



Your Weekly "Connection" from  
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.  
Friday, May 20, 2011  
16th of Iyar 5771

## IN THIS WEEK'S KESHER

1. From the Board President
2. From the Principal
3. New & Noteworthy
4. Help Create the School Calendar for 2011-2012
5. From the Parents' Association
6. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year Event - Roots Walk
7. End of Year Picnic
8. Weekly Calendar
9. Celebrate Shavuot "Where Sinai Meets Spadina"
10. Save the Date
11. Parents' Corner
12. Summer Fun at Camp Ramah

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

### 2011-2012 Budget Passes

Wednesday evening, the Board of Directors passed the 2011-2012 budget. To develop a sound budget for our school, there is a lot of work which involves analyzing past performance, current priorities, market forces (for salaries, tuitions, and materials), variables, and available resources. We're a \$2.25 million operation now and the budget has never been more important. It is a key tool for providing excellent education in our vibrant and healthy school. So that the administration can make the best use of the approved budget for planning the coming year, the Board moved the vote forward from July to May. Five months ago, the school's principal, executive director and Ian Schnoor, the school's Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, together with the Board's Finance and Executive Committees, began the intricate process that led to presenting a budget this week that the Board passed with unanimous support.

While we used the same financial planning model that has served us well for the past few years, two changes reflect Rhonda's focus on instructional improvement and strengthening the school's positive social/behavioural environment. The first is the creation of a new budget category, entitled Professional Development, which groups line items related to PD that were previously scattered throughout the budget. To facilitate the three-year curriculum examination and re-development

project that begins in September, we increased the total PD allocation by almost 50 percent. The second change is a restructuring of Rhonda's educational leadership team to include a Curriculum Coordinator, Student Services Specialist, and an expert Resource Teacher (see Principal's article, below).

In reviewing this year's actual results, we were pleased that in the first year of a school-based annual campaign, we saw that over 55% of families and 100% of staff contributed. Even more gratifying is the evidence we already see of a strong foundation of family giving in 2011-2012. Large donors whom we approach to support both the operating and growth campaigns appreciate a high percent of stakeholder participation as an indicator that the school's own community considers it worth investing in.

As Ian Schnoor made clear to the Board, our school is now among the most fiscally healthy Jewish Day Schools in North America, thanks to our thoughtful planning and budgeting process.

Enjoy a relaxing Victoria Day Weekend.

Shabbat shalom.

Mike Harris  
Board President

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Educational Leadership in 2011-2012

As part of the school's strategy to improve instructional delivery, we are excited to announce an augmented Student Services team, a new Curriculum Coordinator who is an old friend, and some of the teachers who are joining the team.

We are thrilled for Learning and Literacy Specialist Tobie Franklin (though sad for us) to announce that Tobie is moving to New York City to accept the position of Director of Learning Support at the IDEAL School of Manhattan. This move gives Tobie an opportunity to live closer to her adult children while taking on a senior leadership position at a school dedicated to inclusion.

Pauline Landen will shift into leadership of our Student Services group, and will provide support and guidance for students, parents, and teachers in SK and the lower elementary grades. Also working directly with many of our children will be our new Resource Teacher Ellen Kelner. A Former Paul Penna DJDS parent and Resource Teacher at Leo Baeck, Ellen has expertise in both remediation and enrichment in Math, English and Hebrew. Ellen will also teach Middle School math (alongside Moreh David) and *Chalav u'Dvash*, the SK Hebrew program, giving her regular "face time" with our oldest and youngest students. And of course, our wonderful teachers will continue to offer each other's students support and enrichment.

Laila Lipetz, past VP of Paul Penna DJDS under Founding Principal Joan Schoenfeld, will be re-joining the educational leadership team as Curriculum Coordinator. Laila laid the early groundwork for Paul Penna DJDS's integrated and arts-enhanced curriculum. Since those early days, Laila has developed further expertise, completing an M.Ed. in Curriculum, and teaching at the Leo Baeck School. Laila will take over as the school's Literacy coach, spearhead the three year collaborative curriculum re-development project, and work intensely with teachers around differentiating their instruction.

Many of you have noticed that Morah Debbie is expecting, and so, we are searching for a superb teacher for Grade Four next year. We have been seeing a flood of excellent candidates, and are keeping the current Grade three students in mind as we interview and observe them, looking for the exact right match - the teacher who will nurture their social growth, develop their sense of community, and challenge and stimulate them academically.

We've got two teachers joining our SK team: Core Teacher Emma Rinaldo and T.A. Candice Rose. Emma is an effervescent, experienced teacher coming to us from Associated Hebrew Schools. Candice, a qualified teacher, is currently a core teacher at Zareinu, a Jewish school for students with severe special needs. Candice is thrilled to be mentored by veteran teacher Janice Feldman as she makes this switch to mainstream, liberal, Jewish education. T.A. Tracie Kutchnsky will assist in Emma's classroom, helping her acclimate to our school.

Lastly, for now, is the addition of Shira Woloch to our faculty as Grade One T.A. (Rachel Dubins is leaving to have a baby.) Also a qualified, highly talented and personable teacher, Shira will be mentored by Morah Lori as she learns to teach our Grade One curriculum. Shira will begin her position in June, taking over from Rachel for the last three weeks of school.

I'll share more updates as we have them. We look forward to a year of academic excellence, challenge and growth for every student, as we work to ever more deeply inspire curiosity, honour diversity, and create community.

Shabbat shalom!

Best, Rhonda

## **NEW & NOTEWORTHY**

### **Reminder to Parents: Focus Group Sign-Up**

Thank you to everyone who has already put their name down for one of these meetings.

However, we still need a few more families to come and provide the Marketing

Committee with your valuable input. The session will only take 45 minutes so please, make your voice count!

Please let Cheryl (either by phone or email at [officeadmin@djds.ca](mailto:officeadmin@djds.ca)) know by Tuesday, May 24 which of the following dates you are able to attend:

- Thursday, June 2 at 7:30pm Room 203
- Thursday, June 2 at 8:30pm Room 203
- Friday, June 3 at 8:45am - Room 317A
- Friday, June 10 at 8:45am - Room 317A

Thank you

The Marketing Team

### **PAUL PENNA DJDS MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR**

- Have you ever wondered under which conditions plants grow best?
- Is it smart to spend money on mouthwash?
- Would you like to see a magnet-powered train or fruit that generates electricity?

**Indulge your curiosity at the Paul Penna DJDS Science Fair on  
May 30 from 9:00 AM until 11:45 AM in room 318.**

### **HELP US CREATE THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2011-2012**

We are looking for families to help us create beautiful images for our Annual School Calendar. Once again, our medium will be clay. It's a great opportunity to work on a creative project with your kids and contribute to a Parents' Association Fundraising Initiative. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [tothemax@sympatico.ca](mailto:tothemax@sympatico.ca).

Project kits will be available for pick up in the school office the week of May 24th and completed art is due back the last week of school.

Jodi Tanenbaum and Kate Rootman

### **FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

The PA's Challah Fundraising Program is seeking a parent volunteer for the 2011 - 2012 school year to co-ordinate the ordering and distribution of challah each Friday. The challah program is a Parents' Association fundraiser and a way for the PA to cover the cost of the challah offered during the weekly in-class Shabbat celebrations and the SK class's Shabbat box program.

You will be working with Rona Sherebrin (mother of Ezra in Grade 3 and Shira in Grade 6). It's an easy way to contribute to the Parents Association without taking

up too much of your time!

Please contact [atsuko@exclaim.ca](mailto:atsuko@exclaim.ca) or [glenron@sympatico.ca](mailto:glenron@sympatico.ca) if you are interested in helping out.

Thank you

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH YEAR EVENT - ROOTS WALK - THIS WEEK

### **Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School** **Community Roots Walk**

**A walk through Kensington Market  
Discovering the Roots  
of the Downtown Jewish Community  
And Celebrating Its Revival**

**Please join us and your children  
for this exciting and educational program  
running in conjunction with the Toronto Jewish Archives**

**When: Wednesday, May 25th**  
**Time: Departing at 12:30pm**  
**Returning at 3:30pm**

**We encourage families to take the time and join us  
for this very special opportunity  
to make a deeper connection for our children  
between Jewish downtown Toronto  
and the importance of our school growing in this community.**

**Parent volunteers able to help us  
with chaperoning the children  
on the walk are encouraged  
to let their parent reps know as soon as possible.  
We need many of you and appreciate your assistance.**

## END OF YEAR PICNIC

Can you believe it?

# **THE END OF YEAR PICNIC**

is almost here!

Come celebrate the end of another fantastic year  
at Paul Penna DJDS!

**When:** Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> 5:00 - 7:00pm  
**Where:** Christie Pitts Park (near the playground)

Bring your own picnic and enjoy the company of friends

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011

Victoria Day  
NO CLASSES

### TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011

Grade 6 - JF & C Family Life  
2:45-3:30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

SUSHI LUNCH

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

Community Roots Walk  
Entire School  
12:30-3:30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

PASTA LUNCH

### THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011

Grade 6 - JF & C Family Life  
2:45-3:30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

Grade 4 - 8 invited to Yiddish Music Festival  
12:00pm  
Al Green Theatre

\*\*\*\*\*

PIZZA LUNCH

### FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011

WASTE FREE LUNCH

CELEBRATE SHAVUOT "WHERE SINAI MEETS SPADINA"

# Bring your family to the corner of Sinai and Spadina...

To celebrate Shavuot at an all-night learning party!

## TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH

### LITTLEST LEARNERS

**Children under 6**

Littlest learners can join in the fun, but the under-six set must pre-register by May 31.

### CHILDREN'S TIKKUN

**Ages 6-12**

9:00 PM - Midnight

Led by dynamic counsellors from Camp Gesher, the Children's Tikkun combines games and sports with exploration of the themes of Shavuot.

**NEW FOR 6-12 THIS YEAR:** Guest educators will be learning with the children. And, children themselves now have an opportunity to teach their peers! If your child might be interested in teaching, contact Sarah at sarahbn@mnjcc.org

### CHILDREN'S SLEEPOVER

**Midnight 'til morning**

Bring your sleeping bag and PJs... the Children's Tikkun will be followed by a slumber party!

### TEEN TIKKUN

**9:00 PM - Midnight**

Teens are invited to gather and share ideas, laughter and, of course, food. Past topics include: Jews and Tattoos, Tikkun Olam/Repairing the World as a Career, and Spiritual Basketball.



Miles Nadal JCC  
750 Spadina Avenue (at Bloor)

**Information and Registration: Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer at sarahbn@mnjcc.org or (416) 924-6211 x 277  
www.mnjcc.org/tikkun**



*Presented in partnership with The Annex Shul, Camp Gesher and Habonim Dror, Congregation Darchei Noam, Congregation Shir Libeynu, Downtown Jewish Community School, First Narayever Congregation, Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto, Kolel and the Prosserman JCC, Limmud Toronto, Makom, Miles Nadal JCC, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, and Shoresh Jewish Environmental program.*



**SAVE THE DATE**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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](mailto:yuval@narayever.ca) [reut@narayever.ca](mailto:reut@narayever.ca) or on Facebook at "Narayever".

\*\*\*\*\*

### UJA WALK WITH ISRAEL - FAMILY CHALLENGE

We are thrilled to introduce a new, exciting and unique opportunity created for families just like yours: the [UJA Walk with Israel Family Challenge](#).

**Join the Challenge today; it's as easy as four simple steps:**

1. Get your family together into a family team and *get ready to fundraise!*
2. Go online to [www.walkwithisrael.com](http://www.walkwithisrael.com), register your family team and start collecting your donations online!
3. As soon as you *raise \$1,000*, your family will get to choose a [great reward!](#)
4. On *Sunday, May 29* show your love and support for Israel and **Walk with Israel**. Kick off party begins at 9:00am at Coronation Park.

Here are 5 more fundraising tips to help you reach your fundraising goal at the [Walk with Israel Family Challenge!](#)

1. Track your progress along the way
2. If you haven't heard a response from someone you've asked, don't be afraid to follow-up. Make a phone call, resend the original email or send a quick note.
3. Consider sending an update to your friends and family to keep them informed of your progress. You can also forward them the Walk Talk newsletter with a personalized message and encourage them to create their own family team.
4. Don't stop if you reach your goal. Set a new goal!
5. Don't forget to thank those that sponsored you. Consider sending an email right away or following the event, send an email with some photos of your family team at the event and an additional thank you for their support.

For more information about UJAs Walk with Israel Family Challenge, please contact [Anita Robins](#) | 416.631.5708 or visit [www.walkwithisrael.com](http://www.walkwithisrael.com).

## PARENTS' CORNER

### Signup to Receive Fresh Produce from June-October

If you're looking for fresh, local, organic food, you've come to the right place. Everdale Farm, which runs a harvest share program in conjunction with the First Narayever shul, is accepting harvest share registrations for the 2011 season. You can pick up produce of your choice just blocks from Paul Penna DJDS.

#### ***About Everdale's Harvest Share Program:***

Everdale's Harvest Share program is based on the Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) model that is becoming popular all around the world. Everdale receives a set fee from the "Harvest Shareholders" who sign up for its CSA prior to the start of the growing season. In return, Harvest Shareholders receive produce from the farm every week during the harvest season. In southern Ontario, the harvest season is about 20 weeks long (June-October).

Our Harvest Shareholders receive fresh fruits and vegetables grown on our certified organic farm and on other local farms (see a list of farms at <http://everdale.org/buying-our-food/harvest-shares/farms-we-work-with/>).

Harvest Shareholders receive a set number of points each week and use those points to purchase produce of their choice. Unlike at some CSAs, Harvest Shareholders do not receive a box of preselected produce.

Harvest Shareholders are invited to programs, including family-friendly farm visits, that connect Jewish holidays to farming and seasonal foods. Shareholders can also receive a weekly newsletter that has information about what's happening at Everdale Farm, as well as commentary about the relationship between food, sustainability and Judaism.

#### ***Timing***

Our Harvest Share program begins in mid-June and runs until the end of October. Produce is available for pickup on Tuesday afternoons outside the Narayever shul at 187 Brunswick Ave. (You do not have to be a Narayever member to become a Harvest Shareholder.)

#### ***Member Benefits***

- 20 weeks of fresh, local, organic food
- 20-30 seasonal fruits and vegetables to choose from each week
- 4 share sizes to suit your needs
- take-what-you-need fresh herbs
- farm events and activities
- a choice of how many weeks you would like to pick up your share!

We believe that our Harvest Share program can deepen your connection with your food, your farmers, and the land. As a Harvest Shareholder Everdale becomes "your farm".

Excess food from the Harvest Share program is donated to the STOP community food centre.

**For more information, or to register for the Harvest Share, go to <http://everdale.org/buying-our-food/harvest-shares/>. If you'd like to learn more about the Harvest Share program, contact Mitch Davis (father of Jacob, grade 4 and Eli, SK) at [mitchdavis@rogers.com](mailto:mitchdavis@rogers.com).**

## **SUMMER FUN AT CAMP RAMAH**

Camp Ramah in Canada is more than a just a summer camp. Camp Ramah is a total experience whose impact lasts well beyond the summer months. Young people at Camp Ramah develop skills and leadership, close friendships and a Jewish consciousness that lasts a lifetime.

It's not too late....Camp Ramah in Canada has limited space in our second session July 25<sup>th</sup> - August 22<sup>nd</sup> and for grade 2 campers in our Taste of Ramah program August 7<sup>th</sup> - August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Both Incentive and Need based Scholarships are available.

# JOIN US FOR A SUMMER OF FUN & GROWTH



It's not too late...  
Camp Ramah in Canada  
has limited spots available for

**Second Session**  
July 25th—August 22nd

**Taste of Ramah**  
(For grade 2 campers)  
August 7th—August 22nd

**Both Incentive and Need Based  
Scholarships are available.**

For more information contact:  
Michele at [mbass@campraham.com](mailto:mbass@campraham.com) or 416-789-2193 ext. 2150.  
Visit us at [www.campraham.com](http://www.campraham.com)



[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™



This email was sent to officeadmin@djds.ca by [officeadmin@djds.ca](mailto:officeadmin@djds.ca) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School | 750 Spadina Avenue | Toronto | ON | M5S 2J2 | Canada