

School

Charlotte Jewish Day School Hosts RAVSAK Small School Get Together

Charlotte Jewish Day School was honored to host a regional Jewish Day School meeting sponsored by RAVSAK, the national network for Jewish Community

Day Schools. Twenty three heads of school visited Charlotte from Memphis, New Orleans, Greensboro, Durham, Charleston, and Birm-

ingham to spend 24 hours together to network, discuss, and brainstorm how to better our practice and improve our schools. What was so special about this gathering is that our schools have so much in common. We're all small (close to 100 students), and in small southern Jewish communities. It was refreshing to share similar challenges, to hear new ideas and to confirm successes. Marc Kramer, executive director from RAVSAK, was our facilitator and shared experience and data from the field to help guide the discussion. Much thanks to Kosher Charlotte for the delicious meals and to RAVSAK for sponsoring much of the expense of the conference. ☆



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Creating Traditions of Giving at Chanukah

By Dedee Goldsmith, director, Jewish Preschool on Sardis

Chanukah is just around the corner. A time of togetherness. A time of gift giving. I know each year I get asked by many parents what are good gifts to give. Any child can point to the items they see in stores, on TV, in magazines. How about considering some alternatives to the traditional gifts, like toys, this year? There is no greater gift than the gift of time, for you or for your children. These years go by so quickly so this

year, consider a gift of cherishing those moments when your babies are right there, eager to be with you.

Consider taking a day trip to a place you've not explored yet. The mountains, the beach, a small town. Look up places together that you would like to visit there; a museum, a restaurant, a hiking trail, a quaint shop, there are so many things to explore in new areas.

Consider the time of an experience together. How about that new movie coming out or theater performance that is perfect for your child's age group. It creates memories for years to come and conversations for days following.

Consider sharing a membership. To the children's museum, art museum, nature center or any place you can keep enjoying the gift of time all year long.

Consider a gift of giving. Collect old things that are in good shape to donate to those in need. Or pool some tzedakah you find under the bed, in the cushions of the couch, from the piggy bank that is collecting dust and choose a place that is meaningful to your family for a donation.

Consider family reading time. This is a childhood memory for me and one I continue to do with my own family. The last night of Chanukah was book night. We had a family book, one we could read together or independently but we carved out reading time together. Aloud or silent, reading time together is not only a gift of

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