



# Inside SCHECHTER

October 27, 2023 / 12 Cheshvan 5784  
Weekly Parashat : Lech-Lecha

Candle lighting: 5:32 PM  
Shabbat ends: 6:33 PM

## Schechter opens its doors and hearts to Israeli families



**We are honored to welcome Israeli families who are seeking refuge and stability in our community. Three new students started at the Sager School this week, and there are over 12 more in the admissions process.**

We are offering free tuition for up to three months for these students, and will gladly work with their families if they choose to stay longer. We are also exploring ways to bring in additional resources and support to ease their transition. We are truly inspired by our students, who are eagerly and lovingly welcoming new Israeli friends to their *kehillah*.

**Missed the full email yesterday from Dr. Lena Kushnir? Click below:**

[Read Full Message](#)

"Our room was filled with so much joy as our students welcomed Koby with open arms. It was the perfect example of 'every action counts and every word has power' to see them including him and checking in on him throughout the day."

"It is a privilege to provide Koby and his family with a home at Schechter and in our *kehillah* during these uncertain times."

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



*New 1st grader Koby (2nd from right) is surrounded by his welcoming classmates.*

"Koby really likes it at school. He told me it feels so good here and that the other students say nice things. I just want to say thank you all for being so wonderful to Koby and all the other Israeli families you are helping. I think it is so amazing what the staff at school

and the Schechter community are doing to really help and make a difference to Israeli families. Thank you for welcoming us into this community. It takes my breath away."  
— Koby's mother, Alli

## 6th graders swap Schechter classes for nature's classroom



This week, our 6th graders participated in a four-day, immersive outdoor education program: Nature's Classroom Institute. The idyllic setting in Camp Lake, Wisconsin offers the perfect backdrop for experiential learning at it's best — our students learned about science and nature, reflected on Jewish values, strengthened their sense of community, built self-esteem, and developed a greater understanding of the environment.



"Integrating general and Judaic studies within an outdoor setting is such a valuable opportunity for our 6th graders. From daytime classes and team-building activities, to evening hikes and group reflections, students gained a deeper appreciation of themselves, their classmates, and their responsibility to care for our natural world."

— Andrea Berlow, 5th & 6th Grade  
Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher

## Environmental Club takes matters into their own hands

For the third consecutive year, the Environmental Club took a field trip to nearby Somme Prairie Grove Nature Preserve for a hands-on morning of ecological restoration.

Combining forces with students from



Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, 30 of our 5th-8th graders actively investigated native ecosystem restoration and preservation—collecting seeds and cutting back invasive trees. The Environmental Club is committed to spreading awareness and educating the community about the rising risks of climate change, as well as taking actionable steps to directly help the environment.

"We are proud to have joined the Jewish Youth Climate Movement towards the end of last year at the invitation of students from Bernard Zell—the original Chicagoland chapter within the national organization. Our students possess a strong sense of justice, recognizing their generation is inheriting the time-sensitive problem of climate change and has a responsibility to take action."

— Ron Schrag, 7th & 8th Grade Judaic Studies Teacher and Environmental Club Sponsor



## Sager School Tribes welcome Shabbat as a community



We celebrated our first Tribes event of the school year last Friday. This innovative, school-wide program connects students, faculty, and staff across all grades (K-8) within a special “family” that will take them through their entire Schechter experience — providing our youngest students with new friends and role models and giving older students an opportunity to develop leadership skills.

“It was beautiful to see students enter the gym with their buddies from a different grade, gather around the table as a Tribe, and have a Shabbat experience together as one school.”

— Ariela Ish-Hurwitz, 5th-8th Grade Hebrew Teacher & Tribes Coordinator



[View More Photos](#)

## ECC children learn sequencing through art

This week, the *yeladim* explored a new art technique using leaves. They created leaf prints by painting directly onto leaves, placing the leaf onto paper, gently patting it down, and then removing it. Following a process like this helps them learn about order and sequences, which are essential life skills.

"These experiences encourage them to think creatively and explore new surfaces for painting while fostering an appreciation for the natural world around them!"

— Zahava Berman, Director



## Community program offers support, resources, & comfort



Last night, Schechter welcomed nearly 60 members of our community for: **Parenting Through Adversity: Building Resilience Together.**



"During the last few weeks, we learned that many of our current parents and others were seeking comfort, insight, resources, and connection," said Nanci Caplan, 7th-8th grade principal. "There is such a wealth of knowledge in our Schechter community and we are so grateful to the rabbis, therapists, and educators who generously offering their time and expertise to lead breakout sessions. They were so well received by everyone."



Nanci Caplan is pictured with presenters (from left): Amanda Mariam, Rabbi David Chapman, Dr. Shelley Daniels, Dr. Israel Gross, and Dr. Laura Frait.

## Schechter alum embraces his role as PE volunteer



**Omri Blavise (SSDS '19)** was thrilled to be heading off to Israel to begin his undergraduate studies in government at Reichman University in Herzliya. And then the war in Israel erupted. With his friends geographically dispersed and in college, Omri knew he needed to use his newfound time to give back to the Jewish community, and Schechter was the natural place. "I fostered friendships at Schechter that will stay with me throughout my life," he said. Omri is currently volunteering his athletic and mentoring skills 3-4 days a week with K-6th grade PE classes, assisting teachers, participating in activities, and aiding in student support.

"What's really special about having Omri here is that he bridges the gap between the students and faculty. He has the maturity and capabilities of an instructor, while also being relatable to the students." — **Paul Chanan, Pre-K-8th Grade Phys Ed Teacher.**

As new Israeli students have begun appearing in Schechter's classrooms, Omri's Hebrew fluency is opening additional avenues for him to contribute to the community.

**"It's heartwarming to see how current students are treating their new Israeli classmates," added Omri. "They guide them and cheer for them in PE. The more I'm here, the more I see — Schechter students are kids that want to do GOOD."**

## Mazal Tov to Ari on his bar mitzvah

**Ari Smith (SSDS '25)** will become a bar mitzvah this Shabbat at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El. Ari will be reading parashat *Lech Lecha*. Ari enjoys history, music, watching baseball, and hanging out with his family and friends. He is also a member of a theater troupe and looks forward to participating in the Schechter musical every year. For his bar mitzvah project, Ari created and sold sukkah decorations to support My Block, My Hood, My City— an organization that helps beautify under-resourced neighborhoods in Chicago and provides young people from those neighborhoods with new opportunities.



### Mazal Tov

to Ari's proud parents, Michelle Wasserman and David Smith; his loving sister, **Yael Smith (SSDS '18)**; and to his beloved grandparents, Sandy and Mel Wasserman and Joanne and Jim Smith.

## Thank you to this week's Day of Learning Sponsor

**Every day at Schechter, students receive the gift of an outstanding education.**

**You can help support a day of learning with a \$250 sponsorship to celebrate a child, honor a friend, mark a special occasion, or remember a loved one.**



Learn More



## DAY OF LEARNING SPONSOR

Wednesday, October 25th  
10th of Cheshvan

In memory of

Pearl Greenstein  
On her 35th Yahrtzeit

Sheryl & Bob Greenstein  
Liz, David, Jamie &  
Miles Greenstein



## Calling all alumni: pre-game your Thanksgiving

This event is for ALL ALUMNI, whether or not you play basketball!  
Join us for this free alumni gathering, featuring a basketball tournament and pizza.

Calling alumni of all ages!

# 2nd Annual SCHECHTER Alumni Basketball Tournament



Wednesday, November 22 | 6:30 PM

*(the night before Thanksgiving)*

at the Schechter Northbrook Campus

3-on-3 double elimination tournament

Run by Alicia Honan, Athletic Director

Register at  
[www.schechter.org/  
alumnibasketball](http://www.schechter.org/alumnibasketball)

Don't play  
basketball?  
Cheer on our alumni  
and enjoy a fun night  
at Schechter!

Free for all to attend and includes pizza!

Questions? Contact [shira.rozgovich@schechter.org](mailto:shira.rozgovich@schechter.org)

Register Here

## Hands-on discovery event for prospective families

We invite prospective families (3-5-year-olds and their adults) to spend a Sunday morning creating & innovating at the Sager School.

[Register Here](#)

Want to help?

We are seeking current parent and student volunteers!

[Volunteer Sign-up](#)



# SCHECHTER Discovery Fair

Sunday, November 19 • 9:30-11 AM



3-5-year-olds and their adults are invited for a morning of exploration, movement, and creativity!

To learn more and register:  
[www.schechter.org/AdmissionsCalendar](http://www.schechter.org/AdmissionsCalendar)

## Inviting prospective parents to step inside Schechter

### 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.

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

For parents of K-8th graders interested in exploring the benefits of a Schechter education for their children and families—we invite you to step inside!

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

[Register Here](#)

Share these social media posts to help us spread the word!

[Facebook Post](#)

[Instagram Post](#)

## 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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Schechter**



**SOLOMON SCHECHTER  
DAY SCHOOL**  
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO  
בית הספר ש. זלמן שכטר

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

Solomon Schechter Day School | 3210 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

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