

# Keshet קשת

The Official Newsletter of

the GERRARD BERMAN DAY SCHOOL

SOLOMON SCHECHTER OF NORTH JERSEY

George and Arline Haar Middle School

45 Spruce Street/Oakland, NJ 07436/201-337-1111/www.SSNJ.org

January 22, 2009

26 Tevet 5769

Portion of the Week: Va'era

## GBDS Hosts Green Fair

Ask any GBDS student what the 4 "R"s are and you might not get the traditional response you are expecting. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century "R"s: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink," have become the motto of the students.

On Monday, January 12, students in grades first through eighth took part in the school's "Green Fair," a day long workshop exposing students to new ways to think about the environment and providing them with hands-on learning experiences to better understand the ways that the environment is being affected by human actions, and what we as individuals can do to preserve our environmental resources.

The morning program was comprised of workshops conceived and orchestrated by Middle School students for elementary school students. "We set forth only a few parameters," said Rabbi Bernhardt. "All of the materials they used had to be recycled materials; they were not allowed to buy anything. The programs they designed had to be age-appropriate for the younger students and teach them a concept associated with environmentalism."

Students created a puppet show with puppets made of recycled material to demonstrate the importance of conservation; other students conducted art workshops to teach the younger children to make jewelry, jewelry boxes, origami, and collages out of recycled material; and another group of students designed games with recycled material, such as relay races that taught which products are recyclable.



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# Community News

## Mazel Tov

To the Aboody Family on Michael's Bar Mitzvah

## Refuah Shlemah...Get Well Soon

To Ron Levy, Kindergarten teacher Shelly Levy's husband

To Michael Greenspan, Melissa Molnar's father.

## Todah Rabbah ... Thank you...

To Rebecca Friedman and Marci Harvey for providing breakfast for the 3rd Grade Parent Education Program.

To Eve Levi for her assistance organizing the Green Fair.

To Mr. Smolen for coordinating and organizing the Green Fair and Mr. Raider for working with the students to prepare for the Green Fair.

To the Pintel family for donating breakfast for the 2nd Grade Parent Education Program.

To Dr. Mark Siegel for taking pictures at the Green Fair.

To Rebecca and Michael Friedman for hosting a Parlor meeting in their home and to Eve Levi, Aya Levi, Shana Siegel, and Tracy Zur for speaking at the meeting.

To keynote speakers Dr. Steve Bernhardt, Oren Levi, and Rabbi Larry Troster for presenting at the Green Fair.

To Danielle Albilis, Noa Albilis, and Atid Malka for babysitting at the Parlor Meeting.

To the following guests and presenters at the Green Fair: Lorimar Sanctuary, World Water, Tenafly Nature Center, Alternative Energy, Tenafly Nature Center, Benzel-Busch Smart Car, Zetinya Fine Food, JNF National Headquarters, Miuccio LLC, Green Living Solutions, Terra Cycle, and Entergy.

To Dr. Mark Siegel for downloading Torah readings onto a webpage.

To Harvey Jaffe, Sarah and Barry Blecherman, Lauren Aboody, Janice Pessar, and Larry Klein for helping and accompanying the 7th grade students serve a meal at Shelter Our Sisters.

## Economic Crisis Resource Fair

*Sponsored by UJA of Northern New Jersey*

Sunday, February 8, 2009 1 – 5 pm

- Find out where to get help.
- Sessions on Bankruptcy, Foreclosure, Credit Counseling, Employment
- Learn about volunteer opportunities where you can make a difference!
- Community wide drives on basic necessities and toiletries that cannot be purchased with food stamps

For more information contact Alice Blass at 201-820-3978 or [aliceb@ujannj.org](mailto:aliceb@ujannj.org)

## Help GBDS While You Shop Online!

### **Do you shop on-line?**

Why not shop and help GBDS at the same time?

Go to: [www.shoptoearn.net/gbds](http://www.shoptoearn.net/gbds)

This website will connect you with over 600 of your favorite stores. You shop on the store's regular site, and GBDS receives a percentage of your purchase. This is of no additional cost to you!

Have fun shopping and supporting GBDS at the same time!

## GREEN FAIR CON'T

In the afternoon, Middle School students from Solomon Schechter of Bergen County, Reuben Gittleman Day School, Solomon Schechter of West Orange, and Solomon Schechter of Manhattan joined GBDS Middle School students for an informative symposium.

“This was a unique program because it was designed specifically for Middle School Students, and we were delighted to welcome so many students from our area,” explained Mr. Smolen.

The afternoon began with presentations from three keynote speakers. Dr. Steven Bernhardt, the Global Director for Regulatory Affairs – Honeywell Corporation, spoke to the students about the causes of Climate Change, and explained the impact of carbon dioxide on all aspects of our environment.

Rabbi Lawrence Troster, the Director of the Fellowship Program at GreenFaith, discussed Jewish Environmentalism and the Jewish origins for ecological behavior. Rabbi Troster explained that in Judaism we have blessings for everything to demonstrate our appreciation and awareness that everything comes from the earth.

Oren Levi, a GBDS alumnus and Rutgers University senior majoring in physics, discussed the physics of climate change. He explained to the students, using models and demonstrations, the physical reactions that cause climate change.

Following the keynote presentations, students were treated to four smaller workshops featuring one of a dozen presenters, including the Jewish National Fund, which presented on water sustainability in Israel; The Hackensack Riverkeeper, which explained river preservation; and The Lorimar Sanctuary, which presented on the effect of environmental changes on reptiles; Entergy from the Indian Point Nuclear Plant explained alternative energy options; and The Tenafly Nature Center brought a raptor and owl injured as a result of environmental causes. Also available for the students to explore was a Smart Car and a variety of green and organic products.

“Our goal for the symposium was not to only provide all of the students with knowledge of what Climate Change is and why it is occurring, but give them practical ideas and opportunities for them to make changes in their own world,” said Mr. Smolen.



# Kindergarten Shma L'Mishpacha

Our school's annual Shma L'Mishpacha is a wonderful program for kindergarten families that brings the children back to school in their pajamas for a special activity. The program is a warm and meaningful way for parents to learn how to bring Judaism and meaning into their children's bedtime routine.

This year, the children decorated pillow cases with the Shma, they decorated giant "Shin" cookies, and mezzuzot with their parents and family members.



## 6th Grade Visits the Metropolitan Museum of Art

As part of the 6th Grade's study of ancient times they visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art and toured the exhibit "Beyond Babylon." The exhibit explored the art created as a result of the interaction between kings, merchants, and diplomats in the Near East during the second millennium, B.C.E.

The students were accompanied by Social Studies teacher Eunice Glassberg, General Studies Coordinator and Middle School Director Robert Smolen, and were led on the tour by Dr. Ira Spar, a professor of Archeology and Ancient History from Ramapo College.

# GBDS Students Learn About Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day students in grades first through eighth answered the question "What would Dr. Martin Luther King think, if he were alive today?" Below are some of their answers.

If Martin Luther King, Jr. was alive today he would be happy people could accept him being a black leader and didn't assassinate him. He would be very happy people now accept black people. He would be happy he has his own day. He would say that people have seen the light. The person who assassinated him would be happy he wasn't in jail for the rest of his life. He would love the fact Barack Obama is President. He would recite his "I Have a Dream" speech differently so that there would be an "I Had a Dream that Came True" speech. He would be proud of his work and be very excited.

Samantha Aboody, Grade 5

He would be happy because black and white people can be together. He would also be excited that we have an African-American President named Obama. His dream finally came true. He would say, "I changed the world. Now, we can be friends with everyone and have fun." His dream is the best dream of friendship. People are most happy now and surprised. He would see all the signs disappear. Now the world is better than it was before.

Eden Yosef, Grade 2

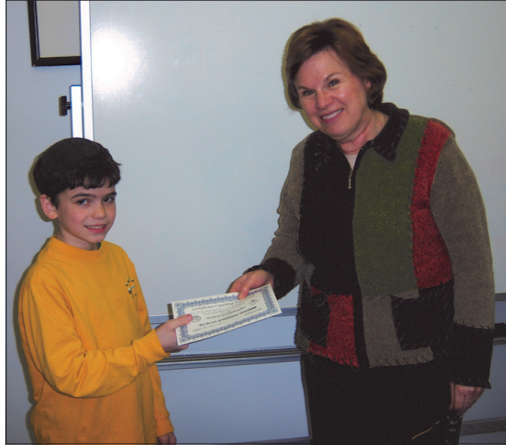
My dream came true. If only it had happened earlier, but this is better than never. Barak Obama has been elected President and that has almost completed my dream.

Zoe Greenwald, Grade 3

I think Martin Luther King would be proud because he was talking about blacks and whites being equal, so now there is a black President. I think it's surprising. He would probably be good friends with President Obama. They would both probably thank each other. Maybe at the Inauguration, Dr. King would be in the first row smiling and clapping for Obama. Maybe they would work together to make great ideas. I'm sure that Dr. King would hope to have more black Presidents.

Max Goldfarb, Grade 4

To read more, visit the bulletin board upstairs next to the art room.



## GBDS Spelling Bee Winner

GBDS 6th grader Elijah Lippe won the school Spelling Bee last week. Elijah will represent GBDS at the regional final for Bergen County Spelling Bee at Farleigh Dickinson University in March.

## 8th Grade to Hold Raffle!

To raise money to help fund their trip to Israel this spring the 8th Grade will be holding a raffle!

Tickets 1 for \$5.00    5 for \$20.00

Drawing to be held February 25

Win one of these GREAT PRIZES!!

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Wii Fit Starter Bundle valued at \$130.00

RCA Clock Radio with CD Player valued at 100.00

NY Yankees One Hundred Years Retrospective Collector's Book valued at \$35.00

Polaroid Portable DVD Player valued at \$210.00

Ipod Nano valued at \$150.00

Mini Flight Lesson around Manhattan with hands-on flying valued at \$500

iTunes Gift Card for \$25.00

Gamestop Gift Card for \$35.00

7 Inch Digital Photo Frame valued at \$70.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets purchased (1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Cash

\_\_\_\_ Check (made out to GBDS)

*Please return to School Office.*

# School Calendar

## January

23	Friday	9:00 am	Class Parent Meeting
26	Monday	10:00 am 3:30 pm	Gala committee meeting Chess and drum lessons
27	Tuesday	3:30 pm 7:00 pm	Sports, piano, percussion, and jewelry making Family Math Night — details to follow
28	Wednesday	3:30 pm	Play Practice
29	Thursday	3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Guitar lessons, Stitch-In-Time and Aviation Club <b>Photo retakes and 8th grade graduation pictures</b> Basketball game at home vs. Calvary

## February

2	Monday	3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Ground Hog Day Chess, drum lessons Basketball game away at Calvary
3	Tuesday	3:30 pm	<b>STEP UP DAY — SEE SCHEDULE BELOW</b> Sports and piano
4	Wednesday	8:30 am 3:30 pm	4th Grade Parent Education Program Play practice
5	Thursday	3:30 pm	Guitar lessons, Stitch-In-Time and Aviation Club <b>FULL DAY FOR ENTIRE SCHOOL</b>
6	Friday	9:00 am	National Wear Red Day Early Childhood Parent Liaison Meeting
8	Sunday	10:00 — 11:30 am	Early Childhood Author Program, 10:00 — 11:30 am
9	Monday	3:30 pm 4:15 pm	Tu B'Shevat, (Birthday of Trees) Regular School Day Chess, drum lessons Basketball game away at Gittelman
10	Tuesday	12:00 noon 7:00 pm	Dismissal grades K-8 (Regular day N2, N3, PK) <b>CURRICULUM FAIR—All Welcome</b>
11	Wednesday	3:30 pm	Play practice
12	Thursday	9:15 am 4:00 pm	Middle School Parent Council Basketball game away at Calvary
16	Monday		Presidents' Day — No School/Office Closed
17-20	Tuesday — Friday		No School/Office Open February Break

### STEP UP DAY, Tuesday, February 3

8:30 — 9:15 am — Parents of Pre K — 4th grade

9:00 — 9:45 am — Parents of Students in N2 & N3

*Step Up Day for Parents of Children currently in 5th Grade is  
Friday, Feb. 27 from 8:30 — 9:30 am*

Gerrard Berman Day School  
SOLOMON SCHECHTER of NORTH JERSEY  
George and Arline Haar Middle School  
45 Spruce Street  
Oakland, NJ 07026

Phone: 201-337-1111  
Fax: 201-337-7795  
E-mail: GBDS@ssnj.org  
www.ssnj.org

## GIVING AND GETTING INVOLVED *PROFILES IN COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT*

### **Students Celebrate Historical Inauguration**

In honor of President Barak Obama's inauguration, students at GBDS dressed in red, white, and blue on Tuesday. Children in all grades watched the swearing in of the new President, and dependent on their grades, they watched the Inauguration address, as well.

To celebrate President Obama's inauguration, the students drew pictures of him and decorated the bulletin board in the front hall.

