

Dreams of Becoming a Teacher Began at CJDS

By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDS

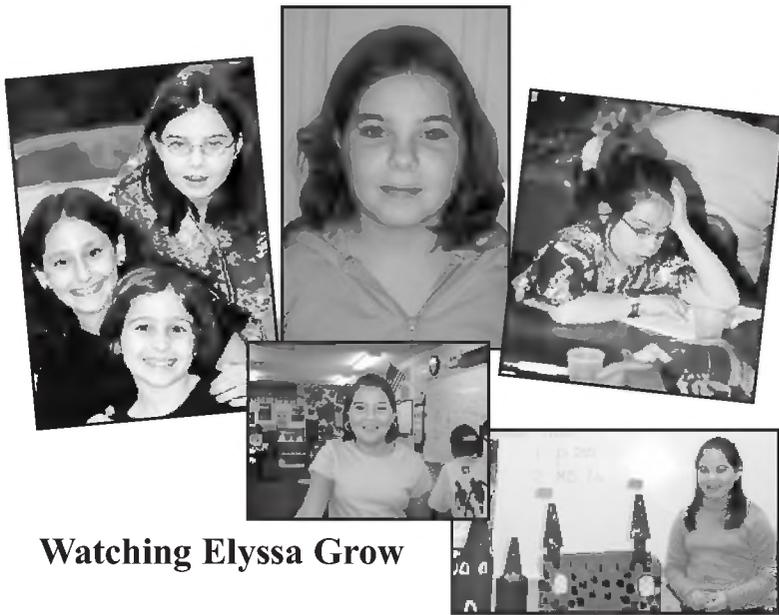
Last May I had the most wonderful experience. One of our graduates came back to school. No, she didn't come back because she needed to repeat. Rather, she came back because she was so inspired by her teachers that she wants to be a teacher and, to prepare for that career, she did her senior project in this area. She didn't choose to go to a "fancy" school, rather she chose her elementary school alma mater, CJDS.

I remember Elyssa all the way back to preschool. One of the sweetest little girls you would want in your class and school. Her mom told me that when Elyssa was in fourth grade she wanted a chalk board so she could play school, and play school she did. She wrote lesson plans and copied all that she saw in the classroom.

She had seven days to spend at the school last spring and all of the teachers who knew her during her school days wanted her to be in their classroom. It didn't take long for the newer teachers to want her, too. She is a born teacher. The sweetness is still there with the patience and devotion needed to be the success she yearns to be.

Elyssa blogged about her experience and I would like to share excerpts from the blog. It brought a smile to my face and I'm sure you'll enjoy it, too.

Elyssa Gorelick is a freshman at the University of South



Watching Elyssa Grow

Carolina and is pursuing a degree in Education.

I'm starting my project tomorrow morning. I'm excited to be working at the Charlotte Jewish Day School, and get a feel for what it is like to be an elementary school teacher. Since I went to CJDS for six years, it will be really nice to be back. I hope I am able to experience a few different grade levels, and get a better understanding of the daily schedule and routine of a teacher.

May 23, 2011

Today was a really good day. I started off with a group of third graders learning Hebrew. It was so interesting to see how the kids

interacted with each other, and the advantages/disadvantages of having a small class of about ten students. I personally loved the small classes because I felt that each child got the attention they needed and the teacher didn't have to dismiss any issue a student might have.

As I made my way through the different grades during the day, my favorites were third and fifth. I loved fifth because that is a really precious age and it seemed to me that the teacher I worked with today had an excellent relationship with the students. The third grade class I worked with today was excellent. I helped one girl in

particular with her multiplication facts and that was probably the most rewarding twenty minutes of my whole day. Watching her face light up when she was able to "win" all of the cards and master the problems that were so difficult at first was really amazing. I had an awesome first day, and I can't wait to go back tomorrow. I have a passion for teaching and I'm so excited for when I have my own classroom one day.

May 24, 2011

I've loved watching all of the teachers and as cheesy as it may sound, there isn't one teacher that I've worked with that hasn't been absolutely amazing. Every single teacher in that school clearly wants the best for their students and the school as a whole. The warm and safe (physically and emotionally) atmosphere makes it a wonderful place to be.

May 25, 2011

I was part of the program for the parents of the rising Kindergarteners; I answered their questions since I went to school at CJDS. I was impressed by the way the principal gracefully answered all of the parents' questions, no matter how random they were.

May 27, 2011

When you spend a lot of time with six year olds, you seem to encounter all sorts of things. As cute as they are, I can see how it could sometimes become frustrating to try to "handle" the entire class. I really like how they split

the class up into smaller groups, about seven kids per group, and have them switch back and forth between their classes. I also spent part of Friday in the fourth grade classroom. Their teacher was actually my fourth grade teacher as well, and I love the way she teaches. She is always calm, and never raises her voice, but her students seem to really listen to her and want to please her.

May 31, 2011

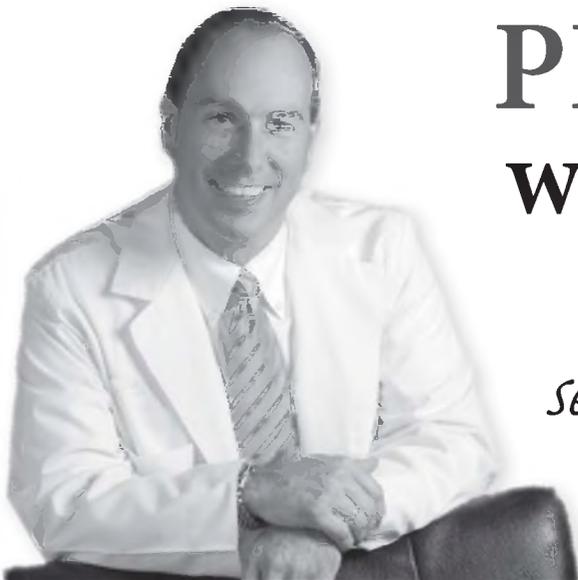
As always, I loved being in the third grade room, and I have really gotten to know every student in the class. I did some one-on-one multiplication games with them, and we played math bingo. Their energy can be overwhelming, but when they are told what to do, they almost always listen. They want to learn, and they really do want to please their teacher, who they clearly adore. I spent the end of the day watching the graduation practice, and it brought back wonderful memories.

June 1, 2011

I'm so sad that this is over. One day I will be back at CJDS to get a real job. ☆



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