



# Charlotte Jewish Day School



## Graduation 2001

May 23rd marked the graduation of Charlotte Jewish Day School's eleven fifth graders. These students will go on to a variety of middle schools-private and public, religious and secular.

The evening featured an all-school performance, entitled "Reflections on the Jewish Year." This was an original presentation, written and directed by our own Vicky Hirschmann. Every child in the school participated in the per-



CJDS students at graduation 5761.



Brandon Lewis, Ari Lipsitz, Deborah Farber, Ryan Balick.



Alexander Shporer, Jesse Feldman, Max Molinari, and Grant Babich performing at graduation presentation.

formance. Children in kindergarten and first grade sang in unison, while all other students performed individually. Every child was beaming (as were the parents).

Vicky was able to tap into the inner talent of each student. Rehearsals, which began before Pesach, were attended with enthusiasm. The performance brought out the essence of each holiday, beyond such symbols as dreidels



The Kindergarten class.

and hamentashen. The loud and clear message was that holidays involve much more than merely eating and having fun.

Parents and guests marveled at the children's expressive acting. Principal Mariashi Groner noted that even painfully shy children stood up and sang or spoke their parts with

confidence.

The graduation marked the end of a productive and successful year for Charlotte Jewish Day School. ☆



Kevin Raus, as Moshé, asking Matt Laxer, Pharaoh, to "Let my people go!"



Elta Caplan as a Roman Soldier.

## Principal Attends Educators' Workshop

On June 11, 12, and 13, Mariashi Groner traveled to the Atlanta area to attend a workshop sponsored by the Gesell Institute of Human Development. At this workshop, Mariashi learned to apply the developmental approach to observing and assessing students in grades K through 4.

The Gesell Institute maintains that by looking at all areas of development-i.e., adaptive, motor, language, personal-social-we can better "help children and schools become ready for each other." The

program provides teachers and administrators with a standard procedure for evaluating each student as a "whole child."

The Institute also encourages professionals to work with parents. Once parents understand the developmental approach, they can work with school personnel to help develop and implement suitable educational goals.

Mariashi looks forward to applying the Gesell methods to the growing student body of Charlotte Jewish Day School. ☆

## The World's Largest Rosh Hashanah Card

Charlotte Jewish Day School is participating in a unique project. Our students will join Jewish children all over the world to send Rosh Hashanah greetings to the children of Israel. Some 40,000 children will make individual cards that will be assembled in panels. These panels will be shipped to Israel, where they will be combined to create a card that will break the world record for the largest greeting card. The card will be a traveling exhibit throughout Israel.

While the giant card will show support and friendship to Israel's children, it will also be dedicated to all those who have been killed due to the violence that began last Rosh Hashanah. Students will be able to see the panels on the Internet.

This exciting project is being coordinated by the staff of the Israeli Emergency Solidarity Fund and the Jewish Literacy Foundation. You may visit their website at [www.card4israel.org](http://www.card4israel.org). ☆

## Lag B'Omer Festivities

This year's Lag B'Omer holiday gave our students an opportunity to enjoy field games and outdoor activities. Parents were invited to bring a picnic lunch to share with their children before the games, and then to cheer the students on as they participated in the various events. This holiday is such a highlight of the school year that a previous graduate expressed how much she would miss it.



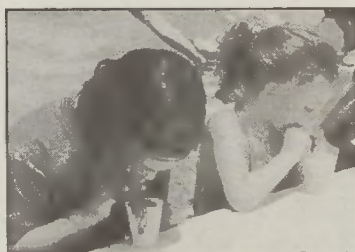
Parents enjoying a picnic lunch with their children at Lag B'Omer Field Day.



Alison Birnbaum and Abigail Ditesheim are dressed for their "trip" to Israel.

Jewish personalities. A huge inflatable "cave," provided by the PTO and representing Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai's cave in the forest, was set up at one end of the field. Students had to find the answer to a riddle before they could explore the cave. Many more Israel-related activities were offered, and parents were encouraged to participate with their children in several group relay games.

Even though the time for dismissal arrived, the children were eager to continue visiting the various stations (especially the ones that offered



Alison Birnbaum and Annie Brown sipping orange juice at the "Citrus Slurp" station.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Traveling to Israel." Students received "passports" that were stamped as they proceeded through eighteen activity stations set up on the track field beside the Jewish Community Center. Every activity had to be performed in order to "get to Israel." The students "landed" in Tel Aviv and raced to put on items of clothing while navigating an obstacle course. At another station, children tried to "stump the rabbis" with questions about various



Children enjoying "crane toss" activity at Lag B'Omer Field Day.

Popsicles and cold orange juice), and the consensus of kids and adults was that Lag B'Omer was "a total blast." ☆

## Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Teachers and staff of Charlotte Jewish Day School were treated to a luncheon extravaganza with the theme "CJDS Superstars." Our luncheon was decorated with gold stars, photographs of the teachers surrounded by twinkling lights, and centerpieces featuring "Oscar" statues. In addition to a delicious gourmet luncheon prepared by Karen Turk and Tracy Brown and served by dedicated school parents, the teachers and staff enjoyed a delightful video presentation of our students' reflections on the school year. Beth Gordon coordinated the



Beth Gordon presents a video at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

event which also included door prizes and special gifts to each guest-a plush monogrammed terrycloth robe, a personalized facial basket, and a long-stemmed red rose. Everyone left the luncheon feeling like an Academy Award winner. ☆



The "stars" of the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.