

# Fall Fun at The Jewish Preschool on Sardis

By Nancy Zolotorofe

On November 9, JPS students and their families enjoyed a morning of entertainment at the preschool's first Family Fun Day. "The idea was to provide a fun-filled, stress-free event where families would have a chance to meet each other and socialize," says Jen Lahn, the preschool's director. "It was also a way to give back to our parents who share their amazing children with each every day."

In perfect crisp fall weather, the children excitedly ran around the grounds of the preschool, checking out all the activities. They played carnival-style games and musical chairs, had their faces painted, received temporary JPS tattoos, and took turns on two gigantic inflatables from Your Event Source (YES).

Carrying deeper significance, children were also invited to paint ceramic butterflies as part of Zikaron V'Tikvah (Remembrance and Hope)/The Butterfly Project—an endeavor that was started at the San Diego Jewish Academy as a Holocaust remembrance. Each butterfly at the festival was created in memory of one of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. Those who painted a butterfly received a certificate with the name of a child who perished as well as a necklace or bracelet with a small butterfly charm. The painted butterflies were collected and will be saved for use in a permanent memorial



Esther Brooke Manoim paints a butterfly as part of a larger project to remember the children lost in the Holocaust.

that will be displayed at Shalom Park in the future.

Much of the day's success relied on the participation of teachers and parents. Children danced to live tunes played by Ms. Patty, the school's music instructor. Wendy Berglass, JPS parent and owner of Sew Fun! Parties and More in Matthews brought along her sewing machine for hands-on crafts demonstrations. And numerous parents and teachers manned the booths. Credit should also be given to the event

chair, Amy Augustine and volunteer organizer, Lorin Steifel, who helped make the day possible.

"Fun" is always an underlying theme at the preschool. Just weeks earlier, students celebrated the holiday of Simchat Torah by marching with handmade flags, dancing with Torahs, and jumping in moon bounces from YES. ☆



Ms. Patty plays for her loyal preschool fans.



Millie Levenson gets "star treatment."



Shea Widger is ready for adventure of the inflatable kind.

# And Our New President Is...

Josh Goldstein! If you thought that the Obama/McCain presidential race was full of excitement, just wait until you read about the elections at Charlotte Jewish Day School. On Tuesday, November 4, as adult voters were lined up at polling places across the nation, CJDS students from Junior Kindergarten through eighth grade were also lining up at the voting booth to cast their ballots for President, Vice President, and Lower School Student Council Representative. Make no mistake—this was a real election, complete with campaign posters, debates, speeches, ballots, and a voting booth with a locked box for the completed ballots.

Preparations for this election had been underway for months, as the seventh and eighth grade students nominated candidates for the office of President and Vice President, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students chose their nominees for Student Council Representative. Three political parties were formed. The Community Party platform was based on the belief that the group is more important than the individual; the Individual Party felt that the individual should come first; and the Collaborative Party's emphasis was on everyone working together. After much deliberation, the following candidates were nominated:

**President:** Josh Goldstein (Community), Josh Diamant

(Individual), Hayley Rusgo (Collaborative)

**Vice President:** Sammy Lerner (Community), Paige Rabinowitz (Individual), Rachael Hall (Collaborative)

**Fourth Grade Student Council Representative:** Zach Kurtz, Lauryn Baratz, Sydney Rusgo, Hannah Farrell, Yehuda Oppenheim

Unlike the candidates at the national level, our participants never lost sight of their Jewish values and respect for one another. There was no mud-slinging or negative campaign signs or speeches; each candidate focused on programs and strategies that could be implemented to make student life at CJDS even more meaningful and enjoyable.

Candidates visited each classroom to introduce themselves, outline their goals, answer questions, and solicit the students' support in the election. The "hot-button" issues that were raised in these classroom discussions included: How will you make our school a better place? How can we get quality playground equipment and keep it in good shape so we can enjoy it? Can we have another field trip to go along with our insect discovery unit? Could we break recess down into two 20-minute breaks instead of one 30-minute recess?

When the ballots were counted and the results were announced over the intercom, there was foot-stomping, clapping, and cheering that could be heard all over the school. This was truly a lesson in

democracy, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie for our entire school community. Josh Goldstein is our new President, Sammy

Lerner is Vice President, and Zach Kurtz is the Lower School Student Council Representative. Congratulations to everyone. ☆



The voter registration table.



Josh Goldstein and Sammy Lerner congratulate each other on their victories.



Casting votes.