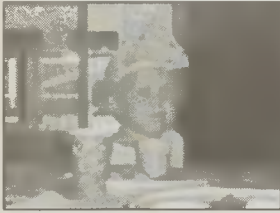
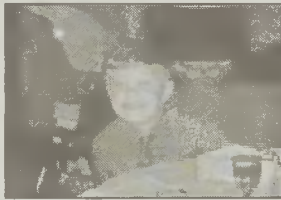


Spring at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool

We have had a busy year at CJP, and we cannot believe that the 2003-4 year is almost over. We would like to thank all of our families, teachers, and staff for bearing with us in our growth (construction) phase. Next year ... in



Kate Raemore wears her frog hat at the Seder.



Kameron Lesovsky enjoys eating matzah at CJP's Seder.

our new building. We are so excited.

Highlights from the last few months include celebrating Purim and Passover. Our children have delighted the Oasis seniors and staff of the JCC as they have paraded around the JCC and CJP

— first in their Hamen/Queen Esther costumes — then as slaves running from Pharaoh AKA Coach Dan. They have made gragers and Passover plates and have been learning all about Jewish holidays that start with the letter "P." The children have also participated in Passover Seders while wearing frogs on their heads. The fours can impressively shout out the ten plagues ... ask an adult, and see if they can do that.

Our 4s are graduating this month and moving on to Kindergarten. We will miss them, but we know they are prepared for the next educational and social steps in their lives. We hope that



Kaylie Brooks and Louisa Stein are all dressed up for Purim.

they will come back and visit us as the "big kids."

As we close out this final year in the current CJP buildings, we look forward to welcoming new and returning students to our brand new building with our won-

derful new playground. Our staff and Board of Directors have been working hard to ensure that the transition will be smooth and easy. Thank you again for your patience during this time of expansion. Happy summer.

To register for the 2004-5 school year, please call 704-944-6776. For updates on CJP goings-on, log onto www.cjpkids.org. ☆



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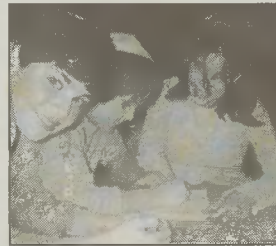
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TIRS: Meeting the Changing Needs of Jewish Families

Children that are growing up today in Charlotte have a very different experience than their parents and grandparents. A child growing up today is expected to learn more and at a rapid rate. While I was struggling to learn how to skip in kindergarten, today's kindergartener is learning how to read in earnest. All over America, children are getting homework every night from their secular schools, even as early as kindergarten. The world of play has drastically changed as well. While children of past generations simply ran outside and played freely in the parks and streets, children of today are monitored for safety at all times; most outdoors or sports activities are not spontaneous. Children are registered to participate in soccer, swimming, baseball, gymnastics or camp. Furthermore, children's

social lives are also scripted through boy scouts, clubs, or play dates. And of course, most of the



Josh Kipnis, Josh Schulman, and Perry Spitz work on a project at Religious School.

time, today's parents spend enormous amounts of time chauffeuring their children from activity to activity.

Families and children of today are stressed out and pressured. Many parents have spoken to me about how tired their child is after school and is having difficulties finishing his/her homework and then coming to Religious School. Parents also want to insure that their children become fully rounded and are able to participate in organized sports, ballet or other extracurricular activities. Unfortunately, many of these activities create a scheduling con-

flict with Religious School.

Temple Israel Religious School has heard the concerns and is responding to the needs of Jewish families in Charlotte. Next year, our first through fourth grade classes will take place on Sundays (10 AM-noon) and Tuesdays (4:30-6 PM). While, kindergarten students will continue to come on Sundays only. This change will allow students to attend Religious School on Sundays when they are not tired, do not have pressing homework assignments, and when there are not usually conflicting extracurricular activities happening. In addition, students will benefit from one extra half hour of study. We tried out this alternative schedule during the 2003-2004 school year on an experimental basis. It was a tremendous success. Attendance was the best in the entire school and students covered more material and had a more thorough understanding of the materials taught. If our new schedule continues to be successful and well received, we will determine if the entire school will move to the Sunday - Tuesday format in future years.

Temple Israel is proud to be able to make changes that meet the changing needs of Jewish families in Charlotte. ☆

Fifth Grade CJDS Star: Lila Kelso

The fifth grade class is very proud of Lila Kelso, our "star" who channels her energy and shares her flair for drama through a variety of performing opportunities. She was recently cast in *Madeline* at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. In this popular adaptation of Ludwig Bemelmens' stories of the feisty schoolgirl, Lila played the Penguin, the smallest creature at the zoo. Her role featured lots of comic schtick as she tried to waddle home with Madeline and her friends, and later escaped from her cage to run wild in the streets of Paris.



Lila Kelso

also acted in *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (as an Oompa-Loompa) and *The Hobbit* (as a Dwarf) at the Matthews Playhouse.

In addition, she stays busy auditioning for roles in commercials and feature films.

Through an agent in Charlotte, Lila has been cast in regional and national radio and TV spots, and was asked to audition (along with hundreds of thousands of other kids across the country) for the feature films *The Polar Express*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, and the remake of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. ☆

Over the last two years, Lila

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