



# THURSDAY NOTES

September 25, 2008

25 Elul 5768

Nitzavim

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 6:48 p.m.



## From Bini's Desk

### BERESHEET...BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

It is usual at this time of the year for all of us to be thinking about beginnings...the beginning of the new Jewish year...the beginning of basketball season for the Tar Heels and the Blue Devils ...the beginning of the Torah cycle...and of course the beginning of the school year. The fall is always an exciting time of the year in our lives as Jews. Some of our most beloved holidays take place in the fall: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah.

The beginning of the year is a time for each of us to take measure of ourselves and to refocus our energies on the things that are most important in our lives. For some of us this may be our families, or our friends, or our commitment to being good Jews. Our students ask us, "What does it mean to be a good Jew?" One answer, simply, is to help others and become partners with God in making the world a better place by doing Tikun Olam – by repairing the world. It is a time when we can be a role model to our children by renewing our commitment to volunteer activities in the community; to do things that will help others, not because we expect something in return, but because our tradition teaches us the value of doing 'Gemilut Chasadim' – Acts of Kindness. In Hebrew we use the term 'doogmah eesheet, - personal example-' to talk about being a role model for others. As parents, and as teachers, this is the best way that we can teach our children - by modeling for them what it means to be a good person and a good Jew.

It is a time of the year when we take measure of ourselves and look at the times that we may have 'missed the mark.' We can teach our children that nobody is perfect, and that it is always the right thing to admit mistakes and say that we are sorry. We can model what it means to be humble, and to look at ourselves and to try and do better. It is the time of the year when we get to start over – to have a 'do over' – and begin anew.

Let us hope that each of us will take measure of who we are, what we stand for, and make this Jewish New Year one in which we can be proud of our actions and teach our children the right path to follow through our own actions.

I wish all of you a Shanah Tovah - May it be a year filled with joy, happiness, and success!

## Calendar

### September

- 29 Erev Rosh Hashanah—Noon Dismissal
- 30 Rosh Hashanah—School Closed

### October

- 1 Rosh Hashanah—School Closed
- 12 Newcomers Brunch 10:00—noon
- 13 Sukkot Family Lunch K & 2nd Grades
- 16 Sukkot Family Lunch 1st & 3rd Grades
- 17 Sukkot Family Lunch 4th & 5th Grades

## PAC CORNER



Two more parents are needed to assist with the Rosh Hashanah activity on Monday, September 29th -8:45 to 11:00 am. Come eat honey cake and have fun with your child! If you would like to help, please email Miriam at [mamele@gmail.com](mailto:mamele@gmail.com).

Sukkot is right around the corner! Come help assemble the school sukkah 8:30 to 11:00 am on Friday, October 10th. Even if you cannot help that morning, consider donating tree limbs and branches for the roof of the sukkah. We'll pick them up that morning from your house. Please email Miriam if you are able to help.

Thank you to Allison Eisner, Lisa Gordon Stella, and Lindsey Volin for taking care of the refreshments for the Back-to-School Night.



Fly on the Wall

### If you were a fly on the wall...

You would have seen and smelled the kosher salt, assorted pickling spices, garlic cloves, cucumbers and fresh dill that were mixed together by the students in containers to make our delicious pickles. This week our 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade students had the opportunity to learn about the laws of Kashrut, and most importantly, to make their own kosher pickles for the upcoming Jewish holidays. We thank Rabbi Zalman Bluming for co-sponsoring this program along with the school, and bringing this fun-filled hands-on Jewish educational experience to our school.

Ask your child if they know what the word “kosher” means, and please make sure there is space on your Rosh Hashanah table for your kosher pickles.



The Lerner School will host its fourth annual Alex’s Lemonade Stand during the week of Sukkot – October 13-17.

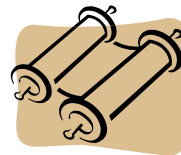
Starting on October 10, please send in one or two lemons with your child to school.

The students (and you!) will be able to enjoy a refreshing glass of fresh-squeezed lemonade during your lunch in the Sukkah. Each glass will cost \$1 and all proceeds will go toward childhood cancer research.

### About Alex’s Lemonade

Alex was 4 years old when she started selling lemonade to raise money for childhood cancer research. The fundraiser turned into a major event all across America through the non-profit organization “Alex’s Lemonade Stand.” The organization has raised over a million dollars.

## Parshat Hashavuah: Nitzavim – Selihot



# ניצבים

**Nitzavim: The Jewish Spark**  
**Rabbi Michael Gold**

This short portion contains some of the most beautiful passages in the entire book of Deuteronomy. Nitzavim begins with these words: “You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God.” Every Israelite from the highest political leaders to the woodchoppers and water drawers, men, women, and children, all were present when God made the covenant with the people. They are told the Torah is not too baffling for them nor beyond their reach. It is not in the heavens nor over the seas; it is very close. God has set before the Israelites a choice of life or death, a blessing or a curse. The passage concludes with the famous line “Therefore choose life.”

**From the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**  
**www.uscj.org**

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

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:** We are almost done reading the Torah. How many Torah portions are left to read after this week until we start over again?

**Answer:** *There are three more portions before we start reading the Torah all over again on Simchat Torah.*

**2nd-5th Grades:** In Nitzavim, the Israelites are told that it is not difficult to follow the Mitzvot. The Mitzvot are not far away in the heavens or in the sea, rather, they are close by. In what two places can they be found?

**Answer:** *Your mouth and heart.*



# Partnership for a Jewish Center

Thank you to the dozens of Lerner School families and staff who have already pledged to the Partnership for a Jewish Center. They have joined with members of our Jewish community who have donated over \$6 million to build our Early Childhood Pavilion, and a JCC that will include: a new gym, activity rooms that will be shared with Lerner, fitness facilities, a pool, and space for Jewish Family Services and Federation offices.

If you have already made a donation but have not identified a naming opportunity, take a look at the list below and contact Bryna Rapp at [bryna@furniturelab.com](mailto:bryna@furniturelab.com) to let her know what you'd like to name.

If you haven't made a donation yet, please consider a generous gift to this exciting project! There is still a long way to go to meet our goal of \$10 million!

Community Gymnasium	\$1,000,000
Early Childhood Pavilion	\$750,000
Walkway from Lerner to JCC	\$75,000
Mezzuzah for the new entrance	\$50,000
4 new classrooms	\$50,000 each
Arts & Crafts Room	\$50,000
Lerner Resource Room	\$36,000
Early Childhood Kitchens	\$36,000
New Staff Lounge	\$36,000
Early Childhood Director's office	\$36,000
Music Room Furnishings	\$25,000
Parent Lounge Furnishings	\$25,000
Office Furnishings	\$18,000
Mezuzot for each class room	\$18,000 each



*Workers putting the finishing touches on the roof.*

This project is a huge volunteer-led undertaking and we can always use help! If you're interested in joining one of the many committees, or to learn more about the project, contact Bryna Rapp at [bryna@furniturelab.com](mailto:bryna@furniturelab.com).



*The Parent Lounge.*



*One of the Early Childhood Classrooms with the sheetrock up.*