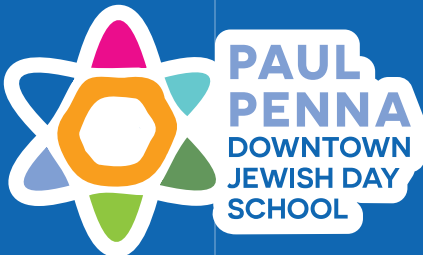


2025

IMPACT REPORT



GET TO KNOW US

Over the course of the last 18 months, dozens of prospective families have visited Paul Penna DJDS and we will welcome up to 30 of those families in September. Jewish families have sought out our downtown Jewish school as they have run towards community, identity and Jewish education as part of a values re-examination in a post October 7th reality. The story of our growth over the past decade has resonated deeply with families and the four core pillars of our strategic plan have struck them as just right, for right now.

Families have been drawn to the **cultivation of joyful and rigorous academics**; connecting to engaging and accelerated curriculum and support for the whole student. Our **healthy, secure and inclusive community** is what families are looking for; drawn to the way we step up with a commitment to volunteerism and parent involvement. Our commitment to **defining our permanent home** has led to the securing of 10,000 square feet for a new middle school space and significant investment in the elementary school space. Our school's commitment to **ensuring financial sustainability**

has made a positive impact; creating a student body that is diverse and strengthened by families and a wider community who have a deep desire to support the school and give children a Jewish education.

At the core of our school's mission is commitment to seven values: community, diversity, individuality, Israel, learning, place and social action. With these values at the centre, we are a strong and thriving school intent on deepening our impact on the Toronto Jewish community.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028 PILLARS OF SUCCESS

Cultivating Joyful
Rigorous Academics

Sustaining a Healthy,
Secure and Inclusive
Community

Defining our Permanent Home

Ensuring Financial
Sustainability

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Paul Penna DJDS Community, We are deeply grateful for the way community stakeholders have stepped up and supported our school this year. We have seen a deep commitment to philanthropy with donations of time, talent and treasure to our school. The DJDS school community has made it very clear - we stand up for what we believe in and we are here for the school.



The volunteer leadership of the school is exceptionally strong. Our Parents Association has created engaging and relevant programs for students, parents, grandparents and faculty. The Board of Directors has moved the mission, vision and values of the school forward, working tirelessly to advance the strategic plan. All while considering their role in safeguarding the financial health of the school through peer lead philanthropy.

Finally, the faculty and administration have truly shone, going above and beyond their job descriptions and giving from the heart; through exceptional teaching, volunteerism and participation in our annual campaign.

This community is truly special. Current families, faculty, grandparents and connected generations, alumni and committed community members see the magic of Paul Penna DJDS when they walk through our hallways and marvel at what we have created in the heart of downtown Toronto.

Warmly,



Amy Ballon
Board Chair

Amy Platt
Head of School

BY THE NUMBERS

VOLUNTEERS
225
EVERY YEAR

225 volunteers every school year, including 90% of school families, dozens of alumni students and many enthusiastic grandparents.

CONTRIBUTED
\$400k +
ANNUALLY

Over \$400,000 raised to cover the gap between tuition and the cost to educate all our students, kindergarten to Grade 8, providing tuition support to over 25% of school families.

LEADERSHIP
45
DONORS

45 current and alumni families, grandparents and community members are donors to our newly established Leadership Circle Annual Campaign giving a level of gifts beginning at \$1,800.

STUDENTS
235
ENROLLED

235 students will attend our school next year - almost 100% capacity. The school has grown by over 40% in the last 5 years to meet the demand for an excellent downtown Jewish education.

EXTRA CURRICULAR
75
EXPERIENCES

75 extra curricular athletic, arts and academic programs, teams and clubs with 95% of our students participating in these skill building and wellness experiences.

UNIQUE
110
PROGRAMS

110 unique programs each year welcoming parents, prospective families, connected generations, alumni and families into our school experiences.



THE DJDS DIFFERENCE

The Annual Campaign is at the centre of Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School's commitment to financial sustainability. Each year we raise over \$400,000 which enables the *DJDS Difference* – tuition subsidy and the experiences, programs, community and curriculum above and beyond what tuition covers. Annual Campaign gifts help make the school an exceptional home for all families to experience Jewish life and receive a rigorous and fulsome education.

More than 400 members of this community, including every family in the school, made a meaningful contribution to the 2024/25 Annual Campaign. Alumni students and families, members of the faculty, school grandparents and family members and our wider community joined current families to activate the *DJDS Difference* of upholding our values and keeping our school safe and strong.

As we look towards the 2025/26 school year we aim to grow our campaign total and the group of wonderful people sustaining our increasing needs by at least 10 percent, surpassing \$440,000 and 450 gifts to the Annual Campaign.

Count yourself in, you are the *DJDS Difference*.

“As proud members of the PPDJDS community, we are thrilled to witness the continued growth and impact of our school through the development of the new middle school. This is an incredible opportunity to give our children a space that inspires them to learn, lead, and love the community they belong to, and we couldn't be more excited to be a part of this journey”.

- Andrea F & Jason G



CAMPUS REVITALIZATION: OUR SCHOOL'S GROWTH

Since 2017, Paul Penna DJDS has seen a 65% increase in student enrolment. In order to meet the needs of our expanding school community and to safeguard our future as the heart of Jewish Education in downtown Toronto, campus revitalization has become a central strategic objective.



By September 2025, all of the elementary classrooms will have been refurbished and refreshed, creating an optimal classroom layout and the ability to utilize the classroom as a third teacher. This enhancement to the elementary learning space is the perfect way to begin a new chapter of our elementary school life; one that includes our first JK cohort.

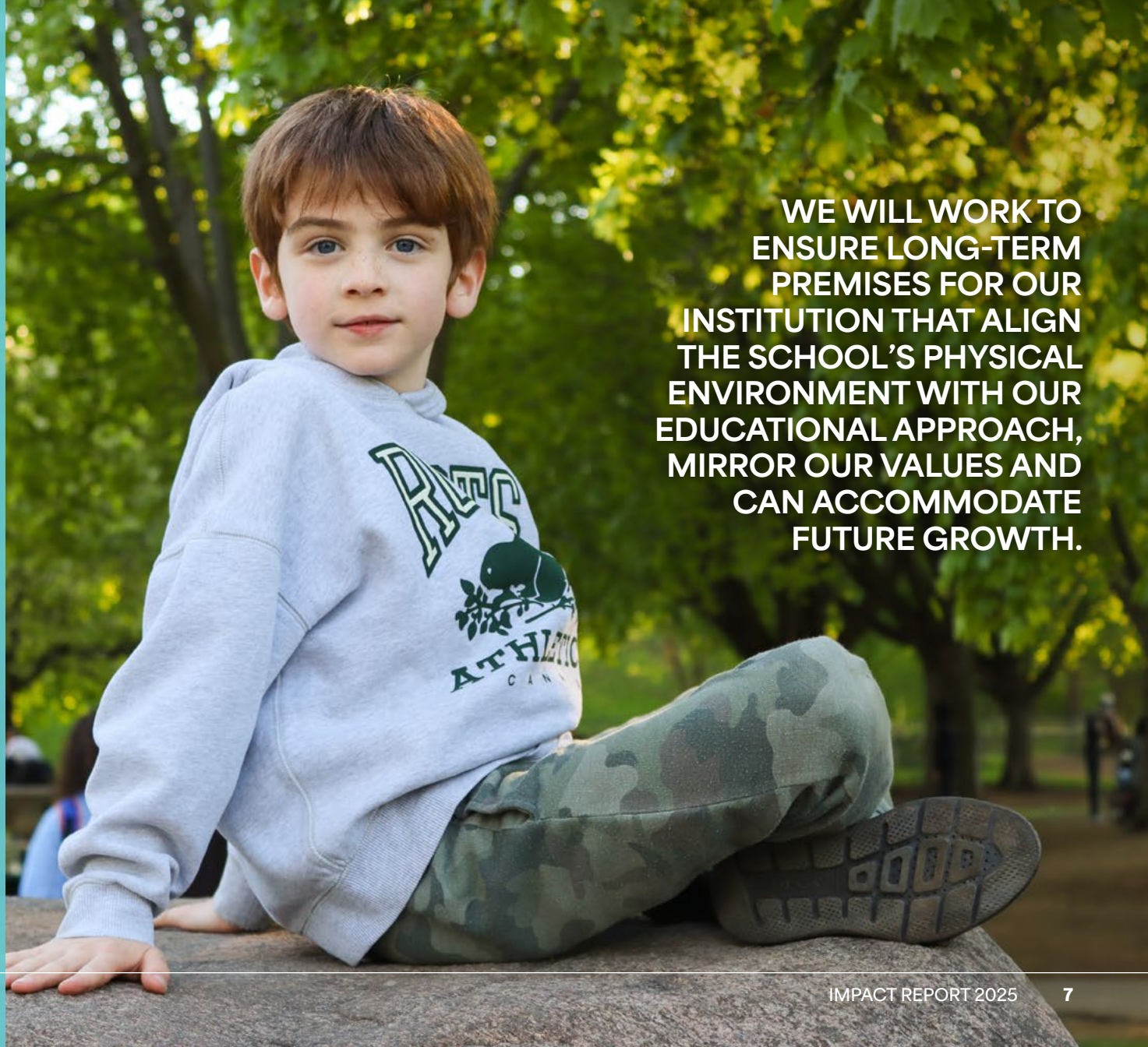
In September 2021, our middle school opened with 31 students. By last September, we were proud to welcome 76 students. Growth like this requires a rethinking of learning space. In winter 2026, we will open the doors to a new state of the art middle school space, with

60% more space than our current location and only steps away from the MNjcc. This will be our perfect home. Transformational philanthropy, a strategic board and a group of hard working volunteers will make it possible for middle school students to learn in an environment that matches our educational approach and mirrors our values.

As we look towards the next decade, the future at Paul Penna DJDS is bright, and our school space will pave the way for exciting learning opportunities, a deep sense of belonging and the gathering place for community in our unique downtown location.

“When the opportunity arose to volunteer and support the PPDJDS community, I couldn’t pass it up. Tikkun Olam is a core value in our family and within the PPDJDS community, making it only natural to contribute. Working with the exceptional individuals who educate and shape my child is an incredible way to be connected to their place of learning. It’s up to us to bring light into our community and take pride in the places where we grow and learn. Building and creating inspiring educational spaces is how parents, educators, students, and community members come together—and when we do, everyone benefits.”

– David R



WE WILL WORK TO ENSURE LONG-TERM PREMISES FOR OUR INSTITUTION THAT ALIGN THE SCHOOL’S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT WITH OUR EDUCATIONAL APPROACH, MIRROR OUR VALUES AND CAN ACCOMMODATE FUTURE GROWTH.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A LASTING LEGACY: OUR GRADUATING CLASSES LEAVE THEIR MARK

Since 2019, rising classes at Paul Penna DJDS have led by example, creating a legacy that will have impact long after the students and their families have become alumni.

With the inaugural Graduation Legacy Fund, established by the class of 2019, led by Karen Rosen and Mark Opashinov (Parents, '19/'26) to endow future tuition assistance needs, a vital tradition was born. Twenty five families contributed \$60,000 to start a fund whose purpose is to ensure that students will always have access to a Jewish education as the cost to educate rises and subsidy needs

grow above and beyond Annual Campaign capacity. Subsequent graduating families' contributions and the proceeds from the school's 25th Anniversary Gala have almost tripled that fund in just over five years.

Partner funds established and grown by alumni families including the Harold Nashman z'l Fund, Martin Sable z'l Fund and the Stephen J. Roth z'l Fund have allowed our school to dream that down the road we could permanently endow the majority of subsidy needs. Paul Penna DJDS' portfolio of values aligned funds, also established by graduating classes, include Arts, Social Justice and Athletics and Wellness Endowments. The school is proud to be among a handful of Jewish Day Schools accepted to the first North American Endowment training institute setting a bold goal of raising \$1,000,000 toward endowment by 2028.

“ We are very happy to be able to give back to PPDJDS, which has been such a special place for our children. Our middle child will be graduating this year. When our family decided to return to Toronto earlier this year, our kids couldn't wait to rejoin their friends and the learning environment at PPDJDS. We hope that our donation can help the school continue to benefit other families in the future as much as it has our own.”

– Anne and Bram W



YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE: GIFTS OF TIME, TREASURE AND TALENT

At Paul Penna DJDS the numbers speak for themselves. During the 2024/25 school year over 1,000 members of this community leaned in and stepped up to support our school with gifts of their time, donations and skills. The ways that parents, grandparents, students, alumni and faculty give to the school are innumerable.

Over the course of the school year, from kindergarten to Grade 8, our students have been taught, coached, mentored and inspired by members of the community including their parents, grandparents, alumni and school friends who are authors, entrepreneurs, chefs, athletes and more - all giving their time and expertise to our community.

Our culture of philanthropy is all encompassing. The ways our community gives back are also seen in gifts to annual, capital and legacy funds, inspiring and strengthening our entire community. This school community is filled with supporters of all types, each with a commitment to strengthening and celebrating our downtown Jewish day school.



“As parents, we see firsthand the impact that philanthropy and volunteerism have on building curriculum and community. As Co-Chairs of Institutional Advancement, it is a pleasure to rally families, alumni, grandparents and the broader community to support the school. The generosity of our community is remarkable, and the results have an immediate and direct impact on students and families. It is very special to be a part of a community with a strong commitment to invest in children. Participating in the school as lay leaders is a true honour. The opportunity to give of ourselves to a community and a mission that is of utmost importance to us and our families is a remarkable experience.”

- Katherine D-R. and Mitchell M.

DONORS TO SCHOOL PHILANTHROPY IN 2024/25

The Paul Penna DJDS Leadership Circle is a group of families, grandparents, faculty, alumni and community who support the school with a minimum annual gift of \$1,800.

These gifts not only form a foundation for our Annual Campaign, but they also serve as matching funds for Day of Giving, inspiring and amplifying every gift of any amount made by our generous donors. Thanks to our Leadership Circle, every gift made to the school's annual campaign this year was quadrupled.

Anonymous x4
Amy Ballon and Ian Schnoor
Band Mitz Family
Yvonne Bombard and Dean Elterman
Cindi and David Brand
Jessica Braude and Bobby Pasternak
Donath and DiSabatino Wealth Management Group
Andrea Fiederer and Jason Galindo

Jennifer Gold and Nathan Perlis
Norman and Linda Gold
Elise Hall and Jesse Pasternak
Tiffany Hoffman and Michael Goldrosen
Rebecca Katzin and Matthew Levy
Joanna Lambert and Daniel Naymark
The Dr. Joseph Lebovic and Dr. Wolf Lebovic
Charitable Foundation
Levin Bucholz Family
Mitchell Marcus and Orrin Wolpert
Arlin and Shawna Markowitz
MBC Managed IT
Lisa and Daniel Milgram
Michael, Eli and Emma Miloff and Kathy Siminovitch
Jill and Morris Moscovitch
Peiser Family
Pincus Family
Amy and Aaron Platt & Family
In memory of Solomon and Malvina Pollack
PPDJDS Parents' Association
Proud Paul Penna DJDS Parent
Rose Rahami and Andrew Braude
Ellen and Jack Rosen
Karen Rosen and Mark Opashinov
Rosenwhite Family
The Stephen J. Roth Fund



Martin Sable z"l
Lawrence Senders
Melissa Senders and Daniel Levitan
In memory of Honey and Barry Sherman
Marjorie and Jerome Shore
Solomon and Rosenthal Families
Roseline and Willy Tencer
Stephen and Cookie Title
Genivieve Tomney and Robert Shore
Dena Varah and Jed Friedman
Daphne Wagner and David Green, Lita and Michael
Walters Family
Ali Wolfond and Sheret Ross



**THANK YOU TO THE OVER
400 GENEROUS DONORS
ENSURING THAT THE
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
SUSTAINING OUR SCHOOL
YEAR OVER YEAR IS A TRUE
SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT.**

CLICK HERE to view a
full list of supporters

Listings reflect recognition preferences of supporters to the best of our ability. If we have inadvertently made an error or omitted a name please email advancement@djds.ca for correction to our virtual honour roll.



Make an Impact

1 FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

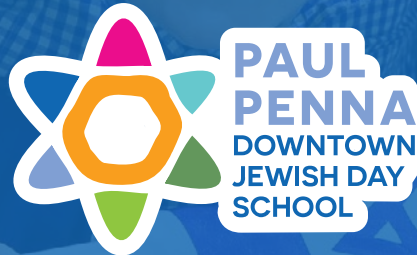
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2 [CLICK HERE](#) TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

3 [DONATE NOW](#)



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