



# Inside SCHECHTER

October 20, 2023 / 5 Cheshvan 5784  
Weekly Parashat : Noah

Candle lighting: 5:42 PM  
Shabbat ends: 6:42 PM

## Israel solidarity flag displayed in Silverstein Family Lobby



Last Sunday, over 500 students, faculty and staff, and their families gathered to unite in prayer and song at our "Schechter Stands With Israel" solidarity event. Before the community moved into the Etta and David Jonas Gymnasium, everyone had a chance to contribute to a special art project prepared by our Schechter Parent Organization (PO).



"Community members wrote personal messages and prayers on pieces of fabric, which were later assembled into a large Israeli flag—a collective prayer tapestry prominently displayed in the Silverstein Family Lobby. We hope this symbol of our homeland will remind students every day that we are stronger as a community and will prevail together."

—Abby Suarez, PO Volunteer

## 1st Graders build community—literally and figuratively!

The outside world may feel chaotic, but at school, Schechter students are finding comfort in the warm sense of community they've come to expect in their classrooms.



In 1st grade social studies, students explored the concept of communities. Teachers Rachel Haims and Hannah Pogrund transformed the lesson into a tactile, interactive experience with students working in groups to design 3D models.

Kindergarten students were invited to visit each community as a walking museum, giving 1st graders a chance to practice their presentation skills!

"As students built their communities, they discussed the importance of having people praying in their synagogues, students learning in their schools, and kids playing on their playgrounds. We are so proud of their contributions to our school community and their ability to recognize the importance of people in their own communities."

—Hannah Pogrund, 1st Grade General Studies Teacher

## ECC students embark on interactive Israel adventure





The Ginsburg ECC has been filled with joy, love, and *ruach* for Israel!

"Rabbi Jonathan showed us how to make a map of Israel with our own bodies, and took us on an adventure through the land. We explored the Negev, dug for treasure in the sand, went snorkeling in Eilat, wrote *tefillot* for the *Kotel*, and played *Matkot* (an Israeli racket beach sport) in Tel Aviv." — **Zahava Berman, Director**

## Students share messages of love and hope

1st graders worked on a special project to spread joy throughout the building during this difficult time. They decorated rocks with Israeli symbols and words of peace to display outside of the Dayan Beit Kneset.

"Students were able to show their love for Israel artistically. They made a second rock with the goal of spreading love, hope, and happiness to each *kehillah* within our school—they personally delivered them!"

**Rachel Haims, 1st Grade General Studies Teacher**



## 2023 Schechter graduates pay a visit to the Sager School

17 of our newest alumni—current freshmen at RZJHS —recently visited their old stomping grounds at the Sager School. Between catching up with former teachers and visiting classrooms, they were reminded of their deep and lasting connection to Schechter!



"We are always so happy to welcome our former students back into the building! They are a treasured part of our Schechter community and will always have a home here."

—Nanci Kaplan, 7th-8th Grade Sager School Principal

## For this alumna, the writing was on the Schechter walls

### SCHECHTER ALUMNI *Spotlights*

“I will forever be an advocate for Jewish education. Sending your children to Schechter is not just a gift to your children, but also an opportunity to help transform the Jewish future.”



**Maya Scholder (SSDS '15)** can trace her love of writing back to her grade school days at Schechter. “I knew even then that I wanted to go into a profession that would let me exercise



that passion,” she said.

After attending RZJHS and earning a BA in Communications at Tulane University, Maya now lives in Columbus, Ohio. She works as a media specialist at Hunter Marketing, and is responsible for trafficking clients’ paid social media ads and strategizing media campaigns. “I work with amazing clients to enact change in the Columbus community every day,” she said.



**The story continues! Click the button below to keep reading about Maya.**

[Read Full Spotlight](#)

## Gather new resources at next week's parent event

As we continue to cope with the trauma of the war in Israel, we invite our Schechter community to join us for next week's new program: **Parenting Through Adversity: Building Resilience Together**. Feel free to join us even if you are not a parent—several of the breakout sessions will cover beneficial information and resources for anyone.



## Parenting Through Adversity: Building Resilience Together

Thursday, October 26  
7:00 - 8:15 PM

Join us for an evening for parents to share, learn, and support one another through discussions guided by community rabbis, therapists, and educators.

Please register by 9:00 AM on Tuesday, October 24  
Questions? Contact [Nanci Caplan](#)

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

## First Sunday Funday program brought the ruach

SCHECHTER SunDay FunDays—our new free drop-in program for 3-6-year-olds—launched last week!

"The devastating events in Israel have directly impacted so many of our families and extended community. It was heartwarming to see how this first program, *Rhythm and Ruah* with Rabbi Jonathan, provided some meaning and joy for so many parents and little ones across our community."

—Hillary Dunn, Director of Admissions and Enrollment



Bring your little ones to our next interactive SunDay FunDay program—the Discovery Fair!

November 19 | 9:30-11:00 AM

Register for this program and all upcoming dates by clicking below:

[Register Here](#)

## Peaceful Parent Project free virtual gathering

All are invited to join **Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning** for an online gathering:

**Rachamim: Support for Parents during Times of Grief and Fear**

Monday, October 23 | 8:00 PM

Led by Rebecca Minkus-Lieberman, director of Orot's Peaceful Parent Project and Dr. Aviva Levine Jacobs, clinical psychologist and Peaceful Parent educator





This event is FREE. Click to learn more and register:

[Register Here](#)

## Opening our doors to prospective parents

Do you know parents of K-8th graders who might be interested in exploring a Schechter education for their children and family?

Invite them to join us:

**Prospective Parent Open House** November 7, 2023  
| 7:00 PM

[Register Here](#)



**Step inside to discover...**  
the benefits of a SCHECHTER education for your child & family!

**Prospective Parent Open House**  
Tuesday, November 7  
7:00 PM

Learn about the Schechter experience from our Head of School, faculty members, current parents, and alumni

To register:  
[www.schechter.org/OpenHouse](http://www.schechter.org/OpenHouse)

At Schechter, we **IGNITE** our students' Jewish souls, **EDUCATE** them to their highest potential, and **EMPOWER** them to use their knowledge, skills, and creativity to enrich our world.

SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO  
בית הספר היום של סולומון שכתר  
A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

## Free Israel-themed audio ebooks for young children

In solidarity with Israel, Kar-Ben Publishing is offering a FREE Israel-themed virtual bookshelf to share stories about Israel with PreK-3rd grade children.



**EBOOKS ABOUT ISRAEL**

the virtual bookshelf is open  
price: free

Illustration of a woman and a child reading a book together, with a virtual bookshelf filled with various Israel-themed books.

18 audio ebooks are available for families anywhere in the world to access.

[Ebook Access](#)

## Schechter Cares Survey

As we work to understand the magnitude of how the war in Israel impacts our community, we are asking for your help to identify families (including your own) that may need support. **We invite you to fill out the following survey:**

**Schechter Cares  
Survey**

Was this email forwarded to you? Want to be added to our email list?  
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Solomon Schechter Day School | 3210 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

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