



Milwaukee Jewish Day School Newsletter

"Building our future ... one child at a time."

Friday, Jan. 8, 2010

22 Tevet 5770

Shabbat candle lighting Friday, Jan. 8: 4:16 p.m. — Havdallah 5:16 p.m.

ימים השנה
בסדר

Coming Events @ MJDS

MJDS Lower School Teachers Present

Educating the Whole Child

Wednesday, Jan. 13

6:30-7:45 p.m.

MJDS Library

While parents learn about their child's academic, Jewish, social and physical development during the lower school years, Lenny Kass will provide free programming for kindergarten and older children.

RSVP by Monday, Jan. 11, to Jenny Ettenheim,

jettenheim@mjds.org or 414/967-8312.

FREE!

PTO's Moms (and Dads & MJDS Staff)

Night Out

Thursday, Jan. 14

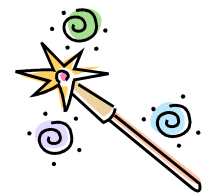
7-9 p.m. at the home of Linda Cayle

- BOOK EXCHANGE — bring a book you've already read, and go home with a good new book.
- Enjoy coffee, wine & desserts with old & new MJDS friends.
To RSVP: lcayle@wi.rr.com or 262/512-0224, or form on website.

Abracadabra!

Saturday, March 6

Join us for a "magical" evening of dessert & wine and a fun silent auction.

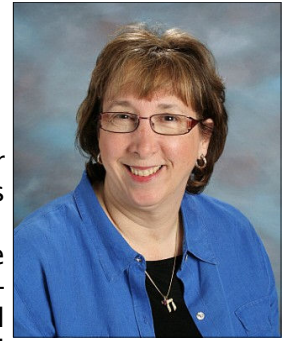


Max and Mary Kohl Education Building, 6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53217
(414) 964-1499, www.mjds.org

Judy Miller — Head of School
Diane Wolfson — Middle School Principal
Charlie Sherman — Jewish Studies Principal

Doris Shneidman, Ph.D. — Founding Director
Eileen A. Perlson Kindergarten

From the Desk of Judy Miller



CAN WE TALK?

I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends over winter break. It is wonderful to have our halls filled with students and parents once again!

Educators know that good communication between school and home is critical for student success. When I arrived at MJDS, many of you graciously opened your homes for parent parlor meetings so that I could dialogue with families. These meetings were very informative and helped me understand the strengths and challenges that parents perceived in our school. Although I see you often at school, I want the chance to speak with you in depth about your MJDS experience.

To that end, I will be calling each MJDS family personally over the next few weeks. I have already started this process, and the conversations have been wonderful and informative. I have heard comments about the strength of our teachers and academic program, the smooth integration of Hebrew and Jewish studies throughout the school and about the warm, caring environment created by staff and parent volunteers. We have also spoken openly about the challenges we face, and I am pleased to hear your ideas on how we might resolve them. I truly appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts with me.

We are committed to providing the best in Jewish community day school education for you and your family. I look forward to speaking with you personally, and I know that our strong partnership will benefit your child's education.

Shabbat Shalom,
Judy Miller
Head of School



Jewish Life and Learning

We have begun reading *Sefer Shemot*, the second book of the Torah, where we meet Moshe, one of the greatest leaders in Jewish history. His storyline is remarkable, from being pulled from the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter to hearing G-d's voice in the burning bush. Rabbis have written numerous commentaries on the fact that Moshe had a disability. In fact, Moshe did not understand why he, a man with a severe speech impediment, was chosen by G-d to rescue the Jewish people. Moshe is a great role model because, with a little

help from his brother, he proved that disabilities need not hold us back. Because of Moshe, the Israelites achieved their freedom after 430 years of slavery in Egypt.

In other news, Jewish life is thriving at school. The 3rd and 4th graders visited the Milwaukee Jewish Museum to learn about Jewish life in Wisconsin and Milwaukee, and the 5th graders are learning the deeper meaning behind prayers during *Tefillah*. Our Jewish Life Committee is planning exciting projects, technology is being used to teach Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and our *Shin Shin*, Yuval Halevy, is teaching about Israel to students in every grade. Also, we are planning for Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Pesach, Israel Week and all "the *Yamim*."

- For diverse commentaries on this week's Torah portion, go to http://www.myjewishlearning.com/texts/Bible/Weekly_Torah_Portion/miketz_index.shtml.

שְׁבַת שְׁלוֹם

Charlie Sherman
Jewish Studies Principal

PTO Updates

Thank You — Thank you to everyone who helped with PTO's Salad Bar Lunch on Wednesday: Chickie Arnol, Linda Bader, Linda Cayle, Marge Eiseman, Gev. Friedman, Nanci Markenson, Mindy Palay, Dora Sadek, Susan Wichman, Gev. Wright and Peggy Yee.

- We need volunteers for Taco Lunch on Wednesday, Jan. 20. If you can help for any portion of the day, please contact Peggy Yee, pegracht2@aol.com.
- PTO is trying something new — International Lunch — on February 3. Contact Peggy Yee (pegracht2@aol.com) to give her ideas for lunch entrée options.

Upcoming Events —

Thursday, Jan. 14 — PTO Ladies Night Out, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 20 — Taco Lunch

Friday, Jan. 22 — PTO Coffee & general meeting, 8 a.m., in the lunchroom.

Next Year — PTO needs volunteers to serve on the board next year. Open positions include president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, lunch program co-chair and programming chair. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Linda Bader, linda@baderfamily.com.

Volunteer of the Week — Susan Wichman is the proud mother of MJDS grads Josh and Benjie, 7th grader Daniel, and dogs Daisy and Duke. She has been married for 21 years to her high school sweetheart, Mark Wichman. Susan has volunteered at MJDS for 11 years in positions such as PTO lunch captain, room parent, field trip chaperone, and board member. In her spare time, she loves to practice yoga, read, garden compost, cook, snowshoe and ski. She loves to relax with her family at their lake home. Two things you might not have known about Susan: she was born in California and moved to Milwaukee at age 10, and she worked as a pediatric physical therapist for 11 years.

Shabbat Shalom,
Linda Bader, PTO President

NOTE: ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE PTO PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.mjds.org/pto.cfm>

In Our Family

במשפחה שלנו

*Please let us know when life cycle events occur in your family
so that we can inform our MJDS community.*

Mazal Tov to:

- MJDS alumni elected to the BBYO Regional Board: Amy Hurwitz, past-president; Robin Lieberman, treasurer; Natanya Russek, secretary.
- MJDS grad Nathan Rosenberg and his wife, on the birth of Miles Patrick Rosenberg.
- MJDS alum Evan Primakow and his wife, on the birth of Judah Lee Primakow.

To make donations in honor/memory of any of these occasions, mail checks (payable to MJDS) to the MJDS office, 6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53217.

Or, bring donations to the school office in a sealed, labeled envelope, Attn. Gev. Horn.

Middle School

Agape -- Once each quarter, Middle School student volunteers serve food at the Agape Community Center (<http://ministryhealth.org/Agape/Home.nws>). Our next volunteer date is **Tuesday, Jan. 19**, from 5-6:30 p.m. If you or your child would like to volunteer, contact Adon Sherman, 414/967-8307 or csherman@mjds.org.

PTO Lunches & Challah — Some families ordered PTO lunches and/or challah only for the first half of the year. To order for the rest of the school year, please use the forms on the PTO page of the MJDS website.

Please Welcome — New 2nd grader Maksim Shepshelevich, and his parents, Galina and Mikhail Shepshelevich. Their contact information can be found on the MJDS roster on the website.

Seussical the Musical Is Coming — Plan to attend the Middle School production of *Seussical the Musical* on Monday, Jan. 25, and Tuesday, Jan. 26. Further information and tickets will be available soon.

Planning Committee — A planning committee is working on Abracadabra! ~ this year's fundraising event. Add your input to this magical evening by attending a planning meeting on Thursday, Jan. 14, 8 a.m., in the conference room. For information, contact Peggy Yee, pegracht2@aol.com.

2010 Can Be TOPS for Boxtops! — Please help PTO raise funds for programming by collecting Boxtops for Education, Nickels for Schools (Kemps) and Kids Caps and Cash (Golden Gurnsey) milk caps. These small items can add up to a lot for our school. Be sure to look for products carrying these tops,

and encourage your friends and family to collect, too. Bring these items to the collection box in the school office. If you have any questions, contact Risa Berg Iskandarsjach, super-risa@sbcglobal.net.

Jewish Life Committee - Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7-8 p.m., in the conference room. The Jewish Life Committee supports Jewish life across our school community both educationally and spiritually. Throughout the year, the committee works with the PTO to organize programming centered on Jewish life, the holidays and Shabbat. They also send acknowledgements of lifecycle events for our families. The committee, chaired by Dena Rubnitz, welcomes new volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering or in learning more about the work of this committee, please contact Adon Sherman, 414/967-8307 or csherman@mjds.org.

Tu B'Shevat - Students soon will bring home information about planting trees in Israel through Jewish National Fund (www.jnf.org). Last year, MJDS families planted 16 trees and took 4th place among local Jewish educational institutions. This year, we are aiming for 100 trees! Please contact Adon Sherman, 414/967-8307 or csherman@mjds.org, if you have questions or need further information.

VOLUNTEERING

MJDS works with Jewish Family Services to find volunteers. To volunteer or to inquire about other opportunities, contact Susie Gruenberg, Director of JFS Volunteer Services, at 414/225-1390 or sgruenberg@fjsmilw.org.

Friends Who are Friendly Visitors — Would you like to volunteer but don't have enough time? Why not consider sharing a volunteer job with a friend? Two or three of you can be Friendly Visitors for the same older adult client, and you can rotate the between yourselves. This way, a client can have two or three "friends", and you make time within your busy schedule to volunteer. This is a "win-win" for the client, you and your friends! Friendly Visitors are matched with an older adult client and provide companionship for about one hour each week.

Joke of the Week

Q: Why can't a nose be 12 inches long?

A: Because then it would be a foot!

Submitted by 3rd grader Steven Dorf

Community Events

EVENT	DAY/DATE/TIME	SPONSOR
Totpalooza: Shabbos with a Smile! Shabbat dinner following the service.	Friday, Jan. 8. Service at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.	For details and dinner reservations, contact Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, 414/228-7545, www.ceebj.org
Early Readers Club service (6 p.m.) and dinner (6:30 p.m.) for K5-4th graders and their families.	Friday, Jan. 15, at Congregation Shalom.	For costs and reservations, contact Christine, 414/352-9288, or christine@congr-shalom.org .
Coalition for Jewish Learning presentation honoring Jewish educators (including MJDS teachers Brian King and Susie Rosengarten).	Sunday, Jan. 17, 8:45 a.m.	CJL, 414/963-2710, cjl@milwaukeejewish.org