

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

Parent Survey

JTO 89%



From Head of School

Parent Survey Launches Monday, January 19, 2009

Last year our school was fortunate to be one of six schools selected to beta test the PEJE (Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education) survey. The survey was e-mailed to our parent body by Measuring Success, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. With the survey going to a third party, all survey answers remained confidential. We received a tremendous amount of very useful information that informed some of the decision making for this year.

The survey has been improved as a result of your participation last year and is now being launched in day schools across the country. I extend my deepest appreciation to all of you who participated and ask that you take a few minutes to fill out the new and improved version this year.

What will be of particular interest is to compare last year's results to this year's results. This kind of data collection leads to more informed decision making over time which in turn leads to greater improvement in our school.

The survey will be e-mailed to you on Monday, January 19, 2009 and will be available for you to take through January 30th, 2009. The more parents that participate the better our understanding of what you like best about our school, what you think we need to improve upon, and any other general suggestions you may have at this time.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the JTO (Jewish Tuition Organization). These scholarship dollars will help students remain in Jewish Day Schools in challenging economic times. Thank you again for all you do for our school.

Jill Kessler
Head of School

CONGRATULATIONS

We reached **89%** participation this year for JTO, up from 53% last year. Many thanks to a wonderful Development Committee for spearheading this drive, to our parent volunteers who made signs, manned the front table and distributed fliers, and to each and every family who participated.

THANK YOU ALL

A+ to PARDES!

YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ted Anderson
Co-President

Allan Rosen-Ducat
Co-President

Becky Lieberman
Vice President

Gregg Wolin
Treasurer

Daniel Rosenfield
Secretary

Scott Cohen
Immediate Past President

Members

Geoff Campbell
Andrew Kaplan
Lisa Khan
Nelson Lerner
Bruce Newman
Stacey Schwartz

Jill Kessler
Head of School



Jewish Learning with Rabbi Erica

As we all know, Israel is currently engaged in a military operation against Hamas in the Gaza strip. This action was made necessary by the non-stop firing of missiles by Hamas from the Gaza strip into Israel day after day, month after month. At this very moment, Hamas continues to fire missiles indiscriminately into Israeli cities, last week scoring a direct hit on an Israeli kindergarten that was, thank God, empty at the time. This difficult situation is especially hard on many of our teachers, including myself, who have family in Israel. My cousin Uriel (whom I have known since he was a baby) is currently deployed on the Gaza border. Of course, as Americans it is important for us to support Israel during this difficult hour. As members of the Pardes community, I know that our thoughts and prayers are not only with the people of Israel but also the members of our community who have family or friends in Israel. As a school (community) *kehila*, we will be collecting small games such as cards, puzzles, coloring books, etc. for Israeli children to distract them as they spend time in bomb shelters. Please bring only small items to the office. They will be picked up by volunteer mom Sigal Gan Eden and will then be mailed to Israel by our *Shlichah* Sharon Amitai. Our students will also be making cards for these children and writing letters to the soldiers during Jewish Studies and Hebrew classes. May God protect them and all of Israel's citizens from harm.

SECOND GRADE NAMING

For four reasons were the Children of Israel redeemed from Egypt: they did not change their names; they did not change their language; they did not reveal their secrets; and they did not abandon *brit milah*.
(Midrash Tehilim 114:4)



The second grade naming ceremony is now being held on **Friday, February 6**, from **9:00-9:30am** in the Sanctuary. Second grade parents, grandparents, and friends are warmly invited to join us for this benchmark celebration! In this ceremony for the students, our second graders will share the unique characteristics of the person for which he/she is named in Hebrew. When a child understands the meaning of his/her Hebrew name, it connects that child with our past and contributes to the development the child's Jewish identity. Second grade parents will soon get a letter from Lauren Mishlove, Jewish Studies teacher, which will help you in preparing, with your child, for this wonderful ceremony. We look forward to seeing you there.



GALA UPDATE

An Evening of Art
Honoring **JEAN GROSSMAN**

Important Dates

January 19
School Closed
Martin Luther
King Day

January 20
Summer Camps
Visit Pardes
8:30-9:30 am
Parents are invited

February 6
2nd grade Naming
Ceremony
9:00-9:30 am

February 21
Gala
An Evening of Art

Gala activities are in full swing! This is our most important fund raising event of the year, aside from Annual Fund. This year much of our smaller fund raising was stopped so that we could have a focus on the Gala. To make it a success, we need all our Pardes family to help. We know these are trying economic times, but there are many ways to play a role. Here are some things you can do to build our success.

Gala - Come to the Event - Experience a very different event this year. See art-making in action, paint your heart out, dine, dance - bid on fabulous items. Enjoy yourself with Pardes parents, grandparents and members of our community. Then bid on more items . . . all for the school!

Gala - Silent Auction Items - Many thanks to the parents already obtaining items for the auction. **This Friday is the deadline** to drop off items in the Front Office for the gala baskets. Please help us put together outstanding travel trips, spa treatments, sports experiences...and, of course, themed gift baskets. Thank you.

Gala - Event Sponsorships - You, your company, firm or business can be an event sponsor, host a table or underwrite part of the event. See the information at the end of the News Flash or contact Co-chair Eve Bressler at eve.bressler@cox.net.

Gala - Congratulatory Message - This year we are fortunate to have an honoree who is known and loved in our community. If you would like to put a congratulatory message in the tribute book contact Eve Bressler at eve.bressler@cox.net.

Gala - Buy an Ad - Promote your business to a target audience with a corporate ad in the tribute book. Email Eve Bressler - eve.bressler@cox.net.

Gala - Early Bird Ticket Discount - RSVP before Jan. 30 and get a \$25 discount on your ticket!

Gala - Can't attend??? - If scheduling, financial or other reasons keep you from attending, please use your RSVP card and make a donation at whatever level you can. Everything helps!

Gala - Spread the Word - You can promote the event through any venue available to you - your e-list, a bulletin board, etc. Of course, personal invitation and word-of-mouth always works! Invite friends and family! If you need materials or have questions, contact Sheri Heitner-Anderson at sheri@agencymma.com

Help make this year's gala a memorable night and an achievement for the school. Remember, funds raised help enrich education for each and every child.

SUMMER CAMPS VISIT PARDES - Tuesday, January 20th from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Please join representatives from FOUR major Jewish sleep-away camps for a fabulous informational meeting in our Sanctuary. You can see movies, talk to reps and hear from alumni about their summer camp experiences. Read below for more information about the four camps who will be visiting. ALL FOUR CAMPS, along with other leaders in the Jewish community, understand the vital importance of camp in children's lives. All the camps are committed to helping every child receive this precious experience. Please contact the individual camps to learn about the many sources of support. It is a mitzvah for the community to assist children in their Jewish journey.

[See more on Summer Sleep-Over Jewish Camps Below](#)

Jewish Summer Camps

SUMMER SLEEP-OVER JEWISH CAMPS

Camp Newman-Swig (Santa Rosa, CA) - Since its establishment in 1947, the URJ Camp Newman-Swig Institute for Living Judaism has maintained a unique culture of living Judaism. Our mission is to inspire campers and staff to take camp home and apply their Jewish learning to their daily lives, ultimately bettering themselves, their communities and the world. We fulfill this mission by enhancing self-esteem, positive Jewish identity, a greater knowledge of Judaism and building lifelong friendships. URJ Camp Newman-Swig purchased the 500 acre Santa Rosa site in 1997 and has become the West Coast's largest reform camp, serving over 1,400 campers each summer. URJ Camp Newman-Swig draws campers from California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Hawaii, and El Paso, Texas. The camp offers a diverse range of activities including a full sports program, an intricate Arts program with visual and performing arts, and adventure program. Age from 7-17.

Camp Charles Pearlstein (Prescott, Arizona) - *Even more than a community, CCP is a family.* There is no single experience that can better enhance a child's self-confidence, social and emotional development, and Jewish identity than a session at Camp Charles Pearlstein. CCP can inspire someone to take hold of Judaism during childhood, embrace it during adolescence, and integrate it into a fulfilling adulthood. With exceptional young adults as teachers and role models, your child will return home at the end of the summer with new friends, new skills, & *memories to last a lifetime.* Each summer at CCP is more enriching than the last. We've been working hard to create a superior program that promises to challenge and inspire. **This summer, be a part of something BIG... You'll be amazed!** Owned and operated by Congregation Beth Israel.

Camp Ramah (Ojai, CA) - Established in 1956, Camp Ramah provides year-round opportunities for campers, staff and program participants from across the U.S. and around the world to expand their own creativity, learn from dynamic teachers and specialists, explore being Jewish in today's world and experience the beauty of nature. Young people at Ramah develop leadership skills, lasting friendships and a strong Jewish consciousness. Camp Ramah is an [American Camp Association](#) accredited, coed, residential, overnight, sleep-away summer camp affiliated with the Conservative Movement and [National Ramah Commission](#) and operates under the educational auspices of the [Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies](#) at [American Jewish University](#).

Camp Young Judaea - In Young Judaea, camp is a place where you can build memories and friendships that last a lifetime...where young people can start to find independence, strengthen their connection to Judaism and Israel...and most of all, have fun! Young Judaea has activities that include hiking, tennis, swimming, drama, sports, arts and crafts, and more - with a special focus on Jewish identity and Israeli culture. With six programs across the country, thousands of young people join us every year for an unforgettable summer, enjoying everything from *rikud* (dance) to *shira* (song) to *peulot* (activities), while growing as individuals and committed Jews.

IT'S BOX TOPS TIME AGAIN!



Thanks for supporting our school by clipping Box Tops coupons! The Box Tops Store will be open again on **Wednesday, February 11th** at lunchtime to allow kids in grades K-4 to "shop" for fun rewards using their Box Tops coupons. Please bring in all the Box Tops coupons to your child's classroom no later than February 9th. You may also drop off your coupons in the Box Tops container located in the Front Office.

To learn more about Box Tops participating products and online stores, please visit boxtops4education.com. If you have any questions, please contact Vered Kogan at koganfamily@yahoo.com. Thank You



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Room Parents, *Tikkun Olam* Committee Members - and all parents. . .
Volunteers needed Feb. 5 Lunchtime

Call for Volunteers

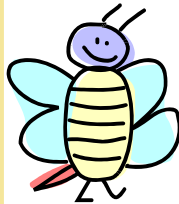
On Thursday, February 5th, the award-winning children's charity **Free the Children** (www.freethechildren.org) will be on the Pardes campus giving separate presentations to our lower school, middle school and teachers. Founded in 1995 by a group of 12 year olds, Free the Children has involved over a million children in 45 countries in freeing themselves and their peers from poverty and exploitation. Free the Children empowers and inspires young people to become socially conscious global citizens, teaching them that they can make a difference in the world. The organization has built over 500 schools and health clinics, distributed desperately needed medical supplies and improved access to clean water and sanitation across the globe.

On February 5th, the program will include a special presentation at lunchtime geared specifically to Pardes teachers. To enable our teachers to attend, we need parent volunteers to cover their classes during the 45 minute lunch period. Please contact Vered Kogan at koganfamily@yahoo.com or 602-481-7834 if you are able to volunteer at lunchtime on the 5th.

ON A SAD NOTE . . .

Our heartfelt condolences go to Rabbi Stephen Kahn on the loss of his mother, and to our own faculty member Richard Tams on the loss of his grandmother. Our hearts and prayers are with you both.

Top Spellers



PARDES SPELLING BEE WINNER - JONATHAN WASSERMAN

Congratulations to the winner of our Pardes Spelling Bee! Jonathan Wasserman will represent our school in the Region 2 Spelling Bee. Jonathan, an eighth grader at Pardes will be attending Jess Schwartz College Prep. Runner up for this event was sixth grader, A.J. Gilman. JOB WELL DONE TO BOTH OUR SPELLERS!

OLWEUS BULLYING PROGRAM - THE HINEINI PROJECT

The Olweus Bullying Questionnaire was given before winter break to students in grades 3-8. The anonymous surveys have been sent back to the Hazeldon Foundation where they will be assessed and a written report provided to the school. Our staff is continuing their training and as soon as the report is returned and read, there will be a parents meeting, followed by a student meeting. At this point, we will hold the Hineini "kick-off"!

Finals

FINALS

Finals for grades 7-8 will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 14-16. The new quarter for grades K-8 will begin on Tuesday, January 20.

PLEASE HELP WITH TARDINESS

When a student is late to class, concentration is momentarily lost by the other students in the room. A student entering the classroom late misses important instructions or information and is easily confused and frustrated. This negatively impacts their learning. Wouldn't it be preferable to have your student start his or her day calmly, feeling organized and prepared, and ready to learn? Please help by getting your student to school on time. We all appreciate it.

MORNING DROP OFF TIP

Drop off line in the morning is going well. A suggestion for it to get even better . . . Have your child **ready** to hop out of the car when you pull up to the stop. His or her backpack, lunch bag and any other item can be gathered up before you stop to let your student out. We ask that you don't get out of your car to help your student, which slows up the line considerably. Thank you for your follow through with the suggestion.

EXPLORING ARIZONA - THE SIXTH GRADE TRIP



Plans are underway for the sixth grade trip to southeastern Arizona. The trip will be March 23-24. The students will be exploring Bisbee, Tombstone, Kartchner Caverns and other area sites. Our students will spend the night at Temple Emanuel in Tucson. Miss Goldblatt, Coach Ryan, Mr. Zaks and Tobee will chaperone the trip. More information will follow soon.

Playing Games

WHY GAMES? - LEARNING TIPS From Raquel Scharf-Anderson, Lower School Curriculum and Instruction Specialist

While playing games with your child is fun, it also is an important educational activity. Sound games for early readers and word games for older readers are a great way for parents and child to practice reading skills at home. According to a recent study by Padak and Rasinski of Kent State, children who engaged in these activities outperform other children in reading achievement and reading skill development compared to classmates who do not. Perhaps even more interesting is that these types of parent-child games are *two times as effective as listening to the child read*. Word play is something we should all give a try. For the next couple of months, there will be a sound game and word game with each P'shat. The first in this series appears at the end of this News Flash edition. Try these games at home and let Raquel Scharf-Anderson know what you think! If you are looking for ways to increase your child's learning through books, play and games and need suggestions, do not hesitate to call Raquel at ext. 307.

**WORD GAME/SOUND GAME –
MAKING BETTER READERS**

Sound Game (for beginning readers)

Which Word Does Not Belong?

For this sound game, asks the players to decide which of the three words does not belong with the others. To play, select sets of three words making sure that two of the words share a feature. For example, you might focus on beginning sounds and select bin, ball and tree. With word families, you could select cat, hat and run. Say each of the words to your child and then ask, "Which word doesn't belong? Why?"

Word Game (for more advanced readers)

Draw Me!

For this game, which is similar to Pictionary, select several words from a book, a vocabulary list or simply that are meaningful to you. Write each word on an index card and place into a small basket. Then take turns selecting a word and sketching on paper the meaning. Remember, you cannot talk or use sound effects. You may need a minute timer to add to the fun. See if you can guess the other person's word. This fun game can be played with multi-age groups and in teams, too. Keep the cards and add to them from time to time!

See Below for Gala Event Sponsorship and Tribute Information



Event Sponsorship and Tribute Information

Sponsorship Levels

- _____ **Rembrandt Sponsor:** Table for 10, full-page program advertisement, priority seating, introduction
\$5000 at event, event signage, recognition in program, on website, and in School newsletter.
- _____ **Chagall Sponsor:** Table for 10, ½ page program advertisement, priority seating, event
\$3500 signage, recognition in program, on website, and in School newsletter.
- _____ **Picasso Sponsor:** Table for 10, business card advertisement in the program, event signage,
\$2000 recognition in program, on website, and in School newsletter.

I / We wish to be a _____ level sponsor. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____.

Please charge my _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express.

Credit card number	
Expiration date	
Authorized signature	

Acknowledgement Information: Please specify how you would like your name to appear in our printed material.

Contact Information:

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
e-mail	

ADVERTISEMENTS AND TRIBUTES: Completed graphics, including congratulatory messages for your tribute, are due by February 5, 2009. Revised pricing:

- Premier Positioning \$750
- Full page - 4.5"w X 7.5"d \$ 500
- Half page - 4.5"w X 3.75"d \$ 250
- Business Card \$ 125

(standard size, horizontal layout)

Submit artwork as PDF or JPEG file to Pardes Jewish Day School 3916 E. Paradise Lane Phoenix, AZ 85032-3232 or by email to: mnickerson@pardesschool.org.