



A Note from Elisabeth

Jewish lessons from baseball: Many of you are well aware that I am from St. Louis, Missouri—the heart of the Midwest. Not born, (I’m actually a tar heel from North Carolina!) but certainly bred (almost 20 years there). It is absolutely impossible to grow up in St. Louis and not be a Cardinals fan...*my mother can attest to that after growing up in Brooklyn as a Dodgers fan and moving to St. Louis as an adult.* So you can imagine my excitement when, after an up and down year for my hometown heroes, we clinched the wild card spot, beat the league’s best team and soared through the pennant into the World Series! But *gasp*! Important games were being played on *Kol Nidre!* And *Sukkot!* And *Simchat Torah!* What’s a Jewish fan to do! It is like Sandy Koufax all over again (ok, maybe not quite that big of a deal)—but I can tell you that for many Jews, creating a balance between their lives as secular Americans and involved Jews is proves to be very difficult this time of year. We are constantly challenged by our busy lives while being presented with yet another holiday around every corner. It is stressful! And let’s not forget about school, work and soccer season too! So I woke up on Yom Kippur morning to the newspaper reporting the Cardinals’ win instead of watching it myself the night before. And after spending many years

celebrating *Simchat Torah* on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, I can tell you that there is no shortage of observant Jews pressed up against the window of any given sports bar, trying to sneak a peak of the score.

Balance. It is pretty much synonymous with “American Jew” (or are you a “Jewish American”?) Many of you come to Shabbat morning services in your soccer uniforms so that after Kiddush you can run off to the park for a game. Some of you miss play rehearsal to be at home with your family for Shabbat dinner. Sometimes we are lucky and the decisions are made for us (I didn’t grow up in a place where the public schools closed for Rosh Hashanah and every once in a while we would have to fight to get a teacher to move a test off of Yom Kippur) and sometimes those decisions are extremely tough to make and we feel as if there is no right answer. Sandy Koufax didn’t actually go to synagogue on Yom Kippur even though he refused to play. That was his decision (one of those tough calls). But I think we can all agree that he did whatever he could to create a balance in his life as a Jew, an American, and as a baseball player.

**Shavuah Tov
(and Go Cards!)**

Class Shabbat Dinners

Kitah Gan (K) is having their class Shabbat dinner **THIS Friday night** at the home of the Sadovnik family! We can’t wait to celebrate Shabbat together.

The Kitah Aleph (1st grade) class dinner is fast approaching (**Friday, November 11th**)—more info will come soon from your class parents, **Carrie Sadovnik** (mom of **Rami Sadovnik**—and **Noa Sadovnik** in Kitah Gan—and **Cindy Switzer** (mom of **Max Switzer-Caplan**). We hope you can join us! If you are able to host, please contact your class parents.

Upcoming Important Dates

- 10/25 HS (K-2)
- 10/26 HS (3-7)
- 10/28 Kitah Gan (K) Shabbat Dinner
- 10/30 HS (3-7)/Kitot Hay-Vav field trip to the soup kitchen
- 11/1 HS (K-2)
- 11/2 HS (3-7)/ Back 2 School Nite
- 11/6 HS (3-7)/ Kitah Dalet (4th grade) Parent-Student Study Session with Rabbi Carter
- 11/8 HS (K-2)
- 11/9 HS (3-7)
- 11/11 Kitah Aleph (1st grade) Shabbat Dinner
- 11/13 HS (3-7)
- 11/15 HS (K-2)

Happy Birthday

The PSJC Hebrew School wishes the following birthdays this week a “*Yom Huledet Sameach!*”

Nora M. (Kitah Gan) 10/28

Amelia J. (Kitah Bet) 10/29



LOST

A metro card was found at PSJC on Sunday—does it belong to you?



Park Slope Jewish Center
1320 8th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215
718.678.1453/www.psjc.org

Elisabeth Albert
Director of Family Education
718.832.5863/principal@psjc.org

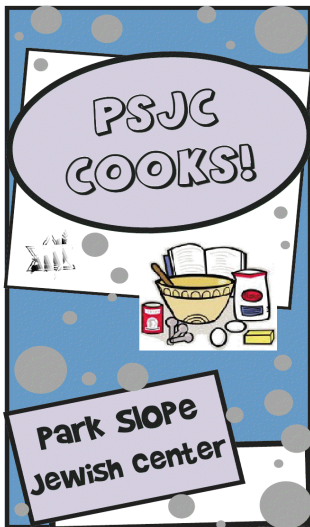
Carie Carter
Rabbi
718.768.1285/rabbicarie@psjc.org

School Roster: Coming Soon!

Many of you have asked for fellow classmates contact information...it is coming soon! We hope to have a complete school roster available electronically and in hard copy at Back 2 School Nite.

PSJC Cooks!

Do you have your own copy of the newest PSJC Cookbook? (Complete with photos of our kids, recipes from members of the community and color artwork by Hebrew School students!) PSJC Cooks! Makes a great gift AND supports our school community! Contact Elisabeth to get your copies today! Cookbooks will be available for purchase at Back 2 School Nite.



SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

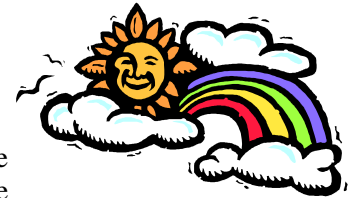
Parents: As a reminder, there is no formal child supervision before 4PM on school days. While Elisabeth and the teachers are in the building, they are preparing for the school day. Teachers are contracted to do prep work during this time, not offer pre-care. Parents, nannies, babysitters, etc. should remain at PSJC with their children and supervise them until just before 4PM. Especially concerning our younger students—they should NOT be simply dropped off at the front door. Please escort them inside to the sanctuary or downstairs and wait with them until school starts. We want to make sure that all students are safe from the moment they enter the building until the moment they leave. Older students coming to Hebrew School on their own should find a quiet spot to sit, read, talk, do homework, etc. until school starts. Students should NOT be running around the sanctuary like it is a playground. No one is to play on the *bimah* and students should not go in the balcony. Please help us by reminding your children of these rules.

Back 2 School Nite—Wednesday, November 2nd @ 7:15PM

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:15 PM. Parents are invited to *shmooze* with one another, hear from the principal, rabbi and committee members about what is going on in the school, and have a chance to talk to your child's teacher(s) in a casual "science fair-style" event. You can ask questions about the material, the curriculum, the resources and get to know your child's teacher(s). This is an important opportunity for the parents in the school to gather together. Please make every attempt to send a representative from your family. Let us know if child care is an issue.

Special blessing

This week's *Parsha* is Noah. When God makes a promise to the people God creates a rainbow. Even today, when we see a rainbow, there is a special blessing we recite:



Praised are you Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who remembers the covenant, keeps the promise and fulfills God's word.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם זֹכֵר הַבְּרִית וְנֹאֲמָן בְּבְרִיתוֹ וְקִים בְּמֵאֲמָרוֹ.



Teacher Chava shows students Joshua and Shayna in Kitah Gimel how to shake the lulav and etrog (and which blessings to say!)

Kitah Vav students all enjoy some time in the Sukkah...all on one chair! [Anya, Zoe S., Adam N., Raffi, Alaina and Zoe F.]

