

A Busy Year Planned for CJP

"While we think CJP is great, we still do get feedback on ways the school can improve," said Charlotte Jewish Preschool's President of the Board of Directors Eric Wisotsky. That's why he and the other volunteers spend hours behind the scenes, helping the school constantly evolve. Of course, there are the usual high-

lights this time of year, like the August new parent orientation and Curriculum Night (October 2). All parents have received a Parent Teacher Organization packet and were invited to events like the family play date at the CJP playground on September 8. "It's a time we can get all the CJP

families together, including siblings, and enjoy a light lunch while socializing with new and old friends," said PTO President Andrea Davids. Something new and exciting this year with the PTO is that members will receive a special t-shirt for their children to wear to our amazing Friday Shabbat program each week. "We

made sure the shirts are comfortable," Davids said, "so students and teachers want to wear them." The front says, "It's Shabbat..." and the back says, "Challah!!!" The goal is for everyone to wear them on Fridays, with each grade sporting a different color shirt. Davids and her team are also working on "Moms' Night Out" on October 24, just for CJP mothers. She laughed when asked, "So what time do all the Dads get to show up with the kids?"

The CJP Board and PTO are also involved with fundraising for the school. Parents have a chance to buy and sell the "GoPlaySave" books, formerly the Citipass books. But, there are also the bigger projects that ebb and flow each year, keeping people interested and attracting new attention. The CJP leadership put together a large presentation to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for extra funding. CJP has traditionally used those funds to help CJP parents who can't afford the whole tuition. Last year, the Federation gave \$29,400 to CJP to



help many families through these hard economic times.

And speaking of fund-raising, for the third year in a row, CJP is teaming up with Charlotte Jewish Day School and Jewish Preschool on Sardis to present the latest "Joined in Education" program. After last school year's successful event on bullying, this school year, the three groups are hosting three nationally renowned authors. Barbara Coloroso, author of *Kids Are Worth It*, writes on parenting, especially discipline and conflict resolution. Ashley Merryman, author of *NurtureShock*, focuses on when to praise and when not to praise your child. Rick Lavoie, author of *The Motivation Breakthrough: Six Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child*, concentrates on getting children engaged in learning, especially ones with special needs. The event will include a town hall-style panel discussion with questions and answers at Spirit Square on January 22 and workshops at a day-long event at Shalom Park on January 23.

While this is a way that all three Jewish schools raise money, this is also a way to provide the community with speakers they may not get to hear otherwise and not have the chance to have "Q and A" with. It's not just about fund-raising, "it's become more of a service that we're doing for the community with an educational process," said Wisotsky.

Wisotsky also said CJP is at the front end of implementing the strategic plan, something directors expect to take four to six years to complete. They're looking at ways to keep up with the times and expand students' educational experience, including better use of technology and more communication through social media. Meanwhile, Davids and other PTO leaders are also looking ahead, to two social events for spring. The first, a 25th Anniversary party for CJP is March 1, adults only, at Temple Israel. "It's going to be a very nice celebration while enjoying a Parents' Night Out," said Davids. The other event, a CJP Family Dance, will be held on a Saturday night toward the end of the school year, complete with a DJ, food, and fun for all.

For more information about becoming part of our community or enrolling your child in the current year, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP registrar, at 704-944-6776 or akalik@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆

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--Yiddish Proverb

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Can you give a child too much praise?

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Discussions about these questions will benefit all adults who love and work with children:

- parents
- teachers
- school administrators.

Following the popularity of the TEDTalks format, this year, the stage will be shared by three nationally-renowned educational speakers:

ASHLEY MERRYMAN
Co-author of the New York Times bestseller *NurtureShock*. She has won the American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for Journalism, two Clarion Awards and The Mensa Press Award.

BARBARA COLOROSO
Internationally-recognized speaker and author about parenting, teaching, school discipline, conflict resolution and reconciliatory justice.

RICK LAVOIE
Author of *The Motivation Breakthrough* and a renowned curriculum developer with expertise working with special needs children.

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