



# Inside SCHECHTER

March 1, 2024 / 21 Adar 5784  
Weekly Parashat : Ki Tisa

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

## 7th Graders Create New Poems Through Blackout Poetry



In our **7th-grade language arts class**, students are diving into Markus Zusak's *"The Book Thief"* with a twist. Inspired by the novel's opening poem, they're using a technique called **Blackout Poetry** to **craft their own poems** with visuals. This activity prompts them to explore themes, literary elements, and the author's voice in a hands-on, creative manner.

"This interdisciplinary approach merges literature, poetry, and art, fostering dynamic learning," said **Amy Schwartz**, 7th grade language arts teacher. "Students not only **deepen their comprehension of the text but also refine their abilities to express complex ideas uniquely**. Through a culminating gallery walk, they share and appreciate each other's creations."

"As their teacher, seeing students' enthusiasm and pride in this activity is immensely rewarding," she added. "Beyond literary and artistic skills, they **learn**

**collaboration, creativity, and constructive critique.** This experiential approach not only enriches their understanding of literature but also nurtures them as thoughtful and imaginative individuals."

## 5th and 6th Graders Soar in Kehillah Olympics



Over the last two weeks, all of our **5th and 6th graders** have been competing in the "**Kehillah Olympics!**" For two weeks, they have raced, cheered, and high-fived their way through wild activities — all in pursuit of Kehillah GLORY!

It's not just about the win, though," said **Marissa Gerchikov**, 5th and 6th grade science teacher and 5th grade math teacher. "These Olympics have served as a **community-builder** among these grades, fostering **teamwork** skills, **social** skills, **communication**, and **critical thinking** skills for our students."

## Unleashing Creativity and Connection: Reading Buddies



Last week, our 4th graders and 8th graders shared in a community-building activity: **Reading Buddies**. After using MadLibs as an icebreaker, the students seamlessly transitioned into **crafting short stories** with provided prompts. Each pair had personalized booklets to write and illustrate their imaginative tales, **fostering creativity and ownership**.

"Beyond literary skills, this project **nurtures bonds, leadership, and empathy**," said **Nanci Caplan**, 7th and 8th Grade Sager School Principal. "The **8th graders**

emerged as mentors, and the 4th graders embraced the joy of storytelling. This venture exemplifies the vibrant, collaborative spirit at our school, promoting not just academic growth but also interpersonal skills and **a love of learning.**"

## Building Bonds and Unleashing Joy with "Tribes"



The Sager School recently hit the pause button on our regular routine to dive headfirst into a whirlwind of fun and laughter. "We seized the chance to **create joy and develop our community** further by turning our usual schedule into a playground with "Tribes," said **Suzanne Mishkin**, K-6th Grade Sager School Principal. "Through the activities in our small groups and then as we came together as a school community, we celebrated **the unique bonds at Schechter.**"

**What is Tribes?** Beyond the daily routines, our students celebrate holidays and cultivate meaningful relationships through their Tribe—our innovative, school-wide program connecting students, faculty, and staff across K-8th grade. This special "family" provides our youngest students with new friends and role models and gives older students the opportunity to shine as leaders.

## Kindergarten Chagigat Hagan: A Day of Family, Fun, and Community Spirit!



Last Friday, our Kindergarteners rolled out the red carpet to welcome their families

for the ultimate **Chagigat Hagan** celebration. The day started out with an **interactive morning meeting**, where parents could see how their children start their days at school. Then, families joined the students for **art projects**, including decorating frames for family photos, coloring, and painting, as well as going through their work folders to **see what the students are learning** in school. Families then celebrated **Simchat Shabbat** together, with **singing, dancing, and a community t'fillah**. To close out the day, students and their families came together as a community for a delicious and festive **Oneg!**



*"From sitting around the circle at morning meeting and watching each child greet each other with a smile, to working on an art project together, to participating in t'fillah, and finally to watching an adorable singing and dance performance, it was very special to see the warmth and love that our children experience every day."*

**Schechter Parent, Sarah Weil (SSDS '98)**

[Click HERE to Read More from Sarah](#)

The Kindergarten Chaigat Hagan was so much more than a celebration — it was a way for parents to see **how far our Kindergarteners have come** this year, and a way for students to begin to experience the **impact of community**.

For more photos, and to follow along with what's happening in our school, make sure to [check out our Instagram highlights](#) and follow us on social media now!

## Alumni Spotlight: Daniel Weisskopf (SSDS '21)

*"Schechter gave me the tools to dig deep into complicated texts and concepts through the robust dual curriculum while nurturing my curiosity to explore and seek new knowledge"*

*- Daniel Weisskopf, SSDS Class of 2021*

After five months of studying, attending lectures, taking seven exams and a cumulative final, writing a research paper, and conducting his own research, **Daniel Weisskopf earned 2nd place in the Jerusalem Science Contest** — an international competition for 11th and 12th grade Jewish high school students who are interested in learning a cutting edge science topic and its Judaic relevance.



## Exploring the Tiny World of Ants



Children in Alonim Aleph are delving into the **world of ants** with excitement! They're observing, drawing, and crafting habitats to learn more about these tiny creatures. Next, they'll **create KWL charts** to explore what they know, what they want to know, and what they've learned about ants, fostering curiosity and reflection.

"This engaging project approach **encourages our little learners to activate their prior knowledge, ignite their curiosity** by pondering unanswered questions, and **reflect on the exciting new information** they acquire," said Zahava Berman, ECC Director.

## Step into Whimsy: Mark Your Calendar for Seussical Jr.

Step into the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss as we present "**Seussical Jr.**" next month!

Join us for an **unforgettable journey** filled with laughter, imagination, and toe-tapping musical numbers that will transport you straight into the pages of your favorite Dr. Seuss stories.

Our talented students have been hard at work, and are excited to **bring the characters they grew up with to life!**



Don't miss out, mark your calendar now and make sure to purchase tickets at the link below!

**Seussical Jr.**

Sunday, April 7th at 3:30 PM

Monday, April 8th at 6:30 PM

**Location:**

Christian Heritage Academy

315 Waukegan Road, Northfield

**Buy Tickets  
Today**

**Community Events**



# THE FACES OF OCTOBER SEVENTH

We gather to bear witness as a survivor  
shares their first-hand experience of  
the October 7th massacre.



TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH

7:00 P.M.

CONGREGATION B'NAI  
JEHOSHUA BETH ELOHIM  
(BJBE)

1201 LAKE COOK ROAD,  
DEERFIELD



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**Project  
Twenty  
Four**

# It's Within



**Meet Bubu and Daniel,  
Best friends since 2nd grade.**

Up until October 7th - Bubu was an Israeli farmer.  
On October 7th - he had to fight for his life.  
Since October 7th - he has been busy rebuilding  
and healing his community.

# Us

**Daniel and Bubu are coming to  
share how they do it.**

🕒 **Sunday March 3 12:30pm**

📍 **North Suburban Synagogue Beth El**  
1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park IL

[www.project24israel.org](http://www.project24israel.org)

# Moriah Congregation Judaic Art & Jewelry Fair

## MARCH 16 & 17, 2024

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 | 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.**

Sponsor Event: Minimum \$500 Donation

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17 | 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

\$10 General Admission Fee



*All artists are exclusively Israeli!*

**FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES OR TO LEARN MORE**

**CALL MORIAH CONGREGATION (847) 948-5340**



200 Taub Drive, Deerfield  
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A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

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