



Inside SCHECHTER

October 6, 2023 / 21 Tishrei 5784
Weekly Parashat : Simchat Torah

Candle lighting: 6:04 PM
Shabbat ends: 7:04 PM

Family Sukkot Party: "our time of rejoicing!"



What a fun and festive celebration under the *schach* on Tuesday evening as Schechter families gathered for the annual Parent Organization Sukkot Party. After filling the courtyard with songs, students and parents enjoyed arts and crafts, sports and games, pizza, and delicious graham cracker *sukkah*-making for dessert!



"We loved gathering our *kehillah* (community) together to celebrate *Sukkot*! Special thanks to Rabbi Jonathan for leading us in song and prayer, and to event co-chairs Marisa Kowalsky, Sarah Weil, and Amy Wolok for their time and planning. We look forward to many more opportunities for our families to come together throughout the school year."

—Rachel Stites, Talia Derman, and
Katie Doscher, PO Co-Presidents



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The Sager School *sukkah* was the place to be this week!



A beautiful new *sukkah* and a courtyard drenched in sunshine...who could dream up a better location for outdoor programming?

This week, Sager School students were treated to several visits—from eating lunch with classmates, to hands-on Judaic Studies activities, the *sukkah* was the ideal joyful setting!

3rd graders enjoyed lunch in the sukkah!



7th graders worked together to sort Ushpizin (guests from the Torah invited into every sukkah) in chronological order.



Kindergarteners honed their fine motor skills and used their artistic expression to make decorations for the sukkah.

Torah takes center stage for the next round of holidays!

As *Simchat Torah* rapidly approaches, students spent time on Thursday getting up close and personal with the star of the show: the *Torah*!

5th & 6th graders celebrated the holiday together during *T'fillah*, with 5th grade students proudly reading from the *Torah* in groups: the last three verses of *Devarim* (Deuteronomy), immediately followed by the first four verses of *Bereshit* (Genesis).

"Students experienced firsthand the end and the beginning of our Jewish life cycle! We discover that studying Torah is a lifelong experience—each year we start learning all over again!"

—**Pnina Mazor, 5th & 6th Grade Judaic Studies Teacher and 5th Grade Hebrew Teacher & T'fillah Coordinator**



All K-8 students paid a special visit to the gym to see an unrolled *Torah* that stretched nearly the full length of the room! Playing the role of detectives, students engaged in an interactive scavenger hunt, working in pairs to comb through the text for clues.



3rd and 4th graders searched along the Torah scroll for Hebrew words on their scavenger hunt checklists.

ECC *yeladim* construct *sukkot* out of loose parts

At the ECC, young minds run wild—constructing, manipulating, and uncovering new possibilities. During *Sukkot*, we witnessed this creativity in action as the children were provided with an array of materials to build their very own *sukkah*.



"Children are natural innovators, bursting with creativity when given the freedom to explore without limitations. Provide them with open-ended materials, and just watch as the magic happens!" —**Zahava Berman, Ginsburg ECC Director**

Your holiday guide to Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah



Rabbi Sharon Brous, the Senior and Founding Rabbi of Ikar, my former shul, would always talk about the ubiquitous phenomenon of American Jews only coming to shul on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. She would say that if you choose only two holidays to come to shul, don't choose those—choose *Simchat Torah* and *Purim*!

Shemini Atzeret and *Simchat Torah* are this weekend, and if done right, there can be no greater joy than celebrating these holidays. *Shemini Atzeret*, the “eighth day of ceasing,” marks the end of the *Tishrei* holidays mentioned in the Torah. This particular holiday is described as a time in which we are supposed to experience *only* joy: *v'hayita ach sameach!* (Deut. 16:15). It's traditional to pray for rain starting on *Shemini Atzeret*. And so how appropriate it is that the next day is *Simchat Torah*, since in our tradition, Torah is compared to water! (BT, Bava Kama 82a).

The message continues! Click to keep reading:

[Full Holiday Message](#)

[View our Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah holiday guide, which includes](#)

[Simchat Torah](#)

Alumna entrepreneur named "Power Woman"

SCHECHTER ALUMNI *Spotlights*

“My Schechter education will always remain the driving force behind the values I hold dear and the impact I strive to make in the lives of others.”



Kol Hakavod to **Arianna Rozen (SSDS '06)** for making *Sheridan Road Magazine's* "Power Women" list in the October 2023 issue!

A lifelong dancer, Arianna began working for DJ companies at age 15, where she cultivated a passion for MCing and performing. In 2017, she combined her skills in entertainment with her enthusiasm for servicing her own community, by launching her own business—[Vibe Entertainment](#)—specializing in interactive entertainment for private events, including b'nai and b'not mitzvah celebrations, weddings, corporate events, and school events. Aside from carrying the title of CEO, Arianna manages sales, staffing, and creative direction for her company and serves as a lead performer for weekend events.



“Over the years, I’m most proud to have founded a dance competition that took place during COVID, performed alongside Chance the Rapper, Wiz Khalifa Mac Miller, and Selena Gomez; MC’d at the AllState Arena for over 13,000 people; and traveled last summer to overnight camps on tour across the Midwest. I’m excited to continue building the Vibe brand and bring our passion for events across the country.”

—Arianna Rozen (SSDS '06)

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

[View Magazine Feature](#)

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Spotlight](#)

Kol Hakavod

to **Marissa Gerchikov**, 5th & 6th Grade Science Teacher and 5th Grade Math Teacher, for completing the [Hāpara Champion](#) certification program, which trains educators in utilizing Hāpara, a unique suite of digital tools that deliver authentic, personalized learning experiences to their students. Aside from using these skills to benefit students, Marissa views this training as an opportunity to further support her colleagues.



"Schechter definitely embodies the philosophy that we are all life-long learners," said Marissa. "It's so important that we continue to hone and grow our craft, especially as technology evolves in ways we never imagined. We strive to meet students where they're at, and right now many are using digital tools in different ways. In addition to teaching students curricula content, we help prepare them to be good digital citizens, independent thinkers, and well-rounded individuals."

New early childhood programming launches next week!

Introducing a **free** monthly drop-in program designed with your playful **3-6 year old** in mind!

October 15, 2023

9:30-10:30 AM
Schechter Northbrook Campus
3210 Dundee Road, Northbrook

Rhythm & Ruach

Join us for some rhythm and ruach (spirit). Your littles will shake, shimmy, and sing along with our own Rabbi Jonathan!

To register, scan or visit:
www.schechter.org/sunday

The first session of Sunday Fundays, **Rhythm and Ruach**, starts next weekend!

Bring your little ones and help us spread the word!
Click below to register for any and all upcoming sessions.

[Register Now](#)

Looking for an educational and interactive class for preschool-aged children?

There is still space available for Session 1 of Music B'Yachad, starting October 25!

Join Schechter's very own Music Specialist, Elizabeth Botnick, for this multi-session series at the Ginsburg ECC.

**Register
Now**

Solomon Schechter Ginsburg
Early Childhood Center Presents:

Music B'Yachad



Come sing with me, mishpachati! In this interactive class, caregivers & tots will learn **rhymes, games, action songs, and dances** to stimulate young children's natural response to music while developing listening and motor skills. We will enhance language development, improve sense of balance and timing, and make musical connections to our Jewish journey.

Wednesdays from
10:10-10:50 AM

Ginsburg ECC
4500 Dempster Street
Skokie, IL 60076

Session 1: 10/25/23-12/20/23 (no class 11/22)
Session 2: 1/17/24-3/6/24
Session 3: 3/20/24-5/22/24 (no class 4/24 & 5/1)
Fee: \$60 (1 child), \$90 (2 children) / session



For more information, contact Zahava Berman, ECC Director, at zahava.berman@schechter.org

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

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