

Schools

Why Does My Child Love Judaica?

"We need schools based on love. We need schools at which people passionately love what they are doing, love what they are teaching, love what they are learning, where teachers love their colleagues, students love their teachers, teachers love their students, parents love the school, where everyone is joined by a passionate vision of excellence and human flourishing. Such schools cannot be mandated or created by force. They must be freely chosen by all parties involved." - Michael Strong, Jewish Educator

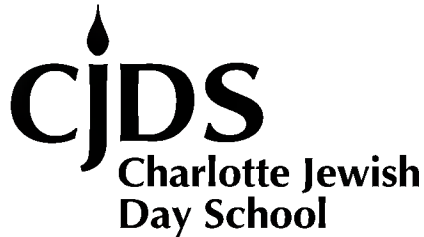
See more at: <http://ejewishphilanthropy.com/autonomy-mastery-and-religious-purposefulness-in-jewish-education>

We so agree. The younger the child, the more perceptive they are. They can recognize when a teacher loves, lives, and breathes what they teach. At Charlotte Jewish Day School, we are fortunate to have a faculty steeped in love for teaching. This passion is readily apparent, for example, in the high test results from the ERB tests in comparison to other independent schools, across our general studies classes. Our success with our Judaic program is more evident in the joy and engagement for our students in Judaism. Rochel Vorst, the Kindergarten Judaica Teacher at CJDS wrote the following in response to the often asked question, "Why is my

child specifically enamored with their Judaica classes?"

By Rochel Vorst

"My child LOVES your class!" I hear these words over and over again, year after year during my



10 years of teaching kindergarten Judaica. I know it's not just me, but all the many other Morot (teachers) around the world who are privileged to teach children all about being Jewish. So before my head gets too big for my sheitel, I once again remind myself that it's not me! It's the subject I teach.

Teach a child that there is a God watching over them, a God who created the whole world, a God who is capable of making miraculous things happen. A God who they can address and talk to, simply by reciting the prayers and blessings. The child feels protected and safe.

Teach a child that they have their own special language. A language that belongs to them, a language that God used to write the Torah even before the world was created. A child will feel special and honored.

Teach a child that they are part of a family of Jewish people. A family headed by three fathers and four mothers whose kindness was legendary, who were teachers and moral leader of the world they lived in. A child will feel a sense of belonging.

I am one of those lucky adults who absolutely loves going to work every day. (Ok, maybe not on days that the baby kept me up the night before.) I am privileged to see my students' precious faces light up with joy and understanding when they learn these beautiful concepts. I get to watch them absorb new knowledge and internalize crucial lessons.

The more I think about it, it is the parents that need to be complimented. By making the sometimes difficult choice to enroll their child in a Jewish school, parents are communicating priorities to their children. They are telling their children loud and clear just what is most important in this sometimes confusing world of ours, that there is a God watching over us. They are providing their children with the gift of belonging. They are showing their children how lucky they are to have the gift of the Torah.

And I, their teacher, am humbly grateful to each and every parent who has entrusted their precious children into my care, and allowed me to share their journey of a Jewish education.

I think you can understand why our students love everything about being Jewish. ☆



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Save the Date To Visit CJP

Mark your calendar for Friday, January 10, 2014. The Charlotte Jewish Preschool will kick off our open enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year at 9:30 AM on January 10. We'll be showcasing our amazing preschool to prospective families who will be looking for the perfect place for their children to build a strong foundation for their secular and Jewish education. At our open house, we will explore all aspects of our preschool from being part of the Board of Directors to how we teach in the classroom. At CJP, we:

* understand the uniqueness of the individual. Each child has a unique pattern and timing of development, as well as in individual personality, learning style and family background. Our curriculum and teachers' interactions with children are responsive to these individual differences.

* engage the children with hands-on learning through experiencing and doing.

* celebrate curiosity so that children become eager and active learners.

* provide academic content of literacy and mathematics presented through integration of classroom experiences.

* purposeful planning and interaction which supports children's growth in areas of physical, social, emotional and cognitive/language development.



* enjoy weekly activities like Library, Gym, Music, Judaica, and Science.

Our school has built a warm community, thanks to the warmth and love from our CJP families. For more information about becoming part of our community or about enrollment for the 2013/14 school year, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP registrar, at 704-944-6776 or akalik@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆



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