



Shabbat News

The Gordon Schools of Beth David Congregation

Issue 1

September 16, 2011/17 Elul 5771

Rabbi

Shalom u Bracha Gordonians:

Two more Shabbatot and the year 5771 will be over, so I would like to share with you a story I read recently, but (there's always a 'but') without the end. Share it with you family around the table, ask them for the end of the story, and come to Rosh Hashanah services to hear the original final lines and its powerful message.

"A daughter once complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. Her father took her to the kitchen where he filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed a potato in one, an egg in the second, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. The daughter impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. When he turned off the burners he took the potato and egg out and placed each in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

He asked her, "What do you see?" "A potato, an egg, and a cup of coffee," she grunted. "Look closer and touch the potato." She did and noted that it was soft. He then asked her to take the egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"What's up, Dad?" who explained that the potato, the egg, and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity, boiling water. However, each one reacted differently.....

CREATE YOUR OWN ENDING....

Shabbat Shalom & Shana Tova U'Metuka

Inside this issue:

The 411	2
In the Classroom	2
Day School Scene	2
From the Desk of our ECC Director	3
ECC Scene	3
Tikvah Center	4
PA News	5
Community Happenings	5



Head of School

Dear Parents,

We have had such a grand beginning to our school year at Gordon Schools of Beth David Congregation! The campus looks beautiful with more landscaping, new Judaic Studies classrooms, renovated ECC classrooms, new ECC bathrooms, a new science lab, an additional Tikvah classroom, and other lovely touches including the new welcome mats with our logo. We have also added safety elements to our parking lot and are quite pleased with the results of ensuring a smooth arrival and dismissal for our children.

Today, we were very proud to see our fourth graders perform an entertaining play in Hebrew at our Day School Kabbalat Shabbat followed by a wonderful PreK play at our ECC Shabbat. In such a short few weeks, our students have learned so much to share with all of us.

We hope to see many of our students and families at the Welcome Back Carnival on Sunday, September 18 from noon to 3 PM.

All the best,

Jody Steele



Want your news in the Shabbat News? Email Diana Martell at dmartell@bethdavidmiami.org

The 411



School Scene

Kosher Food Bank– “help us feed the hungry in our community.” Our target is to collect 100 non-perishable, kosher items per classroom each month. This mitzvah project is sponsored by our fourth grade class.

YEARBOOKS– This year we will be celebrating the past 100 years with a centennial themed timeline yearbook. Dedication ads will be on sale soon and it is a great way for families to take part of the celebration. Preorder your yearbook today for \$36 each (cost will increase after December 16th). Additional information on placing dedication ads will be sent home soon.

Deadline for Tzedakah Box Contest! Please remember that all Tzedakah box entries are due on Monday, September 19th!

Dress Down Day– Our “Dress Down Day” fundraiser will be benefiting our school’s technology fund. Don’t forget to sign up and enjoy our monthly

Shabbat with a Twist– Our first Shabbat with a Twist of the season is this Saturday, September 17, 2011, 10 AM in the Scher Chapel.

Parent Seminars– Mark your calendars for our next Parent Seminar, Experience Life from Another Perspective: Children on the Autism Spectrum, October 6, 2011 at 8:45 AM in Traurig Hall. Come learn from Dr. Michael Alessandri, Executive Director of the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.



In Our Classrooms- Grade 4

“And you shall teach them diligently”

Deuteronomy 6, 7

From August through to late September, we have seen the change from summer vacation to school time schedules. Paralleling this time is our fourth grade, which too have made changes. The classroom's dormant months are now alive with the excitement of learning. With the aid of our Smart Board, we are able to project images from a computer and write on it like a blackboard for drawing. In combination with effective teaching strategies, our classroom is able to wholly participate with the Internet and other technologically advanced resources.

We have been in school for only a very short time and already we can see a great deal of creative energy flowing. This year the 4th grade has taken on an ambitious mitzvah project whereby we are piloting the school in a year-long food drive. Each month the classes in both the ECC and Day School are invited to bring in kosher food that will be donated to the Kosher Food Bank. With our help, we hope we can assist in combating community hunger.

Scholastically, we are quite busy. We are working on developing our skills in the writing process skills so that y paragraphs will soon evolve into well written personal narratives. In science the exploration into Earth science has allowed us to explore the water cycle and weather. During math our teams work cooperatively to solve problems using a variety of strategies and operations.

Virtues are those good habits of mind, heart, and action that *enable us to choose and act well*. Fostering virtue helps students to lead flourishing lives. At the heart of character education is the book, *The Hundred Dresses*; the selection our class is reading. Eleanor Estes, our author, wrote the book in 1944; and it is still a classic for today’s readers.

We are the fourth grade and we think like a team of winners... because we are!

Tikvah Center



The Tikvah Center
A place for hope.

The students of the Tikvah Center are "off and running" into the new school year. They are learning about their classmates, peers, teachers, and their school. The smiles on their faces and their eager good-byes each morning show how much they look forward to coming to school.

Everyone is looking ahead to a challenging, exciting year!

Linda M. Hakerem

Director of Tikvah Center



Welcome Back to School and Shul Carnival!



**Carnival rides, games, food, arts & crafts,
face painting, prizes and more!**

**Sunday, September 18, 2011
Noon- 3 PM
Free**

**Beth David 2011-2012
FARMfreshMIAMI Program
ORGANIC. LOCAL. DIRECT TO BETH DAVID**



The Gordon Schools P.A. is proud to partner with the Farm Fresh Miami Program for the second year in a row as part of our school fundraising efforts.

Please check your child's backpack for a flyer with more information.



Beth David Happenings



the art of Judaica

YOUR JUDAICA GIFT SHOP IS ON A MISSION !!

Our goal is to use our profits to create an art gallery for your children's beautiful work.

To help make this happen please shop the Judaica shop – our profits will be used to make this gallery a reality.

We appreciate your support! Any questions, assistance or suggestions please contact

Deborah Waas
Beth David Women's League
305-962-9631

Shabbat with a Twist



Join us for our first Shabbat with a Twist of the season!
Enjoy an exciting and different service for the whole family, which involves children from the Religious School, Gordon Schools and the Beth David Choir. This service includes 30 minutes of prayer and song, 30 minutes of Torah reading and 30 minutes of study with Rabbi Epelbaum. It's a great way to experience a meaningful Shabbat together as a family!

Saturday, September 17, 10 am
Beth David Congregation, Scher Chapel

Beth David Congregation Adult Hebrew for Beginners It's Never Too Late!



Now is the time to gain a new skill or refresh your knowledge. Join us this fall to learn Hebrew reading and writing in a warm and encouraging environment.

Thursdays, October 6-December 29, 6:30-8 pm, \$100 (includes materials)
Beth David Congregation - Board Room

A limited number of partial scholarships may be available

For more information or to register, contact info@bethdavidmiami.org.



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