



Charlotte Jewish Day School



CJDS Third Graders Learn the Art of Haiku

By Christina Kelly, Third Grade Teacher

We have begun another great year at Charlotte Jewish Day School. The third-graders jumped right into their language arts program for the year by learning to write haiku. This is a Japanese verse form, with three unrhymed lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively, for a total of 17 syllables. The theme of these verses is often a subject in nature. We would like to share their original poems with you.

**Soccer is a fun game
Soccer is fun to watch and play
It's fun to block the ball.**
—Alison Birnbaum

**Basketball is cool
A lot of people like it
Because it is cool!**
—Will Goldberg

**Camp is full of fun
You go on trips everywhere
It is the best place.**
—Chaya Groner

**All Cats are special
So cute and cuddly they are
Cats so special, cats.**
—Hillary Kaplan

**Sports are fun to play
They give you good exercise
My favorite sport is soccer.**
—Shayna Quinn

**Plant life is sometimes wet
It grows by a variety of seeds
Beautiful are plants, yes?**
—Jonathan Tavin

**Snow falling from the sky
Frozen water fun to play in
You can skate if it is cold enough.**
—Alex Ransenberg

**7th game of the Braves
The World Series, bases juiced
C Jones at bat, grand slam.**
—Max Wasser

**Stars shining in the sky
Sun shining brighter than
bright
And moon faded high in the
sky.**
—Devorah Weiss

**Dogs are wonderful pets
Because you can play with them
They like to play fetch.**
—Katie Winterfield



Letter from a Teacher's Daughter

Mrs. Debbie Lipscomb has been a teacher at Charlotte Jewish Day School for seven years. Her achievements and talents have been documented on many occasions.

Recently Debbie shared a letter that she received from her daughter, Jennifer, a music education major at Appalachian State University. She is doing her student teaching this semester with the bands at South Mecklenburg High School. With Debbie's permission, we are publishing the letter for all to read.

"Dear Mom,
"When I was asked in my CI 2800 class to think about the person who has influenced me the most to go into teaching, the name that immediately popped in my head was yours. Other people have made an impact on my decision to teach, but no one more than you. I admire your teaching skills very much and respect you for what you do.

"One of the qualities that impresses me the most about you is the fact that you challenge every student, regardless of his or her level or ability. I see how you can push the students with the disabilities (physical or mental) and at the same time give students who are academically gifted material that will not bore them. I feel this is very important because it shows your interest in each and every student. This quality also ties into the fact that you sincerely care about every student's well being. You are always conscious of everyone's needs around you. Whenever I visit you at your school, I can always tell that the kids feel comfortable around you and are not intimidated by you. One of the reasons that they are not intimidated is that you are not afraid to get down on their level, whether it be reading them a story after lunch or sitting on the floor with them while watching a movie. I love how you can laugh with them at humorous situations they do or that you do. This shows that you are not afraid to admit your mistakes or faults to the kids or faculty and that you are open to criticism.

"One of the reasons that I have

chosen to go into education is that you have always let me be very involved with your class. When you first started teaching, you always let me help grade and stamp your papers, and as I got older, you would let me tutor the kids at your school. One of my favorite things you let me do was put up bulletin boards in your room or help you decorate during different times of the year. These types of activities helped me see how much fun teaching can be and how rewarding it can be. Another thing that makes you a good teacher is the fact that you are always open to new ideas and methods.

"As you know, teaching has not always been my profession of choice, but gradually I learned how much I love working with kids and how right it is for me. You have never pushed me to go into teaching, but instead just presented the idea to me. From my first day of kindergarten, you have showed me the value of education. Over time, I have realized the importance of education, whether it be mine or someone else's. You have taught me that teachers can make a difference in someone's life. I see how many lives you have affected, and I hope I can do the same. If I can make a difference in just one child's life, then it will all be worth it. I know it will not be an easy job, but I know it will be a rewarding one. I know teachers have to put up with a lot, and I hope I can handle it like you do. I am going to need your help in a few years when I go out into the field, and I know you will always be there for me.

"Not only are you a good teacher to the kids in your classroom, but you have been an awesome teacher to me. For that, I am eternally grateful. I feel that you are the perfect example of an effective teacher, and I am very proud of you. I know that I am not the only person that you have influenced to go into teaching. I cannot wait to have a classroom of my own, and I can only hope that I am as successful as you are. I love you with all of my heart and look up to you." ☆

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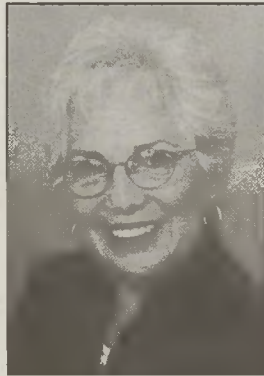
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Meet the Staff

Charlotte Jewish Day School is proud of its staff. We choose dedicated professionals who love the field of elementary education. This month we will feature our secular teachers, while in future months we will highlight our specialists and Judaica teachers.

Kindergarten: Teacher - Mrs. Ashley Holmes

Ashley earned her B.S. in early childhood education at Winthrop University. She came to CJDS last year after teaching kindergarten in Rock Hill.

Kindergarten: Teacher - Mrs. Debra Shelton

Debbie holds a B.A. from Catawba College and an M.A. from Wake Forest University. She has been a classroom teacher for preschool and kindergarten, as well as a physical education teacher for preschool through second grade.

Kindergarten: Teacher's Assistant - Mrs. Kay Solomon
After studying elementary edu-

cation at University of Tennessee, Kay spent many years as a day care center director. She loves being around children and is happy to be "second in command."

Grade 1: Teacher - Ms. Jessica Sammis

Jessica went through Wake Forest University on a volleyball scholarship. She received a B.S. in education, with a minor in theatre. Prior to coming to CJDS, she taught first grade at Steele Creek Elementary School.

Grade 1: Teacher - Mrs. Mara Rosenberg

After receiving a B.A. in social sciences, cum laude, from Hofstra University (New York), Mara earned a B.S. in early childhood education, summa cum laude, from Colby-Sawyer College (New Hampshire). She has taught for seven years in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, including at The Epstein School in

(Continued on page 27)