, we have a new president elect who needs our support and our prayers.

O Guardian of life and liberty, may our nation always merit Your protection. Teach us to give thanks for what we have by sharing it with those who are in need. Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation, and alert to the care of the earth. May we never be lazy in the work of peace; may we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals. Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance. May they govern with justice and compassion. Help us all to appreciate one another, and to respect the many ways that we may serve You. May our homes be safe from affliction and strife, and our country be sound in body and spirit. Amen (Mishkan T'filah p. 252).

O Heavenly One, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel which marks the dawning of the hope for all who seek peace. Shield it beneath the wings of Your love; spread over it the canopy of Your peace; Send Your light and truth to all who lead and advise, guiding them with Your good counsel. Establish peace in the land and fullness of joy for all who dwell there. Amen (Mishkan T'filah p. 253).

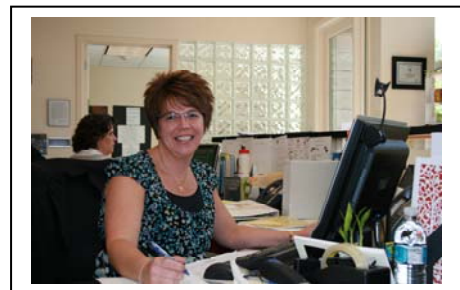
NEW FACES AT THE FRONT DESK

We are so pleased to introduce two new staff members in the front office. Susan Blease comes to us from Hillel Day School in Boca Raton, Florida, where she was Assistant to the Head of School. She recently relocated to Phoenix to be with family. Susan will provide administrative support to the Leadership Team. Jenn Lamden moved to Phoenix about a year ago from Columbus, Ohio, where she was Administrative Assistant for the Rabbinic Dept., the Director and the Religious School of Temple Israel. She has extensive experience as a Jewish educator and now teaches 3rd grade at Temple Solel. Jenn will support our faculty. Both Susan and Jenn will be helping you and your children in the myriad roles that our front office plays. Please introduce yourself to them both! They are getting off to a great start!



Susan

sblease@pardesschool.org



Jenn

jlamden@pardesschool.org

Important Dates

Nov. 12th

Kesher Coffee
Talk
8:30 a.m.

**Nov. 13th and
Nov. 14th**

Parent-Teacher
Conferences
Noon Dismissal

Nov. 25th

First Grade
Thanksgiving Play
9:00 a.m.

Nov. 26th

Special Persons
Day
8:15 - 11:00 a.m.
Dismissal is
11:00 a.m.

**Nov. 27th and
Nov. 28th**

Thanksgiving
Break
No School

PARDES TAKES ON BULLYING

This fall, Pardes committed to implement the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. This is one of the most effective programs for creating a zero-tolerance climate for bullying. (See information about this award-winning program below.)

At Pardes, the training for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Coordination Committee has been completed. Our thanks go to Nicole Gayton, Sheri Schreck, Richard Tams, Rina Kenton, Deborah Weiner, Daphna Gold, Marilyn Reinherz, Rabbi Erica, Maura Slane, and Faith Boninger for their time and great input into the program. Pardes is committed to the program and eager to see it implemented.

The name of our bullying prevention program will be "Hineini," Hebrew for "here I am". The main message will be that we all stand up for one another, that I am my brother/sister's keeper.

The next step will be for the Committee to meet and plan the steps leading up to the "Kick-off". The Committee will determine how we should present the program to the students so they know what bullying is, why we are concerned about bullying, the difference between bullying and mean or annoying behavior, the consequences of bullying and resources available to students.

Parents will be invited to attend an information night about the program and staff will also be trained on all of the elements of the program. We will then give the students a survey to fill out on their feelings about bullying. All students in grades 3-8 will receive a permission slip for parental approval before they take the survey. (So watch for this at home!)

After the surveys have been assessed and returned to our school with a report, the Committee will then have very clear information about the behavior on campus. More information will be sent home as the program unfolds. The best part of our "Hineini" program is the class meeting that will take place twice a month in which students will be encouraged to talk openly about being their brother/sister's keeper. If you have questions about the program, please feel free to contact a friend on the Committee or talk to Tobee.

The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* is the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available today. Developed by Dan Olweus, Ph.D., of Norway, the program is the result of more than thirty-five years of research. It has been implemented throughout the world in countries such as the United States, Canada, England, Mexico, Iceland, Germany and Sweden, in addition to Norway.

Olweus is recognized by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence as one of only eleven Blueprints Model Programs and by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration as a Model Program—two of the highest honors a prevention program can attain. It has received numerous awards from other organizations dedicated to addressing the issue of bullying and violence among children.

Olweus is used at the school, classroom, and individual levels and is designed to improve peer relations and make the school a safer and more positive place for students to learn and develop.

**NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS AT PARDES
UPCOMING EVENTS**

KESHER COFFEE

Please join us for a KESHER COFFEE on Wednesday November 12th at 8:30 a.m. Keshet arranges these coffees to give parents an opportunity to meet with Jill Kessler and members of the Leadership Team and ask questions, bring up concerns, work out new ideas. Keshet Coffees provide a terrific interactive forum and discussion is lively and productive! Mark your calendar!

SPECIAL PERSONS DAY AT PARDES: NOV. 26

Wednesday, Nov. 26 is **SPECIAL PERSONS Day at Pardes**. This is a day when your child can invite Bubbie or Zaydie or another special person, if grandparents are not available, to come to school. There will be classroom visits and a chance to meet teachers and friends. Hands-on classroom projects will give everyone a chance to work together! Special visitors should arrive with their student at 8:15 a.m. The 26th is a half-day with an 11:00 a.m. dismissal. Special guests are welcome to spend the morning!

HANUKKAH HOMECOMING!!!!!!

The first school dance of the year, sponsored by our student council, is on Saturday, November 22nd from 6:30-9:00 p.m. The students will be entertained by our own Mr. Tams and Limelight Entertainment. The dress is semi-formal. Cost is \$3 at the door and everyone is encouraged to bring a can of food for the Paradise Valley Food Bank. This dance is for PJDS students only.

SPELLING BEE

Watch for the Pardes Spelling Bee which will happen in January. Practice packets will soon go home with every 3-8 grade student. It's never too early to practice!

KESHER FOOD DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

The Keshet Tikkun Olam Committee would like to thank all the Pardes families who contributed so generously to the successful Sukkot Food Drive. Over 500 pounds of food were collected and delivered to the Paradise Valley Emergency Food Bank!

He who is generous to the poor makes a loan to the Lord;

He will repay him his due.

Proverbs 19.17

MANY THANKS

OPEN HOUSE - Heartfelt thanks to the families who helped make our ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE such a success. This year almost 100 families, both current and prospective parents, visited the campus to learn more about Pardes. The day was a tremendous success!

KESHER SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Very special thanks goes to the Keshet Social Committee for putting on a wonderful Sunday afternoon Family Picnic. It was a wonderful afternoon, where the children played on the field and the playgrounds and parents visited with each other and got to know each other better. The atmosphere was one of relaxation and fun! If you missed this one, there will be others coming up! Our thanks to the Keshet volunteers for making it all happen!

PAST EVENTS

FIRST STEP FOR LITTLEST LEARNERS - KINDERGARTEN CONSECRATION



Many thanks to Joel Zolendek and Melissa Hassan for use of their photos.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE SIMCHAT TORAH

Rabbi Erica and Cantor Ruth lead the celebratory procession to mark reaching the end of the prescribed Torah readings for the year and the beginning of the new cycle.



SUKKOT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pardes staff and faculty serve up pancakes and families have a wonderful time mixing and mingling. An annual event ending the fall holiday season at Pardes.



Scroll down for Annual Fund form



PARDES JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
ANNUAL FUND
DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

Yes, I/we want to be part of the PARDES ANNUAL FUND!

I/we would like to make a gift of \$_____.
Name (as you wish to be acknowledged): _____.
Address: _____.
Phone: _____ . Email: _____.

- I/we would like to pay in full.
- I/we would like to make this gift over time.
Enclosed is a first payment of \$_____.
The remainder will be paid as follows: \$_____ monthly for _____ months.

Payment Method

- Enclosed is my check for full/partial payment (circle one).
- Please charge my credit card for full/partial payment (circle one).
- I/we authorize automatic charge of \$_____ to my credit card monthly/_____(other).
_____ Visa _____ M/C _____ AMEX
Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Your gift is fully tax-deductible.

Double or triple your gift . . . through employer matching gift programs. Check with your employer to see if your company offers this benefit.

In addition to my Annual Fund gift...

I would like to make a contribution in the amount of \$_____ to support:

- Scholarship funding for a child whose family faces special needs this year.
- Athletics
- Fine Arts (School play, Music Program, Visual Arts)
- Technology

Thank you for making a meaningful gift that impacts every Pardes child!