

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Empathy is the Superpower at CJDS

CJDS is starting out the new school year on a high, with increased enrollment, strong ERB/CTP4 test results, often outperforming the independent schools, a strong kindergarten class of 21 sweet children, and devoted, loving, and skilled teachers. One would think that we would be satisfied and bask in the good feel-

ing. We don't rest on our laurels, because we know that educating children, especially Jewish children carries a greater obligation. While we are mandated to teach reading, writing and arithmetic and more and to provide enjoyable experiences in a safe environment, we must and cannot forget that we are charged with the responsibility to shape, feed,

school year ends, every child from kindergarten on, can explain and demonstrate what the motto means to them.

"Empathy is our Superpower" is the motto that is guiding us this year. Although it is a concept that might be a bit deep for children, we have already seen results in the short time we have been at school.

from the door because people are often coming in and out and do not realize you might be standing right near it. Be Purposeful (in the bathroom) might mean do what you have to do in the bathroom and leave. It is not a place to stand around doing nothing because it typically will lead to trouble. Be Empathetic (in the lunchroom) might mean don't save seats because it might make someone feel unwanted. These were ideas that the children generated and illustrated on their posters showing that they understood what it would take to build a respectful, caring, and loving community.

We have introduced a song about empathy that we sing and could be heard playing in the morning. These are the lyrics that the kids sing and hear each day.

I don't know what it's like to be you.

I don't know what you have to go through.

But I can try to see the world through your eyes.

Put myself in your shoes and empathize.

Emphasize? No no no no

Empathize. Not emphasize. But empathize.

Entropy? No no no no

Empathy Not entropy. But empathy.

Every story has more than one side.

It's not about what's wrong or right.

Who's to judge what's good or bad?

What makes me laugh might make you mad.

Let's try to make a deal.

We'll listen to each other and see how the other feels.

With empathy we can understand.

We can solve our problems and make amends.

*The Sanctuary* AT STONEHAVEN  
ASSISTED LIVING *Reimagined*  
Only 5 Minutes from Shalom Park

Combining the luxuries of home with best-in-class care

Jewish ownership offers sensitivity to Jewish culture and interests. Our location - just minutes from the JCC - makes it an ideal choice for seniors looking to remain connected with the local Jewish community.

-Lev Saks, Owner

SanctuarySenior.com

704.233.3374



Visitors to CJDS are greeted by this poster near the front door.

and nurture their souls. We can impact their emotional and social skills that make them who they are, that effect how they interact with others and that ultimately predict their future satisfaction and happiness.

CJDS approaches this task with a plan of action that you might call CJDS Strategic Plan 2.0. Each year a motto or theme is planned so that all the activities, songs, and stories include this message. It starts out with a banner, a tag line, bulletin board, signs all over the school, and a song written specifically for the motto. Lessons on the motto take place through games and activities, so that by the time the

In addition, we have adopted the Responsive Classroom approach to classroom management by setting class rules where the students' are the ones providing clarification to the rules. Be Responsible, Be Empathetic, Be Purposeful, Be Safe. What does that mean? Too often, we adults think that our words are understood by children and possible even adults. But, they're not, and it is up to us to make meanings together with the person receiving our words. So, we asked the children what do these rules look like? What do they feel like? What do they sound like? Posters were designed and created by the students for all of the different spaces in the school such as the cafeteria, the hallways, the bathroom, and the playground, so all

*Head to toe. Love your look.*  
**\$750 OFF**  
**BREAST & BODY CONTOURING**

Whether you are interested in a **breast lift, tummy tuck, or liposuction**, our board-certified plastic surgeons can help you achieve the look you want. Take advantage of this offer\* today by scheduling your **FREE** cosmetic consult.

**704.542.2220**  
5815 Blakeney Park Dr., Suite 100  
Charlotte, NC 28277

**PIEDMONT PLASTIC SURGERY & DERMATOLOGY**  
www.ppsd.com

\*Offer valid Oct. 15-Nov. 19, 2018. Surgery must be completed within one month of booking.



Students make their own posters with rules for being responsible, purposeful, safe, and empathetic.

the children in the school could be reminded of the rules and guidelines and understand what they really mean.

For example, Be Safe (in the office) could mean stand away

Can you imagine a world where we all see each other through these eyes? I would like to believe it is possible. We will start with the CJDS kids today. ☆

**CJDS** Charlotte Jewish Day School