



# Chicago Jewish Day School News

## A Message from Judy Finkelstein-Taff, Head of School

I wish you could be with me each day to hear the sounds and see the sights of our children in love with learning. They are the source of my inspiration as Head of this very special place. I begin each day hearing twenty children, the future leaders of our

Jewish community, sing *Hatikvah* and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. I see the Junior Kindergarteners developing their curiosity and scientific skills as they investigate how snowflakes are formed. I see the Kindergarteners sharpening their critical thinking and building the foundations of their Jewish literacy as they examine the sun and the moon, and incorporate their scientific studies into learning about the monthly Jewish celebration of the reappearance of the moon on *Rosh Chodesh*.

This fall I attended our First graders' International Conference on the Coral Reef. They opened the conference with a prayer for the ocean, and they taught the school about an oil spill in Australia, examining the challenges through the eyes of marine biologists and

oceanographers and through the lens of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. Posters decorated the walls of the conference with watercolor paintings expressing their love for the ocean and its creatures.

The kind of learning that goes on in our school is the product of special teachers, a dedicated board, and committed families and friends. In addition, we are truly blessed by the involvement of our Rabbinic leaders. We have the rare opportunity to learn about Jewish pluralism through their willingness to work together to shape a community school where tradition and diversity are equally cherished. As ex-officio members of our board,



Our wonderful faculty. From left to right, Jill Kushnir LeVee, Wendy Platt Newberger (Board President), Penina Berdugo, Sarah Fox, Andrea Yablong, and Jarred Sparber. In front, Judy Finkelstein-Taff.



בית הספר היהודי בשיקגו

## Chicago Jewish Day School

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

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Judy Finkelstein-Taff

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Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski

Rabbi Michael Siegel

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## Thank you!

*Ein kemach, ein Torah*, without sustenance, there can be no learning. A very special thank you to our caterer Kasher Gourmet for the delicious meals served to our students every day.

Continued from page 1

## A Message from Judy Finkelstein-Taff, Head of School

Rabbis Lopatin, Petuchowski and Siegel helped shape ritual policy and have taught our teachers and our children. For example, this fall Rabbi Siegel came to affix the mezuzah to our classroom, Rabbi Petuchowski hosted us at Temple Sholom for a pre-Simchat Torah celebration, and Rabbi Lopatin launched our year by teaching us about Rosh HaShanah.

If you haven't yet visited our school, I invite you to contact me so I can give you a tour. If you haven't yet donated to our school, I invite you to invest in our Jewish future — it's not only a wise investment — it's priceless!

*"Zeh Ha Yom Asah Adonai Nagilah v'Nismicha Bo"* Let us all celebrate the second year of the Chicago Jewish Day School — let us rejoice in our accomplishments!

B'shalom,



Judy

# Hanukkah Happening

CJDS students and their families celebrated *Hanukkah* in style at the Spertus Museum. According to Judy Finkelstein-Taff, Head of School, "The pictures speak for themselves. The evening at Spertus brought our entire CJDS community together complete with students, teachers, parents, grandparents, rabbis and friends. I believe that this will be one of the signature events of our school year, and we have already begun to plan for next year."

The highlight of the evening was the first performance of the CJDS *Makayla* (chorus) treating us to a medley of *Hanukkah* songs. Thanks to Rhoda Rosen, Director of the Spertus Museum and mom to Kindergarten student Felix, and to Rhoda's outstanding staff, we experienced art projects, driedyl playing and a tour of the light exhibit. Our students had toured the exhibit prior to the evening so that they could serve as docents for their parents. Thank you to Spertus Educational staff members — Rena Lipman, Jamie Kim, Susan Bass Marcus and Maintenance and Facilities staff Andreas Sosnowski and Patricia (Patti) Villalpando. Thanks as well to Kosher Gourmet Catering and Dejaview Photography.

*Todah Rabah* to our staff for walking the extra mile for this program, and an additional *Todah Rabah* to our Israeli Intern Tanya Geiger who contributed greatly to this and other programs in our school, and who has since returned to Israel to continue her studies.



Our *Makayla* (chorus) singing for their families.

## Celebrations/Memorials

Send a CJDS tribute card in honor of a simcha or in memory of someone who has passed away by sending a minimum \$18 donation to the school. Or, you may purchase 10 cards for \$150. Please call the school office at 773-529-4900 for more information.



Penina Berdugo and Kindergartener Ayelet showing her new *Shema* pillow.

## Layla Tov — Goodnight!

In January, Chicago Jewish Day School presented its first *Layla Tov* Evening Program. Over 65 CJDS current and prospective families participated in this exciting family education program. The evening began with a bedtime story and a discussion about the importance of bedtime routine. Participants could travel to three different learning centers and created unique *Shema* pillows, dreamcatchers from the American Indian tradition for catching bad dreams and bedtime routine charts to help organize the family's nighttime routine. While families took a break for a snack of hot chocolate and cookies, they added their own creative words to a CJDS original bedtime story. This magical evening came to a close with the music of Rabbi Donni Aaron on her blue guitar and the beautiful voices of all of our students and invited guests singing the *Shema* and *V'ahavta*. The ancient words of the *V'ahavta*: "and you shall teach them diligently to your children when they lie down and when they rise up" seemed ever so meaningful.

As we looked around the room and saw children sitting in the laps of their parents, *L'dor va'dor* — one generation passing the wisdom and love of Judaism to the next generation, we dreamed for a moment of our Jewish future. May all of our dreams come true!

## Recruitment for Fall 2005

Enrollment for the 2005–2006 school year is in full swing! We experienced a remarkable response to our Open Houses and many people asked us to extend the opportunities to visit the school. In response to these requests we have scheduled two more mornings for prospective parents to meet with our Head of School and tour CJDS in a small group setting.

Please join us on **Thursday March 17 at 9:30 a.m.** or **Thursday April 14 at 9:30 a.m.** Contact Brea Pautsch, our Office Administrator, at 773-529-4900 to R.S.V.P. for these dates or to schedule a private tour. Applications are dated in the order in which they are received.

## Box Tops for Education

Chicago Jewish Day School joins with schools all over the country collecting Box Tops for Education. Each box top earns our school money! Simply clip the specially marked box tops from your favorite General Mills Cereals, Betty Crocker baking goods and more, and bring them or send them to Chicago Jewish Day School.

## Our E-Newsletter

"Chicago Jewish Day School Happenings," our e-mail newsletter, is sent out periodically to share important information about our school. To subscribe to the list, send an email to [ChicagoJewishDaySchool-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:ChicagoJewishDaySchool-subscribe@yahoo.com).



Please visit our website at  
[www.chicagojewishdayschool.org](http://www.chicagojewishdayschool.org)

# CJDS Happenings



Our mezuzah hanging ceremony with Rabbi Michael Siegel accompanied by Rabbi Donni Aaron on guitar



Our 1st grade students presenting at their International Coral Reef Conference



Our Kindergarten students working collaboratively on a project



Our students on a field trip to Temple Sholom with Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski



CJDS students in their "family group," allowing students an opportunity to make friends across all the grade levels.



בית הספר הקהילתי בשיקגו  
**Chicago Jewish Day School**

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## CJDS and WICKED!

**Defy gravity on Sunday June 5, 2:00 PM, The Ford Oriental Theater**

- Great seats for Broadway's hottest new musical in its Chicago Premier
- Private post-show conversation with the producer and select cast members of *Wicked*

**For more information, please call 773-529-4902 or e-mail [wicked@chicagojewishdayschool.org](mailto:wicked@chicagojewishdayschool.org).**

*Proceeds from the sale of tickets will benefit the Chicago Jewish Day School.*

### **Emerald City Tickets**

\$375 Priority Seats (*Sold Out – Wait List Only!*)  
\$250 Preferred Seats

### **Angel Opportunities**

\$5000 Glinda Angel  
(*can include 2 Emerald City Priority seats*)

\$10,000 Elphaba Angel  
(*can include up to 4 Emerald City Priority seats*)