

Jodi Wertheimer

From: Morasha Jewish Day School [info@morasha.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 2:53 PM
To: Jodi Wertheimer
Subject: Morasha's Weekly Newsletter



MORASHA

Jewish Day School

The best of both worlds
www.morasha.org

Weekly Newsletter

שבועון

Learn More. Do More. Be More.

14 May 2008
 9 Iyar 5768

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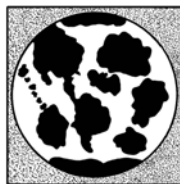
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CALENDAR



MAY

14 OPEN HOUSE-ART SHOW
 7pm
 12:30 Dismissal
 15 Soccer @ Mission Hills



**"THE PLACE DOES NOT HONOR
 THE PERSON, THE PERSON
 HONORS THE PLACE"**

(Talmud Taanit 19b)

Morasha Jewish Day School is filled with honorable people who in turn make our school a Makom Kavod/honorable place. From the classroom teachers and specialists to our office staff and administration, from our after school day care provider to our sports coaches, everyone single one of these people shows Kavod/Honor to the students and to Morasha. Even though there is a great amount of diversity amongst our staff, there are important values that are shared. The most important being, all students are respected and treated equally different. Each child is looked at as an individual and given the specific kind of nurturing that he or she needs. Some say that Morasha excels at this because we are a small school. I contend that Morasha excels at this because we are a school that deliberately sets out to do this and we have a school full of honorable people who share this mission.

"Who is honored, one who honors his/her fellow

19-22 Standardized Testing Gr. 2-6
 19 Soccer @ McDowell
 21 Soccer @ Heritage Oak
 26 No School-Memorial Day
 31 Gr. 5 Havdallah Service 6:00 pm @ Doheney Beach - This is a **NEW location and time.**

JUNE

1 Israeli Expo
 9 & 10 NO SCHOOL-Shavuot
 12 Grade 6 Torah Service
 17 K-6 All School Gleaning
 Grade 6 Graduation
 18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

HEAT WAVE!

The forecast is for very hot and dry weather over the next few days.

Temperatures on campus can easily go over 100 degrees.

Please be sure your student wears sunscreen and has a water bottle.

RESOURCE LIBRARY OPENING



Dear Parents,

Morasha School and Morasha Early Childhood Center are planning to open a Resource Library in the school office in the Fall. It will be stocked with books for parents on topics such as parenting, discipline, homework help, and Jewish education, holidays, and traditions in the home.

Please email Jackie Howie at jhowie@morasha.org with your favorite titles so we can

human beings"(Pirket Avot 4:1)

While it is important to honor every single member of our Faculty and Staff who embody the above Pirket Avot, at certain times it is important to make distinctions and pay special recognition to those who have reached certain milestones. **Please join us at our Torah Service on June 5th when we will pay special tribute/honor to Mrs. Stein on her retirement.**

Additionally we will be recognizing the following Faculty and Staff who have been with Morasha for 6 years or more: Limor Barkol (12), Paula Bosza (12), Candace Gadomski (9), Margaret Justice (7), Louise Solomon (8), Bill Fitzpatrick (8), Revital Elbaz (6), Robin Hoffman (6). Please share this date with anyone who would like join us in honoring Mrs. Stein.

B'Kavod,

Eve Fein,
 Head Of School

PS: **Please Save-The-Date of Sunday October 19th, 2008 3-5pm** for a special afternoon for an additional Honor for Mrs. Stein. More information will follow. Please email me if you would like to be involved in planning this event.



STANDARDIZED TESTING: COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU!

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching which means it is time for standardized testing. I would like to take this opportunity to share Morasha's philosophy on standardized

testing and the implications of these tests for our students.

The Facts: Morasha students in grades 2 - 6 all take the Comprehensive Testing Program (CPT - 4) standardized test, produced by the Educational Records Bureau, (ERB). **All testing will take place Monday-Thursday of next week between the hours of 8:30 and 12:30.** No testing will take place after lunch. More information about this specific test is available online at www.erbtest.org.

The Prevailing Philosophy: In contemporary

be sure to offer them in our Resource Library. We will also be taking donations in the near future so don't give away those books yet!

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education the trend is to place increasing value on the results of standardized tests. School funding, student promotion and admissions and even teacher salaries are being based on the results of these exams. The prevailing philosophy being better test scores equal a better education. Despite the thousands of dollars spent on educational research to support this philosophy the only clear outcomes of raising the stakes of standardized testing have been increased anxiety for students, teachers and parents and an increase in curricular time spent preparing for the tests.

Morasha's Philosophy: Here at Morasha we believe the prevailing logic to be unsound. Standardized tests are utilized as one of many tools in evaluating the school's curriculum and student performance. These tests have no bearing on student promotion, teacher contracts or school funding. Our teachers, in NO WAY, prepare lessons based on the content of the CPT-4. Our mission is to deliver an exceptional Jewish and secular education and your students' contributions to the Jewish community and the world around them is our most valued assessment. **Despite our lack of formal test preparation, the Morasha experience continues to enable students to achieve test scores that are among the highest in their peer group, in the nation.**

In closing I would like to offer some advice to help your children to prepare for the CPT-4 at Morasha. **1) Relax.** These tests are important but they are no more significant than the work we do everyday. **2) Prepare.** Take extra care to be sure your student starts their day well, their mood and emotional state has a significant impact on their ability to perform. **3) Focus on the process rather than the outcomes.** Children should know that doing their personal best is more important than their scores. If you have any other questions or concerns regarding standardized testing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr. C.

KVELL KORNER (Tefillah-Prayer)

With grace and confidence the First Grade class led the school in a beautiful Shacharit service on Monday morning. Each face beamed with pride as they explained the prayer they were leading. At the end of services the parents presented their child with their very own siddur.



The covers for their siddur were created with love by each child's parent. It is easy to see that these future leaders of our Jewish community are off to a great start. Yasher Koach First Grade!

PARSHAH HASHAVUAH

Behar

Leviticus 25:1-26:2

The Sabbatical year, or Sabbath to the Lord, calls for the suspension of all agricultural activities and the cancellation of all debts. The rabbis found moral lessons in this practice. "Why," the rabbis asked, "does the Jubilee year begin on the tenth day of the seventh month-Yom Kippur-rather than on the New Year day itself?" They answered, "Just as the end of Yom Kippur marks a clean slate for the individual, so the Jubilee year marks a fresh start for society as a whole." Since the laws of the Jubilee year had the effect of remedying much injustice and inequality in society, the Jubilee year is an echo of creation, a time when humankind was innocent and the whole world was free from the consequences of human ownership. It is still customary among Jews to pay off any debts before Yom Kippur.



Discuss as a family:

How do you make a fresh start for yourself?
How could you make a fresh start for the world?

Shabbat Shalom!

JUNE MENU

The June menu will be posted this **Sunday, May 18th**.
Go to www.lunch-buddies.com to order for June.

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