

# Hebrew Reading Awards



## Mazel Tov to

**Ayala Maurer**, Year 4 teacher, on her engagement to Avi Prager

**Nomi Rosenthal**, Head of our Hebrew Reading Programme, who is on maternity leave, following the birth of a son

e-mail [cheder@hgss.org.uk](mailto:cheder@hgss.org.uk) or call the office on 020 8457 7048

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

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# hgss cheder

Dear Parents,

With all the exciting festivals and activities this term, as well as continuing, individual class topic work, Hebrew Reading, Jewish History and Parasha, it's been busy!

Highlights have included our exciting Purim Funday, our hands-on Matzah bakery, workshops for Pesach and our Cheder 'Ma Nishata' CD to help your kids be fully prepared for this year's Seder.

Next term we will have our Cheder Shabbaton. It will include a Friday night service followed by dinner, children's activities and a popular keynote speaker! On Shabbat day there will be children's services and a Kiddush for Cheder families. Please save the date, 20-21 May! We will also have our first Parents evening on 11 May where you will have an opportunity to meet the teachers (if you have not already done so), hear about your child's progress and some of the exciting initiatives in our Cheder. There will be refreshments and a resource shop to purchase Judaica materials. We hope to see you all there for a coffee and Cheder schmooze!

As always, feel free to contact us with any suggestions or feedback, so we can ensure we are working together as partners in your children's Jewish education. If you have any free time over the next few weeks, we ask you to practise Hebrew Reading with your child/children so they can maintain their fluency over the holidays.

See you all on 8 May for the summer term.

Have a great Pesach!

Chayli Fehler

# News from our classroom

Following their **Creation Project**, **Reception** have been learning about Shabbat. They held their own Shabbat Party at Cheder, setting the table with all their favourite Shabbat Treats and learning the reasons for all the traditional items used on Shabbat. They have now learnt all letters up to **ב** and will be continuing the multi-sensory programme next term.



*Reception Shabbat Party*

● **Year 1** have been focusing on learning about the laws of Kashrut. Amongst their many hands-on activities, they were taken on an educational visit to Belmont Farm to learn about the differences between kosher and non-

kosher animals. Thank you to all the parents who accompanied us on this trip. The impressive kashrut projects they have been working on over the last few weeks will be sent home at the beginning of next term.



*Year 1 down on the farm*

## NOTICES & REMINDERS

- Parents evening will take place on Wednesday 11th May. Letters have been sent out. If you have not already done so, please confirm with the office which time slot suits you [cheder@hgss.org.uk](mailto:cheder@hgss.org.uk).
- This term we ran a Hebrew Reading Crash Course for parents interested in learning or renewing their Hebrew Reading skills. We plan to run another course which will run on Sunday mornings. Please be in touch with the office if this is of interest to you.
- We would like to kindly remind you that if you need to pick up your child early from Cheder, please come to the office to fill out a slip so that we have a clear record of any children that need to leave early.
- This term we collected a total of £270 which will be donated to HGSS friends of Lvov. Special thanks to Y3B who, alone, collected £64.43!

## Cheder Shabbaton

20 – 21 May 2011  
in the Shul.

This includes a family friendly Friday night service starting at 6.30pm followed by dinner with a keynote guest speaker and entertainment for the children. The following day we will be having special children services for all children at HGSS and a Kiddush for Cheder families. Please RSVP as soon as possible as we have limited space for the dinner.

To mark the final week of term before **Pesach**, HGSS Cheder held special interactive Pesach workshops for all classes.

The Max Weinbaum Hall was transformed into a hands-on Matza Bakery where the students learnt all about the process of making Matza from the growing of the wheat to the finished product.

They handled stalks of wheat, ground flour, formed dough and raced to have the Matza cooked and removed from the oven less than 18 minutes after the water touched the flour. Each student proudly took home their own hand-made Matza!



Reception to Year 2 had a Pesach Lucky Dip Quiz! Blindfolded, they had to guess what each item was and how it relates to Pesach. Years 4 to 5 had a quiz using clips from *The Prince of Egypt*. All the classes made crafts

projects to take home and use at their Seder, including Afikoman bags and Mini Pesach boxes filled with Pesach Trivia Questions with which to quiz family members at the Seder. Reception and Year 1 turned winter gloves into finger Plague puppets, these 'Makkot Mittens' can be used to count and name the plagues during the Seder.

**T**his term each class did something different to celebrate **Tu B'Shvat** - *The New Year of the Trees*. Some classes made fruit trifles, fruit kebabs, fruit salads and even fruit-people! Of course, we took the opportunity to learn and remind ourselves of all the Brachot for the fruit and vegetables.



● **Year 2** managed to combine their Jewish Number Project with learning about the weekly Parasha. They studied the EIGHT garments of the Kohen Gadol and practised the job of the Kohanim by wearing them!

● **Year 3** Apart from working on their Jewish Personalities Project and the weekly Parasha, Year 3 used their theatrical talents to display their knowledge of the Megillah. After learning the story of Purim in the classroom, they took to the stage to perform a play, narrating the story of the Megillah, the text of which they had written themselves.

● Using imaginative costumes and reams of rolled paper, **Year 4** wrote, directed and starred in their own Purim play, acting out the story of the Megillah. Pictures were printed and each student produced their own personalised megillah. Year 4 have also just finished learning details of the *Ten Commandments* which was their topic work for this term.



*Year 2 – dressing as the Cohen Gadol*



*Year 4 act out the Purim story*

● **Year 5** have just completed a project on the Shul and all its contents. They looked at Jewish Communities and synagogues all over the world and had the chance to quiz Rabbi Knopf on the responsibilities and role of a Rabbi. They came up with interesting questions and great suggestions for HGSS.



*Year 5 ask the Rabbi*

● After learning about Social Responsibility, which was one of their challenges this term, **Year 6** were visited by a representative from the charity GIFT. Inspired by this, they decided to create and donate special Mishloach Manot baskets to needy families for Purim. Next term they will continue with Jewish History and the State of Israel.



*Year 6 were visited by a representative of GIFT*

## Celebrating Festivals

● **Purim** at Cheder was celebrated in style. All years took part in a morning of exciting activities. The older years listened to Megillah in the Shul, accompanied by a surprise slideshow of the story featuring our Cheder students. After a festive



breakfast, Years 3 to 6 took part in drumming workshops, watching a performance and then taking a hand at drumming. Meanwhile Reception to Year 2

had a mini Megillah reading, and a Fancy Dress Parade. They made mishloach manot boxes and were visited by a wonderful party entertainer.

