



# Inside SCHECHTER

November 3, 2023 / 19 Cheshvan 5784  
Weekly Parashat : Vayera

Candle lighting: 5:22 PM  
Shabbat ends: 6:24 PM

## NBA star shares journey from hate to advocacy



On Monday, Enes Kanter Freedom spoke to our 5th - 8th graders about his journey from Turkey to America as an NBA player, most recently for the Boston Celtics. He discussed how he was taught to hate Jews, Israel, and America, how he learned this was wrong, and how he is using his platform to create a better world.

Enes is an American citizen and a strong advocate for Israel. He has traveled to Israel multiple times to host opportunities for Israeli and Palestinian children to play basketball together and begin to understand each other and create relationships.

[View the inspiring program with Enes Kanter Freedom:](#)

[Watch Full  
Program](#)

## A new way families can access a Schechter education

Schechter families may qualify for an exciting new initiative to make Jewish day school education more accessible for our Chicagoland community: The Tuition Accessibility Partnership (TAP) Fund. TAP is an alternative tuition model that **caps tuition at 12% of a family's annual adjusted gross income (AGI)**.

TAP was created for families with an AGI between \$200,000 and \$350,000 per year. Families who fall within this range receive a capped tuition, regardless of the number of children they have enrolled in K-8 Jewish day schools.

**Schechter's robust Flexible Tuition program remains in place for all families who need assistance.** Learn more by visiting [TapFundChicago.org](http://TapFundChicago.org).



*The TAP Fund is powered by Crown Family Philanthropies, a Chicago-based foundation dedicated to partnering with its communities to effect just and lasting social impact across generations.*

## Shadow puppets shine a light on the science of optics



Our 6th grade scientists are studying the properties of light. To demonstrate their knowledge of shadows, students created shadow puppet performances based on common fairy tales.

After devising their story lines, students went to the Makerspace to design digital puppet drawings, and then cut them out of card stock with the Cricut machine. The projects culminated with performances in front of an eager audience of 1st graders.

"I love finding opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding through creativity, group work, and even by getting a little silly! These presentations allowed 6th graders to integrate their imagination and knowledge of creating crisp shadows, while providing them with a sense of pride when sharing their hard work."

— **Marissa Gerchikov, 5th & 6th Grade Science Teacher, 5th Grade Math Teacher**

## Waste audit provides support for composting program

On Monday, the Environmental Club welcomed guests from an organization called [Mindful Waste](http://MindfulWaste.org) to conduct a cafeteria waste audit.





As students enjoyed their meals during each lunch period, they participated in educational programming on food waste, made observations, and brainstormed strategies to package lunches in more sustainable ways. Students were shown how to sort waste into five assembled stations: recoverable food, liquids, recyclables, landfill waste, and compostables. Mindful Waste weighed each bin at the end of the day and will provide a report with valuable recommendations.

“The audit's goal is to further our composting program through education and data collection and demystify the process of composting. We want to empower students to become mindful of the waste they create, gain awareness of the negative impacts on our planet, and learn how to take small steps towards environmental responsibility.”

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



## Following the children's lead at the ECC



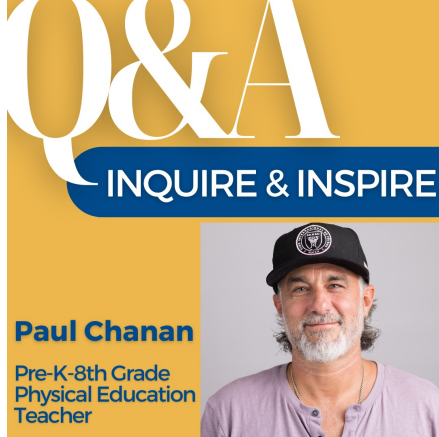
The *yeladim* in Alim are captivated by the enchanting transformation of leaves outside their rooms and love learning about pumpkins. To support these interests, they have been stamping playdough with leaves and pumpkins, marveling at the mini pumpkins and gourds, and observing their attributes while painting.

"The magic of emergent curriculum lies in its power to ignite a passion for learning. It lets us tap into the natural curiosity of our young explorers, follow their interests, and create an environment where learning is an adventure!"

— Zahava Berman, ECC Director

## Inquire & Inspire with PE teacher Paul Chanan

*Coach Paul Chanan has been coaching competitive team sports for 20 years. Formerly the head baseball coach of the Chicago Maccabi Delegation and Rochelle Zell Jewish High School, he now coaches baseball for Deerfield High School and the Deerfield Warriors travel*



baseball program, and basketball for RZJHS.

**Q:** What are some important life lessons young student-athletes learn playing competitive team sports that you infuse into your PE classes?

**A:** Beyond the expected benefits of physical education—building healthy habits and improving physical fitness, motor skills, and mental wellness—PE classes are fertile ground for developing lifelong social-emotional and resiliency skills. Through our various exercises and activities, we incorporate opportunities for all Schechter students to cultivate the skills the world of athletic coaching has to offer.

Read Coach Chanan's list of life lessons athletics deliver:

Full Q&A Feature

## Virtual programming for adults: Cultivating Resilience

**the wellness institute** SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

# 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](https://wellnessinstitute.org/cultivatingresilience)

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

Produced by The Wellness Institute, a division of the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (LJI)

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](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!



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.

#### 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)



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

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.

[Register Here](#)

Share with your friends and spread the word!

## CHUSY offering overnight youth group programming



# USY USCJ's youth movement

Join CHUSY for CHUSYFest and GesherFest!

**December 8-10 at Camp Chi Perlstein Resort in Lake Delton, WI**

Eat delicious Kosher meals, compete in sports, speed through relay races, take social action, and engage in Israel education programs. Plus, don't miss out on the surprise Saturday night outing! CHUSYFest is open to 8th-12th graders, and GesherFest is open to 5th-7th graders.

[Register for CHUSYFest](#)

[Register for GesherFest](#)

Questions? Contact CHUSY Engagement Director, Parker Weber at [pweber@uscj.org](mailto:pweber@uscj.org)

## 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](#)

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[Support Schechter](#)



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

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