

Schools

Todah, Todah, Todah!

By Elka Bernstein, Director,
Charlotte Jewish Preschool

Thanksgiving is a time for us all to reflect on the things we're thankful for – our good health, our beautiful families, and the close community we're all a part.

Thanks

Being thankful is not just a theme taught in November at the preschool, but an action that our preschoolers participate in each day at school. During the school day, our preschoolers say



Learning about tzedakah at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool.

Elementary school thought that the December holidays had arrived early. The school counselor called us the "Special Supply Fairy." The giving continued in October with a special food drive for Jewish Family Services. And this month, CJP will sponsor the 2nd annual Hanukkah Toy Drive to help Jewish Family Services provide gifts for families in our community. Though CJP students are the youngest members of our community, the joy they feel when they give to others is revealed in their faces.

Prayers

At many Thanksgiving tables around Charlotte, families will reflect on what they are thankful. Families will say special prayers. At CJP, our young students offer many insightful prayers. The Pre-K Class is made up of four and five year old students. Some of these prayers hold wisdom, and some hold laughter. Either way, our teachers do a great job teaching our children to say traditional Jewish Prayers, as well as teaching them to talk to God using their own words.

Ella: I am praying for my dad, my mom, my sisters and me to read a prayer book together.

Tamma: I am praying for my family to be healthy.

Zack: I pray for a bowling ball.

Diego: I pray for my teachers.
Olivia: I pray to keep my family safe.

Vincent: I pray for my pool.

Sam: I am praying for a pumpkin.

Noah: I am praying for a monster toy.

Sasha D.: I'm praying for animals not to be sick.

Evan and Rachel: I am praying for a rainbow inside.

Sarah: I am praying for toys.

Sasha L.: I am praying for little dolls.

Owen: I am praying for a skateboard.

Isabel: I am praying for messages from God.

Hazel: I am praying for the Kotel.

Oren: I am praying for a pet tiger.

Anastasia: I am praying for a new dress for mommy.

Come join our special community at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool to Learn. Grow. Connect. For enrollment information, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP administrator, at 704-944-6866 or aklaik@shalomcharlotte.org.



Charlotte Jewish Preschool
LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

WORK WITH A LEADER IN CHARLOTTE REAL ESTATE



704-926-2544 office
704-975-8500 cell
www.LepowRealtors.com



SouthPark Pediatrics

Welcoming new patients to our old-fashioned pediatric practice!

www.southparkpediatrics.net
704-522-6656

4601 Park Road, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28209

Dr. Katie S. Fine is excited to announce that she will be joining SouthPark Pediatrics this Fall!

Dr. Fine is an experienced pediatrician and author who shares Dr. Wyrick's philosophy of comprehensive pediatric care coupled with personal attention to nurturing children and families. Please call for a complimentary prenatal or "get to know you" visit.



Susan D. Wyrick, MD



Katie S. Fine, MD



"Todah," thank you, to God for their snack, and their lunch. The children say "Todah" to teachers for being helpful and to friends for sharing. Each Friday at CJP, our students sing the words, "Baruch Atah Adonai, thank you God." These 230 beautiful voices ring with appreciation for Shabbat, toys, friends, teachers and parents.

Giving

Learning to give back to the community is part of the education goals for our preschoolers and families. Each year, a tzedakah calendar is developed, so that every month, the children can perform acts of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Even though, we are only into our third month of preschool, the acts of loving kindness have already made a positive impact in the Charlotte community. In September, CJP collected school supplies that were then distributed to Temple Beth El and Temple Israel's partner schools. The teachers and students at Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling

Charlotte Jewish Day School Celebrates \$500K Prize

By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDS

Six hundred people attended a party on October 10, to celebrate Charlotte Jewish Day School's award of \$500,000 from the Kohl's Cares program. One might think the celebration was about the money. It could have been, but it wasn't. One might think the celebration was just about winning. It could have been, but that wasn't the real reason, either. From looking at the diversity of the crowd, it appeared to be more about people supporting people and people caring about others.

The majority of the people who

were at the party were not going to benefit directly from the money. They did not have children or grandchildren attending the school, nor had they ever had children or grandchildren who attended the school. They were simply people who cared about the Jewish community, Jewish continuity, Jewish education, and Charlotte Jewish Day School. It is not often that we see such altruistic actions. That is what we celebrate, and that is what we must celebrate every day.

But the question still is asked—so, what is Charlotte Jewish Day School going to do with the \$500,000 from Kohl's Department Stores? Five hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money. It can buy a lot of things. It can feed a lot of people.

Unfortunately, there are rules and guidelines we are required to follow when spending this money, and we must stay within those boundaries. An additional limitation is that Kohl's asks that we use the money within the next 12 months. So, when deciding how to spend the money, we made it a goal to improve and enhance the education we already provide so that our students can have even



CJDS celebrates their win.

more opportunities. We hope that making these choices will entice and attract more students to the school so that we will have the opportunity to educate more Jewish children. We hope that the choices will, in turn, save us money in the future so that we do not have to increase our "asks" from the community, the Federation, and our donors. We hope that these choices will help the community be proud of the day school in their midst.

We would like to use the award to provide financial assistance and a Jewish education for more students, but we can't.

We would like to use it to endow a middle school, but we can't.

We would like to use it to give our teachers the raises they deserve, but we can't.

(Continued on page 21)



704.556.8322
Park Road

704.541.0943
Arboretum

704.892.9020
Lake Norman



It's Royal Caribbean month at Mann Travels!
We're celebrating with onboard credit, free gifts and more!! Call your favorite Mann Travels agent for details or visit
www.manntravels.com/royalcaribbean