

Expressing Thankfulness: The Staff of the Jewish Preschool on Sardis

By Dedee Goldsmith, director, JPS

“Gratitude is thankfulness—complete appreciation. Gratitude is honoring with graceful exclamation. It’s conscious praise for blessings that have touched your life somehow. Gratitude acknowledges the richness of right now.”

This quote is from a children’s book called *Alphabet Living*, written and illustrated by a friend, Dr. Bee and her husband, Hobo Dan. It epitomizes the time of year in which we give thanks to those people, things and situations that enrich our lives and challenge us to become more.

This year, more than ever, I am so grateful for JPS and the supporters of our school. This past year, our talented staff successfully renewed our North Carolina Early Childhood 5 Star status. Through the generosity of our parents, supporters and alumni, we were able to reach our Annual Fund challenge. In the coming weeks, we are growing and expanding, yet again, with the opening of our infant program. It takes a lot of help and support to make all of that happen and for that, I am grateful.

JPS would not be what it is without the talented staff:

Ms. Kate: I am grateful for your dedication and commitment to our program. You continually grow and enrich the lives of children and families by learning and sharing and laughing with each



Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Jenny with Avi.



Ms. Beverly and Ms. Elizabeth.

group that passes through your classroom, year after year.

Ms. Elizabeth: I am grateful that you’ve found your home at JPS. From day one, your playful, gentle, and inquisitive nature has been a perfect fit with our 4s class.

Ms. Ellen: I am so grateful for your easygoing and gentle nature. Each toddler and their families are enriched by your commitment to helping them reach goals, make transitions and grow that classroom over the year.

Ms. Chaya: I am so grateful for your fun loving spirit, dedication to learning and growing in early childhood education, and for your genuine love of each child you care for in extended day.

Ms. Jennifer: I am grateful for

the fun, boisterous spirit you bring to the classroom. Each child feels loved and appreciated because you are there to support them, cheer them on, and guide them as they grow over the year.

Ms. Jayme: I am grateful for your organization and well thought out plans for a stellar Judaica program across every age group. Your enthusiasm shows as children seek you out each morning and as parents retell songs and stories they’ve learned about being Jewish.

Ms. Galia: I am grateful for your understanding of best practices in early childhood, for your loving nature, and for your creativity. Each thing you do at JPS is done with a smile and with

commitment and the families, the children, and the staff, see you as a grand team player.

Ms. Jenny: I am grateful for the F-U-N nature you provide as a classroom teacher and for the very approachable style you have with the families. The fun and warmth you offer is a perfect fit for our family friendly program.

Ms. Wanda: I am grateful for your commitment to lifelong learning and your growth as a teacher. Your excitement about what you learn spreads like wildfire for the rest of the team and the children ultimately benefit from the skills and activities you share.

Ms. Beverly: I am grateful for your long term commitment to our school. A living legend is present

among us each day. Your leadership and mentoring to other staff is genuine and generous, enabling our school to continue to provide the best care and education around.

Ms. Patty: I am grateful for the playful and musical spirit you bring to JPS each week. Music enriches the lives of the children and all of our families and we appreciate you squeezing us into your busy, busy schedule.

Ms. Leah: I am grateful for your time that you commit to helping us continue the fun activities of the school, the extras we would not be able to do without your time and dedication. Your love for this school is crystal clear.

Ms. Lisa: I am grateful for all you do to assist the teachers, help me, organize the office and take on so much of the day to day functioning of the administrative piece of a school. You are a great support and a great friend to each child, parent, teacher, and to me.

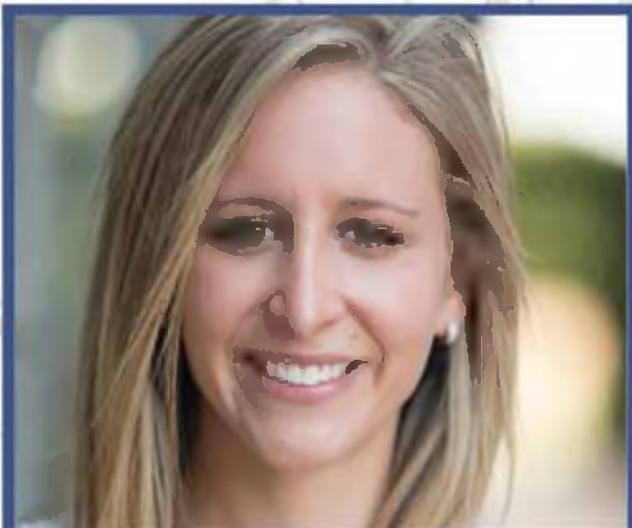
JPS Board members: I am grateful for your talents, your time, and your dedication to helping JPS thrive.

What a lucky director I am! ☆



jpsonsardis.org ★★★★★ 5-Star Preschool
Early Childhood Development & Jewish Discovery

CJDS pointed me in the right direction!



Kaitlin Laxer
USC Graduate, Pre-Dental

Two years ago I had the amazing opportunity to visit Israel. While attending this Birthright trip, I realized that while everyone on my trip was Jewish, everyone’s knowledge of Judaism was different. It didn’t take long for me to realize that I was one of the few on my trip who had grown up with a solid Jewish education.

While wandering the streets of this beautiful country, I could communicate with the locals. While passing through the galleries, I knew that a spice box that looked like a nice trinket was actually part of a Havdalah post-Shabbat ritual. I was able to appreciate the Shabbat service, not just because it brought back fond memories, but because I had grown up learning its significance.

During my eleven days visiting Israel, I became incredibly thankful for the years that I spent learning and growing at CJDS. Because of my upbringing at the Charlotte Jewish Day School, I am able to live in a secular world and be proud of who I am and where I come from.

I pursue higher education knowing how proud my Jewish parents, grandparents, and ancestors would be. I am so grateful that my journey started in a classroom surrounded with loving teachers and classmates who share a bond deeper than any of us can imagine. CJDS became my home in 1997, remains my home today, and will hopefully be a place that my children one day call home.

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, October 29, 9:30am-11:30am or Thursday, November 13, 11:30am-1:30pm

PRESCHOOL VISITATION

Friday, November 14, 1:15pm



For more info, call 704.366.4558 or visit CJDSCHOOL.org.

