



12 Elul 5768 / September 12, 2008 Erev Shabbat Parashat Ki Tetze Candle Lighting : 6:51 p.m.

**WELCOME BACK, We are very happy to see all our students (parents, too) and we are looking forward to a great school year!**

**Opening Day 2008-2009 at WDS**

We greeted new students and faculty and welcomed back our returning students and staff! Everything went very well - as planned! We are already into our second week of school and can report only good happenings. All offices and classes have returned to the top level of Wolfson Hall, lunch is being served in the lunchroom - the school looks terrific. Students and faculty all agree - it is the beginning of great new year!

**Photo Days** are Monday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> for our 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Thursday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> for our Ganon and Kindergarten students. Look for your order envelopes in your child's bag, they sent home this week. The photographer requires prepayment for all packages so please be sure and send your orders back ASAP. If you have any questions, please call Tina Orlian (686-1326).

Saturday - Dec. 6, 2008  
**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM...**  
More info to follow!!



**Experience a World of Words**

Language has always had a fascination for Mrs. Francine Greenberg, so she was thrilled to attend a course during the summer given by Dr. Lydia H. Soifer at the Windward Teacher Training Institute entitled Language, Learning and Literacy: Foundations of Academic Success. During our teacher orientation she was able to make a presentation to our entire faculty on this topic.

**Hebrew Language Teachers**

Our new Tal Am program is in full swing. Each day our teachers begin the lessons with the Hebrew song that is connected with this program and continue introducing new vocabulary to further their conversation skills.

**Smart Board Training**

Several of our Judaic middle school faculty attended a 2-part program on Smart Board Training at the Gruss Foundation in NYC. In addition, we also have training for our General Studies teachers at WDS.

**Professional Development**

**September 11 (9/11)** Students in grades 5 - 8 commemorated the seventh anniversary of 9/11 with a memorial service that began with a moving film. Rabbi Mahler addressed the students about the significance of the day and then the entire middle school went out to the flag pole where a memorial service was held. A representative from the Village of Mamaroneck police department was in attendance as our students recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and sang Gold Bless America with Rabbi Weiss. Mr. Bob Price lowered the flag to half-staff, Rabbi Einzig addressed the students and we ended this moving ceremony with a prayer.



**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**  
**WDS/PTA BACK TO SCHOOL**  
**CARNIVAL & BRUNCH**  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**



**Upcoming Events**

**September:**

- Tues. 16 Meet the Teacher  
Gr. 6 - 8 7:30 pm / Castle Shul
- Wed. & Thurs: 17 & 18: Grade Retreat
- Sun. 21: PTA Back to School Carnival /  
10:00 - 1:00
- Mon. 22 Photo Day: Grades 1-8
- Tues. 23 New Parent Reception - 6:15pm
- Meet the Teachers Ganon & K / 7:30pm
- Thurs. 25 Photo Day: Ganon & K
- Mon & Tue. 29-30 No Sessions:  
Erev Rosh Hashanah/Rosh Hashanah



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Rabbi Einzig had the privilege of participating in a leadership forum at Yeshiva University where Richard Joel, president of YU, launched the first of a 5 part leadership forum to inform and inspire educational leaders. He addressed pertinent areas of leadership, key to a principal's success.

#### Mazel Tov To:

- ❖ Eitan Rudansky on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Bradley Simon on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Joshua Davis on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- ❖ Emily Weisbrot on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Ellie Bonime on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Sophie Levinson on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Sophia Zeitz on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Sima & Robert Friedman on the birth of a baby girl
- ❖ Nancy & Ari Weinberger on the birth of twin girls.
- ❖ Brooke & Guy Shmuel on the birth of a baby girl
- ❖ Mrs. Francine Greenberg & family on the birth of a grandson in Israel
- ❖ Mrs. Varda Nahum & family on the birth of a granddaughter

#### Locks of Love!

Samantha Fischler, grade 7, donated her hair to Locks of Love. This is the second time that she has donated her hair to children with cancer.

#### Condolences To:

Mr. Yechiel Lefrak, (GS 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Sydell Lefrak

#### Notes from the Nurse Pat

Just a Reminder: All medical forms are due for students Ganon, K, 2, 4 & 7 and all new students. Thank you!

#### Library Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following middle school students who read a minimum of five books (some quite challenging) this summer:

##### Sixth Graders:

Adam Bandler, Esther Douer, Jenna Goldschmidt, Ben Kosowsky, David Zucker

##### Seventh Graders:

Gabriel Brainson, Deborah Farago, Yaela Halper, Michael Kesselman, Rebecca Klestzick, Aryeh Zapinsky

##### Eighth Graders:

Adam Pachter, Aaron Reich, Stephanie Weinstein

We are proud of all of the middle school students who read and completed the writing assignment on at least one book from the summer reading list. Yasher Koach to all of our readers!

Submitted by: Laurie Popiel

**Faculty Orientation** The faculty of WDS was honored to be addressed by the well known Dr. David Pelcovits, esteemed professor at the Azrieli Graduate School at Y.U. He shared his concerns for today's adolescent population and offered us his recommendations. He began by diagnosing what he believes are the three main reasons students today are at higher risk than ever before for depression, drugs and anxiety.

- ❖ His first concern is that students today are under too much pressure to be better than average.
- ❖ Secondly, many students are returning home to unsupervised homes due to parents' long working hours. He quotes his father, Rabbi Ralph Pelcovits, who says that our children are growing up in an age of information without

knowledge, and in an age of communication without connection.

- ❖ His third area of concern is that the children are indulged monetarily, and not required to help in any way.

Our philosophy at WDS, to train each child according to his strengths and needs, is, according to Dr. Pelcovits, one to be taken seriously both in the classroom as well as at home. We apply tremendous pressure on our children to be good at everything; let's love them for who they are and celebrate their differences. For ailments numbers two and three, Dr. Pelcovits recommends that we monitor our conversations at home to see how we talk about what we value. The last solution encompasses all the others, and it is one he called "required helpfulness". When students are required by parents and teachers to do chores and to help others, they are given a purpose. When asked to pitch in and contribute to charity projects, children feel good about themselves and their anxiety slowly disappears. Dr. Pelcovits closed his talk focusing on gratitude, the act of noticing and being grateful. At his Shabbat table, each member of his family recounts one thing that occurred during the week for which he/she was grateful. By helping our children take the focus off of themselves, and by requiring them to give of themselves to others, we are helping our children and ourselves value what is truly important in life: **gratitude for all of our blessings.** The entire faculty was inspired by his talk and walked away with positive feelings from his dissertation, which provided a "spark" for the upcoming school year.