

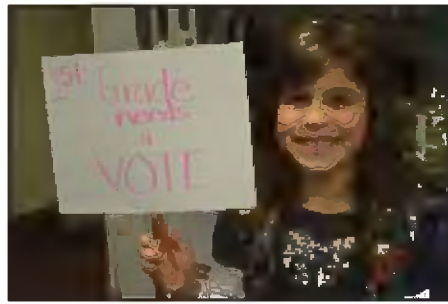
Student Government at Charlotte Jewish Day School

By Mariashi Groner, director
Charlotte Jewish Day School

Speaking to the candidates who didn't receive enough votes to win in our Student Council election is one my least favorite things to do. It is so hard to see the disappointment register on their face, and the surprise that after so much work, and so much effort, it still did not yield the hoped-for results. In fact, each year, I have a weak moment where I decide that we are not doing this anymore. It's so hard to see the kids hurt so much.

Then, I change my mind because the children show me that they are stronger than we know, that they learn from tough times even better than from the good times. They learn what behaviors, comments, and actions are hurtful or supportive. I also see kindness, generosity of spirit, and humility from the students that did get the votes they needed. The students in the school use the cheers and applause to congratulate but also to comfort. Some of the winning candidates turn to their counterparts to be their "campaign managers." Others, appoint them to be their "advisors." The mitzvah in the Torah of "Loving your fellow as yourself" is not an easy one, and yet the students keep trying to fulfill its requirement. This is where we see the lessons that are taught playing themselves out in real life.

The speeches, campaign posters, campaign giveaways, demonstrate thought, creativity,



A first grader seeking representation.

and marketing savvy. Some slogans on the posters were:

Vote for Em and you will be a gem!

*I'm not ice, so vote me for vice!
Don't think twice, vote Laya for vice!*

"... and so I mustache you to vote for Matthew!"

Our students are serious when thinking about their platform. Some of the following excerpts of speeches are just a taste of what they hoped their constituents (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade) would care about:

... I have had a lot of experience with leadership. I am on a soccer and swim team. On my soccer team I am one of the leaders. I play middle defender so I can basically see the whole field. This means I often help my teammates out where they need to be. I am also one of the oldest on my team so a lot of people look up to me. I have also been on Student Council before. I know what it is

like to be a class rep.

... I think if I become vice president I can talk to Rabbi Vorst to get different foods for lunch.

... I have a reputation for getting along with everyone even when we might disagree, which makes me a great candidate. I will always be open to ideas and will treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

... Maybe if the Panthers win we can have a surprise dessert day. My main idea is to get more people involved. I look forward to hearing your great suggestions and ideas.

... These are a few of the reasons you should make me your VP. As Albert Einstein once said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we caused them with."

... Everyone loves no home-

work so that's where I come in. I feel that on Rosh Chodesh and on your birthday we should have no homework because it is a day of rejoicing.

... This is our last year at CJDS together. In a year, I won't see the same front doors open every day [or] everyone's smile at the beginning of the day. Those days go by so fast and this is our last year together. We need to have as much fun as we can before time runs out.

This little microcosm of elections that happens at CJDS is truly inspiring because we know that this life experience is what prepares the children for the real "elections," "competition," "losses," and "wins" that they will experience throughout life.

This year, one of our first grade students took it a step further. She was disappointed that kindergarten and first grade do not have a class representative. This was a decision made years ago. I tried to explain to her that students in kindergarten and first grade were possibly too young to take on the challenge of running and winning or losing an election. And, we were also not sure if they could sustain their

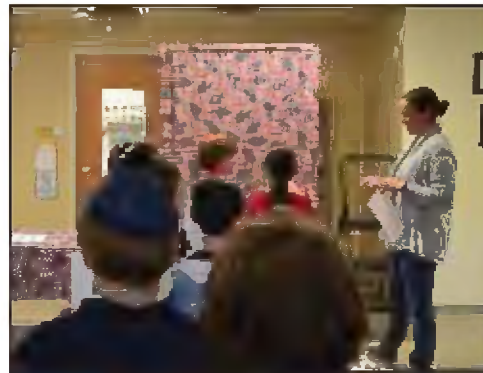
position on the Student Council with all of the meetings and responsibilities. I wasn't persuasive enough. Because the next day, she presented me with a petition that had four pages of signatures from



Edén's campaign poster.

students and teachers requesting that first grade should have a class representative. She won. We worked on a compromise and allowed the students to vote on a monthly representative to the Student Council.

The students at CJDS experience all that life has to offer, the difficult and the easy, and we are there to hold their hand as they figure it all out. ☆



Lined up at the voting booth.

cjds
Charlotte Jewish
Day School

BR-R-R-R-ING ON SUMMER FUN!!!

Summer Camps for ALL Ages & Interests at Levine JCC

Toddler thru Teen

CAMP MINDY

COOLEST SUMMER EVER!

June 14 thru Aug 19 (Half / Full-day)

- Mommy & Me • Preschool Camp
- Traditional Camp: Grades K-5
- Sports, Arts, or Lego® Focus Camps
- Teen Leadership Camps
- AM/PM Extended Care

REGISTRATION DATES

MEMBERS:
Sun, January 10 • 9-11am
Weinberg Center, LJCC
ONLINE member registration begins Mon, January 11

NON-MEMBERS:
Mon, February 1
9am-5pm
Camp Mindy

CAMP MINDY
MINDS BLENDE WITH THE CAMP

2nd - 8th Grades

PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION CAMPS

Warm up under the Spotlight!

Join fellow artists and mount a full scale musical production in just a few weeks!
Sing, dance, act, build skills & more!

Disney's The Aristocats
Jun 20-Jul 15
(4 wks; no camp 7/4)
Performance: July 16

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley
Jul 18-Aug 5 (3 wks)
Performance: Aug 6

SNOWED-OUT BY DRAMA?
Set the Stage for a Dramatic Summer

COMBINE BOTH SESSIONS!
Disney's The Aristocats AND
The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley
Jun 20-Aug 5 (7 wks; no camp 7/4)
See above for each Show's Dates/Times

AGES 6 THRU TEEN

LJCC SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Renaudo Turnbull
Flag Football
(7-12 yrs) Full Day
June 14-17

Tum & Burn Lacrosse
(7-14 yrs) Full Day
June 14-17

Ruff Cut Baseball
(7-14 yrs) Full Day
August 1-4

Oell Curry Basketball
(8-18 yrs) Full Day
August 8-11

Charlotte United Futbol Club
Soccer Skills
(6-12 yrs) Half/Full-day
August 15-19

JCC CRUSH Weekly Tennis Camps
(6-16 yrs) Half or Full-day Option
June 13 thru August 5

Jr Team CRUSH Tennis Camp
(9-14 yrs) 9am-2pm
August 8-12

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