

Phoenix Hebrew Academy 2007 - 2008



June 5, 2008

Congratulations to our Kindergarten & Graduating class of 2008



**Michelle Baturow
Uriel Kaykov
Odelia Nikfar
Eytan Rothchild
Uriel Schimel
Elianna Schnitzer
Sami Wilder**



**Thank you
To
Alumnus Sarah Zier
For her piano performance**



WHAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR!

Mrs. Isenberg's Kindergarten - was a most exciting time of hands-on multisensory exploration. As students' motor coordination increased, so too did their sense of independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence. As the year progressed, children completed assignments with less outside help, accepted more responsibilities, and followed rules more closely. The following skills and concepts were emphasized:

Math

- Counting; estimating; representing and comparing numbers; reading and writing numbers
- Exploring the meaning of addition and subtraction; developing and using concrete strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems
- Collecting and organizing data; creating and analyzing tally charts, tables, and bar graphs; exploring basic probability concepts
- Using nonstandard tools to estimate and compare weight and length; identifying pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills; exploring temperature and thermometers; using calendars and other tools to track or measure time
- Exploring visual, rhythmic, and movement patterns; using rules to sort by attributes, make patterns, and play games; learning about the +, -, and = symbols.

Reading

- 📖 Oral language
- 📖 Listening comprehension
- 📖 Phonemic awareness
- 📖 Letter recognition
- 📖 High frequency words
- 📖 Handwriting

Cross curricular projects integrated reading, writing, science, social studies, and math with themes such as: Family, Transportation, Food/Nutrition, Neighborhood, Weather, Plants, Water, and Animals.

Science

- ✓ Observed and compared guppies, goldfish, land snails, pond snails, 2 kinds of earthworms (redworms and night crawlers), and of course chicks.
- ✓ Learned how to handle these interesting creatures carefully and participated in the care and feeding of the animal visitors.
- ✓ Discussed differences and similarities in the animals we investigated and started to develop the important attitude of respect for life as well as a sense of responsibility where living organisms are concerned. Most importantly, it is my hope your child leaves Kindergarten with:

- ☺ the ability to respect and work cooperatively with others

- ☺ the ability to listen to and follow directions
- ☺ the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully
- ☺ a positive self image
- ☺ a LOVE of learning

*Thank you for all the memories! All the best,
Alana Isenberg☺*

Morah's Raizy & Morah Mushka's & Mrs. Pepper's Kindergarten

- Wow! What an exciting year filled with lots of learning! In Tefillah, we learned many Brachot with their meanings and decorated our very own Siddur. We mastered the entire Aleph-Bet including the Nekudot Kamatz and Segol. The kindergartners are definitely on the road to reading. Every week we learned all about the Parsha (weekly Torah portion) and how it pertains to our lives. As each Chag came our way we discussed it in depth and did hands-on projects to make it come alive! During the first month of Adar, we learned all the different Brachot we say on the many types of food. We also made a placemat to help us remember which Bracha we need to say on the food that we eat. We discussed the holiness of Shabbat and all the dos and don'ts that come along with it. We practiced preparing for Shabbat and we celebrated every Friday with a Shabbat party. The weeks between Pesach and Shavuot we read a chapter from Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers).

We chose one part from each chapter and discussed how we can work on ourselves and become better people. We cannot believe that it is time to say goodbye to all of our wonderful kindergartners and hello to the first graders of the coming year!! We will miss all of you very much!

Ms. Long's 1st & 3rd Grades

- First Grade this year has really flown by. I look back and remember where we all started and how far we've come and I am impressed. Our reading text has taken us on many adventures this year. We learned about many things including various interesting science topics and ways to be part of our community.

In math we learned many new concepts. All of our work this year will pay off next year and in the years to come. I am very proud of each and every student in the class. I wish everyone in the class much success in second grade.

Third Grade - is a big year for many students. This year brought added responsibilities on top of the challenging core academics. The introduction of novel units was a huge success for many children who needed an added challenge above the usual

reading series. Our science curriculum had every one involved in many fascinating activities from investigating crayfish behavior to making our own thermometers. The math concepts we learned in third grade will be expanded upon in fourth grade. Everyone did an amazing job of memorizing the multiplication facts through eleven. I enjoyed getting to know each and every child in the class. Each child brought an important talent to our class. It really was a great year.

Mrs. Adler's 1st Grade - Who would have thought that we could pack so much learning into one school year?

The students started off knowing the Aleph-Bet and now they are reading fluently! With their knowledge of reading, the students have gone on to achieve greater heights. They received their Siddurim and just recently their Chumashim. They have begun learning Chumash and acquiring many new skills. They have also learned a large amount of new Hebrew words (last we counted there close to 100 words on our word wall!!)

It was inspiring to hear the first graders daven for close to 20 minutes. They follow along in their Siddurim word by word as they sing the tefillot in unison.

In addition to these accomplishments we have worked on other areas that are important to a child's development such as following directions and learning readiness skills.

We have focused on proper interpersonal relationships. The students have worked on getting along with their peers and treating their classmates with respect.

It has been a super year. I will miss all of my wonderful hard working first graders and wish them muck luck in second grade!

Rabbi Gluck's 2nd Grade - Rabbi Gluck's second graders learned so much this year! In *Chumash* we learned selections from *Parshat Noach*, the entire *Parshat Lech Licha* and most of *Parshat Vayera*. *Hachanasat Orchim* and *Brit Milah* are two important *mitzvot* we talked about. We learned how to find the correct place in our *Chumashim*, the workings of *Gematria* (numerical value of the *aleph-bet*), and the way to break words down into their *shoresh* (root), prefix, and suffix. Now the students have many foundations necessary to learn *Chumash* throughout their day school careers. In addition, the second graders built up their *Chumash* vocabulary by studying more than twenty vocabulary lists totalling around 150 words! Besides reviewing and reinforcing the *dinim* relating to each *Chag*, we also learned about the proper order of *brachot*, the correct after-*brachot* on different foods, the right way to place *mezuzot*, and the laws of *netilat yadayim* (washing the hands in the morning).

In *Ivrit*, some concepts explored included telling time in Hebrew and distinguishing between *zachar* and *nekeiva* (masculine and feminine word forms). Everyone enjoyed creating his or her own mini picture dictionary. We also practiced Hebrew reading comprehension by reading a variety of different stories.

The second graders now have the foundation for all future *davenings* as we've completed our unit on the nineteen blessings of the weekday *Shemoneh Esrei*. Watch how the second graders can *daven*, and you'll be amazed; they are now experts!

I'm so proud of the second graders' accomplishments. Have a super summer, and keep up the great work in third grade!

I've enjoyed teaching so many wonderful students here. Thank you to everyone at PHA and the Phoenix community. Come visit us in Indianapolis!

Mrs. Nashban's 2nd & 4th Grades - 2nd grade- The class ended the year with several exciting activities. On Thursday, May 29th, the children presented their book report biographies in front of their families. Each student dressed in a costume and recited 3 facts memorized about their famous person. The boys and girls spent several days preparing gifts for the 1st grade as part of the 1st grade's "Moving Up" Day. The theme of the "Moving Up" Day was bears. Each student in 2nd grade designed two bear covers for a booklet each 1st grader received. The booklets contained sentences written by the 2nd graders titled- "The "Beary" best thing about 2nd grade is..." These sentences were read aloud to the 1st graders on Monday, June 2nd, "Moving Up" Day. Besides the booklet, each 1st grader received a bear name tag, which was worn to enter 2nd grade. The 1st graders were also given wooden bear forms which they could color and decorate. It was an enjoyable morning for all! The class completed Social Studies by learning the location and spelling of the 13 original colonies. The test on this was given on Tuesday, June 3rd. Anyone earning 100% was treated to a pizza lunch on Wednesday. The children also received their laminated cursive name cards to take home and hang in their rooms. This was the culmination of weeks of learning to write in cursive. The class had a very productive and busy year.

4th grade- The whole year in Social Studies is learning the regions of the United States and all the states and capitals and their locations and spellings. On Thursday, May 29th, the class took the states and capitals test. The test consisted of a blank US map. The students had to write each corresponding state and capital and their locations and spellings. On Thursday, May 29th, the class took the states and capitals test. The test consisted of a blank US map. The students had to write each corresponding state and capital and spell each correctly. Anyone earning

100% on the test went on a shopping spree at Toys R Us. The children finished the year in Math learning how to add positive and negative numbers. This was fun and challenging. The class received a photo of their pen pal class in Virginia. The pen pal exchange was looked forward to throughout the year. The highlight of Reading was reading the novel Ben and Me. The class enjoyed making their own versions of Ben Franklin glasses and Ben Franklin hats (including Amos the mouse hidden in the hat). The boys and girls did some many varied activities throughout the year. It was quite a year!

Student Council- The Council thanks everyone who bought otter pops during the month of May. The proceeds went to the 8th grade to help defray costs for the yearbooks and the class trip. The Council thanks all the reps for their hard work and great ideas.

Rabbi Cohen's 3rd & 5th Grades - 3rd grade has really had a busy year. From Rashi letters to reading Rashi sentences; From Chumash phrases to reading Pesukim properly. From the Binding of Isaac to the Confrontation of Jacob and Esav. They have learned so much! What an accomplishment!

5th grade - Teaching this class twice has been a "double" pleasure for me. I have seen them grow and mature. From memorizing "Shevatim Packet", to huge amounts of Yedios Klaliyos, to Az Yashir by heart the trip has been exhilarating! You will all be sorely missed.

Mrs. Kriegel's 5th & 6th Grades - Fifth Grade has had a productive year. One of the main focuses has been science. We completed three wonderful Modules: Variables; Food and Nutrition; and Environments. Their favorite Module was Environments as they planted terrariums, kept aquariums, observed darkling beetles and pill bugs. The students had many "hands-on" experiences during their investigations. They worked in groups and kept science journals,

Sixth Grade made much progress in math and exhibited continual confidence with problem solving. By the the time the year ended, students were exposed to algebraic concepts and problems that involved higher thinking skills. Science was a weekly highlight. Modules included: Landforms; Food and Nutrition; and Solar Energy.

Much discussion was generated during investigations. Two students from this class represented PHA and participated in the Arizona State Science Fair.

Mrs. Amiel's 7th & 8th Grades - Where did the time go? It seems like we just got started and it's time to end another school year already. I guess it's true that time flies when you're having fun!

To the disappointment of the eighth grade boys, we didn't blow anything up in science class this year. We did, however, conduct many successful labs while learning about the states of matter, their physical and chemical properties, motion and forces, energy, and waves, sound, and light. The Seventh Graders, unsure of themselves in August, have matured so much and are ready to take their place at the head of the school.

Through hard work and dedication they've mastered the fundamental tools of Pre-Algebra, which include variables and expressions, integers and inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, how to solve equations, calculate sale prices, and even figure out the tax and tip at a restaurant. The Eighth Graders will continue their study of Algebra in high school with a solid foundation that includes solving two-step and multi-step equations, inequalities, graphing functions, and everybody's favorite this year- polynomials. I wish the eighth grade class the best of luck in high school. They will be missed!

Mrs. Round's 7th & 8th Grades - In 7th grade, we studied how civilization first began in Mesopotamia, how it grew in Egypt, and the glories of Greece and Rome. We also learned how three different religions-Christianity, Islam, and Judaism-helped shape the growing world. In English, we read Lord of the Flies, Call of the Wild, The Phantom Tollbooth, and Milkweed. We also read the play of Diary of Anne Frank and learned how to write a five-paragraph essay. In 8th grade, we made our way through Medieval China, Japan, and Europe before seeing culture and learning explode in the Renaissance and Enlightenment. We eventually wound our way through World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, and September 11. In English, we read Lord of the Flies, Animal Farm, The Pearl, and Milkweed. We also read Romeo and Juliet and learned how to write a five-paragraph essay.

Rabbi Entin Gemara Class - What a year! We began with an introduction to Torah She'Baal Peh, and we finished by completing almost TWO entire perakim from Mesechta Brachot. We followed the in-depth debates in the Gemara on topics such as Teffila, Teffilat HaDerech, The Amidah, Havdalah as well as many philosophic debates as to how one stands before G-d in prayer. We were thrilled to not only study Rashi as a commentary but a number of Tosafos as well!

Navi - We completed the entire book of Shoftim (Judges). The students were thrilled with the heroics of Ehud, Shimshon and Gidon, and they were disappointed as the Jews kept falling to the lure of idolatry. We look forward to Shmuel Aleph next year.

MRS. NASHBAN'S 2th Grade Reports

Rabbi Pepper's classes - Chumash - We began learning from the end of Parashat Vayetzai (chapter 31, verse 17), and completed all of Sefer Bereshit. We strengthened our reading and translation skills as well as an understanding of the Pesukim and the story line. We also built our Rashi skills. We became very familiar with almost 254 basic words used in Sefer Bereshit and have a list of them to study over the summer to help us be prepared for 5th grade.

Dinim - We studied the Holidays as well as the laws of Shmita and the laws of B'rachot!

Navi - (Prophets) 4th and 5th grade girls: This class studies Sefer Shoftim. We learned all about the time of the judges and completed the section about Shimshon.

The following is what we have accomplished this year in Rabbi Pepper's middle school classes.

Jewish History/Torah She'Biktav (6th-8th grade girls)

This class had an AMAZING experience studying in depth the book of Esther. Each student created a character and wrote a diary from their point of view - living in Shushan... What an awesome class!!!

Halacha/Navi/Parasha (Jewish law/Prophets/Weekly Torah portion):

In Halacha we studied portions of the Kitzor Shulchon Aruch! In addition we also studied the laws of Shmitah and the laws of B'rachot.

Chumash I (Bible):

We studied parts of the book of Vayikra, and exercised our skills and enhanced our knowledge.

Hebrew Language I:

Our focus in Hebrew was to become familiar with some of the "everyday" words in Hebrew.



BOX TOP WINNERS

Congratulations
To the winners!

1st Place – Ms. Long's First Grade

2nd Place – Mrs. Nashban's Fourth Grade

3rd Place – Ms. Long's Third Grade

The Grand total collected was
2,675



Please continue to
Support PHA
by Purchasing
scrip throughout the
Summer.

The office will be open
During the summer,
But please Call first to
make sure
Someone is here.
602-277-7479



Dvar Torah

A Soldier and an Old Woman

by Ruchama King Feuerman

In Israel's darkest moment, outnumbered and surrounded by enemies, an old woman sees what no one else can see.

The Six Day War had ended. The generals assembled the commanders and foot soldiers for a customary review and analysis of the battle. After the military questions had been asked, and the investigative committee was about to disperse, a commanding officer pointed to one of the soldiers. "Wait a minute. I have a question for you. Yes, you, the soldier who put up the flag on the Temple Mount."

The soldier nodded.

"Where did you get an Israeli flag, and why did you put it up?"

The soldier spread out his hands and smiled, a gesture that indicated that here was more than just a one sentence response. He told the following story:

The night before the Old City was liberated, a contingent of soldiers fighting near the Old City took cover in a shelter in a Jerusalem neighborhood. Hordes of children, mothers, old men and women packed inside the bunker alongside the soldiers. People looked frightened and bereft. The government had imposed a news black-out so that the Arab countries wouldn't be able to figure out their positions. And the news - originating from Jordan, Egypt and Syria -- was enough to induce hysteria: calls from Saudi King Faisal for the total elimination of Israel, calls from every Arab country to push the fledgling country into the sea. Things looked so bad, Israelis famously converted public parks into mass graves, in preparation for the expected casualties. (Israel's Chief of Staff, Yitzchak Rabin, had even suffered a nervous breakdown.) As the soldier sat there in the bunker, hopeless and uncertain, he saw an old woman slowly make her way over to him. "Excuse me," she said, standing at his side. She held a satchel in her arms.

He lifted his eyes. "Yes, Doda. Tell me, what is it?"

"Tomorrow you'll go to the Old City and you'll go to the *Kotel!*"

He shook his head at the absurdity. He said, "No, we won't." There were no army plans to liberate the Old City. First, they were fighting just to hold their positions. Also, overtaking the Old City would entail hand-to-hand combat which was greatly feared: Many people would die. Moreover, any bombardment of the Old City might demolish even more of the holy sites than had already been destroyed by the Jordanians. He tried to explain all of this.

The old woman looked at him, steady-eyed. "No, you will go," she said, not as if she were trying to convince him, but as if relaying simple facts.

He shrugged. An old woman's delusions. He wasn't going to argue with her.

Before he turned away, she said, "I have a favor to ask you." She reached into her satchel and took out an Israeli flag. >From the way she touched it, it was clear the flag had some personal meaning for her. Had she made it? Perhaps it had been draped over a loved one's grave? But what was she now saying? "When you go, please take this flag, and when you get to the Temple Mount, I want you to hang it up there." She held out the flag.

The soldier repeated, "We're not going into the Old City."

"You're going," she said. Again, she held out her arm.

A thought struck him. "I can't take it," he told her. "It's against army regulations."

"It'll be all right. Just take it."

"I'll get in trouble. You're only allowed to carry a few specified items."

Please," she said hoarsely. "Do me this favor."

He shrugged again. Why was he arguing with this old woman? Let him take the flag, let him make an old woman feel good. He could always get rid of it later.

The next day, the Israeli army, contrary to everyone's expectations, took the Old City. Sure enough, the soldier's unit ended up at the Temple Mount. As he and the other soldiers came close to the Western Wall, he suddenly remembered the flag and the old woman's words. Yes, he would do it, he would! He enlisted two buddies, and together they draped the flag over the grating on the upper left most side of the Kotel, and there they hoisted and hung the Israel flag.

The commanding officer conducting the investigation said to the soldier, "And what were you thinking when you put up that flag?"

The soldier said, "I was thinking that this was the answer to 2,000 years of Jewish suffering."

And so ends the story of the soldier, our hero.

But there's an unsung hero, too. What about the old woman who supplied the flag? One wishes the investigating officers had tracked her down. What did she have in mind as she entered a shelter with an Israeli flag in her satchel? And who was she, anyway? The only identifying feature is that she was old and carried a bag. But her advanced age already tells us plenty: that she knew something about Jewish history, probably having personally lived through it...World War I, Arab attacks, the Holocaust, the War of Independence, 1956. What hadn't she seen?

There, in Israel's darkest moment, outnumbered and surrounded by enemies, terrified that the next morning there will be no Israel, the old woman sees what no one else can see, what no one else is capable of conceiving. She insists on her vision, she practically browbeats the soldier into carrying out her plan. We'll never know how she knew, only that, like many Jewish women before her -- the Matriarchs, the midwives in Egypt, the righteous women in the desert -- she just knew. There are two kinds of prophecy. One that predicts the future, and one that makes the future.