



Inside SCHECHTER

September 29, 2023 / 14 Tishrei 5784
Weekly Parashat : Sukkot

Candle lighting: 6:16 PM
Shabbat ends: 7:15 PM

A Schechter mosaic months in the making!

This week, after months of anticipation, we installed a beautiful and colorful mosaic of our Schechter logo in our kindergarten hallway!



The project began last May when Chantal Blaustein, Schechter parent of alumni and a talented artist, volunteered to help us bring our vision of a community-wide mosaic to life. The first step: helping all of our Sager School students add a tile to the piece!



During our 60th Anniversary Celebration, each guest had the chance to add a tile to the mosaic. Following the event, Chantal worked tirelessly on the finishing touches. The end result is truly spectacular.

What makes a mosaic the ideal medium to display our Schechter logo?

Just as a mosaic is a picture comprised of individual pieces that blend together into an exquisite whole, **our Schechter community is vibrant thanks to the contributions of each colorful component— you!**



Tremendous gratitude to Chantal Blaustein, Schechter parent of alumni and artist extraordinaire, for her time, vision, and artistry!

JUF's Women's Board enjoys a welcoming Schechter space



Schechter's *Makom T'fillah* was the ideal setting for yesterday's JUF's Women's Board meeting!

More than 50 board members gathered at the meeting, where they not only delved into their JUF work, they also learned about the role Schechter plays within the Jewish community. Beyond educating children, Schechter serves as a cultural center for engagement throughout Chicagoland.

"We had such a warm, productive, and educational morning at Schechter," said **Linda Schottenstein Fisher, JUF Women's Board President and a current Schechter grandparent.**

"Rabbi Jonathan framed our meeting with his spiritual interpretation of Sukkot, and Dr. Lena Kushnir spoke beautifully about Schechter's mission and the school's ongoing partnership with JUF. She also offered a wonderful lesson in practicing mindfulness. Our thanks to Schechter for hosting us!"



Dr. Kushnir leads JUF Women's Board members on a tour of our new spaces!

Looking for a space for your organization's next meeting? We'd love to discuss hosting! Email [Tami Warshawsky](mailto:Tami.Warshawsky@juf.org), Director of Advancement.

Passions are launched through weekly specials

Up, up, and away! Given a long list of intriguing "specials" to choose from, several 5th and 6th graders opted for the "Design Off" class this fall, meeting weekly to problem solve and create designs for competitions.



"We're very excited to be able to offer this innovative class for all of our 5th graders to rotate through starting in October!"

—**Debbie Harris, Director of Educational Technology**



During the collaborative Rocket Launch design challenge, students considered aerodynamics and durability to construct rockets using only paper and tape. The winning design traveled 80 yards—the longest student launch seen by Howie Templer, volunteer instructor, Schechter parent, and veteran educator.

"I miss the energy and excitement that happens in the classroom, and I'm thankful to Schechter for this opportunity. Design Off allows students to be creative and design their own visions, and the hands-on projects bring joy into the learning experience. I think the students enjoy a safe space to make mistakes, revise, and then see improvements."

—**Howie Templer, Chief Project Designer, 10story Learning**

Rainy days never get the ECC down!

A little rain doesn't dampen the spirits of the children at the ECC! This week, our little adventurers were over the moon to find puddles galore and wet sand on the playground. They dove right in, digging, splashing, and creating mud masterpieces!

"The *yeladim* are unstoppable explorers, and rain just adds a whole new dimension and texture to outdoor adventures. Through these authentic experiences, the *yeladim* connect with nature, enhancing their strength, agility, and concentration."

—**Zahava Berman, ECC Director**



Sukkot: after repenting comes rejoicing



A MESSAGE FROM RABBI JONATHAN

It's just like camping, but with your family and friends. And delicious food. And impressively festive decorations surrounding you. Sukkot—what's not to love?!

Ok, I'll admit—I'm accustomed to celebrating this outdoor October holiday in Southern California, with weather more closely resembling the Land of Israel, where Sukkot was originally designed to be observed. But, even if we are not granted a fine-*weathered* friend this season in Chicago, intentionally exposing ourselves to the elements is kind of the point—shifting our surroundings to break ourselves from routine, strip ourselves of material extravagance, and appreciate what's most important.

Here's a bonus: whereas Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur require a deep and honest accounting of ourselves—the good, the bad, and the ugly—*this* holiday comes without all of the Jewish guilt! Sukkot is called *zman simhateinu*—"our time of rejoicing!" It's all about celebrating with loved ones, expressing gratitude for our bounty, and spending some quality time with the Divine without the baggage.

May this Sukkot bring all of us true joy, new perspectives, communal merrymaking, and, of course, good weather. *Chag Sukkot Sameach!*

View our Sukkot holiday guide, which includes traditional holiday greeting tutorials, highlights of prayers, and fun facts.

Sukkot Holiday Guide

Questions? Email [Rabbi Jonathan!](#)

SCHECHTER ALUMNI *Spotlights*

“At Schechter I learned a lot about my own culture and developed a curiosity and respect for others cultures...it's a place that values diversity, tolerance, and acceptance. The dedicated and passionate teachers at Schechter instilled in me the skills and creativity that helped me succeed in high school, college, and the business world.”



Some of us may think about falafel and hummus like it's our job...but for **Ofer Sivan (SSDS '92)**, it IS his job!

Shortly after earning his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the University of Iowa, Skokie-native Ofer realized he had another calling—his passion for connecting with people and creating memorable experiences led him to make a pivot to the hospitality industry. Now living in Iowa City, Ofer is the co-owner of Oasis Falafel, where he is proud to introduce Middle Eastern culture and cuisine to people of diverse backgrounds.



*Ofer pictured with former classmate **Julie Hochstadter-Aberman (SSDS '92)** and her daughter, showcasing his hummus, **Oasis Street Food***

“Hospitality and food manufacturing make for a fun mixture of math, psychology, problem solving, and emotional connection. I'm motivated to make people happy by providing exceptional food and service—we've catered over 100 weddings, and our customers enjoy some of the best moments of their lives while eating my food.”

—**Ofer Sivan (SSDS '92)**

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

[Read More](#)

Pre-game Thanksgiving with alumni and basketball

Mark your calendars and join us on the court!

[Register Now](#)

Calling alumni of all ages!

2nd Annual SCHECHTER Alumni Basketball Tournament



Help us spread the word! Share our facebook event with Schechter alumni and supporters.



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

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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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