



May 12, 2009

Dear Pardes Parents:

While the 2008-2009 school year winds down, we simultaneously plan and prepare for next August, when the new school year begins. The information enclosed in this packet is the current paperwork that we need for next year. The school supply lists and events calendar for all grade levels will be emailed in June. The second packet will be mailed to you in late July. Please note all due dates in the enclosed documents are also posted on our website, [www.pardesschool.org](http://www.pardesschool.org).

It is my pleasure to tell you that all faculty contracts have been returned. All lower school teachers are returning and will remain teaching in their current grades. In addition, we have hired a wonderful new first grade teacher who will join Sheri Schreck and Nicole Gayton. Mrs. Nicole Garber will teach the additional first grade class. She is an experienced teacher who is currently on the faculty of Rodeph Shalom, a wonderful Reform Jewish Day School in New York. She is originally from Arizona and is returning home to be closer to her family. She will be an excellent addition to our lower school faculty.

In our middle school, I am pleased to tell you that Adam Zweiback has an addition to his current responsibilities. Adam has been appointed Development Coordinator. In Adam's role as Development Coordinator he will be running our upcoming Pardes Poker event on Sunday, May 31, 2009. He will continue to teach social studies in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and will also take over teaching Kindergarten and First Grade physical education classes. Adam has many years of coaching experience and will work closely with Coach Ryan.

Also in our middle school, Richard Tams will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science while Angie Leiker will teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies. Richard and Angie will also be the 5<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teachers. Shana Goldblatt and Jason Zaks will be the 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teachers, Christine DeSiato will be the homeroom teacher for grade 7 and Rina Kenton will be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher. Our Social Studies curriculum will be taught in grade 5 by Angie Leiker, grade 6 by Shana Goldblatt, grade 7 by Adam Zweiback teaming with Rina Kenton and 8<sup>th</sup> grade by Adam Zweiback. We welcome Alicia Messing to the middle school math department. Alicia will be teaching Math 5, which is grade level Math for our fifth graders. Other teachers in the middle school math department are Angie Leiker, Richard Tams, Kamna Gaur, Shana Goldblatt, Diane Vogt, and Christine DeSiato. The Language Arts department will include Richard and Angie for grade 5, Catherine Heimann for grade 6, and Rina Kenton for grades 7 and 8. In addition, we welcome Anna Lock, a brilliant writing teacher, who will work with grade 6 in writing once a week. Spanish will be taught by Shana Goldblatt and our media program will be guided by Jason Zaks.

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Rabbi Erica Burech, as Director of Jewish Life, will oversee all Jewish events on campus, work with students and faculty, and teach an elective on social action. She will continue to oversee the Hebrew and Judaic Studies Curricula and will supervise these teachers as well. I am pleased to announce that Lisa Keller will return to full time teaching in grades 3 – 6 as well as take on the newly created position of Judaic Teaching Coordinator, working with Lauren Mishlove, and our new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Judaics teacher, Sadie Reuben. I am thrilled to have Rabbi Sadie Reuben join our faculty. She is graduating from Hebrew Union College this month.

We have a wonderful new Hebrew teacher, Mrs. Tami Sal, joining our Hebrew faculty. Tami comes to us from the Donna Klein Academy in Boca Raton, Florida. She is an experienced Neta teacher, and will be a terrific addition to our Hebrew faculty. In addition, Mrs. Tali Gross, will go to New York this summer to train in the Tal Am Hebrew curriculum. Tali will teach grades 1 and 2 next year. We welcome back all other Hebrew teachers.

We have much to look forward to for 2009 – 2010. In the meantime, we have many wonderful upcoming events which I am listing for your convenience. I hope to see you at these events soon.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> - Author Joanne Stern** will speak on her new book, “Parenting is a Contact Sport: 8 Ways to Stay Connected to Your Kids for Life” in our sanctuary at 7 p.m.

**May 17<sup>th</sup> - Pool Party at the JCC** for middle school is 10 a.m. – noon and for K – 4 the time is noon to 2 p.m. Purchase lunch or bring your own.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> - Sports Banquet** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the US Airways Center.

**May 31<sup>st</sup> - Pardes Poker and Family Fun** event from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in our sanctuary.

**June 4<sup>th</sup> – Graduation** at 6 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel with Rabbi Stephen Kahn as our graduation speaker.

**June 5<sup>th</sup> – Last day of school** – 11 a.m. dismissal.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the office where you will be directed to the appropriate administrator. We are all here to help and to ensure that you and your children benefit from the Pardes education and warm community. See you soon.

Warmest regards,



Jill Kessler  
Head of School