



Your Weekly "Connection" from
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.
Friday, February 25 2011
21st of Adar I 5771

IN THIS WEEK'S KESHER

1. **From the Principal**
2. **From the Executive Director - Important Reminders**
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As a graduate student in Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1996, my attention was drawn to teacher education and to the question of how teachers learn through collaboration. While there was much literature about the quality of collaborative work output, there were perhaps only three scholarly articles focused on the experience of learning through the collaborative process. I knew from personal experience and research that tremendous learning happens for participants of productive collaborations and joint thinking.

Finally, a resource appeared in 2000 that still influences my thinking: *Creative Collaboration*, by Vera John-Steiner (Oxford University Press). The author unpacked for readers many instances of collaboration among creative people: Albert Einstein and Marcel Grossmann, Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein, Marie and Pierre Curie, and more. John-Steiner, a professor of linguistics and education at the University of New Mexico, was illustrating that, far from thriving on solitude, creativity and individual accomplishments are dependent upon the dialogue, renewal, and trust inherent in sustained relationships.

Today, the academic and professional worlds of education acknowledge collaboration's powerful influence on teacher learning and therefore on student learning. The Paul Penna DJDS faculty has long been learning collaboratively by: looking together at students' work to learn from each other about their own teaching; co-planning events, projects, and units; jointly thinking through dilemmas of practice to open up new perspectives.

For the next three years, these collaborations will take a leap forward. Teams of teachers will extend and deepen their expertise in various content areas and

developmental stages of growth, bringing back to their peers best practices and latest research in the field, honing the school-wide curriculum in their area of expertise, and collaborating across teams to integrate the curriculum. For the entire faculty, even in its early, planning stage, our collaborative Professional/Curriculum development project is generating excitement.

One on-going collaboration has already begun: the middle school team and I have been working jointly to plan and re-craft the existing program into a dynamic project, problem and demonstration-based learning experience. We have a very strong foundation from the current curriculum in place and look forward to enhancing it.

Believe me when I tell you that I am eager to share more about our ongoing collaborative efforts and will update you as we move forward.

Shabbat shalom.

Best, Rhonda

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. **Re-enrollment forms are now overdue.** Please return them to the office right away. If you are not planning to return and have not yet contacted me, please call me or send me an e-mail at edit@djds.ca.
2. Tax Receipts for 2010 have been mailed. All those eligible to receive a tax receipt for the allowable portion of tuition or a child care tax receipt should expect to receive it in the mail in the next few days.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

1. **Zimrya is this Sunday, February 27th at Adath Israel Synagogue** (Bathurst & Wilson). Paul Penna DJDS Choir is performing at 10:30am and **all participants should be at the synagogue by 9:15am**, wearing their Paul Penna DJDS Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year t-shirt and dark pants or skirts.
2. On March 6th, 2011, Paul Penna DJDS's Chess Team will be competing in the 2011 Ontario Scholastic Chess Team Championship. Participants on the school team are: Kohava Mendelsohn (Gr 5), Adin Aviv (Gr 2), Andrew Dayton (Gr 2), and Gabriel Levy (Gr 2). The tournament will take place at Marshall McLuhan Catholic Secondary School at 1107 Avenue Road. Good Luck!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011

Zimryah - Adath Israel Synagogue

Paul Penna DJDS Choir Performance at 10:30am

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

SWIM: SK - 9:45-10:45am

Gr 2 - 1:30-2:30pm
Gr 3 - 2:00-3:00pm
Gr 5 - 2:30-3:30pm

SUSHI LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

School Tour
Room 203
10:00am-11:30am

Grade 7/8 - JF&C Family Life
2:45 - 3:30pm

PASTA LUNCH

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011

SWIM: Gr 1 - 9:45-10:45am
Gr 7/8 - 11:00am-12:00pm
Gr 6 - 1:45-2:45pm
Gr 4 - 2:15-3:15pm

PIZZA LUNCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011

Grade 1 "Mad Science"
In Class
9:00am-12:00pm

Boomerang Lunch

REGULAR DISMISSAL BEGINS - 3:45pm

TAKE US OUT TO THE BALL GAME



***Now is your chance to get your tickets
deadline has been extended to March 11th***

*It's Toronto Blue Jays Opening Weekend and...
we want YOU to join us!*

Toronto Blue Jays vs. Minnesota Twins

When: Sunday, April 3rd at 1:00PM

Where: Rogers Centre, Field Level Outfield Seats

Price per ticket: \$28

We have reserved seats for all of us to sit together. Please order your tickets now so you can be sure to sit in the special Paul Penna DJDS section at the stadium.

The deadline for ordering and paying for tickets has been extended to **Friday, March 11th!**

Cheques should be payable to Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. Please drop off your ticket order form and payment in the "Blue Jays Tickets" folder in the main office. Tickets are usually sent home the week before the game.

If you have any questions please contact *Morah Tracie* at tracie@djds.ca

PURIM IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

We're looking for a few enthusiastic volunteers to run a booth or two at the **MNjcc Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 6, from 11:00AM to 1:00PM.**

Please contact Julia Nish-Lapidus at Julia@djds.ca
or 416-928-3537 if you want to be involved!

Put on your favourite costume
and come to our

PURIM CARNIVAL

With Special Guest Magician Mike D'Urzo!

Magic Workshops and Performance, Music, Carnival Booths,
Dance Class, Costume Parade, Face Painting and More.

\$10/family

SUNDAY MARCH 6 11:00am - 1:30pm



**YUMMY
LUNCH
FOR SALE!**

For more information contact:
Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer
416-924-6211 x277
sarahbn@mnjcc.org
www.mnjcc.org

Miles Nadal JCC
750 Spadina Avenue (at Bloor)
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2J2

Miles Nadal **JCC**



DATES TO REMEMBER ...

1. On June 25th, 2006 Israeli IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was kidnapped when his unit

was ambushed by Hamas terrorists. 4 ½ years later Gilad Shalit is still in captivity. Please **SAVE THE DATE : Monday March 7th, 7:00pm at the Sephardic Kehila Community Centre** for a community-wide gathering to show Gilad Shalit he's not alone!

2. Paul Penna DJDS at the **Toronto Blue Jays Home Opener vs. Minnesota Twins** - Sunday, April 3, 2011, 1:00pm at The Rogers Centre.

3. The 40th Annual Rikudiyah will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at the TanenbaumChat Wallenberg Campus at 200 Wilmington Avenue. **Paul Penna DJDS will be performing at 11:00am**. Tickets will be on available at \$10 each through the CJE website at cjtoronto.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.

4. On **Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 2:00pm** there will be a **Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah Community Commemoration at Earl Bales Park**. The event is co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and by the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, UJA Federation. For more information, please contact Mary Siklos at the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre by phone at 416-635-2883 x5301 or by email at msiklos@ujafed.org.

A NIGHT WITHOUT A MOON at MNjcc

**A Night without a Moon
Jewish Women's Cabaret
Saturday, March 5 | 8PM - MIDNIGHT
Miles Nadal JCC**

Tickets: 416-924-6211 x 0 Cost: \$10 (assistance available upon request)

More info: sharonis@mnjcc.org This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 416-924-6211 x 154

Join us on the night before the new moon of Adar II, when the secrets of Rosh Hodesh, a women's holy day celebrating the new moon, will be illuminated and sung together. Guided by the music of Marcia Beck, Annie Gilbert, The Marni Levitt Trio and Rabbi Miriam Margles, we will draw on women's courage and the moon herself to celebrate International Women's Day and the abundant joy of Adar.

Rejoice with us as we light candles, name ourselves, welcome our ancestors, call for healing for those in need and make space for letting go and for welcoming in. Women are invited to bring material inspired by the moon. The sign-up list for open mic spots will be available at 8:00PM.

Men and women are welcome to attend and share in the music and blessings

of this special Rosh Hodesh inspired event.

To volunteer for set-up/take down or onsite ticket sales, please email nightwithoutamoon@gmail.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Co-presented by Toronto Downtown Women's Rosh Hodesh Circle and the MNjcc.
Promotional sponsor: Makom

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