

Schools

Reflections

By Jenny Tucker

The Charlotte Jewish Preschool will begin registration for the 2014-2015 school year at our Open House on Friday, January 10. We welcome families to visit our school community to discover the special place we call CJP. CJP will give your child all the tools to learn and your family a place to grow and connect. Each year, we ask families to write thoughts about their experience, so you can see our school through their eyes.

When we first started our journey at CJP four years ago, we weren't very involved in the Jewish community. Being an interfaith couple, we had not really done much exploring or participating in community events. Sometimes having children can change your perspective on things and the day we went to the Open House at CJP, we knew that it was the place for Lia. Right away we felt at home at the school and had a sense that CJP was the caring and nurturing environment that we were hoping to find for our daughter. We found that and so much more ... through Lia's friendships that started at CJP, we have found our "Charlotte Jewish family" that we continue to celebrate milestones and holidays with, even though our children are in different schools now.

We cannot say enough about

how caring and supportive the staff has been at CJP. Our family received exciting and shocking news around this time three years ago. We found out that we were having twins. As excited and thrilled with the news as we were, we were also concerned about what this would mean for Lia and how she would adjust to getting a brother and a sister at the same time. The support and nurturing that Lia received from her teachers and our family received as whole from the staff was incredible. The foundation of relationships that Lia had with her friends and teachers and her comfort level at CJP really helped with her adjustment to our new family dynamic. We really feel that the consistent and nurturing care that she received at CJP really helped her transition to role of being a big sister times two.

CJP is such a family friendly school. It just feels natural to want to participate in the PTO and volunteer. Big or small, every contribution or effort is appreciated.

Graduation last year was bittersweet as it was time for Lia to move on to kindergarten. CJP prepared her well for kindergarten and her transition has been seamless. However, it was harder on this momma than I thought it would be. I was used to knowing all of her friends and their families and being part of a small, close knit community. Eventually

I followed her lead and I am happy to say that I have adjusted to kindergarten.

Thank goodness it was time for the twins to start preschool and we did not have to say goodbye to CJP yet. Jake and Sydney started preschool this year and we are happy to say that their first school experience has been just as wonderful as Lia's experience. Jake and Sydney were already comfortable at CJP before they even started school because of the warm and welcoming staff. We are so glad that we still have a few years left on our CJP journey.

Please visit us experience for yourself our school and community that the Tucker Family have enjoyed. We are happy to give you a tour at your convenience or plan on attending our Open House on Friday, January 10 beginning at 9:30 AM. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Alyson Kalik at akalik@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-944-6776. We look forward to meeting you.

Learn Grow Connect ✨



Through the Eyes of a JPS Student

It's time for Mom to drop me off at JPS for school. We pull into the parking lot and I wave to the grownups waiting for me at carpool. Once I give Mommy hugs and kisses, I get out of the car and high five teachers that take me to my classroom. Before I get to class, I wave to some of the little kids going to the little kids' classroom and their Moms and Dads. When I was little, that was my classroom but now I'm a big kid. I see my teacher at the door, waiting to give me my morning hug.

I love being able to take out my lunch and put away my backpack and wash my hands all by myself. As I walk over the rug, I see my teachers have hung up my picture on the bulletin board. I love looking at all the art my friends and I



Levi and Harel selling ice cream on the playground.

jobs; today I'm the mitzvah helper.

After circle, it's time to play. I get to choose any place in the classroom but today I choose to build a hotel with my friends in the block area first. Next, I think I will go help my friends paint the sculpture our whole class made last week. Or maybe I will go to the listening center to hear a story. I can't wait to go outside to play after choice time inside. We are going to pick vegetables from our garden. I hope I get to pick an eggplant. My Mom and Dad talk about my teachers telling them about how much I'm learning, but to me it just feels like fun.

Walking back to my classroom after the playground we pass by the office. I love waving to the office workers.

That reminds me ... I think that next play time I will make a picture for Ms. Dedee's office. She has a museum in there, where more of my friends art hangs. I remember seeing that when I was sick and waited for Dad to pick

me up. She sat and read stories to me while I waited. After we get back to my classroom, it's time

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Mussi, Meir, Ms. Chaya, and Rivka walking starting their school day

make at school; it's just like being in a museum. When the day starts at circle time, I get to say good morning to my friends who are at school today. Circle time is fun and I get my job for the day. My teachers know I can do lots of



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