



Tidings

6 Nisan 5768 / April 11, 2008 Erev Shabbat Metzora Candle Lighting : 7:13 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER/

Up Coming Events

April

14: Gr. 5 Pesach Production
9:30 a.m. - Lunchroom

16-28: **No Sessions** (Pesach)

29: Sessions Resume

May

1: WDS commemorates Yom HaShoah.

Students in gr. 6-8 will attend a special program in the Castle Shul. 9:00 a.m.

All parents are invited.

6: P/T Conferences Ganon & Kindergarten

7: Yom Hazikaron observed at WDS

8: Yom Ha'Atzma'ut observed at WDS
Gala Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration at WDS featuring the WDS Jewish Heritage Museum 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

13: 8th Grade Photo Day

No Sessions for 2 yr. olds, Ganon & K

14: P/T Conferences Ganon & Kindergarten

19-21: 8th Gr. Trip to Washington, DC

20-21: 7th Gr. Trip to Boston.

26: Memorial Day / **No Sessions**

NOTE: Tuesday, May 13, 2008:

No Sessions for 2 year olds, Ganon & Kindergarten - Early Childhood teachers will be attending a BJE Conference. Thank you!

MAZEL TOV TO

... Yaela Halper on becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS / CHESSED

Our 4th graders traveled to the Sinai Free Synagogue in Mt. Vernon to sing Pesach songs and to make a presentation to the elderly.

Pre Pesach food drive for

Mamaroneck Food Pantry. On Monday, Carol Cauley, of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Food Bank came to talk to our Middle-School students about the plight of the needy in Westchester County. She gave a very thorough and informative presentation on the great work that her all-volunteer organization does daily, providing food and dietary staples to people on a regular basis. Our children learned that we are, indeed,

very blessed with all that we have and there is so much that we can do for those who are truly in need. We hope that you will all contribute canned, boxed, and packaged food to this worthy cause. Please drop off your chametz to your child's Judaic Studies teachers' room - the deadline has been extended to Monday - April 14th. Thank you.

DARE Graduation

Mazel Tov to all our 8th graders upon graduating from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program on Thursday. This program was administered by the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department. Several students were chosen to read their DARE essays in front of the entire graduating class as well as members of the WDS administration along with officials from the Mamaroneck Village Board. It was inspiring hearing our students pledge to always say **NO** to drugs and other harmful substances; may our children always make responsible choices throughout their lives. A special thank you to P.O. Sandy DiRuzzo for teaching this 9 - week course over the past few months. We look forward to seeing her again next year as we continue this important program.

DERECH Update

We are heading into Pesach and we are in the stretch run of our DERECH program learning about the Laws of Yirah and Kavod for Parents and Teachers. Please review the concepts at home with your children, so that we can really see results and tangible changes in their behavior towards you and their teachers; it is a win-win proposition. Also please note, the Kadmah Card Raffle was back in full swing this Friday, thanks to Michael Kesselman and Aryeh Zapinsky who created and redesigned a brand new beautiful raffle box that can be found at the front office. This has been a message from Westchester Day School, a place where Middot Matter and Kavod Counts!

Salute to Israel Parade T-Shirt Contest for 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

Help design the WDS Salute to Israel Parade T-Shirt. Requirements: Design must work on a bright blue t-shirt. Must include Parade quote in Hebrew and/or English (*Israel Leaves Its Mark on the World*). Use no more than 3 colors. Deadline is Monday, April 14th. (The Parade committee will choose the 3 best designs, which will then be voted on by the 4th - 8th graders). Good Luck!!!

CLASSROOM VISITS....

By Mrs. Francine Greenberg

One Friday in March, I visited two different classrooms, each on different grade levels, yet both sharing a common thread: each class was instructed by two or more teachers in a system of collaborative scholarship. In third grade, Mrs. Barbra Rosen and Mrs. Debby Epstein, ably assisted by Mrs. Joyce Melin, have forged a good fit in personality, expertise, and pedagogical philosophy. In addition to the normal challenges of developing curriculum, team teachers must decide how to share the responsibility. In preparation for a lesson on insulation, Mrs. Melin set up five different stations with all of the materials needed for the implementation of the experiment. Mrs. Rosen prepared the lesson, and Mrs. Epstein was the "teacher", as she "loves teaching science". Seeing how responsibly and smoothly their teachers work together as a team, the students followed their example as they each took on different jobs in their groups' experiments. The students proceeded to benefit from a healthy exchange of ideas in a setting defined by their teachers as one of mutual respect and cooperation. Morah Tovah (Anita Rosenstock) and Morah Judith (Judith Zaretsky) provide a learning environment in which their four and five year old Ganon students can develop independence and intelligence. Morah Tovah has an academic plan and purpose when creating her curriculum, which has been adorned by



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Morah Judith's artistic talents. Together, they have created a classroom in which the students become more aware of their world and how they fit into it. Setting the example for their students of cooperatively working together, they believe that routine is the key to success, thus all activities having the purpose of training the students to settle into a routine of work, play, and self-care. Morah Tovah explained that students learn best when they are aware of what they are doing and how they should do it. After completing an activity and before initiating a new one, students are expected to clean up the area in which they played or worked. As a team, these two professionals have set the pace for their students' future education by helping their students be independent learners.

CONDOLENCES TO

... Mr. Steven Halper and family on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Etta Halper, grandmother to Seth (1J), Jonah (4H) and Yaela (6H).

... Dr. Saul Lebovic and family on the loss of his father, Mr. Jay Lebovic, grandfather to Julia (4H) and Adam (8J).

CLIPS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Second Graders Invent Game!...

What does it take to invent a great game? Just ask WDS 2nd graders: Sara Reich and Yael Hartman, the inventors of "TAG-IT." Tag-it is a game involving rolling, kicking, running, catching and tagging. It can be played by both large and small groups in an area of almost any size. Simple to teach, simple to play, and simply FUN! Tag-it has been a huge success and a wonderful addition to the girls' physical education program. Congratulations to Sara and Yael. They certainly have invented a winner!
Submitted by: Mrs. Arlene Lewis

Classes 1E and 1H have been having a very busy spring. They recently learned what an adjective is and incorporated that knowledge into writing beautiful spring poems. In order to use rulers in a life experience, the students learned how to measure the length and width of the classroom. They lined themselves up using 12 inch rulers. Once their ruler was counted in the measurement, they moved to the end of the line and were measured again until they reached the wall. Learning math is fun!
Submitted by: Mrs. Debbie Briks

Social Studies...

7th graders thoroughly enjoyed watching the movie "1776" as a prelude to studying about the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. Our next "journey" will be to Independence Hall to learn about the secretive Constitutional Convention. 7th graders will become familiar with the differences between the Articles of Confederation and the new Constitution. This area of study will culminate in a research paper on the Bill of Rights.

8th graders are sharpening their critical thinking skills as we work on a DBQ (Document Based Question) based on Sectionalism leading to the Civil War and its aftermath. While studying about the lesser

Known Presidents following Andrew Jackson and preceding Abraham Lincoln, 8th graders learned that many important Acts concerning slavery in the new territories occurred. In addition, it was under President James K. Polk that Manifest Destiny finally came to fruition. We have finally become the contiguous United States from "sea to shining sea!"
Submitted by: Mrs. Marsha Sternstein

BASKETBALL NEWS....

...The following girls have been selected to represent WDS at the JV Elite 7th & 8th Grade Basketball All-Star Game: Julia Goldman, Suri Bandler, Amanda Povman, and Nina Leibowitz. These girls will join the other selected top-rated players from schools in their conference and play against the top players selected from the other conference. The game will be held at Frisch High School on Sunday, April 13th. 11:45 a.m.

... The following boys have been selected to represent WDS: Zachary Reich, Zachary Ungar, and Jason Abramson. Their game is also Sunday, April 13th at Frisch High School at 1:30 p.m.

Congratulations to our All-Star Players!
Submitted by: Coach Frank Kaufman