

NOTES FROM BIL

This week's front page article is written by Nili Pearlmutter, LGA Schechter's Mandel Center Coach..

LANDER~GRINSPOON ACADEMY CHOSEN AS MANDEL CENTER PARTNER SCHOOL

Lander~Grinspoon Academy has been chosen as one of three nationwide sites to partner with the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University in an effort to support new teachers as they take their places at Jewish day schools. The Mandel Center, dedicated to improving Jewish education through the study of teaching and learning practices, has developed strategies and resources for supporting schools as they induct beginning teachers into their communities.

As an Induction partner school, LGA Schechter will receive ongoing coaching for the next three years and will have access to newly developed induction materials. Created with the support of a Covenant Foundation grant in 2005, these materials have been used successfully in select Boston-area Jewish day schools. A new grant from Covenant makes possible this partnership with sites outside the Boston area, like Lander~Grinspoon Academy.

With a strong cohort of veteran teachers and the regular influx of teachers at the beginning of their careers, LGA is poised to create strong induction practices that comprehensively address the development of new teachers, while simultaneously creating new opportunities for professional growth of experienced teachers. Suzanne Atkins has been appointed the new Induction Leader for LGA. She will work closely with the rest



Kitah Gan (K) students Ava Greenbaum and Aaron Valitt read to their grandfather, Louis Greenbaum, at the school's M'dor L'dor event last Friday. Over 100 grandparents and special friends came from all over to learn more about student accomplishments and classroom activities.

of the LGA faculty and administration as well as with Nili Pearlmutter, the Mandel Center coach, in order to examine and refine the school's current practices and put new systems in place.

Nili will be making her first visit to LGA on May 6 and 7. She is looking forward to meeting teachers, students, and other members of the community as well as learning about LGA. If you have questions about this new partnership, feel free to contact Nili at nilip@brandeis.edu.

The Mandel Center, a partnership between the Mandel Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio, and Brandeis University, is dedicated to improving Jewish education through rigorous study of the core practices of teaching and learning. The Center pursues innovative research initiatives, pilots fresh approaches to professional development, and partners with Jewish educational institutions from across the community. The Induction Project is supported by additional funding from the Covenant Foundation.

REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Apr 28:** Yom HaZikaron
- Apr 29:** Yom Ha'Atzma'ut
- Apr 30:** Gr. 5-6 to see Diary of Anne Frank
- Apr 30:** Havayah Community Meeting
- May 3:** Talent Show & Potluck, 4pm
- May 4:** PTO Mtg 9am; PTO Breakfast, 8:15am
- May 5, 14, 20:** 1/2 days, Parent Conferences
- May 12:** Lag B'Omer Outing-Sinai Academy
- May 17:** Ultimate Frisbee tournament at Eaglebrook
- May 22:** All School Kabbalat Shabbat, 2pm
- May 25:** Closed - Memorial Day
- Sept 2:** First day of school '09-'10

Parent/Teacher Conference Schedules

Conference times are going home in backpacks today - check your oldest child's backpack. Questions? Call Ashley at x100.

Talent Show Potluck Information

A-M bring a main dish; N-Z bring a salad or side; PTO will provide drinks and dessert. 5th grade will provide pizza. Like last year, we ask 5th grade parents to please donate money towards the purchase of the pizza. Questions? Contact Patti Klein, 695-4708.

PTO Breakfast, May 4 - Open to all parents!

The PTO plans to host a social breakfast after drop off from 8:15-9:15am on Monday May 4th. The PTO meeting will follow from 9:15-10 for anyone who wants to stay.

Obligation Statements Mailed Out

Questions? Contact Nilda, x118.

Carpooling help for '09-'10?

An incoming K family is able to help other families with pick-up every day in exchange for drop-off help. Florence/Leeds/N'ton area. Contact Marla in the office.

Lag B'Omer - Tuesday, May 12

Looking for parent volunteers to drive Sinai Academy in Pittsfield to celebrate Lag B'Omer. Contact Deborah Bromberg Seltzer.

**Parent/Community Meeting
Thur, April 30, 6-7 PM**

Havayah

(The "New" grades 5/6)

RSVP to Ashley
ahooten@lgaschechter.org, x100

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE HOSTS, SPEAKERS, VOLUNTEERS, & GUESTS FOR MAKING A NIGHT AROUND THE TABLE 2009 A GREAT SUCCESS!
CATHERINE EPSTEIN & TAMARA KUPFER, EVENT CO-CHAIRS**

CLASSROOM NOTES



WHAT'S GOING ON KITAH GIMEL (3)?

by Julie Kearns,
Kitah Gimel (3)
General Studies
Teacher

Kitah Gimel is having an exciting spring. It began with our Biography Fair at in the middle of March. Students researched and read a biography on the life of a person who had lived or was still alive. The

only limitation was that the person had to have had a biography written about him or her. Our class chose the characters Cleopatra, Ben Franklin, Albert Einstein, Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson and Sacagawea. Students wrote scripts about their lives, created costumes, and became these characters for the Fair. All grades attended and learned so many interesting facts. Who knew Albert Einstein purposefully let bats loose into his classroom as a boy? Who knew Ben Franklin invented swim flippers?

Kitah Gimel then moved on to Ancient Rome. We learned that Rome was founded in 750 B.C. on the Tiber River in Italy by twin brothers, Romulus and Remus. The Roman Empire grew to encompass 2.3 million square miles, much of which is now modern-day Western Europe. We investigated Roman life, finding that many areas of our lives today have been greatly influenced by the Ancient Romans: jury trials, and the system of checks and balances in our government; engineering design found in roads, bridges and aqueducts that are still functional today; Latin roots in much of our language; columns, archways, domes and city-planning in our architecture. My two teenage sons came in to teach our class how to speak some Latin phrases. Roman projects that students in our class chose to research and create were Mount Vesuvius, the Colosseum, the Arc de Triomphe (built in the Ancient Roman style), statues of Venus and Neptune, and a temple constructed to demonstrate the six different styles of ancient Roman columns.

Kitah Gimel has just begun its study of the solar system, the universe, and space exploration. This week we learned about galaxies, supernovas, lesser planets, exoplanets and black holes. Much of what we are learning had not been discovered yet when I was in elementary school! One of the joys of teaching is that I learn new things every day, about our curriculum and about the students I teach.

Yom Huledet Sameach! *Happy Birthday!*

Livia Shelasky, Kitah Gimel (3), 4/29
Rose Cole-Cohen, Kitah Dalet (4), 4/30
Dawit Weisman, Kitah Bet (2), 5/5
Robbie Calafell, Kitah Alef (1), 5/7
Jordan Kuhr, Kitah Dalet (4), 5/11

MAZEL TOV

...to Julia Mintz (K parent) for premiering the film "Soundtrack for a Revolution" at the Tribecca Film Festival! Visit www.soundtrack-forarevolutionfilm.com for more info.

...to Hannah Osofsky ('08 alum) on her April 4th Bat Mitzvah.

MANY THANKS

Thank you to the following parents and teachers who have volunteered to drive on May 12 for the Lag B'Omer Outing with Sinai Academy in Pittsfield!

Karen Kuhr, Deborah Bromberg Seltzer, Judy Calafell, Leigh Dunlap, Andrea Fox, Debbie Penzias, Laura Reinhard, Suzanne Atkins, Bonnie Gordon, Jen Davis, Deb Ellis, Diane Alpern, and Patti Klein.

Thank you to those parents who have also donated money toward a bus. We still need \$160. If you are able to help with a donation, even a small part, it would be appreciated.



M'dor L'dor brings friends and family to our school!!

Students in all the grades showed off their classroom accomplishments to grandparents and special friends at the school's annual M'dor L'dor event last Friday. Over 100 guests enjoyed a light lunch and a repeat performance of the Kitah Alef's (1) marionette show before heading off to classrooms. Thank you to all the parents and staff who helped prepare for this amazing event!



FIFTH GRADE INVENTION FAIR

Kitah Hay (5) student Nathan Gordon shows off the "No Wait(er) Diner" at the fifth grade Invention Fair last week. Students, friends, and families came to see all the inventions which also included the Super Vac!, Iron Valley I, the HeliSub Car, Creen Speeder 3000, the Super Transportation Car, and the Mist Away which clears thoughts and eliminates stress.





Kitah Gan (K) and Kitah Vav (6) buddies at All School Kabbalat Shabbat last Friday.

Stay tuned for a special graduation Koleinu on June 8th.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thurs, April 30, 5:30-6:30, Dinner and a Movie to Benefit Project Rehovot, by Kitah Hay at CBI

Students will prepare a festive meal, including falafel, hummus, Israeli salad, drinks and desserts. Come watch "West Bank Story," a short musical comedy set in the fast-paced, fast-food world of competing falafel stands in the West Bank. Proceeds from the gathering will go toward Project Rehovot, an arts and advocacy program helping Ethiopian Jews living in Israel. Suggested contribution: \$8 individuals/\$15 families. Come for the nosh, check out this Academy Award winning short film, and support Kitah Hay's fundraising project!

Friday, May 8, "Shabbat in the Groove" led by Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein, Jewish Community of Amherst

This musical, interactive, and energetic service utilizes new and traditional melodies in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. This unique experience with instrumental accompaniment, aims to deepen your spiritual awareness, to put you in touch with your Jewish neshama/soul. .

Sunday, June 28 - Th, July 2, 2009, Summer Storytelling Institute Retreat with International Storyteller, Rona Leventhal

A five day immersion into the Art of Storytelling, physicality in stories through improv theatre and movement, tools for improved communication skills, personal growth and FUN! Applicable to many professions! Go to www.ronatales.com or call 413-586-0624 to see how you could benefit from this training. Early Bird Specials! Limited to 14 people... register early! 34 PDP's for Mass. Teachers.

Torah Yoga: Monthly, Sun's to 6/7, 9:45-11:15am, LGA, 257 Prospect St., N'ton. Experience Jewish concepts through classic yoga poses. For info: Rachel Valitt, 549-1212, rachelvalitt@hotmail.com, \$7/session or \$5 each/for the entire year.

Join the Family! Family Camp at Camp Yavneh, Now in it's 5th year - August 26-30, 2009

Wouldn't it be great to bring your family together for an all-inclusive extended summer weekend – filled with great activities for all ages, stimulating Jewish learning, wonderful food and a ruach-filled Shabbat to top it off? Enjoy going to a session with one of our scholars in residence, or sit back and relax at the agam (waterfront) while your children have fun at camp. A great value! All children's camp and adult programs, lodging, meals and babysitting included. From only \$225 per adult, \$155 per child over 3. Email jody@campyavneh.org for more information, or visit www.campyavneh.org/familycamp.

"We had a great time at family camp last year. Amazing kosher food, beautiful waterfront, fun activities for the kids. You can participate as much or as little as you like. A great family vacation experience with no cooking!" - Roz Torrey, Mark Staples, Maya, Caleb, and Libby

Camp Shemesh, a program of the Jewish Community of Amherst - Now accepting applications!

JCA's summer day camp for kids ages 6-11, and CIT's 12+ is accepting registrations for its 2009 season. Located at Amherst College, Camp Shemesh offers three, two-week sessions from June 29- August 7. Hours of operation are M-Th 8:30-4pm; Fri 8:30-3:30pm. The camp incorporates traditional camp activities (arts & crafts, music, theatre, yoga, dance, swimming, field games and sports) into its Jewish-themed programming. Lunch/snacks provided daily, and a family Kabbalat Shabbat celebration is held each Friday afternoon. Registration Form can be found at www.j-c-a.org. For more info, 413-256-0160 x250, shemesh@j-c-a.org. Partial scholarships are available through the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. In the past we have also helped families with carpools from Northampton and we will continue that this year.