



Second Annual Wine Tasting and Chinese Auction Honoring the Memory of Sidney Chaplin a Great Success!

The Solomon Schechter Day School of Las Vegas hosted nearly two hundred and fifty people at its second annual "Wine Tasting and Chinese Auction" fundraiser on March 1 at Temple Beth Sholom. This year's event honored the memory of Sidney Chaplin and launched a memorial scholarship fund in his name.

The wine tasting was generously donated by Southern Wine and Spirits and the food was catered by Gustav Mauler. All proceeds went to the Sidney Chaplin Memorial Schechter Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for families who want to give their children a high-quality Schechter education, but need help to make it happen. Every dollar will go toward students.



Fourth Grade Science Fair

Fourth Graders at Solomon Schechter had a Science Fair on Tuesday, March 4th. The Science Fair was an opportunity for Fourth Graders to put into practice what they have learned thus far about the scientific method and experimentation/invention. The students created amazing projects and Abigail Simon was selected to represent Schechter at the 2008 Southern Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair at UNLV, which took place the weekend of March 4th- 6th. Abigail's project compared the germ-killing efficacy of antibacterial soaps versus regular soap. (A picture of Abigail and her project can be found on Page Four.)



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A Message from the Head of School, Jon Mitzmacher



Shalom!

Each month I tend to fill this space with a laundry list of accomplishments past and predicted. There is so much happening in our school and new milestones are reached with inspiring frequency. This month is no different—the phenomenal success of our gala, enrollment ahead of projections, looming construction—the story of our school in its early chapters are still written in broad strokes. However, this month I want to direct our gaze from the trees to the forest.

The aims of Jewish Day School education are as lofty as they are varied. Academic expectations are high across the dual curriculum, but what about expectations of action? The value of study for study's sake (*Torah lishmah*) is held in high regard in Jewish thought, but Judaism is anything but an ivory tower religion. If the lessons learned in our school stay within our walls after the students have gone home, it would represent a profound failure.

I am not limiting my comments to our Jewish Studies curriculum. Too often parents focus on our Jewish “agenda” and fail to realize that our desire to

inspire Jewish behaviors is part of our overall mission to inculcate in our students the aspiration to make the world around them a better place than it currently is. If anything serves to integrate the curriculum it is this idea. Shabbat provides us with a foretaste of perfection in this world. Prayer serves as a daily reminder of our responsibilities. Science, Social Studies, Math, and Language Arts are among the tools our students will use to make that dream into a reality.

A Schechter education sees the power, holiness even, of all subjects and understands that they are all necessary to mold young Jewish people into acting, caring adults. I have written before about the unique Schechter attitude which is neither rejectionist nor assimilationist, but rather *interactionist*. Purim teaches us that human action is required to repair the world. Passover instructs us to remember that we, once enslaved, have the holy task of standing up for those who suffer. Election Day is our chance to participate in a democratic process—the goal of which, regardless of political persuasion, is to improve upon what came before. This month, I remind you that you cannot spell “interact” without the word “act”...let's make April a month of meaningful action for our school and for your family.

Kindergarten Update by Nitzana Kohn

Spring is here and what a wonderful time for Kindergarten! We continue to study the seasons and different weather patterns of the different parts of the country. Our class will begin studying seeds and plants. We will continue with a unit on bugs and insects and habitats leading us into our rainforest unit.

Over the last few weeks, Kindergarten has learned the last of their short vowels. They are all excited as their reading skills improve. As they walk through the halls, you hear many of them reading words from other bulletin boards. They continue to write in their journals more independently and on various topics. It is really wonderful to watch the transition of non-readers and writers to readers and writers.

Kindergarten had a great party in honor of the 100th day of school. They counted by 10's, 5's and 1's, depending on the activity. They made necklaces, graphed and, using marshmallows, they built structures. Both classes had a great time and were able to show off their strong math skills.

Last week, Kindergarten went on a field trip to the Shark's Reef at Mandalay Bay. They had a great time. They were fascinated by the jellyfish, sharks and

giant fish from the Amazon River. They learned about turtles and tortoises and their differences. Then, they had the opportunity to make tortoises which, naturally, they really enjoyed.

As the spring term begins and your children continue growing, our Kindergarten students will undoubtedly blossom similar to the wonderful flowers that they are presently learning about. We are looking forward to a wonderful final term in what has been a terrific year.



Ivrit (Hebrew) Corner with Kitah Alef (1) Morah Iris



First Grade students spent March busy learning and experiencing Purim. The children read the story of Purim all in Hebrew (of course!). We focused our attention on the four main characters of the Megillah, baked our own Humentashen and learned about the mitzvot of this joyous holiday. However, there are still important holidays left before the end of the school year.

Our next holiday is Passover. I am looking forward to guiding the children through the Haggadah and their Passover textbooks. After Passover we will get ready for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. This year Israel celebrates its 60th birthday and our students will have a chance to perform a new song written especially for Solomon Schechter schools at various community Israel Independence Day celebrations. Then, close to the end of the school year, we will celebrate Shavuot (the holiday celebrating the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai).

As you hopefully know by now, the Tal Am

program involves singing songs, playing games, reading stories and a lots of fun. In "Ariyot" we recently began our last letters book. We have six more letters to learn before we will have mastered all of the Alef-Bet. Hooray!! The children are working hard to continue building their reading skills and comprehension by reading Hebrew in groups and on their own, and also listening to stories being read to them.

I am very proud of the children. They have been working very hard and have made good progress and I am sure they will do well next year. Thank you for all of your cooperation and support and, as always, it is my pleasure to teach your children.



Third Grade Update by Karen Mairs

The Solomon Schechter Day School of Las Vegas is a family that has already expanded by one (congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Mitzmacher) and is about to expand by one more. Unfortunately this will be my final article of the school year since I am on maternity leave. However, we have had so many wonderful educational experiences since my last article I can't wait to share them with you.

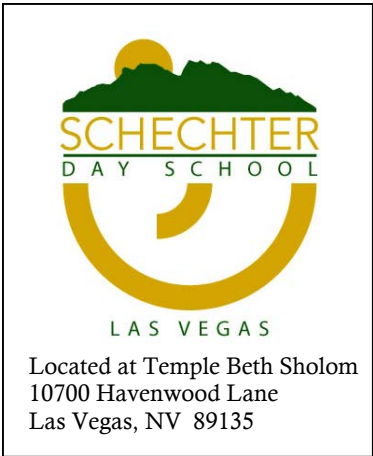
For Tu B'Shevat we made family trees, studied immigration, time lines, and genealogy. We worked on our family tree projects very diligently and would like to thank our parents for all of their help. Please make sure to see our work on display on our bulletin board. During Nevada Reading Week we had a fabulous time. Each day we showed our spirit by dressing up. We also had guest readers visit us and share their love of reading with us. Two of our most memorable guest readers were Mr. Mitzmacher and Mr. Michael Berk, sportscaster for KLAS. It was a very exciting week for all of us and we can't wait for next year.

Most recently we went on another outstanding field trip with the Fourth Grade to the Springs Preserve. Our tour guide, Catherine, was great. We saw

so many fantastic exhibits such as the live animals, and flash flood exhibits, we also learned about recycling and why it is so important to our delicate ecosystem here in the Mojave desert.

Thank you again for the beautiful baby shower, and all of your well wishes. My husband, Scott, and I are looking forward to meeting our new arrival. I will miss everyone tremendously, but I am leaving you in the capable hands of Mrs. Bickford. She is a veteran teacher who is really looking forward to finishing up the school year with our beautiful girls. I wish everyone a wonderful end of the school year.





The Solomon Schechter Day School of Las Vegas opened in the Fall of 2004. Rooted in the principles of the Conservative Movement, the school teaches Jewish children the laws, customs and traditions of Judaism, as well as the Hebrew language. Schechter schools are renowned for academic excellence, offering students small class size, individual attention, high standards, and state-of-the-art techniques which enable children to reach their full potential as students and as Jews.

The Schechter school is housed at Temple Beth Sholom and is open to the entire community. The school currently offers a shuttle to transport students from partnering Midbar Kodosh in Henderson, to the Temple Beth Sholom campus, in Summerlin.

For further information on the Solomon Schechter Day School please call (702) 804-1333 ext. 114.



CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2008

- Week of April 7th.....Fourth Graders Take the ERBs*
- Monday, April 7th.....Session Three of Afterschool Programs begins!*
- Tuesday, April 15th.....Family Passover Seder for Kindergarten (2:00-3:00 PM)*
- Wednesday, April 16th.....Family Passover Program for Grade 4 (1:00-3:00 PM)*
- Thursday, April 17th.....Family Passover Seder for Grades 1-3 (1:00-3:00 PM)*
- Friday, April 18th—Friday, April 25th.....Passover Vacation!*

