



Your Weekly "Connection" from
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.

Friday, April 8, 2011
4th of Nisan 5771

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FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Facilities Update

Several projects are now underway to enhance the facilities and add additional resources to the school.

As you may remember, we have acquired space on the first floor of the MNjcc formerly occupied by Jewish Family and Child. When they moved out we added their space to our lease and began planning to convert their ground floor office suite into two classrooms.

In addition to providing us room to grow, this acquisition clears the way for the development of the Bernard and Ethel Kliger Library & Resource Centre on the second floor.

I am thrilled to report that construction has begun. A demolition team has begun transforming the space to suit the school's specific needs. Once renovations are complete, the space will be oriented such that our classrooms will be located toward the south stairwell. The classrooms will be ready for grades 3 and 4 to move in next September. In addition to adding classrooms, we are investing in upgrading fresh air flow throughout the school.

Later this month, a second construction project will result in an office for Learning Specialist and Literacy Coach, Tobie Franklin. The new space will be more conducive to the one-on-one attention that Tobie gives the students she with whom

works and will greatly enhance the students' learning experiences with Tobie.

In addition, the renovations will result in a new faculty work space, allowing the staff to collaborate more productively and continue to enhance our programs at all grade levels.

Work on plans, furnishings and fittings for the Bernard and Ethel Kliger Library & Resource Centre has already begun, and will continue through the spring. Construction of that space, the current grade 3 classroom, will begin in July.

I am also pleased to announce that very shortly, Paul Penna DJDS will also be acquiring an independent internet connection (separate from the MNjcc) in order to improve internet functions for both the students and faculty. The independent connection will markedly improve students' experience in Technology and the school's operational efficiency.

We'll keep you posted on progress as we continue improving our environment and offerings. As always, feel free to chat or email with me about board business that is on your mind: fresh ideas and volunteerism are always needed and welcome on our committees.

Shabbat shalom!

Mike Harris
Board President

**PAUL PENNA DJDS BASKETBALL TEAM VISIT WITH
HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS AFTER FIRST EVER WIN**



Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School's Grade 4/5 Basketball Team had a special treat after winning their first game at the Jewish Day School Sports League playoffs tournament. The team got to meet Flight Time and Buckets from the Harlem Globetrotters. The Globetrotters showed off some of their incredible tricks and then shared some advice with the school's budding basketball players. What an exciting celebration!

NEW & NOTEWORTHY - ON THE WEB

Paul Penna DJDS is now on Facebook & Twitter!

Paul Penna DJDS now has our own Facebook Page and Twitter account. You can keep up with the latest news about events at school by adding "Paul Penna Djds" to your friends on Facebook. To join our group on Facebook just [click here](#).

If you are a Twitter fan feel free to ["tweet"](#) away @PaulPennaDJDS.

PAUL PENNA DJDS HAD A BALL AT THE GAME

On Sunday, April 3rd The Rogers Centre was the place to be. It was a great day for a ball game and there was energy level was high. With over 100 Paul Penna DJDS community members present, we supported our Toronto Blue Jays throughout 9 exciting innings of baseball. Students, staff, parents, family and friends cheered our home team on and showed true Paul Penna DJDS spirit all

afternoon long. Pictured below is Evan Bernard (Grade 1) having a "ball" at the game.



HELP WELCOME NEXT YEAR'S SHIN SHINIM TO OUR COMMUNITY

Bringing Israel into your Home

**Would you like your family to experience a unique encounter
with a young Israeli?**

....Then consider opening your home to Toronto's Young Emissaries, Israeli youth who will be spending a year living in our community as part of UJA Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel's MAKOM Israel Engagement Initiative.

While in Toronto, the young emissaries are involved in all aspects of our community, including the First Narayever synagogue, the Downtown Jewish Community School and the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. These young Israelis provide a living bridge between our community and Israel.

The Young Emissary Initiative recruits Israeli youth who have graduated from high school to come to North America for a year to volunteer in a community. The candidates postpone their army service for one year, and, following their

year of selection and preparation in Israel, are sent to a North American Jewish community to work for a year as shlichim.

This coming school year, we are delighted to welcome two wonderful Young Emissaries: Roni Ben Zikry and Itay Buchnik. Roni comes from Ashdod and has both an Ashkenazi and Sephardic background. She has a strong background in the Israeli scout movement. Her high school specialty is media and Middle Eastern studies. She loves the outdoors and enjoys long-distance running. Itay is from Ashkelon and is of Sephardic background. He is studying physics and computer science. He has a passion for math, drama and public speaking. He volunteers with the Magen David Adom ambulance service as well.

If you would like to host a young emissary in your home and meet the following requirements, we would be glad to hear from you. The requirements include*:

1. A vacant bedroom for approximately three months
2. The desire and ability to make the young emissary feel at home and a part of your family
3. You are a member of the Narayever and/or you have a child(ren) at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School or the Downtown Jewish Community School

Please contact Morah Debbie at debbie@djds.ca OR Sid and Karen at israel@narayever.ca, so that we may ensure the Young Emissaries are warmly welcomed while they are far from their home.

* Full requirements available upon request

[On Being a Host Family, by Noni Rabinowitz](#)

When we first volunteered to become a host family I was very excited and had no clue what to expect. I just thought it would be a great experience for me and my family. I must say now, as I look back on our experience, having no expectations was one very important ingredient in making our relationship with our shinshin, Reut Rozner, a successful one.

We have built a wonderful friendship with not only Reut but her whole family who have come to visit her and stay in our home. And we have learned so much about Israeli teenagers and teenagers in general;

Teenagers can introduce you to the coolest places - try Snakes 'n Lattes on Bloor with the whole family. It's a library of board games like you've never seen, right in the heart of our community - who knew?!

Teenagers eat lots of cereal at crazy hours, so host families should stock their

pantry. Cinnamon Toast is a big favourite.

Teenagers don't know where they are going until they 'get there'.

Israeli teenagers have an incredible command of technology - Reut was the one that always told us about impending snow storms, what the temperature was, and that a horrible earthquake had hit Japan. That's because first thing in the morning she would open her computer and get all the news from everywhere.

Israeli teenagers stay connected to one another, no matter where they are. They Skype all the time and it's a lot of fun.

There will always be one teenager in the group that can cook - they know how to open a box of macaroni.

Some Israeli teenagers don't eat any Israeli food. So before you stock up on hummus, tahini, pickled beets and bourekas, you might want to check with them first about their culinary habits, lest you be eating hummus for a long time.

Israeli teenagers love to see all the sites, and help you see your city in a whole beautiful new light.

Israeli teenagers speak Hebrew and they can teach you a couple of really neat new words like "sabbaba"..... You'll have to find one of the shinshinim to figure out what it means.

We could go on and on, but the main point of being a host family is that it's a fabulous experience to share your home with these young Israeli adults. They have been carefully chosen to come to our school to purposefully make the students' and host families' lives richer and more meaningful by bringing a little bit of Israel into our hearts and community. They do this in spades.

FROM YOUR SCHOOL ECO TEAM

Students and Teachers at the Paul Penna DJDs will participate in the **20 Minute Toronto Makeover** next **Friday, April 15th**, which is a city-wide event organized to get everyone outside and helping to clean up our local parks.

We are looking for **Latex-free surgical gloves** to help us with this program as well as plastic grocery bags. If you can help donate these items, please bring them in the office by next **Wednesday, April 13th**.

Todah Rabbah,
The Eco Team

BAR/BAT MITZVAH YEAR EVENT - ROOTS WALK

SAVE THE DATE!! Wednesday, May 25th 1-5pm

Please mark your calendars to join us for a fun filled afternoon celebrating our school's place in the history of Jewish Downtown Toronto.

You are invited to join your children on a beautiful Walking Tour of downtown Toronto's Jewish Heritage followed by a "picnic style" dinner at the JCC.

Our event will be the culmination of "Roots Week" at school, where our children will be exploring their own roots and the roots of Toronto's downtown Jewish community. All of this is part of our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year: honouring our past to build our future.

More details will follow over the next few weeks, so PLEASE plan to join us on Wednesday, May 25th from 1-5pm.

Looking forward to seeing you at our event.

The Roots Team

Danielle Adler: danielle@memotext.com

Scott Greene: rafibess@gmail.com

STUDENT COUNCIL'S USED BOOK SALE RAISES OVER \$700!

Yesterday's used book sale in Jacob's Lounge was buzzing with activity from the time the doors opened at 8:00am to well into the afternoon. From the parents who donated the books, to students, staff, and the downtown Toronto community who came in to purchase them; everyone helped to make the first ever Paul Penna DJDS Student Council Used Book Sale a resounding success.

By the end of the day there were very few books left and the sale raised **over \$700** which will be donated to a Japanese Relief Fund. A special thank you goes out to Pauline Landen and the Paul Penna DJDS Student Council for organizing the sale. Kol Hakavod!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011

Grade 7/8 - JF&C Family Life

9:00-9:45am

Debate Tournament

Toronto Heschel School

11:45am-4:15pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

School Tour

10:00-11:00am

Grade 3 Family Ed - Living Together

Room 318

9:00am-10:15am

Grade 5 Family Ed - Human Rights

Room 318

2:00pm-3:30pm

SUSHI LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

PASTA LUNCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011

PIZZA LUNCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

SK Family Ed

Room 318

9:00am-10:30am

Grade 1 - Artist in Residence

10:45-11:45am

In the classroom

Grade 2 - Artist in Residence

1:00-2:00pm

In the classroom

Grade 3 - Artist in Residence

2:30-3:30pm

Room 318

Boomerang Lunch

Toronto 20 Minute Makeover

LAST DAY OF CLASSES BEFORE PESACH BREAK

REGULAR DISMISSAL - 3:45PM

REMINDER: CLASSES RESUME ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

RIKUDIYAH 2011

The 40th Annual Rikudiyah will take place **THIS Sunday, April 10, 2011** at the TanenbaumChat Wallenberg Campus at 200 Wilmington Avenue. **Paul Penna DJDS will be perform at 11:00am.** Tickets are available for \$10 each through the CJE website at cjetoronto.com. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the Prosserman JCC reception (4588 Bathurst Street). **Tickets will not be available for sale at the door on the day of Rikudiyah.** (Remember: Zimriyah

sold out, so don't delay!)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MATZAH BAKE AT DUFFERIN GROVE PARK

Please join us at Dufferin Grove Park on Sunday, April 17, 2011 from noon till 3:00 p.m. to bake Matzot in a wood burning outdoor oven. See if you can mix, knead, roll, and bake in 18 minutes or less.

Materials and instructions provided (bring your own timer if you want to aim for 18 minutes).

Coffee will be provided by Ezra's Pound Cafe.

Everyone is welcome; bring the kids.

Questions? Email mitchdavis@rogers.com.

Look for "Dufferin Grove Park Matzah Bake" on Facebook.

Dufferin Grove Park is located near Bloor and Dufferin, across from the Dufferin Mall, one block south of Bloor on the east side of Dufferin. Meet at the South side of the rink house, which is near the north end of the park. If it rains, we will work indoors.

Cost: By donation to cover expenses. Suggested donation: \$5 per family.

LAG B'OMER PICNIC

Please join our Shinshinim and the Narayever in celebrating Lag B'Omer at Dufferin Grove Park on Sunday May 22nd from 2 to 5 PM. We'll be building a bonfire, playing games led by Reut and Yuval and Narayever teens, roasting potatoes and marshmallows, making s'mores and singing! Bring a picnic, your musical instruments and your enthusiasm. Come and enjoy new friends and familiar ones.

Dufferin Grove Park is located just south of the Dufferin Station on the Bloor-Danforth Subway line and across from the Dufferin Mall.

Teens interested in helping out with this program please contact Reut and Yuval at yuval@narayever.ca reut@narayever.ca or on Facebook at "Narayever".

UJA WALK WITH ISRAEL

Join the downtown Jewish community and walk with Israel on Sunday May 29th. The kick-off party starts at 9 AM at Coronation Park. We will meet Yuval and Reut at Coronation Park with Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School and Downtown Jewish Community School. The Walk starts at 10 AM. Registration this year is online at www.walkwithisrael.com.

[Forward email](#)



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