

Schools

All I Ever Needed to be Thankful for I Learned in Preschool

By Elka Bernstein, director,
Charlotte Jewish Preschool

In my day, there was no such thing as preschool. I played at my mother's feet while she cooked and cleaned. I rode in the taxi with my mother as she ran errands and was amazed at the bigger world around me. In the afternoons, I ran around outside as my mother drank coffee and talked to neighbors. I guess you could say my mother was my first preschool teacher. She read with me, colored with me, watched my dramatic performances, taught me Judaica as she cooked the holidays meals, shined the silver, walked to shul and lit the candles for Shabbat. My mother made me thankful for the safe cozy world around me.

Fast forward 42 years and preschool has become a part of the early childhood experience. Families come to our preschool, so they can learn, grow and con-



Miss Lois and Miss Carol with their pre-K class.

nect with the community. It is true that children learn everyday at our school, but it is equally true that we re-learn some very important things from the children.

Children innately know what to be thankful for. There are no internal struggles when asked by the teachers what they are thankful

for. Our Pre-K class leads the way in reminding us of all the things we need to remember to be thankful for.

Colin, Lily, Eden and Maya remind us to be thankful for our parents and our siblings. They already know how important family is and as adults, sometimes we

forget.

Shad, Ethan D. and Joshua are thankful for gorillas, sea turtles and tigers. With "progress," adults have forgotten the delicate balance of nature. Children remind us each day to be thankful and respectful of God's beautiful animal creations.

Along the same lines, Aidan, Ethan S. and Mason are thankful for the creation of trees, the green grass and the beautiful flowers. Through their young eyes, grown-ups stop and look at the beauty of God's world.

Martin and Rebecca are thank-

ful for all the things that warm our bodies and imaginations; the sun and rainbows.

As a child, I never went to preschool. However, all I ever need to be thankful for I relearn each day through our preschoolers' eyes. So as I walk the halls, I remember to be thankful for what is truly important; the beauty and importance of God's creations, the warmth of the sun and our families in our lives.

The teachers and I are thankful for the laughter and the lessons our 223 preschoolers give us every day. ☆

JPS Afterschool Action A Big Hit

By Nancy Zolotorofe

This year, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis offered parents the option to extend their child's day with some rest and free play until 3 PM (for 2s and up), and also gave students in the 3s and 4s the chance to sign up for some fun afterschool enrichment classes. These classes include: Kids in the Kitchen (cooking with Morah Pessie); My Gym; Fine Motor Fun with Pathways to Learning; Music with Ms. Patty; and Sports with Coach Dan. "Whether it's because they work outside the home, juggle other children, or just need some 'me time,' many parents signed their children up and from what I'm hearing, they appreciate the flexibility that our new programs offer," says Jen Lahn, JPS director. Here's what some of the students have to say:



Esther Brooke Manoim moves to the beat during music class.

"I like to run and fall down on the mat in My Gym."

—Joshua Freedman

"I like playing the instrument sticks and dancing with Ms. Patty."

—Taylor Wojnowich

"Morah Pessie lets me mix the ingredients all by myself."

—Luke Zolotorofe

"In My Gym, we do special activities that we don't get to do in regular school."

—Max Ganem

"I like to play soccer in sports class."

—Jake Mucatel

"Ms. Patty does the best chicken dance."

—Oliver Halverstam

"I like cooking because I get to see Morah Pessie and make yummy treats."

—Trevor Lan

Alison Rosenberg: Academic and Professional Success; Thanks to CJDS

Since CJDS alumna Alison Rosenberg was our Open House guest speaker three years ago, she has continued to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way.

Last June, she completed her two-year commitment teaching 6th grade at a school in the Bronx, NY with Teach for America. Teach for America recruits outstanding college graduates from all backgrounds and career interests. For two years, teachers provide an education for low income, urban and rural public school children. Teach for America provides the training and support necessary to ensure their success as teachers and helps eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our nation's most promising future leaders. While working full time, she also received her Masters in Education

from Pace University.

Rosenberg's Teach for America commitment has now ended. Today, she is an English and social studies instructor, coincidentally, at the same public school in the Bronx. She continues to develop curriculum and was instrumental in writing a large grant that was awarded to her school. Alison's piece of the grant writing related to parent education and child nutrition & health-care. She will be facilitating a program this year touching upon these aspects.

Alison is the essence of our mission statement because she is an accomplished, motivated and lifelong learner who recognizes the value of all people even when it's difficult.

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Admissions Open House Dates

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m. | **Multicultural:** Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.