

DAF KESHER

The weekly newsletter of the H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy, St. Louis, Mo

314-994-7856 FAX 314-994-9437

“SHABBAT SHALOM”

Friday, October 16, 2009

28 Tishre 5770

Parsha Bereshit

Candle lighting: 6:04 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 7:03 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, October 16

Mid Trimester

Monday, October 19

Rosh Chodesh 8:30 Minyan

Wednesday, October 21

Board Meeting at EHA, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 29

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

- If your child was absent when pictures were taken and you would like to order pictures, please come to the office and pick up a form for retake day.
- If you were not satisfied with the pictures and you wish to have them retaken, please return your package the day of the retakes and your child can have his/her picture retaken. Students should keep their class picture. **NO RETAKES CAN BE TAKEN WITHOUT THE ORIGINAL PACKAGE**

MAZEL TOV

Congratulations to Denny and Chris Wilkes on the birth of a grandson, Ryan Andrew.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to Adinah Raskas, Jonathan Raskas, Aviva Adler and family on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Mrs. Erna Waltuch. Mrs. Waltuch, along with her husband Max, was one of the founding families of the Epstein Hebrew Academy and has supported the school for all these years.

“EHA HAPPENINGS”

STUDENT BANKING

Students in K-8th grades received a flier describing our innovative new banking program with the Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union. Credit Union representatives will be coming to Epstein on a monthly basis to introduce topics about money management at age-appropriate levels, and to provide branch hours during

lunch/recess. Middle school students will meet with representatives as part of their Advisory program, and will eventually have the opportunity to participate in banking transactions. *As stated in the flier, there are 3 ways to open an account: 1) fill out the form sent home with your child this week and return it to your child's teacher; 2) open an account online at www.gmcu.org; 3) go in to one of the 10 branch locations.* Dates for the rest of the year are as follows: 10/21, 11/18, 12/23, 1/20, 2/24, 3/17, 4/21, 5/12, and 6/1. This is a great way for your child to save for his/her 8th grade trip (potentially to Israel) or other worthwhile goals.

H1N1 VACCINE

We are still awaiting the arrival of the vaccine from the Department of Health. As soon as it arrives, we will be sending out permission slips for parents to sign. **NO CHILD WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE VACCINE WITHOUT A SIGNED CONSENT FROM THEIR PARENTS.** We will keep you informed as to the progress of the program.

SCRIP

How can buying gas, groceries, paper towels and even the kitchen sink help reduce your child's tuition at Epstein Hebrew Academy? Buy scrip and see how your everyday purchases can directly reduce your tuition at no additional cost to you. You can now order scrip online. Go to shopwithscrip.com, enter the enrollment code (C2CF9FEC13L4) and then order whatever scrip you need. Please note that before the order is placed, you must pay for it by check or credit card through the school's Business office.

Beginning October 17 and running through November 13, Lowe's will give Great Lakes Scrip Center client organizations a chance to win a \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 donation. The Lowe's Giveaway will reward three lucky non-profit organizations for their purchases and reloads of Lowe's Gift Cards.

Every \$25 Lowe's gift card (or equivalent) purchased during this period will give our organization one entry in the drawing pool. Buy 1 \$25 gift card and get 1 entry.... Buy 4 \$25 gift cards and get 4 entries. The more you buy the more chances we have. Call the Epstein Business office for more information.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Help! It has been awhile and we have lots of updates for you. For one, the newspaper is up and going and we hope to have our first issue out soon. If anyone wishes to write and/or draw something for the newspaper, please e-mail me at sammytothechervitz@gmail.com. The suggestion box has so far been a success. Please drop your suggestions or questions in the

box in the school office. We have an anonymous person who will answer all your questions. We have our student representative chosen and we think this year is going to ROCK!

COLD WEATHER REMINDER

Please remember that, weather permitting, the children will be going outside for gym and/or recess. We ask that parents send children dressed appropriately for these activities. **Also, please label your child's apparel in case it gets misplaced.**

E-MAIL DAF KESHER

This year we are sending out the Daf Kesher via e-mail. You can either view it online or download it to read at your leisure. We will also be using e-mail to send parent's notices and reminders throughout the year. If you have not been receiving our e-mails Daf Kesher, please contact Gayle in the school office and she will check to be sure we have your correct address.

CLASSROOM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is off to a wonderful start this school year. The children have adjusted well to the routine and class rules.

In Reading and Language Arts, we have been learning about family, friends and neighborhoods. We have discussed what families and friends do together, how we know a friend from a stranger and people or places that we might see in our neighborhood. While discussing places in our neighborhood, we focused on fire stations to connect our studies about Fire Prevention Week.

In Math the children have been learning about patterns. They are able to read, extend, and fill in missing parts of a pattern. They love finding patterns in our classroom and around the school.

Morah Liz Collins

THIRD GRADE JUDAIC STUDIES

The third grade has spent Elul and Tishrei learning about Elul, Rosh Hashanah, Aseret Yemai Teshuvah, Yom Kippur, Succot and Simchat Torah. We had various worksheets and projects related to the customs and laws of each holiday. We will be coming into the month of Cheshvan very soon.

We have been learning in *Sefer Bereshit, Parshat Toldot, Perek Chaf Hay, Pesukim Yud Tet-Lamed Daled*. We learned about the birth of twins, Yaakov and Eisav, to Rivkah and Yitzchak. We learned about their different personalities and the concept of bechorah. Eisav "sold" his *bechorah* to Yaakov for a bowl of lentil soup after he was so tired from hunting. We made a "film strip" of *Perek Chaf Hay* which reviewed the pesukim. Our *Tal Am* program is so interesting: we get to see various pictures about each part of the perek and have a chance to speak in Hebrew to describe what is in the picture. We have wonderful workbooks that help us understand the perek. We are now continuing on to *Perek Chaf Vav*.

Parshat Hashavuah is an exciting part of the week. We will be beginning a new book from our *Tal Am* program. There are many great lessons we learn from the parsha. We get a chance to hear wonderful stories about these lessons.

Each night the children get a chance to do another page in their Rashi workbooks. We are learning about his life and his letters.

Morah Aliza Gertzulin

SIXTH GRADE JUDAIC STUDIES

Relevancy Is the Key..... The sixth grade girls understand the relevancy of the Torah Civil Laws of Mishpatim to their daily lives. They are moved by the Olam Chesed, "the world that Hashem built with the blue print of kindness." They have examined such topics as Eved Ivri (Jewish slaves), a seemingly irrelevant topic and have come to interpret it as a perfect, balanced plan for criminal reform and rehabilitation. The girls have discovered on their own and are astounded by the deep caring and love displayed by Hashem to even seemingly undeserving members of society. They have expressed a desire to continuously perfect their own Middot, in the life-long attempt to emulate the ways of Hashem. After careful examination, the students now also appreciate the unit of Amah Ivriya as a Foster Care solution of depth and sensitivity. The 6th grade girls have evaluated the RELEVANCY of their units of study to the life of a 6th grader as "very high."

Navi and the Arts.... With art sketch pads at hand for pictorial notes each day, the sixth grade girls are studying the life of Shmuel Hanavi, one of the greatest Prophets of all time. After completing the unit on the many aspects of prayer, as learned from Shmuel's mother, Chana, the students then displayed their learning through art. They will continue with expressing the holy words of Chana's famous prayer of appreciation through original song and dance.

Morah Chanie Winter

Eighth Grade Girls Organize Ushpizin Program for Epstein Students

During *Chol Hamoed* Sukkot the EHA students enjoyed a wonderful program all about the *Ushpizin*, organized by the eighth grade girls and their teachers, Morah Merav, Morah Shiffy and Mrs. Drazen. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to demonstrate their creative leadership skills. Check out the beautiful pictures in the 2009 Succot Celebrations folder at www.eha.org/photogallery.html!

On Wednesday morning Epstein students visited different stations, each one representing one of the *Ushpizin*. The mitzvah of Avraham doing *Hachnasat Orchim* was represented by Avraham and the three *melachim* (Hadassah Cohen, Tali Shapiro, Shaina Drazen, and Shira Siegel) giving out treats to students eating lunch in the Sukkah. At the station which represented Yitzchok and the wells he dug, the students learned from Morah Shiffy all about the *Simchat Beit Hashoevah* in the times of the *Beit Hamikdash* and how water was drawn from the *shiluach* and poured with wine on the *mizbeach*. Devorah Goldson, Jeannie Rubin and Alex Reznichenko instructed the children to race with buckets of water they drew from the "well," and rush to pour it on the *mizbeach*. At the station representing Yaakov, the students learned all about the shevatim with Michal Sundy and Shira Feen, under the supervision of Morah Merav. Michal and Shira also guided the students as they decorated the different *degallim* of the twelve *shevatim*. At Yosef's station they used different colored yarn and decorated tubes together with Mrs. Drazen and Hadassah Cohen. At the station representing Aharon the students learned all about *Birchat*

Cohanim from our resident *cohan*, Rabbi Kay. Tali Shapiro, Shira Siegel, and Sara Kampler (*sheirut leumi*) role played Aharon making peace among people. Tova Maimon (*sheirut leumi*) taught the students the meaning of the *perek* for their age in *Tehillim* at the station with Dovid *Hamelech*. Shaina Drazen instructed the students in decorating the *perek*, which they placed in special frames.

The activities concluded with grades 1-8 dancing to music in the gym, representing Moshe, and preparing for Simchat Torah.

Morah Shiffy Landa

FHA NEWS

MAGAZINE DRIVE

The Magazine Drive is quickly coming to an end. The drive ends October 16th and no orders will be taken after October 23rd.

All students in grades K-8 are invited to participate in the magazine drive. If you have any questions, call chairperson, Anna Rose Tendler, 275-8148 or Bonnie Goldmeier, 863-1881. **THIS IS A HUGE FUNDRAISER SO WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!**

"COMMUNITY NEWS"

NOACH'S ARK: INVITING CREATURES LARGE AND SMALL

Join with The PJ Library and JCC's Mom's Action Committee for an Eco-Friendly Zoo Event on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will be held inside at the St. Louis Zoo, in the lower rotunda of the Living World – North entrance. The event is free and designed for children up to 5 years of age and their families (siblings welcome too).

Families can participate in fun activities, raise our eco-consciousness, learn about the Jewish values of "kindness to animals" and "do not destroy" and bring concrete ways to protect our environment into our homes.

Epstein will have a table set up making tzedekah necklaces out of film canisters.

RSVP's requested but not required...for more information, go to www.jewishinstlouis.org/noahsark or contact Jennifer Lotsoff, PJ Library coordinator @ 314-442-3867 or jlotsoff@jfedstl.org.

"PEOPLE OF THE COOKBOOK" NOW ON SALE

Bais Abraham Congregation's new cookbook is now on sale. It features 150 recipes, including Sara Winkelman's Mumbai Chicken with Almonds and Lemon. The beautiful paintings of Janet Shafner transform the cookbook into a true work of art. \$18.00 per copy, which you can pick up at the shul office (6910 Delmar, 721-3030) or at the home of Phyllis and Jack Shapiro (7100 Cambridge, 725-4876). You can also have your order mailed to you for an extra \$2.50 per book.

NUSACH HARI

Recharge Your Spiritual Batteries! Celebrate Shabbat An ecstatic evening of soul-soaring music! Real. Live. Rockin'. Come and sing, dance and welcome Shabbat with Special Guest Aryeh Needle This Friday Night, October 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Then on Shabbat, Oct. 17 Join us again ~ Services begin at 8:45 a.m.; Torah Reading at 9:45 a.m. Lunch & Learn following services Rabbi Ze'ev Smason presenting Adam & Eve: Lessons in Love & Marriage

Nusach Hari B'nai Zion ** 8630 Olive Blvd ** (314) 991-2100 ** www.nhbz.org Your "Unorthodox, Orthodox Shul"

...It's time to put your Team together for the

***** 5th Annual Kosher Chili Cookoff! *****

** Awards for "Peoples Choice," Best Meat Chili, Best Vegetarian Chili, Best Costume/Table Decorations, Best White Chili and Best Youth Division

** When: Sunday, November 15, 2009

Food Prep begins at 2:00 p.m, with Judging and community tasting at 5:30 p.m.

** Where: Jewish Community Center - Creve Coeur—Staenberg Family Complex

Sponsored by Nusach Hari B'nai Zion for the entire community Registrants must call 991-2100(ext. 2) to register!

IMPORTANT - SAVE THE DATE

The 3rd annual St. Louis Community Blood Drive along with a new Jewish Food Pantry Drive will take place on Sunday, January 17, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Congregation Young Israel.

TORAH MITZION KOLLEL

Beit Midrash

The weekly Beit Midrash for Women has resumed every Wednesday morning, 9 AM in the home of Faye Newman (7916 Stanford). All women are welcome to the hour class presented by Merav Possick.

Ulpan Ivrit

TMK proudly announces is fifth year of Ulpan Ivrit (call Jackie 314-997-7257 for details). The full Ulpan will offer Hebrew instruction for two sessions of ten classes each. Gilat was trained in Hebrew University and Yellin Teachers College, both in Jerusalem, and serves as a shlichah for the Jewish Community in St. Louis.

The full Ulpan occurs on Monday & Tuesday evenings from October to March in Young Israel (8101 Delmar). Semester I is from October 12th - December 15th (10 classes) and Semester II is from January 4th - March 9th (10 classes). Monday @ 7:00-7:50 Children Beginners, Monday @ 8:00-8:50 Adult Beginners, Tuesday @ 7:00-7:50 Adult Intermediate, Tuesday @ 8:00-8:50 Adult Advanced. Fee is \$89/semester in advance (includes workbook) To enroll, send name, phone no. and email to 8222 Gannon, St. Louis, MO 63132 with check for Torah MiTzion (visit www.torahmitzion.org/stlouis).