

# School

## Students Recite Tehillim in CJDS After School Club

By Rabbi Avrohom Gordon

Mordechai gathered 22,000 children to study, fast and pray to save the entire Jewish people from Haman's wicked plot. Students this year at Charlotte Jewish Day School are gathering to recite Tehillim (the Book of Psalms) at the newly launched Tehillim Club. CJDS offers several after school clubs – Tehillim Club is one of the options. The club is offered daily, with some students attending once a week, and many choosing several days to attend. Attendance levels are between 8-19 students daily.

King David was a great warrior and a mighty king, but our love for him is as the author of the Book of Psalms (Tehillim), the sweetest poetry of Israel. Not all the Psalms were composed by King David. David collected them all and added the psalms of his own which he had composed with divine inspiration.

Rabbi Zalman Posner, OBM, writes that the siddur is of course the prayer book of the Jewish people, however prayer is not limited to the siddur. King David's Psalms have been the "spontaneous prayer." Although the words of Tehillim are defined, the feelings are spontaneous and individual. "We might say that the Tehillim is almost the personal siddur of every Jew."

The Tzemach Tzedek writes:

"If you only knew its power and effects ... you would spend every possible moment saying Tehillim. Know that the saying of Tehillim shatters all barriers ... and brings about kindness and mercies."

The book Hayom Yom compiled by The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of righteous memory, explains: "The daily recital of Tehillim ... literally affects all of Israel, materially

in children, life and sustenance, and spiritually ..."

Walking the halls of CJDS, one cannot help but be moved by the purity of the students who chant the holy words. We talk about some of the meaning, although time constraints limit the discussion. Talking is not the main concern. The students come to pray. They pray for their families, their school, their community, their

city, and beyond. They pray for our brethren in Israel and the soldiers who fight to protect all its people.

"My grandma is sick, and I come to pray for her," says Oren.

"Tehillim actually works. I prayed and it has helped," replies another student.

The students explain how the club ties in with this year's motto at CJDS: "Give it all you've got."



As we reach the end of the fifteen minute session, the last two lines are belted out loud with much enthusiasm. They give it their all, and they mean it. I tell them that I know with all my heart that God smiles at the efforts and He will surely answer their prayers. ☆

## May is CJP Appreciation Month

By Elka Bernstein, Director

"It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes a difference." – Pirkei Avot 1:17.

At the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, our partnership and volunteers make a difference in our school community. This May, we will take the time to thank all the individuals who have made The Charlotte Jewish Preschool an exceptional early childhood education program. Our school is unique in that we have three very special founding members - Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, and the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center. CJP is strengthened through the support and guidance of Rabbi Murray Ezring, Rabbi Judy Schindler, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich, and Rabbi Noam Raucher. Phil Berman's strong team at the LJCC

continues to provide professional support to the administration and teachers of CJP, as well as excellent enrichment programming for our students.

Along with the leadership of the founding members, the CJP Board of Directors works hard to provide the school guidance and direction. For the 2014-2015 school year, CJP would like to thank our current Board of Directors.

Jill Dinerman, President  
 Andy Tucker, President-Elect  
 Darren Pierce, VP Finance & Scholarship & Treasurer  
 Debby Weiss, VP Fund Development  
 Eric Wisotsky, Immediate Past President  
 Meri Siegel, PTO President  
 Tom Bock, Katie Berman, Barry Bobrow, Amy Foster, Justin

Levine, Barrie Morganstein, Philip Schreiber, AJ Secrist, Allen Sherman, Marc Sokolowicz, Jessica Weill, Joe Zeibert

However, the support does not end here. CJP is infused with parents dedicated to providing their children with a loving, nurturing and educational environment. CJP's PTO plays a vital and influential role in the success of CJP. CJP's PTO is made up of our enthusiastic parents and teachers. They are driven to provide social connections for our preschool community, as well as financial support. Thanks to the PTO, the teachers have continued to receive classroom supplies and materials to enhance the quality of classroom instruction. The PTO's contribution also allows CJP to maintain low teacher to children ratios, bring in special activities

for the children, educational materials in the classrooms as well as specialists that work with the children weekly. They also spend time creating events for our families. Among the activities planned, the PTO had a fabulous First Day Cafe to the Parent Gala to Family Night Out. Leading the PTO this year are as follows:

Meri Siegel – President  
 Ilyssa Rubenstein – Vice President  
 Nikki Sacks – Treasurer  
 Sheri Sisson – Secretary  
 Jenny Tucker – Room Parent Coordinator

When walking through our halls, you can see the PTO committees and chairpersons hard at work. Some of the faces you have seen are as follows:

Annual Fund Campaign, Debby Weiss

(Continued on next page)

# Caps Off!

Congratulations to our  
4's & Pre-K Students  
Class of 2014!

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL 2015  
Schedule a Personal Tour Today!



## Charlotte Jewish Preschool

- Age 1-PreK • Full & Half Day
- Located at Shalom Park

At CJP, we are dedicated to instilling within each child an excitement towards learning & a joyful attitude toward Judaism.



## 704-944-6777 • cjpkids.org

CJP is a partnership of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel & LJCC