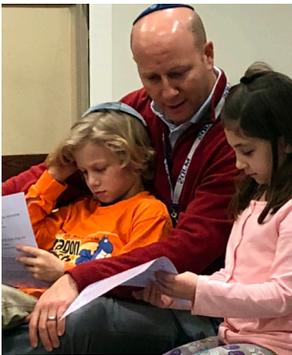


MJDS CHAVERIM

Where academic excellence and Jewish values prepare children for a lifetime of success, leadership and engagement with the world.



SUMMER 2019 / 5779



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

MJDS Friends and Family,

Our 37th year has been incredible and I am so proud of the 19 students who will graduate later this week. They are a testament to who MJDS is and the impact we have on Milwaukee and the world beyond. *Mazal tov* to these students for how they've grown; as *menches*, learners and problem-solvers. They are the next generation of Jewish leaders, living MJDS' core values of wonder, empathy and *tikkun olam*. *Mazal tov* to their families! I am grateful for their deep and trusting partnership with MJDS, creating a relationship that will span generations.

Our faculty and staff are mission-driven and team-focused to provide the best possible experience for our students and families. It is because of their commitment to excellence that our school is thriving.

MJDS is successful because of our never-ending quest to improve, through innovation and risk-taking, which leads to deep and powerful learning experiences, moving all of us from me to we. These experiences are evident in so many ways:

- Seventh graders re-imagining our Voice of The Children program to create a sustainable greenhouse to help reduce food deserts in Milwaukee.
- Junior kindergarten continuing to develop empathy and wonder through their ongoing relationships with refugee communities around the city and outreach to the Proviso school district in Illinois.
- Our Repairing Together program building relationships among ethnically diverse schools through shared learning and service experiences.
- Our student-led conferences, starting in senior kindergarten, are empowering every student to own their learning by determining how they are growing academically, socially and emotionally and collecting evidence of this growth throughout the year. Students share their growth and challenges with an authentic audience, their parents, twice a year.
- Our first-ever cohort of students, ranging from sixth through eighth grade, participated in Song Leader Boot Camp in St. Louis and returned as *ruach* ambassadors, planning and helping to lead Jewish life at MJDS.

As we begin planning for next year, I am so excited about our future. This fall, we will launch our three-year-old kindergarten class, enrolled to capacity by early April, and providing an innovative and spiraling three-year early childhood program that will set our children and families on an eleven-year Jewish journey. We expect to welcome over 40 new students to MJDS in 2019, reflecting our flourishing school and the strength of our Jewish community. We will spend dozens of hours in professional learning, diving deeply into our K-8 science, STEAM and Jewish studies curricula, ensuring that the next generation of learners are prepared for the world they will inherit.

In short, our 38th year promises to be the best yet for Milwaukee Jewish Day School.

Bivrachah,

Aaron Lippman
Head of School



reJEWvenation at MJDS



Tikkun Olam: A Kenya Connection

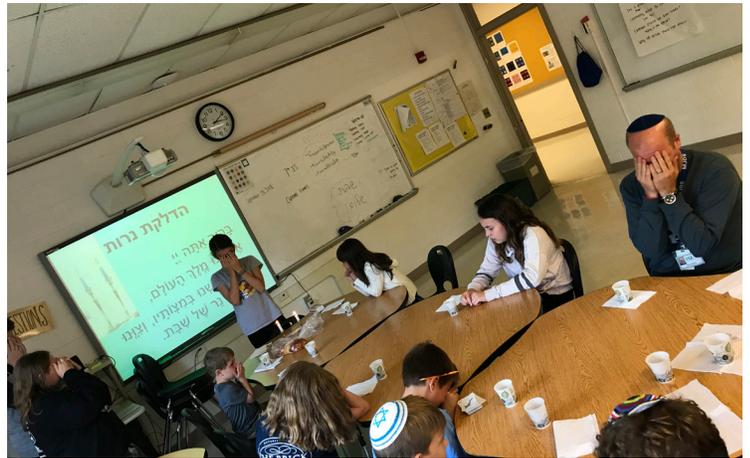
During the 2014-15 school year, the then second- grade students developed a relationship with Yehudah Kimani and the children in his Kenyan village while learning about Kenya during our folk fair.

The students raised a large amount of money to donate to the growing Jewish community in his village and donated 20 *mezuzot* as well. We were so excited when Yehudah was able to spend some time with us in Milwaukee and at MJDS during his tour of the United States.

This year, our fifth grade class collected money to donate a gift of candlesticks to the Jewish community in Kenya. Hazzan Stein, a parent of an MJDS student, traveled to Kenya to connect with the community there and presented the gift to them during his trip. Students gathered to create a video clip introducing themselves and the gift that will help those in Kenya observe Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat and Mishpachot

Kabbalat Shabbat, the short ceremony that welcomes Shabbat, is a special time at MJDS. On most Fridays, students celebrate Shabbat with their own class and teacher. Once a month, students enjoy special time with children and teachers from all across the school. All students at MJDS are part of a *mishpacha* or family. *Mishpachot* are facilitated by eighth grade students. Students celebrate Shabbat together with challah, grape juice and an activity planned by their eighth grade leader. *Mishpachot* builds connections across grades, empowering older students to be leaders and younger students to feel comfortable building relationships with students outside of their grade. It is a special time for all!



MJDS MAZAL TOVS

Mazal tov to Sara (Askotzky, 2002) Galicki on the birth of her son, Jacob Samuel Galicki.

Mazal tov to Sasha Gajewski (2003) on her recent wedding.

Mazal tov to Zach Godkin (2016), whose competitive mathematics team advanced to the finals in the popular MathWorks Modeling (M3) Challenge by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Mazal tov to Hilary Miller (2011), who was selected as the sole recipient of UN Watch's prestigious Morris B. Abram Fellowship, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mazal tov to alums Tera (Greenberg, 1998) and Daniel Shapiro (1996) on the birth of their daughter, Maquel.

Mazal tov to MJDS class of 2015 on their graduation from high school, and mazal tov to all our alums who are graduating from college and beyond!

STUDENT SHOUT-OUTS

After studying the Holocaust, MJDS Student Talia Bernstein was inspired to write and submit her essay to the Holocaust Education Resource Center's Holocaust Writing and Art Contest. Her moving work was selected as a winning submission, and we are honored to feature it in this edition of Chaverim.

Lost Childhood

A Story of the Childhood Memories Stolen from the Youngest Victims of the Holocaust

Ann Shore, previously Ann Goldman, was born in Zabno, Poland on April 13, 1929, and is unfortunately one of the millions of victims of the Holocaust. She explains the horrors that she had to witness as a child in her testimony recorded on March 24, 1998. This three-hour testimonial, recorded by Hilary Helstein, exposes Ann's lost childhood, stolen by the horrors of the Holocaust. Ann was born into a culture of hatred, and sadly, did not know of anything else. When watching a testimonial, you can't help but compare your childhood to the traumatic childhoods of these survivors. Testimonies of the youngest victims give us an inside look at the traumas forced onto them, and help us understand how this cruelty affected the rest of their lives.

Ann's testimony outlines her fear as a child and how it took over her life. As a child, her family had to always be on their toes for unexpected raids or break-ins. Nothing leading up to March 20, 1942 mattered anymore to Ann: "These are secondary memories because what had followed had imprinted itself in my mind." This is referring to the agonizing moment when Nazis broke into her house putting guns up to her family's heads, demanding to know where her father was. The fact that it was accepted to be able to involuntarily break into a sleeping family's house at any time is shocking. The intruders then searched the house top to bottom until they found Ann's hiding father in the basement. The actions that occurred next have scarred Ann since the incident: The Nazis then shot Ann's father with their entire family in the house to witness it. Shocked, Ann's sister attempted to revive her father, but sadly, all hope was lost. The Nazis did not appear to have any sympathy for the well being of the Goldman family.

In these times, almost any action coming from a Jew could cause the Nazis to think that they were rebelling. The Nazi's trigger was to immediately approach Jews with violence. For example, one of the most exciting parts of being a little girl is trying on a new dress that you feel good in. Unfortunately for Ann, this simple thrill was taken away from her. In Ann's case, she was stopped by shouting Nazis on a street wearing her mid-

arm length dress. They beat her up and threatened to kill her simply because they thought that Ann was attempting to hide her yellow star on her armband. After the Nazis agreed to let her go, she walked away in fear knowing that they could shoot her in the back and took as many shortcuts as possible to escape the possibility of death. You were not safe ANYWHERE as a Jew.

Ann had no chance to have an innocent childhood, and it has affected her everyday life decades later. Some of the experiences Anne has had to endure have imprinted themselves in her brain and prevented her from being happy. This is clear when she said, "when the moment comes, children overnight become adults. We became responsible. We helped smuggle." After a catastrophe such as the Holocaust, it is hard to find happiness in yourself and forgive those who caused your pain. A child should never have to witness people of their same beliefs get their lives taken before the child's eyes, as Ann did. Instead of looking out her window and seeing trees or her friends playing outside, she saw a line of people from her own religion being killed off one-by-one, and the most devastating part is that these tragedies were occurring in a town previously filled with energy and community. Ann's thoughts were drowned in fear that consumed her childhood: "I don't remember the pain, I remember the fear."

Hard work is expected from adults. But for children, society expects an innocent childhood consisting of mistakes and learning. During this catastrophe, children were forced to grow up overnight and pull their weight to save the Jewish religion. Only from hearing first hand experiences from the youngest victims can we realize that they sometimes can teach us the most.

MAZAL TOV MJDS CLASS OF 2019

Eva Antonoff	Julia Jungers
Noah Bernstein	Mason Lamberton
Talia Bernstein	Ethan Lichty
Shayna Bilsky	Jessica Marcus
Harry Edelstein	Leah Raykh
Olivia Fox	Noah Richheimer
Levi Gottlieb	Sophie Schroeder
Ezra Grinker	Logan Schussman
Bastian Guten-Gale	Samuel Taxman
Sidra Iskandarsjach	



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH DAY
SCHOOL

Milwaukee Jewish Day School
6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217

414-964-1499
mjds.org
hello@mjds.org

Jason Gottlieb
President, MJDS Board of Directors

Aaron Lippman
MJDS Head of School

MJDS is a partner agency of the
Milwaukee Jewish Federation



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

MJDS is accredited by



**Milwaukee Jewish Day School is
now enrolling for the 2019-20
school year!**

Schedule your tour of MJDS today
and **be amazed by...**

- An innovative and student-owned approach to learning
- Our robust tuition assistance program, ensuring accessibility to an MJDS education
- Soul-enriching Jewish core values

Now offering a full-day 3K program!

Learn more at **mjds.org**
or call **414-964-1499**

