



July 20, 2009

“No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.”

James Comer, M.D.

Dear Pardes Parents:

It is always wonderful to welcome our new and returning families to Pardes. This is a school community where leadership, faculty, and the board of directors work hard to build positive and meaningful relationships with parents and students. The quote, from child psychiatrist Dr. James Comer at Yale University, is something I fully embrace. Schools, besides being institutions of learning, are all about the relationships we build with one another. Students learn best when they are in an environment where they feel supported and when they are comfortable with their teachers.

We have an outstanding faculty that has been with our school a long time. Everyone is dedicated to seeing each student reach his or her potential. We share the goal of wanting your child to be successful at Pardes.

Excellent communication is the hallmark of a great school. We strive to communicate with you on a frequent basis. The first Wednesday of each month we e-mail you a Campus Newsflash. This is our lengthy newsletter with all kinds of information. The remaining Wednesdays we e-mail home a P'shat, a one or two page newsletter. This informs you of upcoming events and provides time sensitive information. Please take the time to read what we send home. If you do not have e-mail, please call Jennifer Lamden in the front office, and she will send a copy home with your child.

Here are our communication guidelines for you to know who to contact.

- Your first communication should be with your child's teacher.
- For lower school curriculum questions or concerns, please contact Raquel Scharf-Anderson.
- For middle school curriculum questions or concerns, please contact Rina Kenton.
- For other secular, social, or emotional issues, please contact Assistant Head of School Tobee Waxenberg.
- For questions or concerns regarding our Judaic and Hebrew curriculum, please contact Rabbi Erica Burech.
- If you need additional assistance, I am here to help you.

All teachers have voice mail and all have an e-mail address with the initial of their first letter, last name @pardesschool.org. As an example, mine is jkessler@pardesschool.org. Teachers will check their e-mail daily but are not obligated to e-mail from home in the evenings as this is their family time. We appreciate your understanding.

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We have two wonderful office administrators: Jennifer Lamden and Susan Blease. If you have not met Jennifer or Susan, please stop in the office to introduce yourself. If your child is ill, please call our attendance hotline at 480-991-9141, ext. 9. Jennifer or Susan will inform your child's teacher.

Enclosed in this packet is information to help you and your child(ren) ease back into the new school year. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call. As a reminder, our school calendar and forms are all on our website at www.pardesschool.org. Soon we will unveil a brand new website and provide you with information about our new integrated software system called RenWeb. This is the site where you will soon access your child's grades, various forms, etc.

I look forward to meeting all our new families at **New Parent Orientation** on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in our school sanctuary and I welcome all parents/grandparents to our **Parent Coffee** in the sanctuary immediately after drop off on Tuesday, August 18, 2009. Again, on behalf of the leadership and faculty, a warm welcome.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Kessler".

Jill Kessler
Head of School