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Celebrate the Week of the Young Child at the Jewish Preschool on Sardis

The giggle of a little one can be contagious. Witnessing a little one recite the bracha in dramatic play before their pretend meal is heart warming. Observing a little one master climbing the rope on the playground is inspiring. It is the little moments collectively added together that make up early childhood. Nothing reminds us more to honor these milestones than the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Week of the Young Child.

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The 2013 Week of the Young Child™ is April 14-20 and the theme is Early Years Are Learning Years®. (www.naeyc.org)

In addition to the programs and

services, we also bring public attention to those that make it happen: parents, teachers, the children themselves. Parents are the backbone of early learning. JPS witnesses this dedication on a daily basis. Parents take the time to come in and converse with teachers at the beginning or end of the day. Parents volunteer for in and out of school projects to support JPS and community efforts that matter to their family. Parents support the basic need to find the best care for their children simply by enrolling their child at JPS, attending Mommy & Me classes and participating in enrichment classes.

The Jewish Preschool on Sardis staff is continually going above and beyond to find ways to improve her craft and evolve into the best teacher she can be. That may be in the form of reading articles or conducting research to help a child overcome an obstacle. It may be in the form of registering for a class or program to take their formal education to the next level or it may be simply getting down on a child's level to hear their perspective and respect their voice. To honor Week of the Young Child, JPS will host a staff training to learn more practical applications to use in the class-

And most importantly, Week of the Young Child honors children. The first 300 weeks of life are the most critical for brain development and sets them on the course for positive social and educational development. The Jewish Preschool on Sardis strives to honor that daily with loving care, appropriately challenges to meet and exceed each need a child has and to allow them for success. The culmination of the week will end with our 3rd Annual Kids on the Run held at JPS. Children will exercise their ability on the track and celebrate all they are and all they will become.

If you would like more information about Kids on the Run or any programs the Jewish Preschool on Sardis offers, please call our office at 704-364-8395 or visit www.jp-

At JPS we have a blast celebrating Purim. We started with a costume parade followed by a carnival, we gave our friends,

Purim Baskets, Rabbi Weiss read the megillah and of course we at delicious hamentashen.







Mordechai on his horse.

It's Always Sunny for the "Raneys"

By Jason Stoogenke

Jackson "Jack" Raney is a man ... a little man that is ... of few

He can talk up a storm, but he prefers to choose his words wisely. Carefully. When he says something, you know it's well thought out.

Ask him what he likes best about CJP or the 3s, he smiles.

It isn't until his friend, Owen, says, "The dinosaurs!" that Jack's big, dark eyes grow wide and he pipes up, "Yeah!" "Yeah!"

That word says it all.

His older brother, Nathan, a distinguished CJP alum, puts it differently.

Even though Nathan's in first grade - and that means he's been out of CJP for a whole two years he can still remember what he liked best.

Playing was "pretty fun."

He just wishes CJP had the new, "cool" playground when he was a student there.

Now, when he goes to pick up Jack, he finds himself drawn to the swings and enjoys "all the babies trying to get me."

(And like so many students past and present this author has interviewed over the months, Nathan seems to have a real fascination with the elevator.) But when Mom, Gen, and Dad, Bev, look at Nathan, they praise CJP for preparing him for elementary school.

Nathan started CJP mid-year.

The other children knew each other already.

But Gen says the teachers were very "welcoming" and "shaped him," that there was no "singling

They say Nathan changed "a lot for the better" in just months.

"Ah, just wonderful," Bev chimes in. "A loving environment ... no way he would have been prepared the way he was."

And he's not just talking about reading, knowing the alphabet for kindergarten, going "gangbusters" on letters as Bev calls it.

Teachers nurtured Nathan's confidence, behavior, and listening skills.

He walked right into elementary school after that "knowing what's

what," Bev says. They also like how Nathan and Jack, who are not Jewish, are learning another language and traditions.

They find it endearing to hear Hebrew in the house.

"It's good for them to be aware of different cultures," they agree.

Charlotte Jewish

Preschool

Then, there's the practical side of preschool they love about CJP. The bottom line is they both work. They need full day school.

"There's a reason we have them," Gen boils it down, like her gumbo, being the Louisiana native she is.

And they are glad CJP's "got it under control."

"I don't have to worry that I'm going to get a phone call about every little thing," Gen says.

"Oh, yes!" Bev jumps in, as if Gen took the words out of his mouth. "That's huge!" Not every school is like that.

They say CJP only calls if there is a real reason. A health issue or something equally serious. That CJP calls "when you'd expect [it]

That gives them peace of mind Jack is in good hands.

Speaking of Jack, he hears Mom and Dad talking about his school. He throws in a smile here and there. Maybe a shrug if they

ask him if he agrees. Then, he throws out an-

other carefully chosen word.

"Playground!"

Older brother Nathan would agree.

Let the sun shine on your child. For more information about having your child

Learn, Grow, and Connect with us, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP registrar, at 704-944-6776 or akalik@shalomcharlotte.org. Half day enrollment for the 2013/2014 school year for children ages 1 to 5 is currently underway. ♥

