



Campus News Flash

DECEMBER 3, 2008
6 KISLEV 5769

ISSUE 4

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

Accreditation News

All institutions accredited through NCA CASI, which now functions under the umbrella of AdvancED, are required to host an on-site Quality Assurance Review Team every five years. Three weeks ago two educators from AdvancED spent the day collecting and reviewing evidence, conducting interviews of faculty, students, parents, and members of the board, and visiting classrooms. At the end of the day the Review Team writes a report and recommends an accreditation status. The Team's recommendation is reviewed at the State Office first and then reviewed at the national level.

I want to inform you that we were once again recommended for full accreditation which means that we met or exceeded all standards as defined by AdvancED. In addition, we received two commendations. While strengths are noted in our detailed review, the following commendations were listed as strengths that the Team believes are most deserving of being highlighted. They are as follows.

The staff differentiates instruction promoting active involvement of students in the learning process, including opportunities for them to explore the application of higher-order thinking skills and investigate new approaches to applying their learning.

The school is guided by the core values of respect, responsibility for repairing the world, responsibility for passing traditions and values from generation to generation, service of the heart, and responsibility for maintaining Hebrew as a living language.

The report goes on to say that classroom observations and stakeholder interviews provided evidence that instruction is interactive, hands-on, and meets the needs of the individual student. Schools that implement a curriculum based on clear expectations for student learning provide opportunities for all students to acquire appropriate skills, knowledge, and attitudes. Schools that establish and communicate a shared purpose and direction increase their ability to improve the performance of students and the effectiveness of the school.

We are delighted to have recognition of the high quality education taking place at our school. In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday we all just celebrated, let me take this opportunity to tell you how grateful we are to have your students here to educate and to have you as part of our warm and caring community.

Jill Kessler
Head of School

YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jewish Life at Pardes from Rabbi Erica

I admit that I am a hopeless romantic. One of the many reasons that I feel blessed to be a rabbi is because I have the opportunity to officiate weddings. I love the cheesy romance movies and novels. I enjoy oohing and aahing over the couples on the teenage angst-ridden television shows with the 8th grade *Pardes* girls.

I hope that during this *Shabbat* you will take the time to discuss with your child(ren) the blessing of finding a soul mate, someone who is his/her *bahsharet*. Regardless, of your marital status, I believe that we would feel so blessed if our children experienced the kind of emotion that is depicted in this week's *Torah* portion when one of our ancient forefathers, Jacob, meets Rachel.

And when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his Uncle Laban . . . Jacob went up and rolled the stone off the mouth of the well, and watered the flock. . . . Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and broke into tears. (*Beraysheet 29:10-11*)

We learn that there is more to the story in that he is tricked in to marrying Rachel's sister Leah. In this week's *Torah* portion, *parashat Vayitzei* and many of the (portions) *parshiot* that occur in the book of (Genesis) *Beraysheet*, we learn the origins of various traditions that surround the Jewish wedding.

Preceding the wedding ceremony, the (groom) *chatan* places a veil over the (bride's) *kallah's* face. This custom is called the *bedeken*, which comes from the Hebrew verb meaning "examine." The tradition of the *bedeken* is connected with two stories in *Beraysheet*. The first is the story of Isaac and Rebecca. In this story, the word "love" is used for the first time in the *Torah*. It is here we learn that when Rebecca saw Isaac for the very first time, she covered her face as a symbol of love and modesty. The second story concerns the marriages between Jacob and Rachel and Jacob and Leah. Jacob thought he was marrying Rachel only to discover after the ceremony he had married her sister Leah instead.

Romance is beautiful. However, there is Hollywood and there is reality. When I stand under the (marriage canopy) *chuppah* with so many hopeful couples, I recognize that the teachings of our *Torah* bring us real and lasting relationships that take work rather than the "perfect" relationships we see for forty-five minutes on television. It is our responsibility to dispel the illusion that the entertainment industry creates regarding relationships. Our ancient ancestors present a great place to start a conversation regarding how it takes maturity, hard work, lots of communication, and the ability to compromise among many other (virtues) *middot* in order to uphold a lasting (holy) *kadosh* relationship.

From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven. And when two souls that are destined to be together find each other, their streams of light flow together, and a single brighter light goes forth from their united being (*Baal Shem Tov*).

(May it be God's will) *Cayn yehe rahtzone*.

"It (the *Torah*) is a tree of life to those who cling to it, and whoever holds it is happy" (*Mishlei* 3:18).

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Erica L. Burech

Important Dates

December 7th

Kindergarten
Morning at the Barn
10:00 am - Noon

December 12th

3rd Grade TaNaKH
9:00-9:30 am

December 14th

Chanukah Party
1:00 - 3:00 pm

December 16th

Parent & Child
Book Club
2nd - 4th Grades
5:45 pm

December 17th

Save Your Change
Collection Date

December 19th

Full Day of School

December 20th

Winter Break Begins

FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Dear PARDES Community,

By now you can clearly see that the Board and the Administration have made reaching a goal of 100% PARDES participation in JTO a high priority. Multiple flyers have been sent home; banners are up; administration and Keshet volunteers are manning the entrance gates to remind us - again - to support this goal.

We wanted to take a moment and try to clarify why JTO is important and how it works for you and for the School. We want you to understand just why your participation is so critical - whether your child receives JTO scholarship support or not.

JTO scholarships are need-based. If there is not enough JTO money available, it falls to each school to come up with internal funding to help those families at risk. And yet, internal funding is limited. Budgets are set. Using internal funds to a significant degree - taking dollars beyond those allocated for internal scholarship - means taking those funds away from other needs. It means those funds are no longer available for important teaching and classroom resources, or for vital operational needs. In this way, the entire school is impacted.

Given the current state of the economy, it is safe to assume that JTO funding will be significantly down for the 2009-2010 school year. We can also assume that, in this economic climate, there will be an increased demand for JTO scholarships - from our own families and from other families across the Jewish education community. We already experienced this increased need this fall. To meet these needs will be very difficult. And turning away even one child because of finances is not an option.

Therefore, we need every PARDES family to participate at the greatest dollar level they can in JTO this year. If you can only give Chai (\$18), then please give Chai. If you can help more - we count on you to do so.

At PARDES, we pride ourselves on embracing community. This year is going to be the year to activate the community we teach our children about. Bluntly, *we have to walk the talk.*

If you have not completed this year's JTO form, if you need a form, if you need to know how to fill out a form, if you do not understand JTO and need to speak to someone about it, contact Miriam Nickerson in the Development Office (480-991-9141 ext. 504).

Our message to you today, is that JTO participation is more important this year than ever before. The participation of your family, your extended family, and the PARDES community as a whole will make the difference between children having a day school education or not in the coming year.

Thank you for your time.

100% participation. We have no other choice.

Allan Rosen-Ducat
Ted Anderson
PARDES Co-Board Chairs

COMING UP . . .

GREEN DEVELOPMENTS AT PARDES . . . **Team Yerakim**

Q: What's green, has many hands and feet,
and is environmentally aware?

A: PARDES! ! !

This week, Pardes launches a new green campaign entitled *Team Yerakim*. *Team Yerakim* emphasizes keeping our campus clean, recycling, and changing wasteful habits. *Team Yerakim* represents our first steps in going green. The middle school begins this exciting initiative Friday, December 7th with a campus trash pick-up at 2:15 pm. Parents and grandparents are invited to join the students. The lower school begins its trash pick-up later this month. Both middle and lower schools will pick up trash and recycle twice monthly.

As part of the green campaign, students will learn about recycling. Beginning this week, you will see new recycling areas on campus - one installed near the middle school and one near the lower school. Information will be available on the cans about what products can be recycled. For now, we will recycle plastic, aluminum, and glass. Classrooms currently recycle paper. You have probably seen the paper recycling bins near the parking lot. The school currently makes money from paper recycling. We hope to also generate a small income from aluminum.

The Buildings and Facilities Committee is helping launch and manage *Team Yerakim*. The middle school Student Council will assist committee members Kathy Edwards and Marilyn Sklar. All students, parents, grandparents, and faculty members are invited to help in the effort to make Pardes more environmentally conscious...*and a brighter shade of green*. *Marilyn Sklar, mother of seventh grader, Ben, and kindergartener, Raquel, can be contacted at mjossklar@aol.com.*



SAVE YOUR CHANGE. . . for WASHINGTON D.C.

Start saving your pocket change. Our 8th graders are having a 'CHANGE DRIVE' to raise money for their trip to the nation's capital. While there will be a yard sale and a car wash later in the year, we can all start now and save our change to help our students have a memorable trip to the capital. Accumulate your coins and give them to your middle school students. Get family and friends to do the same. It's painless! Students will turn the money in on designated collection days and be entered into a raffle to win prizes. Selected 'milestones' will be causes to celebrate. The first 'milestone' is reaching \$180. On that collection day, Mrs. Kessler will run one lap around our field for every \$20 raised! WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17 is the first collection day. Let's make Mrs. Kessler work!

Congratulations to 5th grader Chelsea Meiteen who won the first raffle!



Going Green

Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THIRD GRADE PARENTS - AN INVITATION

This is a special message about your third grader's Jewish studies at *Pardes*. The Hebrew (Bible) *TaNakh*, which includes the *Torah*, (Prophets) *Nevi'im* and (Writings) *Ketuvim*, unlocks the words of our collective Jewish history and memory. God willing, your child will unlock the Jewish warmth that is found within the *TaNakh* by achieving many other Jewish milestones, including by becoming *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. The (prayers) *t'fillot*, (commandments) *mitzvot*, and the personal histories that we find within the *TaNakh* can be a comfort and a source of happiness when we celebrate *nachas* events. The study of the *TaNakh*, and the observance of the *mitzvot* found within it, can truly enhance one's life. At *Pardes* we want to inspire students to delve into the *TaNakh*, its complexities, rewards and contributions to all avenues of Jewish life. We pray that our students will choose to open his/her *TaNakh* to teach future generations about our rich Jewish heritage.

Please join us on
Friday, December 12
9:00 am until 9:30 am
in the sanctuary for
THE THIRD GRADE TANAKH



We warmly invite you to attend a very special (service) *t'fillah* honoring and celebrating your child's commitment to the core value of (*Torah* study) *Talmud Torah* throughout his/her learning at *Pardes*. We will acknowledge the energy and enthusiasm with which our third grade students undertake their studying, questioning, arguing, debating of the texts within the *TaNakh*. Please feel free to include family members and friends in this (happy occasion) *simcha*. We look forward to celebrating this wonderful milestone with you.

"Moshe received the Torah on Sinai, and handed it down to Joshua; Joshua to the elders; the elders to the prophets; and the prophets handed it down to the men of the Great Synagogue"

(Ethics of the Fathers—*Pirkei Avot* 1:1)



KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES . . . COME OUT TO THE BARN

Kindergarten families are invited to a special **MORNING AT THE BARN**. Visit with Jill Kessler. Meet our Board. Learn about opportunities to be involved. Bring the family!

ROXY'S RANCH
4435 E. Dove Valley Road
Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008
10:00 am

There will be supervised horseback riding for children. Refreshments will be served. RSVP by Fri. Dec. 5 to Susan at (480)991-9141 or sblease@pardesschool.org. Directions to Roxy's Ranch at front desk.

At the Barn



*Come eat latkes & spin the dreidel...
At Keshet's
Afternoon of Chanukah Fun!*



*Sunday, December 14
1:00 to 3:00 pm*



- ☆ *Arts & Crafts, Music, Storytelling*
- ☆ *Face Painting*
- ☆ *Fun & Games with Coach Ryan*
- ☆ *Latkes & Apple Sauce*
- ☆ *Bring your family Chanukah (Chanukah Menorah)
and light a candle with your Pardes family*

PLEASE NOTE: Friday, December 19 is a regular full day of school and we expect students to be responsible for work completed on this day.

BOOK CLUB KICKS OFF! JOIN IN!



It's not too late to join the Pardes Parent and Child Book Club for grades 2-4! The first meeting is December 16, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will be discussing the book **The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DiCamillo. To join, or for more information, please email Raquel Scharf-Anderson, Lower School Curriculum and Instruction Specialist at rscharfanderson@pardesschool.org. We hope to see you there!

Book Club



LOOK WHAT WE DID. . .

SPECIAL PERSONS DAY AT PARDES



On Wednesday, Nov. 26 parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, great grandparents, great aunts and uncles, siblings and even neighbors were invited by students to join as special persons for a day at school. Rabbi Erica led an exuberant multi-generational crowd in a wonderful *t'fillah* service which was followed by a slide show of shining and happy faces. Special guests got to participate in hands-on classroom projects. Judging from the pictures below and from everything we saw that day, all participants had a great time living our core value of *l'dor v'dor*.



For lots more pictures, check out our school blog:
<http://pjdsblog0809.blogspot.com>

Alumni Shine...

ALUM CLAIMS ACCOLADES

Congratulations to **Jacob Schaffert**, a senior at Jess Schwartz College Prep for being named a regional finalist in the 2008 Siemens/Westinghouse Math, Science and Technology Competition. Jacob, a "lifer" from Pardes was the only Arizona student qualifying for this competition.

Jillian Nusbaum just received the top state acting award for high school actors for 2008-the Theatre for Life Acting Award from the Arizona Thespian Society. More great things are coming for Jillian, currently a senior in the IB program at Desert Mountain.

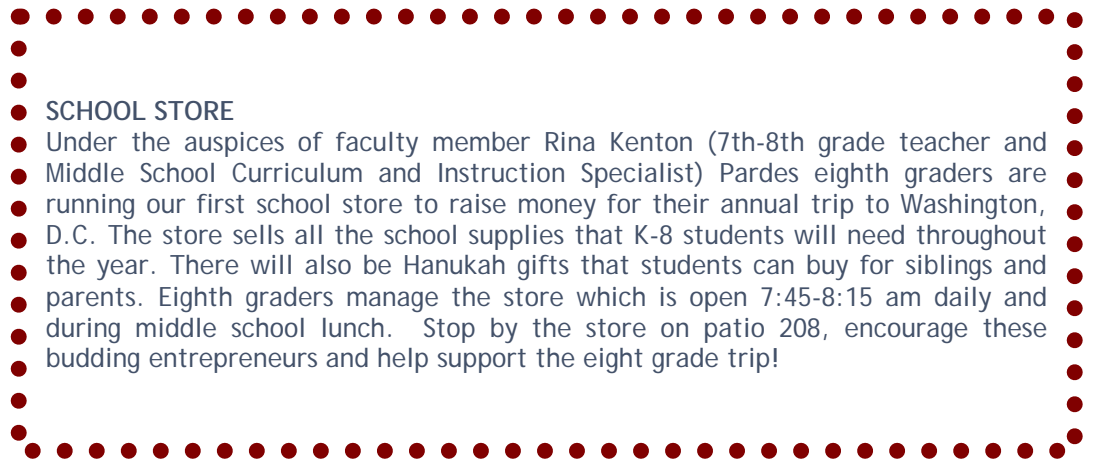
Erica Morris, another "lifer" at Pardes, is also a Flinn finalist. Erica, a senior at Horizon, will definitely finish her high school career in high fashion! We are expecting to hear good things!

Michael Silverman is currently attending Phoenix Country Day School, was named the Scottsdale-Paradise Valley Community Youth Leader of the Year. Good Work!

We are always so happy to see our graduates as they come back to visit the campus and their teachers.

Let us spotlight your Pardes alumni!
Send alumni news to Tobee Waxenberg at
twaxenberg@pardesschool.org.

Shop the School Store



SCHOOL STORE
Under the auspices of faculty member Rina Kenton (7th-8th grade teacher and Middle School Curriculum and Instruction Specialist) Pardes eighth graders are running our first school store to raise money for their annual trip to Washington, D.C. The store sells all the school supplies that K-8 students will need throughout the year. There will also be Hanukah gifts that students can buy for siblings and parents. Eighth graders manage the store which is open 7:45-8:15 am daily and during middle school lunch. Stop by the store on patio 208, encourage these budding entrepreneurs and help support the eight grade trip!



Thank you for supporting the Box Top program! We have collected over 2,000 Box Tops coupons and earned more than \$270! The students get so excited at the Box Tops Store redeeming their coupons. They are so proud to help raise money for our school and they have fun 'shopping' for fun rewards.

Our next Box Tops store will be in late January for grades K-4th, so please keep clipping those Box Tops coupons and tell your family/friends to do the same! There is a drop-off container for Box Tops coupons in the Front Office.

HOW TO and more information. Sign up at boxtops4education.com (enter "PARDES" as the school name and "Arizona" as the state). You can then support our school by shopping at many popular online stores (such as Home Depot, Gap, Walmart, Staples, Target, etc.). The school earns cash from every qualifying purchase. Make sure that you access these online stores THROUGH the Box Tops website (www.boxtops4education.com). Just click on the "Box Tops Marketplace" and then click on the store where you want to shop. It is a quick, easy way to make a difference (most stores give between 2.5%-4% of all purchases back to the school). For info on products and online stores, visit www.boxtops4education.com. Questions? Email Vered Kogan (Maya's and Emma's mom) at koganfamily@yahoo.com.

IN THE COMMUNITY

PARTNER EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

- The Gan Elohim Concert Series presents **THE JOSH NELSON PROJECT**, delivering high-octane Jewish rock music. Sunday, December 14 at 4:30 pm
Call 623-210-7435 or contact sharweiner@aol.com
- Temple Kol Ami Early childhood Center Holiday Boutique and Carnival
Sunday December 7, 2008 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Lots of booths and wonderful items being sold. A carnival for the children and barbeque for all.

AT OUR PARTNERS

CAMP OVER WINTER BREAK AT JCC.....

SHEMESH WINTER BREAK CAMP at the JCC - 9:00am to 3:00pm
Early and Late Care available at additional fee

WEEK 1- December 22-26 (No Camp on Thursday, December 25th)
WEEK 2- December 29- January 2 (No Camp Thursday, January 1st)

Each day we will pick a Pixar film (*Cars, Wall E, Nemo, The Incredibles and more*) and create activities and crafts around that theme. Pack a dairy lunch, swim suit, towel and wear sneakers daily for sports and games.

Tuesdays is after-camp care, pizza dinner and a Field Trip to see the Annual Zoo Lights at the Phoenix Zoo. Pick up is at the Zoo entrance at 7:30pm
Member Rate: \$45/day; Fee: \$65/day

Seth Korey JCC Tennis Camp, 9:00am to 11:30am.
Drop off directly at La Camarilla - 5312 E. Shea Blvd.
Pick up is at 12:00 noon at JCC
Member Rate: \$55/day; Fee: \$70/day

Tennis Camp plus afternoon camp program until 3:00pm
Member Rate: \$75/day; Fee: \$95/day

REGISTER NOW!

Contact: Sierra Ramm, Director of Youth Services - Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center Ph 480-483-7121 ext. 1275 . www.**vos**jcc.org