

Demystifying the College Application Process

"I feel overwhelmed!" We hear this refrain way too often when meeting with families who are facing college admissions. Parents wonder why the application process seems so much more complicated than when they were applying to schools. How can they possibly understand this emotional and mysterious undertaking, which seems filled with trap doors and blind corners? They want to know about all the moving parts and how to manage them.

College counselors Ellen Martin and Laura Lewin discussed this predicament over coffee four years

ago. They realized that there was a tremendous gap in support services for families navigating the college application system. Too many students weren't getting what they needed from guidance counselors, but their families weren't able to hire a private college counselor to help them. With this realization, Ellen and Laura put their heads together to address the problem and designed a one-day comprehensive college admissions information session.

The Levine Jewish Community Center is proud to present its fourth annual College Admissions

101 event, "Demystifying the College Application Process," on Sunday, February 10 from 2-5:15 PM. The goal of this information-packed afternoon is to kick start the education of both students and parents. A wide range of seminars, covering "soup to nuts" topics, allow attendees to customize their experience to their needs. Participants are educated on "all you need to know about the college admissions process but were afraid (or didn't know) to ask."

The College Admissions 101 experience allows each attendee to choose four seminars from a

choice of, at least, nine subject areas. The admission price admits up to four family members. Each attendee gets to choose the particular seminars best suited to their interests. Topics include, "Which College is Right for You?," "How Colleges Make Admissions Decisions," "Writing the College Essay," "I Got In ... Now How Do I Pay?," "Testing...1...2...3 (SAT & ACT)," and many more. We invite you to come learn the dos and don'ts of college admissions from some of the best experts in the field. Ariel Krusch, the JCC's Teen and Group Services Coordinator,

Demystifying the College Application Process
February 10, 2-5:15 PM - Levine Jewish Community Center
\$140 per family.
To register, call Levine Jewish Community Center:
704-366-5007
Questions? Contact
Ellen Martin at
www.collegeadmissions101.org

knows this is on the minds of students today: "This event is such a great place to gather information and offers a place for both parents and students to have their questions answered." ☆

Schools

Shabbat To Go!

By *Dedee Goldsmith, director, Jewish Preschool on Sardis*

Shabbat is one of the most basic mitzvot the Jewish people can accomplish. It is a time to reflect, a time to pause from our busy lives, a time to rejoice as family and friends, and a time to eat delicious foods. The Jewish Preschool on Sardis is proud to announce one way of honoring this mitzvah: Shabbat to Go.

"Shabbat to Go" is the idea that we can virtually share a Shabbat meal with those who are hungry, those who are far from friends, those we wish to keep in our thoughts and prayers; all with the click of a button. For a couple years now, we've been baking

bread, donuts, and other goodies for our school and for our tremendously supportive donors. Short of opening up the JPS bakery, we've decided to share our delicious food with a delivered care package that anyone can order online or by calling our office.

JPS is proud to begin delivering our "Shabbat to Go" packages this February. Simply go to www.jpsonsardis.org/Shabbat-ToGo and choose your week to send your loved one a package that tells them you are thinking about them. Each package will in-



clude: candlesticks (decorated by JPS students), candles, JPS baked challah, and JPS made chicken soup (both challah and soup are kosher, nut free, dairy free). Jewish Preschool on Sardis volunteers will deliver the "Shabbat to Go" packages within a 20 mile radius of the school on Friday afternoons.

The mitzvah for JPS is that we will donate a "Shabbat to Go" package twice a month to a family in need in partnership with Jewish Family Services. We are eager to help our Charlotte community and to virtually celebrate Shabbat with many over the coming months.

All this community building makes my mouth water for a taste of Shabbat. If it does the same for you, consider volunteering. We could use extra kitchen help at our cooking marathon days, delivery drivers, food shoppers, and packaging masters. Please email info@jpsonsardis.org to find out how you can get involved in our "Shabbat to Go" program.

Suggested donation for packages is \$18. Recipient possibilities are endless: new moms, new neighbors, elderly, someone needing a pick me up, or someone you want to say "I love you" to. Send one to someone you love this Shabbat.

Need more information about Shabbat to Go or our preschool programs? Please call 704-364-

8395 or visit our website at www.jpsonsardis.org. ☆

JPS would like to give special thanks for the continued support from:
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CJDS pointed me in the right direction!



Rebecca Raffler, Pre-Med
Brandeis University

CJDS was 100% the best place for me!

Being able to grow up in an environment that taught Judaic studies has definitely shaped the person I am today. I appreciate the sense of self that I have now and realize that it stems from my time at CJDS. I am so comfortable with who I am as a Jew and I move easily among all groups of people, no matter where I find myself.

CJDS is a small but enriching environment. The teachers were able to focus on me individually. No one was ever left out and each student got the support that they needed.



It was almost like one-on-one learning! Although I might not have appreciated the extra attention at the time, I know it was what enabled me to succeed throughout my school years.

Elementary school at CJDS gave me the foundation I needed for high school and college. I couldn't be more proud to be a CJDS graduate!