

# Schools

## Charlotte Jewish Preschool's New Green Team

By Meg McLendon

"Going green" is on many people's minds these days and at Charlotte Jewish Preschool, we have a new "Green Team" in place to put our eco-friendly ideas into action. Our team is made up of parents, CJP administrators and staff, as well as community leaders. And, it's not just about reducing, reusing, and recycling at school. It's also about inspiring CJP families to put these green practices into use at home and in their neighborhood.

It all starts with reducing waste and increasing our efficiency. One

of the main ways we will cut down on paper use is with our website. If you haven't checked out CJPkids.org yet, you should. We have all the information prospective families may need right at their fingertips and currently enrolled families can do everything from looking at the latest pictures of their children to logging their "fair share" hours. Soon, teacher newsletters, PTO news, food order forms, and committee updates will be available exclusively online. Plus, we also have some easy-to-use green tips online to help inspire families to

do their part. The more we all start doing online, the fewer pieces of paper will be sent home during the year. And on the topic of paper, we are more committed than ever to recycle all the paper we use in the CJP office.

But our eco-friendly efforts will be felt outside the main CJP office and in the classrooms more than ever this year. Each class will have a "recycling helper" to make sure we recycle all we can each day. Items that used to be tossed in the trash such as juice boxes will now be recycled. Also this year, we'll be focusing on the importance of reusing objects during art projects and will ask families to collect things like paper towel rolls instead of throwing them away. What a fun way to teach our kids about the importance of reusing.

Our green lessons will also take place outside the classroom and in the great outdoors. We'll be taking kids on more nature walks and creating specific activities for our young students to help them appreciate our environment. Long term, our plans include working closely with the Shalom Park community to expand our natural play areas, create areas specifically for composting our food scraps, add even more gardens for children to tend to, and get our families involved in outdoor activities with planned events such as family camp-outs.

Teaching children the importance of the 3Rs (reducing, reusing, and recycling) must be a team effort. By working together at home and at school, our children will gain important and early lessons about our impact on the



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planet. It's just another way the Charlotte Jewish Preschool is helping students learn about the world around them and how their choices affect it.

Learn. Grow. Connect. With our staff and families at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. For further information on how to enroll your child into our wonderful world of learning, please contact Alyson Kalik at 704-944-6866 or [akalik@shalomcharlotte.org](mailto:akalik@shalomcharlotte.org).

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### High Accolades for JPS

Receiving high accolades from a national study has JPS very proud this holiday season. There have always been a variety of tools available to assess the quality of the classroom practices in early childhood programs. However, we cannot forget about the importance of how the program is run and the quality of the organizational practices within the program. The Program Administration Scale (PAS) was designed to provide a reliable assessment of the overall quality of the administrative practices of early childhood education programs. JPS took part in the assessment this past spring and recently received the results - JPS scored



200% above the national norm!

The PAS assesses ten quality areas in a program: human resources, personnel costs and allocations, center operations, child assessment, fiscal management, program planning and evaluation, family partnership, marketing and public relations, technology and staff qualifications. JPS received scores above the national average in all areas.

The PAS assessment was designed to complement the five-star assessment that JPS has used for several years. While the PAS is not something that is mandated by the state or the five-star license, we participated in the assessment in an effort to continually improve our school. We scored 200% above the national norm and have been recognized for that achievement through some local efforts. Even with our high scores, there are always areas for improvement and both Jen Lahn, MSW Director of JPS and the JPS board will be looking at the results and will be certain to implement a strategic plan to make any necessary changes or adjustments.

As we embark on the holiday season it is very appropriate that we think about all of the blessings that we have received since last Rosh Hashanah and make a decision that the New Year will be the best ever. JPS will not only maintain the good that we have done thus far but we will add to it and make it even better. We will focus on the individual children whose parents trust in our care each day as well as JPS as a whole - it is both our privilege and obligation.

From our families to each of yours, we wish you a very happy, healthy and sweet new year. ☆

### How to Speak to Your Child About His/Her Day at Preschool

Helpful hints from four-year-old teacher Ms. Erica

Dad: "What did you do in school today?"

Child: "I played."

We have all had this exchange at one time or another with our preschooler. As you start the new school year, here are some helpful hints to elicit more meaningful and specific information from your preschooler about their day at school. To get better information, try asking more specific questions, such as:

"What centers did you play in today? Did you have a favorite?"

"Who did you sit next to at lunch?"

"Can you tell me something you played with on the playground? Did you go on the swing or slide?"

"Who was the Judaica helper today?"

"What book did your teacher read today? Can you tell me something about it?"

These questions are designed to be jumping off points for discussions with your children. It is not expected that your child will be able to answer all of the questions that you ask and we can't expect that each child will provide a lengthy answer, all children are unique.

We hope these helpful hints get you started as you engage with your children. ☆



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