



THURSDAY NOTES

November 20, 2008

22 Cheshvan 5769

Chaye Sarah

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:47 p.m.



THANKSGIVING TIME

The month of November is a time when we as American Jews sit down together at our Thanksgiving tables to give thanks for all of the abundance in our lives. It is a time to give thanks to God for our family, our friends and all that we cherish. We know, of course, that the very first American holiday, which was initiated by the Pilgrims to thank God for helping them survive their first year in a new land, was based on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which we all celebrated together at school a few weeks ago. The harvest festival of Sukkot is one which Jews have been celebrating since Biblical times.

Judaism has helped to shape many of the core ethics and values upon which our American society is based. We should be proud of the fact that the Pilgrims “borrowed” the idea of Thanksgiving from our Jewish heritage, and we should always remember that our country today is richer and more spiritually enriched because of the Jewish teachings and traditions that make us a “light onto the nations.”

Our school has much to be thankful for this year: we have moved into our beautiful, new, state-of-the-art EC Pavilion; we have a new art room and music room; we have a wonderful group of teachers and staff at our school; we have had a terrific start to the school year; we are partners with the community in building a new JCC next door to our school; and we have all made many new friends.

I am thankful for the warm welcome which I have received since first arriving at Lerner, and having the opportunity to meet so many new people and make so many new friends. I am also thankful for all of the dedicated, committed and hard-working staff which I have the honor to work with every day.

On this Thanksgiving Day let us with our families and closest friends, find a way to share the bounty which we have with others less fortunate than ourselves, and thank God for the “harvest” which we have in our daily lives.

Calendar

November

26 Thanksgiving– Noon Dismissal

27-28 Thanksgiving– School Closed

December

8-12 Book Fair Week

18 Chanukah Program & Dedication Ceremony–
Early Childhood & Elementary 6:00 pm

A very special thanks to our parent and teacher volunteers for all of their help on Sunday and Monday. Our move into the new Early Childhood Pavilion was very successful as a result of everyone's hard work. Thank you!!!



The New Early Childhood Pavilion

Support Lerner's Annual Fund and win a night on the town!



Pledge by Friday December 19 and we'll add your name to the pot with the other Lerner families for a chance to win an all-expense paid night on the town, complete with dinner and babysitting!

So don't delay, and please give generously.

Every gift is important.

Use the envelope you received in the mail, pick one up at the front desk, or contact Ivy Wingate at develop@lernerschool.org or 286-5517.

• Change of Date •

Our Shehecheyanu celebration originally scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, **November 21st** has been moved to Thursday, **December 18th** as part of our schools dedication ceremony.

Further details will follow.



If you were a fly on the wall you might have seen:

If you were a fly on the wall this past Sunday and Monday you would have seen many hardworking parents and teachers moving, setting up and building furniture for the Early Childhood classrooms, Resource Room, Art Room , Music Room and Early Childhood office. Then on Tuesday you would have seen the looks of wonder on the children's faces as they entered their new classrooms and the delight on the faces of the Art, Music and Resource teachers as they enjoyed their new rooms.

A Time to Give...



Please remember to bring in *non-perishable* items for our food shelves. Hinda takes these items to the Durham Crisis Response Center. Given our hard economic times and the arrival of the winter weather, our community's needs are greater than ever!

Lerner's 10th Annual Auction is coming up – Save the Date!!

Saturday, February 21, 2009 ~ 7:00 p.m.

More great items rolling in...

Food Glorious Food!!!

You'll never want for delectable goodies again!! Take a peek:

- Year of Challah from the Challah Club
- THREE fabulous cakes, from Lisa Gordon, Susan Springer and Cakes by Lori
- A tray of Cheryl Berkes' lovely cookies and brownies
- Bagels for a Year from Panera Bread

Judaica for Your Home...

We have tzedakah boxes, mezzuzot and other ritual items and Jewish artwork, as well as a Build-Your-Own-Sukkah Kit from the Sukkah Project!!

Start the Year with a New Look!

Celebrate 2009 with a makeover! Take advantage of \$500 in gift certificates from Central Dermatology, or get a new haircut or color from Wavelengths Salon!!

Catch a Weekend Break!

Treat yourself or out-of-town visitors to a weekend evening stay at the Millenium Hotel – package includes dinner for two at Bel Gusto restaurant!

A Day on the Lake with the Beethams!

A beautiful day on pristine Jordan Lake! Spend a fun filled day of boating, water skiing, tubing, swimming, and picnicking with the Beethams! Just bring your bathing suits, sun screen and towels!!

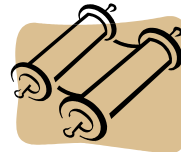
Restaurants Galore!

Enjoy a quiet dinner or take the family to Nantucket Grill & Bar, Maggiano's, or Brixx Pizza – and more restaurant gift certificates are coming in every day!

Parshat Hashavuah: Chaye Sarah

Chaye Sarah: "Be a Blessing!"

From: Parsha in a Nutshell



חיי שרה

This week's parsha starts with the death and burial of Sarah when she is 127 years old. Abraham sends his servant Eliezer to Haran to find a wife for Isaac. Eliezer brings Rebecca back with him to the land of Canaan where she marries Isaac. Abraham takes a new wife, Hagar, and fathers six additional sons, but Isaac is designated as his only heir. Abraham dies at age 175 and is buried beside Sarah by his sons Isaac and Ishmael.

Each week we will choose our d'var (explanation) from one of the following websites:

From the Chabad Lubavitch website

www.chabad.org

Torah Hayim	(Reform)	www.urj.org
Divrei Torah	(Reconstructionist)	www.jrf.org
Torah Sparks	(Conservative)	www.uscj.org
Orthodox Union	(Orthodox)	www.ou.org

Question of the Week

Kindergarten-1st Grade: How many years did Sarah live?

Answer: 127

2nd-5th Grade: Abraham buries Sarah in the Cave of Machpelah. How much money did Abraham pay to buy the cave from the Hittites?

Answer: 400 Shekels of silver