

**KESHER** קשר



Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School  
INSPIRING CURIOSITY HONOURING DIVERSITY CREATING COMMUNITY

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Your Weekly "Connection" from  
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.  
Friday, June 17, 2011  
15th of Sivan 5771

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## KOL HAKAVOD TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2011

We take this opportunity to wish our 2010-2011 Grade 8 graduating class best wishes as they embark on the next phase in their educational pursuits.

**Heitan Ben Avraham  
JohnLee Cooper  
Adam Finkelman  
Hershel Nashman  
Jonathan Rosen  
Aaron Shrier  
Gavriel Swayze**

**May you continue to go from strength to strength!**

We wish the entire Paul Penna DJDS school community  
a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

### MAZEL TOV TO PAUL PENNA DJDS SK GRADUATES



*Pictured above: Part of the 2011 SK Class at their graduation ceremony earlier this afternoon.*

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I can hardly believe that I'm writing the last Keshet column of the year! Where did this year go? The teachers did so much great work and the kids had so many creative and academic breakthroughs. They gave those of us walking the halls every day constant opportunities to smile, *shep nachas*, and even frown with them as we puzzle together over just the right thing to do in a thorny situation.

We wish our Kindergarten and Grade 8 graduates *mazal tov!* You are now ready for the next stage of your schooling - for SK, school proper, and for Grade 8, high school! Who can say which is the bigger leap?

We wish all those students departing our beloved school the very best of success in their new classrooms - happiness, fulfillment, and challenge. Come back and visit us!

I have a few more updates regarding next year - things you've been asking about

that we're excited to share.

1. Allocation of classrooms in the building, including two new downstairs classrooms, have been completed. Thanks to brainstorming with parents, teachers and members of the Board, I am pleased to announce the following layout for 2011-2012:

**Third (top) Floor:**

Grades 3, 4, and 5, Music, Student Services

**Second (main) Floor:**

Grades SK, SK, 1, 2, Library, Administrative Offices & Faculty Room

**First (bottom) Floor:**

Middle School, MS Teaching/Leadership Team

With this plan, Grades 3 and 4 have a washroom in their hallway while the Middle School begins gaining autonomy over their space, adding to their sense of being in a specially designed program.

2. The Bernard and Ethel Kliger Library and Multi-Media Centre will be constructed this summer and opened in September. There will be quite a lot of work to do to bring it up to our vision. Several parents have already told me they're interested in joining a Library Support committee, and more of you may be interested as well. In September, we'll get that going. Also, the library will be the school's dedicated space, so we will be able to plan for its use both before and after hours.

3. Three long-awaited faculty announcements:

The Grade 4 full-year maternity leave teacher is Susan Muscovitch. Susan has had her eye on our school from afar - she teaches in the public system in Winnipeg. Paul Penna DJDS fits her values, her open sense of Jewish community, and her passion for integrating arts into classroom studies as a means of deepening learning and students' connections to the material. We watched a masterful Grade 5 science lesson and reviewed artifacts of her teaching that demonstrate her ability to challenge, differentiate, and engage students in learning.

Avee Helfand is the newest member of the Middle School teaching team. Avee comes to us from both RHA and Toronto Heschel School, and feels that this is a perfect environment for him - collaborative, eco-concerned, Jewishly open, spirited, and diverse. Avee is an extraordinary Math and Language Arts teacher. He will be one of the advisory teachers, and will coach, help with MS social and social justice planning, and lead the school's eco-team.

Stefanie Rakowski will be our new Health and Physical Education teacher,

and a member of our resource teaching team. Stefanie is a highly skilled and personable teacher with classroom, resource, and phys ed credentials. In fact, Stefani was the classroom teacher for Edit Rosenstein's eldest two children at Bialik, and also taught gym there.

All of this excitement notwithstanding, we do have some faculty farewells to make. We wish Moreh Drew all the best in Montreal and Morah Tobie the same in New York. We wish Moreh Mark and Morah Andrea joy and fulfillment in their new endeavors locally. We say *b'hatzlacha rabba* (much success!) to Edit Rosenstein as she heads off to camp right after school - to a great new position that will challenge and stretch her even further than this one did. We extend a hearty *mazel tov* to T.A. Rachel Dubins on the birth of her daughter, Leora Axlexis, and wish her family joy and happiness. And, finally, we wish Morah Debbie *b'shaa'ah tova*, that her pregnancy should advance healthily and all should happen well and in good time. (Debbie does plan to start the school year with us as Judaic Studies coordinator, and then head out in October, so it's not farewell yet.)

If you want to reach me over the summer, please email me at [rhonda@djds.ca](mailto:rhonda@djds.ca).

I wish each of you a Shabbat Shalom, a lovely weekend, a happy close of school next week, and a refreshing and fun summer.

All the best, Rhonda

#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School community,

As I finish my last few days at the school, I am reflecting on all the positive changes that have taken place over the last few years:

- Our enrollment has grown (when I started, we had 99 students),
- We opened a middle school,
- We acquired more space in the building (twice),
- We have a new Principal,
- We celebrated milestones at the school,
- We will soon have 2 SK classes,
- We continue to have a dedicated staff and Board, and there's so much more.

I have enjoyed working here and getting to know the members of this community. I look forward to hearing future success stories about the school.

Before I go, I am so pleased to introduce Mariana Catz, who will replace me as Executive Director of the school. Mariana brings twenty years as a senior

executive in the public and private sectors working in Canada, the United States, Latin America and Europe. Her roles have included Chief Information Officer and Vice President of Information for a number of teaching hospitals including Baycrest and the Center for Addiction and Mental Health, Technical Officer for the World Health Organization in Geneva, and Chief Advisor for eHealth for the Federal Government. She has also been involved in a number of international ventures related to third world development and microfinance. She began her career at the Ontario Science Center in the Education Department. She enjoys teaching and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Health Management. She holds a Masters in Administration (Health) from UofT. She is a Board member of Sage Care, a Jewish home for seniors with dementia, and of the Downtown Jewish Community School. Mariana lives in the neighbourhood with her husband and son.

Wishing you all the best.

May you continue to go from strength to strength.

-Edit

### **A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Jennifer "Lucky" Hale has been volunteering at our school for many years. The Parents' Association would like to acknowledge Lucky's hard work and her overall contribution at Paul Penna DJDS. Her presence has been felt by children, staff and parents alike as she regularly assists the art teacher, helps serve pizza to our children, and works regularly in the school office. She has also been a member of the stage crew at past school galas and has performed, as a member of the *Jazzabelles*, at those same fundraisers.

Many of these tasks go unseen by parents at our school. With her efforts, Lucky has made our school a better place. Lucky's work demonstrates just how much any one of us may contribute to the school and enrich this valuable place. Lucky, we hope that you choose to continue on your generous path and we hope to continue to see you around school.

Lucky's primary motivation to contribute both her time and energy at school is that she is the proud parent of her son, JohnLee. JohnLee will be a graduate of Paul Penna DJDS this year and we also want to wish him *mazel tov* and all the success in his future academic and lifelong pursuits.

Lucky, on behalf of all of those who've benefited from your endless contributions, thank you very much, *kol hakavod* and best of luck!

### **THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION WANTS YOUR INPUT**

Hi Paul Penna DJDS families!

The Parents' Association is interested to know how to best involve you next year.

Please take a minute to answer a few questions (really, just a few!). We're hoping for at least one response per family. **Please respond by June 22 by clicking on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z2QP95H>**. Thank you.

### **VIDEOGRAPHERS WANTED**

Do you love to shoot or edit videos? Do you spend hours watching hilarious clips on YouTube? Paul Penna DJDS is looking for people to help film and edit a new, exciting video project.

If your creative juices are flowing and you are interested in helping out, please email Julia at [julia@djds.ca](mailto:julia@djds.ca) for more information and to get involved!

### **LAST CALL FOR LOST & FOUND**

Our Lost & Found has grown by leaps and bounds! We have sweaters, t-shirts, towels, ski pants, jackets and much more - all of which would love to find their way home for the summer. Please come and take a look for any of your child's lost items.

The contents of the Lost & Found will be placed on the table outside the main school doors beginning on Monday, June 20th and any articles not collected by dismissal on June 22nd will be donated to Jewish Family & Child.

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011**

Grade 8 Graduation  
7:00-10:00pm  
Room 318

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011**

SUSHI LUNCH

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011**

**LAST DAY OF CLASSES**  
**REPORT CARDS SENT HOME**  
**NOON DISMISSAL**

**LOOK FOR YOUR 2011-2012 PARENTS' PACKAGE  
IN THE MAIL DURING JULY**

**HAVE A SAFE AND SUNNY SUMMER!  
SEE YOU ALL IN SEPTEMBER**

### **MARCH WITH KULANU TORONTO ON SUNDAY, JULY 3RD**

**Show your Jewish Pride!**

March with Kulanu Toronto at the Pride Parade on Sunday, July 3!  
Toronto's Pride Committee has taken an important stand in support of Israel and needs the support of our community. Come march with Kulanu Toronto, the only Jewish LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) delegation, at the 31st Annual Pride Parade on Sunday, July 3rd..

The school community will be marching with Kulanu, under a "Paul Penna Supports Kulanu" banner.

If you have questions or want more details, please contact Aurora Mendelsohn at 416 516 3840 or [aurora@majorstreet.ca](mailto:aurora@majorstreet.ca).

For more information about Kulanu contact Justine Apple, Executive Director of Kulanu, at [kulanutoronto@gmail.com](mailto:kulanutoronto@gmail.com) or 416.819.7431

# Show your Jewish Pride!

## March with Kulanu Toronto at the Pride Parade on Sunday, July 3!



Kulanu Toronto, the city's only Jewish gay group, invites you to march with us at the Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, July 3. Support us and support Israel as we stand up for the only country in the Middle East that upholds gay rights. Carry one of our Rainbow, Israeli, or Canadian flags or bring your own. We will sing and dance our way down Yonge Street with our own live band and colourful float!

### What to bring & where to meet:

Bring your family and friends, water, hats, and sunscreen or rain gear, and a sign if you like. Wear a Kulanu T-shirt (available from the Kulanu Toronto booth on Church Street before 1pm) or whatever pleases you. **Meet at 1pm, Sunday July 3 at the corner of Bloor and Church Street (look for the Kulanu Toronto banner and Israeli flags).** It gets really crowded, so do try to arrive well before the 2pm start of the parade. We need to secure our place in the line-up and give you instructions. Be prepared to wait in the line-up (bring a snack). The march begins at 2pm and ends at 4pm.

### How to register & make your own signs/banners:

To register to march with Kulanu Toronto, or for guidelines about creating your own signs or banners, please contact Justine Apple, Executive Director, at [kulanutoronto@gmail.com](mailto:kulanutoronto@gmail.com). She can also be reached at 416.819.7431. **It is important that your signs comply with our guidelines.**



*Kulanu Toronto is the city's only Jewish lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organization. We have been in existence since 2000, and we run social, educational, and cultural monthly events for gay people of all ages and Jewish affiliations. All of our catered events are Kosher, and include Shabbat Dinners, pub nights, and Passover Seders. Friends and allies are welcome to attend our events. For more information, please visit [kulanutoronto.ca](http://kulanutoronto.ca) or search for us on Facebook under "Kulanu Toronto".*

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