



Your Weekly "Connection" from
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.
Friday, June 3, 2011
1st of Sivan 5771

IN THIS WEEK'S KESHER

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Two Quick Notes then a Guest Columnist

1. We are thrilled to announce that Tamara Glick will be the Grade 3 teacher this September, fulfilling a maternity leave in that grade. A vibrant, intelligent, organized, and fun woman, Tamara is certified in both Australia and Ontario with experience in schools in Toronto, Queensland and even San Remo, Italy. Those associated with Camp Tamakwa might know her from there, as well.

2. Shavuot is this Tuesday evening through Thursday. We've been working hard on a school-wide pre-Shavuot celebration for students on Tuesday morning, and on the Tikkun Leil Shavuot, starting here at 9 PM Tuesday night and going until sunrise (see below). I regret being away from the community for these events. Each year at this time, my husband and I study in community with Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, a beloved friend and one of the important rabbis in our lives. On Monday afternoon, Tuesday, and Friday, Tobie and Pauline hold decision-making authority in my absence. May you have an intellectually, spiritually, and gastronomically fulfilling holiday.

Shabbat shalom, Rhonda

Rooted in our Neighborhood

By Guest Columnist Danielle Adler, Community Roots Walk Co-Chairs



Pictured above: Grades 2 & 3 inside the Kiever Shul

Wow, what wonderful day for our school, our children and our families! Our first annual "Roots" themed event was a walking tour of downtown Jewish Toronto. Our goal was to give the students a glimpse into the history of the downtown Jewish community and to instill the importance of carrying on the legacy of Jewish family life downtown, including the importance of having a Jewish day school downtown.

Our entire school, including teachers, T.A.s, and parent/grandparent volunteers boarded Spadina streetcars to travel south to Kensington Market, where a large portion of Toronto's downtown Jewish community was rooted many years ago. Our SK-Grade 3 students strolled delightedly through the market to the Kiever Shul. They stopped outside the beautiful Minsker Shul and Zimmermans Discount,

where our adult participants read a short history of the site to the students for whom they were responsible. Once at the shul, everyone enjoyed a healthy snack. Afterwards, Grades 2 and 3 went up to the sanctuary for a short program on the Kiever's history with wonderful, animated Rabbi Aaron Levy. Meanwhile, the SK and Grade 1 students enjoyed hearing from SK student Ziggi Kafka's grandmother, Brenda Kafka, who told the children stories of her childhood, living in a one room apartment behind her father's luggage store on College Street and attending the first downtown Jewish day school. When the groups switched, Tobie Franklin's mother, Fritz Reingold, regaled Grades 2 and 3 with her memories of growing up downtown.

Grade 4 - 8 students began their day similarly, heading to Kensington Market via streetcar and meeting up with experienced tour guides from the Ontario Jewish Archives. The Ontario Jewish Archives has provided a walking tour of the old Jewish neighbourhood in the Kensington market area for over 30 years. Grade 4-5 students started in front of the Kiever Shul and toured for an hour. Middle School students met outside the Minsker Shul and toured for 90 minutes. While the rest of us stayed in Kensington Market, the Middle School ventured east of Spadina, exploring extant evidence of the area's Yiddish culture.

It was a memorable day for our school and we are grateful to everyone, faculty, parents, staff, grandparents, and community volunteers. We could not have pulled it off without everyone's efforts. And, of course, we are so grateful that the sun decided to shine on us in the midst of a very wet May!

Danielle Adler and Scott Greene,
Community Roots Walk Co-Chairs

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

[Menchie's Menchlichkeit x 2](#)

[Between June 5th and June 12th Menchie's Frozen Yogurt is donating 20% of their sales to Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian Relief Committee, so enjoy some delicious frozen yogurt and support a wonderful organization.](#)

[and ...](#)

[Menchie's is also donating frozen yogurt for "Menchie's at Midnight" here on Shavuot. Come join us "Where Sinai Meets Spadina" on Tuesday night for Tikkun Leil Shavuot and enjoy a tasty midnight treat, courtesy of Menchie's.](#)

[Celebrating Israel Day at Mel Lastman Square](#)

[Several of Paul Penna DJDS's Grade 2 students will be dancing with their Moms as part of the Dor Le Dor Dance Group, performing at the Israel Day Festival this coming Sunday, June 5th at Mel Lastman Square. Come and enjoy the](#)

performance, scheduled to begin at 2:00pm.

THE GRADE 2 "GREAT SHABBAT GET TOGETHER" - FAQs

When is it taking place?

Come join us on Saturday, June 4th from 3:30 to 6:30pm.

Where do we meet?

We are gathering at Huron Park (1 block due east of the school - on Huron, south of Bloor).

What happens if it rains?

We have arranged for the use of Room 318 at the MNjcc as a back-up location in the event of rain.

Will there be food?

Of course! Everyone is invited to bring early supper for their family, along with a snack, drink or dessert that they wish to share.

What will we be doing?

Hanging out, eating, playing. We can organize some games for those who want to play - please feel free to dredge your memories for your favourite picnic games and be ready to lead them - but please make sure they are appropriate for Shabbat (no music or writing). And of course balls, frisbees, skipping ropes are always good.

If you have any questions or brilliant suggestions, please feel free to call Noa Mendelsohn Aviv at 416-658-5150 or May Friedman at 416-783-1589.

TODAH RABBA FROM THE MARKETING COMMITTEE

We want to extend a big thank you to all the parents who signed up for our focus groups. We had an amazing response and have filled our sessions. We are looking forward to having a fun, creative session with you. With your input, we will be able to put together a brilliant marketing campaign.

The Marketing Team
Shabbat Shalom,

KOL HAKAVOD TO THE SCHOOL ECO TEAM!

Congratulations Paul Penna DJDS! For the second year in a row, our school-wide efforts at "Going Green" have earned us certification as a **Silver Level Ontario EcoSchool**. Our hard work educating ourselves and others about the importance of waste reduction and environmental awareness and have certainly paid off.

Kol Hakavod!

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 Geshet, 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

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 Geshet 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 Shores Jewish Environmental program.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011

Shavuot Assembly

9:00am-9:30am

Room 218

Erev Shavuot

REGULAR DISMISSAL

SUSHI LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

Shavuot - NO CLASSES

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011

Shavuot - NO CLASSES

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

CLASSES RESUME

Grade 2 - WHIMZ

1:15-2:15pm

Boomerang Lunch

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 14th 5:00 - 7:00pm

Where: Christie Pits Park (near the playground)

Bring your own picnic and enjoy the company of friends.

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL AT MEL LASTMAN SQUARE



Na'amat Canada
TORONTO



presents

16th Annual

Israel Day FESTIVAL

Entertainment

Children's Village LIVE Auction Marketplace & Organizations

Guest Speakers Middle Eastern & Canadian Food

Sunday, June 5th, 2011.
Mel Lastman Square
5100 Yonge Street
11AM to 6PM

For more Information
416 636 5425
Free Admission

israeldayfestival.com

COMMUNITY CORNER

Music Classes for Babies - arranged by special request!

A few moms from the "hood" have organized music classes for our babies and their caregivers, to be held at a home on Howland Street (Bloor and Bathurst). If you and/or a friend are interested in joining in, please contact Sheri at 416-932-3533 or sherirapp@rogers.com

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