



בית הספר הקהילתי בשיקגו

Chicago Jewish Day School News

From Dream to Reality... the First Day of School



CJDS students help to hang the mezzuzah on their classroom on the first day of school.

Chicago Jewish Day School opened our doors to our first Kindergarten class on September 3rd. Parents and students were welcomed by our board members and teachers, and we all participated together in hanging the mezuzah on the classroom door, at student height, of course! We recited the *Shehechyanu* and sang a spirited *Siman Tov u' Mazel Tov* as the teachers and students danced their way into the classroom. Our parents then joined board members in the multi-purpose room for coffee and bagels. Wendy Newberger, board president, thanked everyone who had worked so hard to create our school and bring it to opening day. She warmly welcomed the parents of the first class on our journey to build Chicago Jewish Day School.

Our Founding Families!

CJDS is delighted to welcome the families of our first Kindergarten class. We look forward to being a part of their children's lives.

Tamar and Kent Genin and Orly

Jenny and Daniel King and Leah

Stacey Landau and Rose

Heidi Baruch and Pablo Michalewicz and Maya

Orit Siman-Tov and Amos Morris-Reich and Abigail

Lisa and Avi Rosenblatt and Galit

Rabbi Suzanne Griffel and Saul Weiner and Karen



Educating our children in the richness of their past, the diversity of their present, and the possibilities for their future

Lower School Director

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Chicago Jewish Day School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Home Sweet Home

We are now settled in our school's first home at Alphonsus Academy located in the heart of Lakeview at 1439 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, IL 60657. Our phone number, fax number and email addresses will remain the same. Our new home shares space with an existing school, which is an ideal situation for us because we have access to their attached secure playground, computer room, library and gym! We look forward to welcoming you to the school. We have scheduled an Open House on Sunday, November 16th from 9:30-11:00 a.m., and/or you can arrange for a privately scheduled school tour at your convenience. Finally, we are always interested in welcoming volunteers in our classroom and in our office.

New Development Director Hired

Thanks to a generous grant from James and Sara Star along with the Crown and Goodman families, CJDS has hired Jill Mesirov as our development director. Jill brings many years of experience in the field of development, specifically for Jewish and not-for-profit organizations. She looks forward to assisting CJDS in all our fundraising efforts.

Fall Parlor Meetings

Parlor meetings will be held in Lakeview, Lincoln Park and West Rogers Park. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about CJDS in an intimate setting with our Lower School director, current parents, board members and other prospective parents. For more information, please call the school office at 773-529-4900.

Thank You!

We greatly appreciate the generosity of all of our donors.

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Gifts up to \$49,999

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Irwin Segal
Andi & David Stone

(Contributions from January 15 through August 15, 2003)

Introducing... Our Teachers!



CJDS kindergarten teachers Morah Rivka and Morah Elisheva.

coursework for a master's degree with a specialization in multicultural education/bilingual education from Columbia College and is working towards a master's degree in Jewish education from Spertus College of Jewish Studies. Elizabeth will be joined in the classroom by Elisa Aranoff (Morah Elisheva). Elisa is completing her certificate in elementary education at National-Louis University, holds degrees in political science and broadcast journalism and also speaks Hebrew. With such talented new members added to our team, this is sure to be a fabulous year. We wish Morah Rivka and Morah Elisheva a wonderful school year!

Introducing... Our Lower School Director

We regret to announce that Rabbi Shmuel Afek will be resigning from his post as Founding Head of School effective September 30, as his family is relocating for personal reasons. We wish to thank Rabbi Afek for all of his hard work in helping us to build our school.

We are pleased to announce that veteran educator and administrator Jill Kushnir LeVee has been hired to serve as our Lower School Director. Jill received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National-Louis University. She has worked in the suburban Chicago public schools and Jewish day schools in Atlanta, GA and Palo Alto, CA. Her teaching

experience includes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. Jill's administrative experience includes lower school team leader and assistant to the Head of School with responsibilities such as admissions, curriculum development, teacher supervision, scheduling, and development and coordination of an after school enrichment program. She has also served on numerous school and board committees. Jill recently returned to this area and is very excited about the opportunity to work with CJDS.

Multi-Year PEJE Grant Awarded to CJDS

CJDS is thrilled to announce that we have recently been awarded our third grant from the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education. This is matching grant of \$175,000 over three years, and we invite you to help us to match the funds. Please call the school office to discuss this further.

PEJE is a collaborative initiative of philanthropic partners committed to strengthening Jewish day school education in North America. Through grant making, advocacy and educational and leadership assistance, PEJE works to assist individual day schools and works to promote excellence in the field at large. PEJE also endeavors to increase awareness and support of day schools in the Jewish community. In the five years since the partnership began, PEJE has provided challenge grants and/or expertise to over 150 Jewish elementary, middle and high schools, spanning the denominational spectrum, for a value of nearly \$16 million.

We received our award through PEJE's North American Jewish Day School Challenge Grant Program, which provides new elementary and middle schools with funding and technical assistance. Our grant includes a madrikh (consultant) with experience in day school leadership who serves as our school's coach. The grant program includes an annual conference designed specifically for PEJE-supported schools, as well as other resources, including a listserv and conference calls on school-related topics.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our various committees and/or in the classroom. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 773-529-4900.



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Join CJDS for an **Open House**

Sunday, November 16th
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
1439 W. Wellington Ave.

Tour our classrooms and school facility

Meet our faculty and staff

Learn more about our integrated curriculum

Pick up applications for the 2004-2005 school year



Please visit our website at
www.chicagojewishdayschool.org