

Keeping Warm this Winter

LJCC Cares (the Social Action program at the Levine Jewish Community Center) has begun to forge a relationship with the Salvation Army. The intent is to provide opportunities for members of our community to volunteer in a variety of ways to help out the Salvation Army's Center of Hope and Boys and Girls Club. The Center of Hope is a homeless shelter for women and children.

The Boys and Girls Club is an after-school program for children, the aim of which is to promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence.

In September, a group of volunteers made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Center of Hope and collected snacks for the Boys and Girls Club. In Decem-



ber, a group of volunteers gathered at the Marsh Road Boys and Girls Club to teach the children there about Hanukkah and to

enjoy a morning of stories, dreidels, and snacks. Later that month, LJCC Cares volunteers prepared and served a Christmas Eve dinner to 250 women and children at the Center of Hope.

Beginning in December and continuing through March 1, LJCC Cares is collecting new and gently used blankets for the Center of Hope. Residents at the shelter are given blankets upon arrival to use for sleeping. When they leave the shelter to move into

other housing, they take the blankets with them. As such, there is an ongoing need for blankets. Please consider donating to keep these people warm this winter. Collection bins are located outside of J Childcare.

For more information about LJCC Cares and volunteer opportunities, please contact Julie Rizzo, Director of Development and Social Action, julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org or 704-944-6730. ☆

Schools

It's a Girl!

Please Welcome Virginia Gentile to the JPS Team as Our First Infant Teacher

By Virginia Gentile

I am very excited to join the JPS Team as its very first infant teacher.

My career started after I graduated from Appalachian State University in 1994 in Early Childhood Development. Since then I have been a teacher in just about every

classroom/age group, was a Preschool Director and an Assistant Preschool Director for a corporate preschool. My favorite classroom, the one that truly touches my soul, is the infant room. They are developing and changing each and every day. From trying to lift their heads, to rolling over, sitting up by



Virginia Gentile

themselves, starting to crawl and move around, pulling up and then taking their first steps. It really is remarkable what they accomplish within their first year.

When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my beautiful daughter, Ava, who is just turning 12 years old (Wow, when did that happen?) as well as my wonderful

boyfriend, Brian and his son, Nathan.

I can't forget Lucy, my rescue dog and love bug. I love going to the beach ... as often as possible and bike riding, reading, and hanging out with long-time friends.

Why did I choose this profession? I want to make a difference in the life of a young child.

From our newest team member to our most seasoned, the JPS celebrations continue. Ms. Beverly recently celebrated 25 years at the Jewish Preschool on Sardis. We are honored to have teachers who are not only dedicated to our school but also our families.

To learn more about our teachers, our programs or to have a tour as we begin registration for the 2015-2016 school year, please call us at 704-364-8395. ☆



Infant Room Open House

January 11, 2015
9:00-10:30AM
at JPS
6619 Sardis Rd.

Meet the teacher,
visit the classroom,
tour the school



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— Eddie Price, CEO, Jenesis Software



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Learning Through Faith at CJDS

You don't learn by having faith. You learn by questioning, by challenging, by re-examining everything you've ever believed.

And yet, all this is a matter of faith - the faith that there is a truth to be found.

It is another paradox: To truly question, you must truly have faith.

IN THE CHILD'S HANDS

When your child knows that he or she possess a great and holy quality—a soul that is a part of God—the child will realize that he or she has the potential to overcome difficulties and temptations. Teach your child that all it takes is a little effort on her or his part, and he or she will receive considerable assistance from on High.

— The Rebbe (Advice for Life: Education)

At CJDS, God is not a subject, nor a topic. Rather God just is. God is when the students get up in the morning. God is when the students go to sleep at night. And God is when they say *birkat hamazon* after lunch. When the general studies teacher picks sticks to decide who is going to partner with each other, God is the one who is making the decision. When it rains on a trip and changes have to be made, it is part

of God's greater plan. Our students will sometimes say it first, before we even suggest that possibility.

This email received from a parent even shows how God is even at carpool.

"As you know we live, and commute from 'Guam.' It is vital that we leave home by 7:05 to ensure the Providence Road traffic will not hinder our arrival. Without traffic, the drive is 22 minutes - but it takes us 35-40 minutes every morning.

"Last Wednesday morning, at 6:59, I heard my son's panic as he yelled 'Get up, get up!' We flew out of bed, dressed, brushed teeth, packed snacks, and even had breakfast to go. We left at 7:20. Knowing we would not arrive until after 8 due to traffic, I apologized to the children that I had turned off the alarm and gone back to sleep. My daughter was looking forward to the grand entrance she could make - first stopping to explain my inadequacies to Ms. Barbara, getting her lovely pink slip, and then continuing her tales of woe with Ms. Buckner.

"As we pulled into Shalom Park at 7:45 (24 minutes after leaving home), I said, 'I can't believe we made it here, God must be on our side.' My son says with full conviction, 'Of course He is Mommy, He knows we have to get to school to study the Torah, and that's a mitzvah. And, you should call Him Hashem.'"

"I just turned and smiled at

him, wondering what it must feel like to believe at your very core that Hashem is on your side.

"Thank you for giving my child this understanding. He could learn math and reading at any school in town - but this belief he will carry as he walks through life. And you're right - this should not be denied to any child because they can't make the tuition payment. I'm blessed to pay full tuition - and honored to donate toward others so their child will always know in his/her heart that Hashem is on his side."

If there is anything our fifth grade graduates take away from their experience at here after attending schools away from much Jewish influence, it is the core connection, understanding, and awareness of God.

Our success with this message is first and foremost with our teachers. Each and every one of our Judaica teachers has an unshakable and steadfast faith in God. The children can smell indecision a mile away, so it is important that when gifting this treasure of faith that we offer them this wondrous possibility. I believe it gives them a sense of security and confidence when exploring their own beliefs. They don't necessarily have to buy it, but if they choose it, it is because we made it available to them.

God is woven into our activities, our stories, our lessons, and

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