

April 11, 2024 / 4 Nissan 5784 Weekly Parashat : <u>Tazria</u>

Candle lighting: 7:09 PM Shabbat ends: 8:13 PM

A Spectacular Seussical: Celebrating Schechter's Theatrical Talent and Community





On Sunday and Monday, the cast, stage band, and crews of "Seussical" brought the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss to life! Their dedication and passion for the arts were evident throughout both shows — flawlessly executed by all involved!

The performances were magical as students not only showcased their talents, they also exuded genuine joy and enthusiasm. From the spectacular set to the vibrant costumes and lively choreography, Seussical was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and community.





"The experience of this full-scale musical theater production enriches students' education in the arts by providing them with a forum to publicly demonstrate their skills and achievements in front of peers, teachers, family, and friends." — Dr. Lena Kushnir, Head of School

Hear from Schechter parent of alumni, Danny Kahn, who has been accompanying the show for 28 years!

"Twenty-eight years ago, when our daughter Lucy was in 6th grade, I volunteered to "help" with the Sager Middle School Musical, then in its third year. Lucy performed in the show throughout middle school, followed by her brother Richard, who moved between the pit, playing keyboards with me, and the stage.

Fast forward – our kids grew up! Lucy taught for



several years at the Gan (kindergarten), retiring temporarily to raise our two wonderful grandchildren. Richard moved through college and graduate school and into the workforce as well. But 28 years later, I'm still accompanying the show!" Continued...

Read more on our blog

A First-Hand Account of October 7th from Deborah Ben Aderet



On Tuesday evening, nearly 100 people gathered in our Dayan Beit Knesset to listen as Schechter alumna and current parent Deborah Ben Aderet shared her first-hand account of events on October 7th.

Deborah grew up in Highland Park and attended Schechter and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. As an adult, she was an active member of AIPAC, AZM, and other pro-Israel organizations. In 2012, at age 34, Deborah quit her job in Chicago's Merchandise Mart, sold her car, rented out her Lakeview condo, and made Aliyah with her two cats.

A year after making Aliyah, she met the Israeli man who would become her husband. She left Tel Aviv and moved with him to the Southern city of Ashkelon. Deborah and her husband built a home in Kibbutz Zikim with their daughters, about two miles north of the Gaza border. They lived there until October 8, 2023. Continued...

Read more on our blog and watch Deborah's presentation.

Schechter Students Blast Off on a Cosmic Adventure



On Monday, our school blasted off on a cosmic adventure to view the solar eclipse in action. From peeking through solar safety glasses to watching the world around us

transform with shadows and weather shifts, it was like stepping into a sci-fi movie!

Special thanks to Marissa Gerchikov and Suzy Hakimian, 5th - 8th grade science teachers, and all our teachers, for prepping our students and planning programming to help them to learn what made the event so extraordinary. Additional thanks to Ariela Ish-Hurwitz for leading students in a special blessing to express awe and amazement at the wonder of the eclipse.

Celebrating Israel with our Shinshinim



On Tuesday, the Sager School hosted the *Shinshinim* (18-year-olds from Israel on their year of service) for a day of immersive learning about Israel. These enthusiastic ambassadors led our students through a series of engaging activities, discussions, and presentations, offering insights into Israeli culture, history, and traditions. A highlight of the day was the *tiyul shnanti*, or field trip, where students embarked on a virtual journey to explore the diverse landscapes, landmarks, and attractions of Israel. From the bustling streets of Tel Aviv to the historic sites of Jerusalem, the *Shinshinim* brought the beauty and vibrancy of Israel to life.



Prepping for Passover at the ECC





Pesach prep is in full swing at the ECC! The kids are getting creative, adding their own twists to stories and embodying characters with gusto. They're using loose parts to interpret the Pesach story, and when they look at the sedar plate they are thinking deeply about its symbolism in our journey to freedom.

My Grandparent & Me: Celebrating the Story of Pesach!

Last Sunday, 25 Schechter grandparents gathered with their grandchildren in our Etta and David Jonas Gymnasium for a fun and memorable exploration of the Pesach story. Led by talented Schechter parent Jonathan Schmidt Chapman, participants engaged in a hands-on workshop filled with imaginative and creative play.



"It was a delight to participate in the Pesach workshop! It was such a fun and unique opportunity to creatively explore themes of Pesach with our granddaughter. Jonathan facilitated the group in a manner that created a safe space for all participants to engage, play, and learn. We are grateful to Schechter for providing such wonderful programming for grandparents and their grandchildren." — Ziva Green-Kredow and Paul Kredow



To view more photos from this event, be sure to visit our **Facebook page**!

Mazal Tov to Noam Maletesta on His Bar Mitzvah

Noam Malatesta (SSDS '25) will become a Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat at Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah in Wilmette. He will be reading parashat Tazria and is looking forward to celebrating with his family and friends. Noam loves playing basketball and was a proud member of the Schechter 7th grade team. He also loves playing and watching football, spending time with his family, and hanging out with his friends.

Mazel Tov to Noam's proud parents, Ken Malatesta and Aryel Ashe, and to his loving brothers, Leo (SSDS '22) and Lev (SSDS '27).



Community Events





Join the Schechter Community for a Volunteer Open House at Solomon Schechter Day School

Sunday, April 14 | 3:30-5 PM

Drop in to work on a variety of service projects with community members of all ages. Assemble activity kits for pediatric patients, decorate rocks for a





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