



Inside SCHECHTER

November 10, 2023 / 26 Cheshvan 5784
Weekly Parashat : Hayyei Sarah

Candle lighting: 4:15 PM
Shabbat ends: 5:17 PM

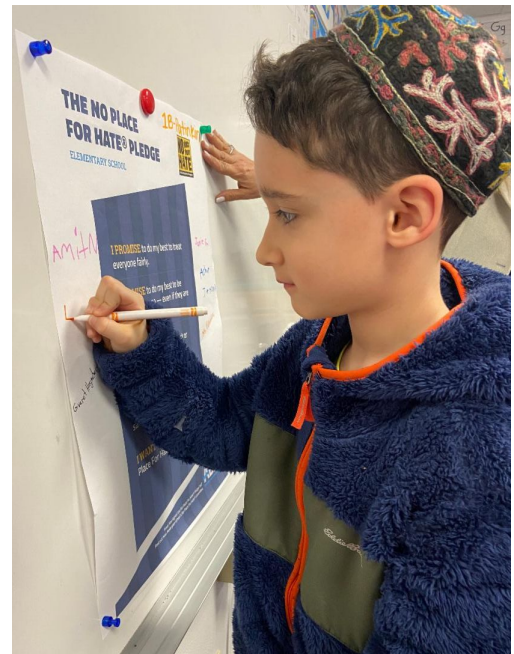
Student leaders earn "NO Place for HATE" designation

Last year, Sager School 5th-8th grade student representatives participated in "NO Place for HATE," a student-led anti-bullying initiative founded by the ADL. The student leaders facilitated a school-wide signing of an anti-bullying pledge and petitioned to create a button to report any bullying incidents.

After meeting the requirements for the designation, the students recently welcomed their new banner for display.

Click below to learn more about the program:

[NO Place for HATE](#)





“We are committed to strengthening our community’s practice of inclusiveness and respect for differences. We look forward to our 2nd year of participation with student reps from each *kehillah* in grades 5-8 to help develop new student opportunities and initiatives!”
–Noa Padowitz, Sager School K-8th Grade Assistant Principal and NO Place For HATE faculty sponsor with Amy Schwartz, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Kol Hakavod to our FY22-23 Committee:

6th grade: Abbie Berman, Sara Shulman, and Mia Rosen; **7th grade:** Jonathan Abramson, Maya Schondorf, Baila Vaysman, Serena Marks, and Annabelle Kuzmin; **8th grade:** Lev Shulman, Adam Aranyi, Arava Meital, Phoebe Berkowitz, Gabi Taitz, Kivi Mishkin, and Lian Basa; **Class of 2023:** Naomi Brown, Yuval Mor, Aiden Feinberg, Ela Cohen, Penelope Tocher, and Kira Feinberg

Kindergarten Shabbat ceremony celebrates community

Beginning in Kindergarten, students participate in meaningful milestone ceremonies that create special moments for families to celebrate their children’s connection to Jewish life.



At last Friday’s Kindergarten Simchat Shabbat—the first milestone event of the year—our youngest Sager School students beamed with pride as they delighted their guests with songs. Kindergarten families bonded over lunch, and the program culminated with joyful community dancing.

"When everyone dances together as a group it helps to develop friendships, inspires a kindred spirit, and brings out joy and positivity."

—Rena Rozen, Dance and Movement Specialist

[View Dancing Clip](#)



"The children enjoyed working on Shabbat bags filled with handmade ritual objects to take home—uniting their classroom knowledge with family rituals. We appreciate our families taking the time to come together to celebrate, especially during such a challenging time for Jews all over the world."

—Shana Scholder, Kindergarten General Studies Teacher

Thank you to our tzevet and parent volunteers for contributing to this meaningful event.

[View More Photos](#)

Prospective parent open house explores "Why Schechter?"

On Tuesday evening, prospective parents from the Chicagoland area gathered at the Sager School to learn about the unique benefits of a Schechter education for their children and family.



Samara Braunstein (SSDS '20) & Ryan Jankelowitz (SSDS '20) shared their thoughts about Schechter.

The program featured presentations from school leadership, including Dr. Lena Kushnir, Suzanne Mishkin, and Hillary Dunn, as well as enthusiastic testimonies from K-2nd grade educators, parents, and alumni.



While each voice shined a light on a particular aspect of the Schechter experience, the cumulative message was clear and powerful.

Schechter blends academic excellence with joyful Jewish life and values. Outstanding educators empower students with the critical thinking skills and values to become confident and compassionate citizens, leaders, and individuals.

Our thanks to Shana Scholder, Rachel Haims, Lauren Patinkin, Hannah Pogrund (SSDS '03), Tali Lupovitch (SSDS '10), Samara Braunstein (SSDS '20), Ryan Jankelowitz (SSDS '20), Ari Studnitzer (SSDS '91), and Amy Wolok for taking time out from their busy lives to share their passion for Schechter with prospective families.

Schechter Benefactors unite in solidarity and gratitude

Last Thursday evening, 100 people gathered in the Silverstein Family Lobby for our annual Benefactors Thank You event. In light of the events in Israel, our supporters united in solidarity with Israel and honored the past presidents who have led Schechter's Board of Directors since the school's founding in 1962.

During the evening, they heard updates from Yinam Cohen, General Consul of Israel to the Midwest, and Lonnie Nasatir, JUF President, and listened to Dr. Lena Kushnir and Ben Fisher, SSDS president, describe how Schechter supports members of our community, including the warm embrace extended to Israeli students and families who have found a home within our school's nurturing environment.



Board presidents stand together in front of the new plaque paying tribute to our visionary leaders.

The story continues! [Click to continue reading about this special event.](#)

[Full Event Article](#)

[View Event Photos](#)

A cozy corner at the ECC to learn how to manage emotions



This week, the *yeladim* in Alim enhanced their cozy corner with a fuzzy rug, comfy pillow, and basket of books. They have been taking turns exploring this new spot, discovering the joy of self-soothing and reflection, and practicing taking three big balloon breaths to reset.

“Young children often have lots of energy and big feelings. It’s natural! Teaching emotional regulation in early childhood is about more than just calming down; it’s about empowering the *yeladim* to understand and manage their emotions, which are skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.
— Zahava Berman, ECC Director

A note of gratitude from one of our new Israeli families

Dear Schechter Community,

In these circumstances of war, our family found ourselves in Deerfield. We want to thank you so much for welcoming us into your community and school. Everyone has been so wonderful to us, from the Schechter staff to the parents and students. We received such a warm and loving welcome, making our children feel safe and at home. Every single detail has been heartwarming and has helped us so much during these difficult days.

Wishing and waiting for better days when we would love to give back in Israel.

Abe, Maya, Alma, and Aviv Doron



A new Israeli student, Aviv, with his 5th grade classmates before departing for NY

Alumna creates grassroots fundraising initiative for Israel

SCHECHTER ALUMNI *Spotlights*



“ Schechter instilled in me a comprehensive Jewish identity, laced with tradition, religious practice, and ethics, that guides me to this day. ”

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Israel, **Aliza (Rudolph) Scheier (SSDS '99)** organized a grassroots fundraising effort with her peers called *Moms for Tikkun Olam*. The women made blue and white beaded bracelets that contained expressions of Israel solidarity: *Tikkun Olam*, *Shalom*, *Ahava*, and *Fearless*.



Word spread quickly on social media and across the Denver Jewish community, leading the initiative to raise \$70,000 through a combination of bracelet sales and partnerships with JewishColorado and an anonymous donor who matched the funds raised. Every dollar raised went directly to provide relief for Israeli families impacted by the war.

...the story continues! [Click here to read the full article:](#)

[Full Alumni
Spotlight](#)

Mazal Tov to Jared on his upcoming bar mitzvah

Jared Nathan (SSDS '25) will become a bar mitzvah this Shabbat at Congregation B'nai Tikvah and will be reading parashat *Chayei Sarah*. Jared enjoys playing guitar and tennis, learning geography and history, and following professional and college sports, including the Cubs, Bears, Bulls, and Illinois teams. He loves to spend his summers at Beber Camp in Wisconsin.

Mazal tov

to Jared's proud parents, **Deborah Proper (2nd Grade General Studies Teacher)** and **Joshua Nathan (SSDS '87)**; his loving brother, **Eli (SSDS '27)**; and to his beloved grandparents Allan and Debbie Nathan, and Bill Proper and Ileen Tepper.



Virtual programming for adults: Cultivating Resilience

the wellness institute SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL
CULTIVATING RESILIENCE

Cultivating Resilience

Essential thinking skills that build resilience in yourself and your kids

Zalman Abraham
Director, The Wellness Institute
Codeveloper, Cultivating Resilience SEL Curriculum

Thursday, November 16, 2023
7:00-8:30 p.m. CDT
Live on Zoom

Register for this seminar at:
wellnessinstitute.org/cultivatingresilience

Cost: \$18 per person
Use promo code: SSDS

Produced by
The Wellness Institute,
a division of the
Rochester Jewish
Learning Institute (RJLI)

Join us for the next adult education seminar through our virtual programming series:

The Wellness Institute presents
Cultivating Resilience: Essential thinking skills that build resilience in yourself and your kids

Thursday, November 16
7:00-8:30 PM, Zoom

Register for this virtual program
(use promo code SSDS for free access):

**Register
Now**

Hands-on discovery event for prospective families

Calling all prospective families
(3-5-year-olds and their adults):

We invite you to spend a morning creating and innovating at the **Schechter Discovery Fair** on November 19 from 9:30

- 11:00 AM.

[Register Here](#)

Want to help?
We're 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

Calling all alumni: pre-game your Thanksgiving

Do you know parents of K-8th graders interested in exploring the benefits of a Schechter education for their children and families? Invite them to join us at the **Prospective Parent Open House** on November 7 at 7:00 PM.

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)

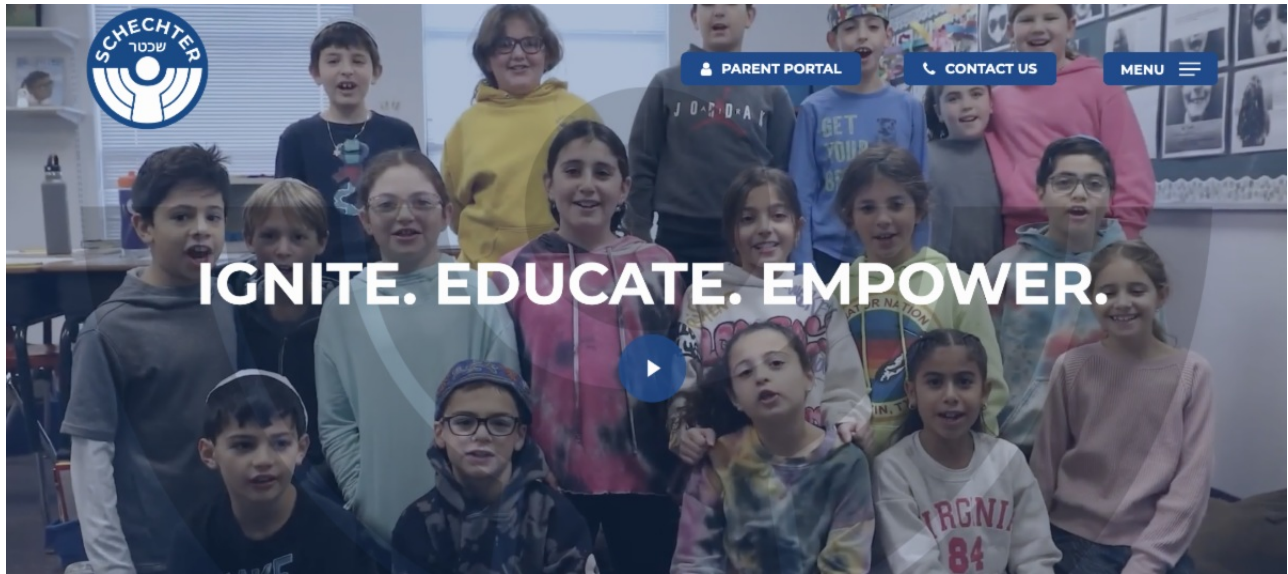
**Don't play
basketball?**
Cheer on our alumni
and enjoy a fun night
at Schechter!

Free for all to attend and includes pizza!

Questions? Contact shira.rozgovich@schechter.org

[Register
Now](#)

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Get ready to immerse yourself in today's Schechter experience! This digital platform is designed to keep you informed, connected, and inspired. Coming soon!

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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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