

#### 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

For decades educators have encouraged parents to read to their children. As technology has played a larger role in the lives of children, skills in critical thinking and analysis have declined (Patricia Greenfield, UCLA Professor of Psychology, ASCD 2009).

Greenfield analyzed more than 50 studies on learning and technology. Her research was recently published in the journal *Science*. She states, "Reading for pleasure, which has declined among young people in recent decades, enhances thinking, and engages the imagination in a way that visual media such as video games and television do not." She goes on to say that educators will have to start including evaluation methods that include visual media in order to determine the full extent of what students know.

Greenfield's greatest finding, however, is that there is no substitute for reading or one medium that is good for everything. If we want our students to develop a variety of skills, we need to ensure they have a balance between good old fashioned reading and new visual mediums. Thank you for encouraging your children to read.

*Jill Kessler*

Head of School



## GALA UPDATE

### Honoring JEAN GROSSMAN

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!

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.

YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## Jewish Life at Pardes with Rabbi Erica



In this (week's Torah portion) *parashat b'shalach* we remember the greatest miracle of all time, the Parting of the Red Sea. The Torah teaches us that God redeemed all 600,000 Israelites from slavery. *Midrash Shemot Rabbah* (24:1) states that, while the riverbed was still wet and muddy, two Israelites, *Reuven* and *Shimon*, were disgusted by it as they slogged through. *Reuven* said to *Shimon*:

Ugh, this is just like Egypt. There we had clay and here we have clay. Yech, there we had mortar and bricks and here in the sea we have mortar and bricks. (*Midrash Shemot Rabbah 24:1*).

Here, we learn that *Reuven* and *Shimon* did not notice or understand why the Israelites were singing and celebrating on the far shore. For these two men, it was not a (wonder) *mofet* or a (sign) *ot* because they could not find the meaning in it.

It seems that people are searching for something . . . perhaps truth or meaning . . . or maybe just to feel happy. Many people seem lost and uninspired.

What are the ingredients for a life with meaning? I know that it varies for each person but there are some factors that remain the same. We need the obvious: food, shelter and safety. We also need companionship, purpose and inspiration. Of course you know where I am going with this message. As a rabbi, I am supposed to strongly encourage a deeper (connection) *kesher* with our Jewish heritage. All of the ingredients are here for us to live a more balanced, happier and healthier life. Here is a prescription for all of us to balance our lives: one *Shabbat* meal a week and interaction with a Jewish (community) *k'hila* that makes you feel loved, inspired and safe. Like any new medication, this prescription takes some time for you to feel the results. It has to get into your bloodstream. You may go to (services) *t'fillot* at a synagogue and not find the meaning and feel connected at first, but try again and again. We need to build relationships with one another. I know that I am exhausted after a long week of work and taking care of my two year old Yoni, but do I feel that much better doing nothing? No, I feel restless and uninspired. My favorite memories are created when I pick myself up and do something with people. Most experiences are great when you push yourself to participate.

Marieke Bergman, an outreach coordinator of an extraordinary organization called, "Free the Children," will speak to *Pardes* parents this Thursday, February 5, from 2:00 - 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. I am certain that you will walk away feeling good about our Jewish (community) *k'hila* and that you are a part of something important.

As you know, I am not a doctor. I am a rabbi. My job is to enhance your life with a sense of purpose, meaning and inspiration. I do not have pills to give you but I do have a rich tradition that has sustained our people for thousands of years. Sounds pretty powerful to me. Observe two Shabbats and call me in the morning.

Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, picked up a hand-drum, and all the women went out after her in dance with hand-drums. And Miriam chanted for them: (Sing) *shiru* to the Eternal, for God has triumphed gloriously. (Exodus 15:20-21)

## **Important Dates**

### **February 5**

Free The Children  
Presentation  
2:00-3:00 pm

### **February 6**

2<sup>nd</sup> grade Naming  
Ceremony  
9:00-9:30 am

### **February 11**

Muffins with Men  
7:30 – 8:30 am

### **February 16**

President's Day  
**SCHOOL in  
SESSION**

### **February 21**

Gala  
An Evening of Art

### **February 25**

Keshet Picnic  
4:00-6:00 pm

#### **PARENT SURVEY EXTENDED to Friday, February 6, 2009**

Measuring Success has extended the parent survey through this Friday in order to increase parent participation. If you have not done so, please take 10 minutes to fill out the confidential parent survey you were sent by Measuring Success.

Click on the link in the e-mail to find the survey. A few parents reported not receiving the initial e-mail. This may have been because you had a different e-mail address at the time we had to submit all parent e-mails. Unfortunately, Measuring Success can not add your new e-mail at this time. I am trying to obtain a hard copy you can fill out and submit and will be in touch with those who have contacted our office.

#### **PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING...**

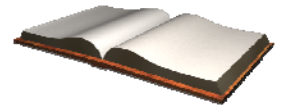
David and Jennifer Barget and their daughters Annie, who is enrolled in Nicole Gayton's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class; and Ellie, in Richard Tams' 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Please add the Barget family's contact information in your Pardes directory.

21279 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85255. Home phone: 480-419-5725  
email: [jenbarget@gmail.com](mailto:jenbarget@gmail.com).

#### **GET YOUR YEARBOOKS**

Have you ordered your 2008-2009 Pardes Yearbook?

The pre-sale price of \$36 has been extended to Friday, February 6. After Friday the price goes up to \$40. This year's book has a custom, hard cover and your child is featured at least twice!



Enclose a check (payable to PJDS) or cash in an envelope labeled with your child's name and grade, and return it to the front office. Thanks for supporting your Pardes Jewish Day School children!



#### **How YOUR kids can help the world?**

Find out by attending a special presentation by the Free The Children organization.

**Thursday February 5**

**2:00-3:00 pm**

**In the Sanctuary**

Our special speaker, Marieke Bergman, will be visiting our Pardes parents to share her experiences as an Outreach Coordinator with this phenomenal organization and to tell memorable stories about children from around the world who have made a difference.

Free The Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in education and development programs in 45 countries. Founded in 1995, the primary goals of the organization are to free children from poverty and exploitation and free young people from the notion that they are powerless to affect positive change in the world.

For more information, please visit [www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com).

For questions about this event, please contact Vered Kogan at [koganfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:koganfamily@yahoo.com) or (602)481-7834.

**Muffins Anyone?**

**Box Tops Store Opens**  
K-4 at Noon

**EXPLORING ARIZONA**  
With the 6<sup>TH</sup> Grade

### SECOND GRADE NAMING

The second grade naming ceremony will be held on **Friday, February 6**, from **9:00-9:30 am** in the Sanctuary. Second grade parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us for this benchmark celebration!



### K - 4 MUFFINS WITH MEN

(formally known as Donuts with Dad).



Join us **Wednesday, February 11**  
**7:30 - 8:30 am**

Pardes Leadership invites you to join other Dads (Grandfathers, Uncles and Special Friends) on Wednesday, February 11 from 7:30 - 8:30 am. Kosher muffins, juice and coffee will be provided in each classroom. A great way to start the day!

### 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 11<sup>th</sup>** at lunchtime to allow kids in grades K-4 to "shop" for fun rewards using their Box Tops coupons. Please bring all Box Tops coupons to your child's classroom no later than February 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://boxtops4education.com). If you have any questions, please contact Vered Kogan at [koganfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:koganfamily@yahoo.com).

### KESHER



Sunday, February 15 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Pardes Campus

Bring your family and a nut-free dinner. Enjoy the weather as the kids play on the sports field. Meet and visit with other parents. Enjoy Sunday afternoon at Pardes. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will sell water and popsicles.

### EXPLORING ARIZONA - THE 6th GRADE TRIP



Plans are underway for the 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Watch for more information



### TO PARDES FAMILIES AND FRIENDS . . .

As you know, I will be leaving Pardes shortly. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many parents and volunteers, Board members, administrators and faculty, and the wonderful children who have made my work at Pardes meaningful and rewarding. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the Pardes family. You all have my heartfelt wishes to *y'shar koach* (go forth in strength) as our Pardes community grows to fulfill its promise. Thank you.

Miriam Nickerson



## Word Games

More great word games...

**20 QUESTIONS:** Select a word from a list you give your child or from a book (it is helpful if they have a copy to refer to). Tell your child to guess the word you have in mind by asking up to 20 yes-or-no questions.

**GO FISH:** Assemble sets of words or sets of uppercase and lowercase letters (for beginning readers). There should be 9-12 cards per player. Each set should be related somehow by family (down, brown) or root (look, looks). Deal seven cards to each player. Put the rest upside down in the center of the playing area. Look first for matches in your own hand which you were dealt. Lay these on the table face-up. Then play "go fish" style. Asking each player for the word or letter you are looking for. Play continues until someone is out of cards.

For more fun ways to increase reading, writing and math at home, contact Raquel Scharf-Anderson, Lower School Curriculum and Instruction Specialist, [rscharfanderson@pardesschool.org](mailto:rscharfanderson@pardesschool.org).

