Schools

CJDS Celebrates Its Bar Mitzvah Year

It is hard to believe that Charlotte Jewish Day School is now in our thirteenth year as a community day school and we are looking forward to celebrating this milestone. Over 525 students in kindergarten through fifth grade have passed through the hallways, trailers, and classrooms. The school has grown from a small "mom and pop" shop on the hill, to a well-respected independent school here in Charlotte and nationally in the broader realm of Jewish Day Schools. CJDS is now a member of RAVSAK and is accredited by the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Independent Schools.

This "coming of age" celebration provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of all of the parents and community members who made the commitment to Jewish education for their children and who had the vision for its importance in the Charlotte Jewish community. As it happens, CJDS has been given a great opportunity to celebrate in a very unique way. The AVI CHAI Foundation has offered CJDS a matching grant for money raised through social media, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. So we've decided to have a "Virtual Bar Mitzvah.'

We hope that the Bar Mitzvah will prove to re-engage our alumni and their families, and to raise some necessary funds. (Some things never change.) And as a bonus, as part of this campaign, we have the opportunity to receive a dollar for dollar match from the Avi Chai Foundation for up to \$10,000 for all donations made through a social media fundraiser. We believe that this "Virtual Bar Mitzvah" will accomplish all of these things with your help.

Our first CJDS graduates are now young adults in their twenties, settled in other communities across the country. These early ment to Jewish Day School edu-

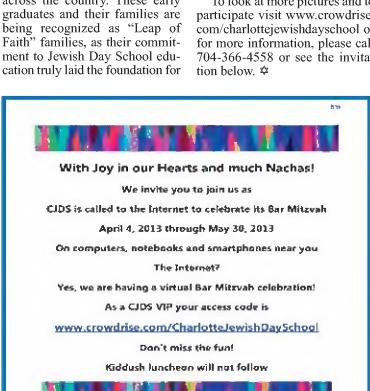


the community school and for the hundreds of children that followed. The class of 2000 was the first graduating class, and some of the students are now in Business School, working at Fortune 500 companies, and working in the medical field. Our graduates are reconnecting with CJDS and sharing their journey's and stories of

The first part of the celebration was the introduction of "Flashback Fridays" on Facebook. Each Friday, class pictures from early grades at CJDS are posted on the Charlotte Jewish Day School Facebook page. Former students and their families flock to the Facebook page each Friday to see if they can identify the students and reminisce about the school days on the hill in the trailers.

You may not be familiar with the name, but Crowdrise, is the most popular web platform used for marathons and other charity walks. This is the template that CJDS will be using for the Bar Mitzvah. There will be many old pictures and videos from the school's first days, so visiting the page will elicit many fond memories. Each graduating class will be highlighted on the Crowdrise page and visitors will be able to add more photos.

To look at more pictures and to participate visit www.crowdrise. com/charlottejewishdayschool or for more information, please call 704-366-4558 or see the invita-









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