



# Charlotte Jewish Day School



## Hakhel - A Year of Gathering

This new year, which began on Rosh Hashanah, is a Hakhel year (the year after the end of the seven-year period). At the end of each seven years, on the festival of Sukkot, the king gathered together the men, women, and children to hear and learn Torah and thus be in awe of God, inspired in the observance of mitzvot.



"Mispacha Rut" enjoying each other's company.

At CJDS, we were privileged to relive the Hakhel experience. The students reenacted the journey to Jerusalem as the Jews did in the days of old. All the students came to school that day dressed in festive clothing in preparation for this special day. Then, our very own Rabbi Weiss, as the king, read from the Torah, inspiring us all in our learning and doing mitzvot. We also received a special mission from the king. In keeping with this year's motto, "You Are a Diamond in Our Crown," the students put to paper their thoughts on how each one of us is truly a diamond. These "diamond statements" are currently on display in the school's lobby.

month of Tishrei; rather, its message travels with us throughout the year. This is a year of gathering together in groups to talk, to sing, to daven, to join in one uni-



Rabbi Weiss, as the king, with Alexander Shporer.

fying voice and to connect with our higher Divine calling — our mission of spreading goodness and kindness.

The Hakhel celebration was the starting point for a new CJDS institution—our mishpachot (school families). Each school family is a cluster comprised of one child from each grade, supported by a staff advisor. The families take their names from Jewish history—for example, the Esther family; the Solomon family; the Aaron family.

At the celebration, each "family" danced to Jewish music. As the school year goes on, the families will participate in various activities, such as lunch and holiday projects.

Principal Mariashi Groner expressed the hope that the school families would fulfill the children's need for connection. In modern times, when people tend to be emotionally isolated, the school family would help children of different ages bond. The family program was developed in response to the PTO's suggestion of a "big brother/big sister" program. ☆

## Drive Underway for New Ambulance

Charlotte Jewish Day School is a member of RAVSAK, the Jewish Community Day School Network.

As a way to unite and make a tangible contribution to help rebuild New York City, RAVSAK has launched a drive for its member schools to purchase a new ambulance.

Our students are reminded that in addition to the terrible loss of lives, there were also many police cars, fire trucks, and ambulances lost. Replacing an ambulance will help ensure that the city is able to respond to future emergencies.

RAVSAK is encouraging every

day school student to contribute \$10 to the ambulance cause. At CJDS, each classroom has been equipped with special Ambulance Fund tzedakah boxes. Each student also has his own ambulance puzzle. With each dollar that a child earns, he gets to add a piece to his puzzle. When the child has earned ten dollars, the ambulance puzzle is complete. Children have been asked to raise their contributions themselves, through chores, yard work, bake sales, etc. Knowing how resourceful our students are, it will be interesting to see their creativity in raising their share. ☆

## Sukkah-Hopping

The intermediate days of Sukkot always provide a special event for CJDS students. Chauffeured by good-natured parents, each class visits two or three households to see and compare sukkot. The students enjoy a song in one sukkah, a dance in another, a cold drink in the next one.

By visiting several homes in the Jewish community, the children see that Sukkot is a living holiday that is celebrated by many Jews at various observance levels. They see that a sukkah is not only for school or synagogue.



The fifth grade on their Sukkah-hop.

Our thanks to the fifteen families who welcomed us. ☆

Robbie Winterfeld with lulav and etrog at Sukkah-hopping event.



Charlotte Jewish Day School  
A Beneficiary Agency of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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Hello, Mr. President!

We are writing to you from Charlotte, North Carolina. We are the 2nd grade class at Charlotte Jewish Day School. We think that you are doing a great job in the war against terrorism. On Friday, October 12, 2001, our teacher told us about your "homework assignment" for the children in America. As a class, we talked about the important need for food and clothing for the innocent children in Afghanistan. Those children must be so scared. We know that the people in Afghanistan speak another language, but we thought that the children might enjoy receiving pictures of hope from the United States. We each created a picture that can be sent with the food and clothing. After our class discussion, we each pledged to earn a dollar over the weekend. We talked about different ways to earn this money.

On Monday morning, October 15, 2001, we came to school and talked about what each of us did to earn our dollar. Many of us earned more than a dollar. Some of us set up lemonade stands and others washed cars or helped mom or dad around the house. We even had one student help his dad hang a 100-lb. mirror! As a class of 18 students, we earned \$75.00! Please use our hard-earned dollars to help the children of Afghanistan.

Sincerely,  
The 2nd Grade Class at CJDS

Deena Karen Miss Cojac Andrea  
Ashley Shaina G.  
DANNY Shanna  
sophie Zak Taylor  
Jeremy Aaron Gabrielle  
Asher Aaron P. Mitchell  
Steven Abigail Mrs. Moore

## Let Us Help You Clean Out Your Attic

We are excited about the creation of our new thrift shop, Divine Finds, which will benefit Charlotte Jewish Day School. Initially, we will have four two-week sales, which will be held in December, March, May, and August.

Thanks to the generosity of Sam Kaplan, we have secured a location for our shop in the Amity Gardens Shopping Center, next door to the Kosher Mart. We are looking for donations of gently used furniture, clothing, and other interesting items.

We need your help to stock our new shop. We will have drop-offs every Thursday morning from 7:30-9:15 AM in the Camp Mindy parking lot. For larger items or special arrangements for pick-up, please call Donna Ehrlich at (704)544-2343. ☆

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