



Inside SCHECHTER

November 17, 2023 / 4 Kislev 5784
Weekly Parashat : Toledot

Candle lighting: 4:08 PM
Shabbat ends: 5:12 PM

500+ grandparents and special friends attend Yom Orchim

Last Friday, we welcomed over 500 grandparents and special friends to the Sager School for Yom Orchim. It was wonderful to witness their immense pride and joy as they saw their students thriving and experienced firsthand Schechter's warm, nurturing, and innovative learning environment.



Guests enjoyed a program featuring remarks from Dr. Lena Kushnir, Rabbi Jonathan Bubis, Board President Ben Fisher, and reflections on Veteran's Day from Rabbi Aaron Melman of Congregation Beth Shalom, Chaplain in the Illinois Army National Guard and a proud parent of Schechter alumni.

Watch Program



After student performances and a community-wide rendition of *Hatikvah*, guests visited their students' classrooms to participate in art projects and engaging discussions.

"On mornings like these, when our classrooms are filled with multiple generations of families connected through our shared Jewish identity, we are reminded that Schechter is so much more than a school, we are a community for life!"
— Dr. Lena Kushnir, Proud Head of School

Thanks to the tzevet, speakers, volunteers, and our guests for making this such a memorable morning.

We appreciate the vital role grandparents play in our students' lives and our school community. Save the date for these events designed especially for you!

[View More Photos](#)

[Grandparent Engagement](#)

SCHECHTER

Shining Moments



by Drs. Carol Rosenberg and Gordy Derman

We had such a wonderful time at the recent *Yom Orchim* celebration. The gym was filled to capacity with a standing room only, multi-generational crowd. The singing and dancing performances were among the many special moments, including reciting the prayer for the State of Israel and a prayer for our enlisted Americans.

We went to Lila's class where we learned about *Parshat Chaye Sarah* and the importance of children

learning from their parents about Judaism — such as Isaac and his wife, Rebecca, taking on the observances, beliefs, and customs of Abraham and Sarah. Lila then did an art project to interpret this *parshat* and she came up with a picture frame decorated and inscribed “*m’dor l’dor*” — “the chain will not be broken.”



As children of Holocaust survivors, we learned early on that although our parents' families were completely killed, Judaism and Zionism did not die with them. It was important to educate our children at Schechter so they could grow up amidst Jewish culture, celebrate within a Jewish calendar, incorporate Jewish values, learn ritual, learn the language of our people, and the importance of the State of Israel.

Now more than ever, when Judaism and Zionism are under attack, knowing that our grandchildren are continuing on this path at Schechter is of utmost importance to continuing the chain.

Drs. Carol Rosenberg and Gordy Derman are the proud parents of Schechter alums Ari (SSDS '98), Ben (SSDS '02), and Yali (SSDS '05) Derman, and proud Bubbe and Poppi of Lila and Nili Derman and upcoming Schechter kindergartner Erez Derman.

Do you have a Schechter Shining Moment to share? Email [Rebecca](#).

2nd graders beam with pride as they receive siddurim

On Tuesday, you could feel the tremendous sense of pride and joy as our Sager School 2nd graders received their very first *siddur*. This special milestone ceremony celebrates these young learners' spiritual journey and growing understanding of different prayers. Families gathered in the Etta and David Jonas Gymnasium to watch the children recite prayers, sing, dance, and accept their *siddurim* before celebrating with a joyful *oneg*.



"Our 2nd graders are learning how to use the *siddur* and the importance of having an order to our prayers. We've discussed that the *siddur* is like a scrapbook of ideas and feelings about connecting with God. Some *t'fillot* help us recognize moments of wow, others help us recognize moments for reflection, requests, or gratitude."

— Tali Lupovitch, 1st & 2nd Grade
Judaic Studies Teacher



[View More Photos](#)

Special thanks to the 2nd grade team of faculty and specialists who prepared our students for this day, to the members of our PO for the lovely reception, and to Iris Zuckerman for the beautiful photos. Our deepest gratitude to Arnie Hoffman and his family who created the Albert and Fritzie Hoffman Siddurim Fund to provide the siddurim for our students.

Schechter stands with Israel at Washington, D.C. Rally



Nearly 300,000 people rallied in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday at the largest pro-Israel event in US history. Our Schechter community came out in force, taking planes, buses, and automobiles to unite with others to show our solidarity with Israel, call for the release of the hostages, combat antisemitism, and to declare that "Never Again is Now."

Our deepest thanks to Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations for organizing the rally and for the incredible team at JUF Chicago for working around the clock to allow us to travel safely to and from Washington, D.C.

Sheri and Steve Greenbaum (SSDS '80) attended the rally with their children, Jordyn (SSDS '25) and Jake (SSDS '27), and are pictured with Janie Levitan (SSDS '18). When asked why it was so important to bring their children, they responded:

"We wanted our kids to realize that we are not alone in our support for Israel and that we should never be afraid to stand up as proud Jews and members of a strong Jewish community. The United States' strong support for Israel is a direct result of our community's advocacy efforts. Taking Jordyn and Jake to the rally helped them see the results of those efforts as well as understand that as Jews they are a part of something bigger than themselves — to better understand what community means."



[View More Photos](#)

Students exercise their voices through civic action

7th and 8th grade social studies class have been discussing the importance of speaking out as both Jews and Americans on important issues. The war in Israel, the release of hostages, the rise in antisemitism across our country, and the need for continued funding and support for Israel are all issues that have resonated with students.

"To empower students with advocacy skills, students expressed their views by writing to elected officials — those who hold the power to make change. Some students wrote to Illinois senators and representatives, while others chose to write to members of Congress who have made antisemitic remarks or are not pro-Israel."
— Missy Friedman, 7th & 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

SCHECHTER *Student Voices*



"It's important that you can put your thoughts on paper to someone who can actually make a difference. It's important for members of Congress to hear what I have to say and what we as Jews have to say."

— Drew, 8th Grade

"It's extremely important to keep pushing for hostages to be released and for antisemitism to stop. It's extremely important that we keep pushing, writing, and calling to make sure they're fighting for Israel and not wavering in their support."

— Ari, 7th Grade

[Read Student Letter Samples](#)

Exploring identity through self-portraits in early childhood

At the Ginsburg ECC, Alonim Aleph was buzzing with creativity as our little artists observed their unique features in a mirror and then mindfully drew their faces. It's more than just a cute art project or opportunity to hone fine motor skills and observational abilities — it's a journey into self-discovery!

"By asking open-ended questions during the experience, our *morot* gain insight into how the *yeladim* perceive themselves. Repeating these self-portraits throughout the year is like a time-lapse of growth and development, watching a beautiful

metamorphosis unfold on paper."
— Zahava Berman, ECC Director



8th graders spend Shabbat as a *kehillah*



A tradition since the late 1990s, the 8th Grade Shabbaton provides students with an opportunity to experience Shabbat as a Kehillah (community). Staying after school on Friday through the end of Shabbat, students and teachers engaged in learning activities, led *davening*, ate communal meals, sang, socialized, and participated in a Maccabi of sports, cards, and games. 8th Grade Sager School families gathered at the culmination of the Shabbaton for a community *Havdalah*.

"Learning takes place when we *do* rather than just discuss or read about an experience. It is so nice to spend time with our students in a different setting outside the classroom, and we love to see how their Schechter education shines during the Shabbaton."

—Noreen Ohcana, 5th-8th Grade Math Teacher & Alicia Honan, K-8th Grade Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher



Thank you to the chaperones who chose to spend Shabbat with their students: Mrs. Barlevy, Rabbi Bubis, Mrs. Caplan, Mrs. Friedman, Ms. Gurner, Mrs. Honan, Sam, Ms. Horwitz, Mrs. Ohcana, and Mia.

Thank you to this week's Day of Learning Sponsor

Every day at Schechter,



DAY OF LEARNING SPONSOR

Tuesday, November 14, 2023



In honor of
Renee Stern
on her birthday

Laura (SSDS '95), Joshua,
Hallie, Lucy & Ruby, Levin



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](#)

Last chance to register for the Discovery Fair!

Help us continue spreading the
word about our upcoming event
THIS WEEKEND!

We invite all prospective
families (3-5-year-olds and their
adults) to spend a morning
creating and innovating at the:

Schechter Discovery Fair
November 19 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM

[Register Here](#)



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

Attention ALL alumni: Last call for event registration!

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 Here



**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

Support RZJHS basketball at December event



PACK THE PLACE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:30 PM

JOIN US TO PACK THE PLACE IN SUPPORT
OF RZJHS BASKETBALL! DAIRY SNACKS,
SWAG GIVEAWAYS, AND MORE!



RSVP:



Join our friends at Rochelle Zell
Jewish High School to **Pack the
Place!**

Dairy snacks, fun swag giveaways,
and more.

RSVP Here

It's happening! Our new website is about to launch!



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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