



Inside SCHECHTER

January 19, 2024 / 8 Shevat 5784
Weekly Parashat : Bo

Candle lighting: 4:29 PM
Shabbat ends: 5:35 PM

Kids Spark Change: Museum of Tolerance



As part of our MLK programming, 5th and 6th graders had a transformative experience at the Mobile Museum of Tolerance, sponsored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Students engaged in discussions about Anne Frank and Civil Rights and were immersed in interactive sessions fostering tolerance.

Stationed in our North parking lot, the mobile museum uses cutting-edge technology to deliver a powerful message — reflecting the Sager School's commitment to cultivating empathy and understanding within our students.

"These programs aim to motivate and empower students on crucial issues like Antisemitism, bullying, racism, hate, and intolerance," said Dr. Lena Kushnir, Head of School. "By encouraging advocacy for positive change, we believe such experiences shape our students into compassionate, informed individuals."

Faithful Fun: 4th Graders Welcome Poetry Pals



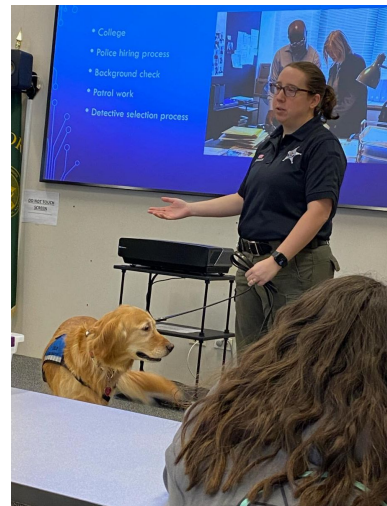
This week marked the kick-off of Poetry Pals for our 4th graders — an innovative program that provides students from different faith communities with a chance to learn about the similarities they share and celebrate their unique differences.

During the next few weeks, our students will embark on a journey exploring diverse faiths, visiting both a church and mosque, and engaging with students from Christian and Muslim communities.

"This immersive experience is designed to foster understanding and unity," said Suzanne Mishkin, Sager School K-5 Principal. "In addition to learning from others, our students will get to share their own knowledge of Judaism and showcase their Schechter pride. We're thrilled to see our 4th graders embrace this enriching opportunity, and we look forward to the meaningful connections that will be forged."

A shout out and warm welcome to the young Poetry Pals leaders, including our very own Schechter alum, Maya Kosover (SSDS '05).

Big Ideas: From Detective Tech to Future Careers



Our 7th and 8th graders are breaking away from their traditional schedules to engage in The Big Idea — a cutting-edge program in the field of middle school education featuring captivating mini-courses based on students' personal interests and passions.

This week, 7th and 8th graders in the **Spycraft: The History and Practice of Espionage** cohort visited the Northbrook Police Department, where they heard insights from Schechter parent, Sergeant Detective Jon Salmi, and other speakers. Students learned about criminal investigative technology, the intricacies of solving crimes, and the path to becoming a detective.



Students in the cohort "A Day in the Life!" visited WGN Studios and had a chance to meet with co-anchors Patrick Elwood and Dina Bair to learn about their careers.

Stay tuned for more on the two other mini-courses: Anatomy of...Suspense! and Sci-Fi Entrepreneurship.

Our deepest thanks to The Harvey L. Miller Family Foundation for providing the funding to launch this innovative program.

The Cold Can't Stop Little Explorers at the Ginsburg ECC



Our *yeladim* used their imagination and creativity to build snowmen indoors

— with buttons, twigs, q-tips, shells, and logs. No freezing fingers here! One friend created a beach snowman surrounded by seashells!

"Exploring the world around us sparks curiosity, encouraging children to ask questions and seek out answers," said Zahava Berman, ECC Director. "It's the first step towards a lifelong love for learning."

Warm Cheers in Cold Weather



It was bitter cold outside, but that didn't stop school at Schechter! Our students radiated warmth through their vibrant energy and enthusiasm!

Prioritizing safety, our garages were transformed into efficient drop-off and pick-up zones, ensuring everyone stayed warm and secure. A big shout out to our exceptional *tzevet* and parents who orchestrated carpool seamlessly — braving rain, snow, and freezing temperatures. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next week with much warmer temperatures!

Catching Up with Nicole Wiznitzer (SSDS '05)

Following her years at Schechter, Nicole attended Chicagoland Jewish High School (now Rochelle Zell Jewish High School) and the Rhode Island School of Design, where she received a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

During Schechter's recent renovation project to upgrade the Northbrook Campus, Nicole served as the architectural representative on the Machar Construction Task Force. *"It was so wonderful to be involved in the school transformation and reconnect with my 3rd grade teacher, Dr. Lena Kushnir," she said.*

Nicole recently moved back to Chicago from New York with her husband, Ben, and one-year-old son, Noah, and started a commercial and residential architecture practice called **Studio Bennic**.



"Regardless of typology, scale, or budget, I believe that design should be personal, timeless, and intentional," said Nicole. "I see immense potential in the built environment. As an eternal optimist, I strive to make the world a better place through design."

Schechter Hosts Webinar Exploring Jewish-Related Art

On Thursday night, nearly 50 people signed on to attend a virtual program: "Exploring within the Met Museum; Jewish Themes and People," with Laura Resnikoff, retired Columbia Business School professor and 11-year volunteer guide at the Museum of Metropolitan Art in New York.



After the webinar, we received several emails praising the program, including this one from Lynn and Alfred Altschul. *"Thank you so much for hosting this enlightening seminar. Please do more -- it's a really good way to spend an hour during the cold winter months!"*

We hear you! Look for more virtual learning programs in the coming weeks!

[Click here](#) for information on our diverse lineup of parent and family events.

Rochelle Zell Curriculum Night is Around the Corner



Join Rochelle Zell Jewish High School for Curriculum Night on February 6 from 6:00-8:00 pm! Curriculum Night will focus on 9th grade academics at RZJHS. Learn about the freshman curriculum, daily schedule, and course placement guidelines, attend model lessons from a variety of subject areas to get a glimpse into the RZJHS student experience, and enjoy dairy & pareve hors d'oeuvres. **[RSVP HERE.](#)**

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