

newsletter

טבת Tevet 5776 December 2015

Dear Parents

We should know better than to expect a gentle wind down to the end of term. If anyone was expecting it, they will have been disappointed. I have just returned to my desk after a 'learning walk' on the last period of the penultimate day of term and can report that corridors were quiet and lessons were proceeding as usual. Whether this is because of, or despite, the lack of internet access and email for the last 48 hours it is hard to say, but it has been an interesting throw-back to the 1980s when we used to speak to one another, couldn't "cc" others into our correspondence with nearly such abandon, and Ofsted inspections were merely a twinkle in the Secretary of State's eye.

The pace of life and the accountability regime may have stepped up a notch or two, but JCoSS is up to the challenge. We are awaiting the final report on our Inspection earlier this month and the details are officially embargoed until it is published, but the process was a thorough and constructive one which chimed closely with our own judgments. I am very grateful to the colleagues, students and parents who responded to questionnaires and who spoke to the Inspectors – the strong support for the values and achievements of the school was palpable and heart-warming.

Today has seen the long-awaited installation of our Mosaic, to which many parents, Governors, students and staff have contributed time, and for which the JPA have made a wonderful financial contribution. The seven panels, one for each day of Creation, are mounted in the Heart Space at eye and hand level so that the fantastic detail can be seen and touched. The JCoSS motto – *elu v'elu divrei elohim chaim, these and these are the words of the living God* – is incorporated into the design and they are truly beautiful pieces. We will include a picture in the next newsletter but please make a point of seeing them for yourself.

We had another excellent Chanukah. As well as our daily whole-school gathering in the Heart Space for candle lighting, two external ventures were occasions of great pride for the school, both described in later pages but worthy of special mention. Evie Raphael's chanukiah designed for Jewish Care is a magnificent enhancement to the quadrangle at their Wohl Campus. Its official inauguration last week was a reminder both of the strong links that JCoSS has with Jewish Care, and of the time we spent camping together in a rather functional office block in Burnt Oak, while our respective new buildings were under construction. And now, as then, confusion is caused by the fact that both have an employee called Patrick Moriarty.

The high point of my Chanukah, however, was a simply stunning speech given at the VIP reception after Chanukah in the Square by our Deputy Head Girl Kezia Niman. The Trafalgar Square event had an additional piquancy this year in light of the Paris attacks, but neither the crowds nor the spirit seemed dampened, other than by rain. Kezia brilliantly wove the dark times we live in with the events recalled at Chanukah, with a plea for compassion and wisdom in our response that can only be described as *Menschlich*. She combined passion with historical context, knowledge of Judaism with knowledge of current affairs, and was an outstanding ambassador for JCoSS. It's a tough gig to speak to MPs, Members of the London Assembly and the great and good of the community, especially when there is food and drink to consume, and political or business deals to be done. It was no surprise to see her mobbed by politicians afterwards, keen to sign her up to their cause.

I wish you an energising and restful holiday, and end by paying tribute to my colleagues for their unstinting resilience and creativity this term. The students told the inspectors that they can tell that working at JCoSS is more than just a day job for their teachers – they go beyond expectation and work exceptionally hard because they really care. On behalf of the whole community, I echo that thanks to the whole JCoSS staff.

Patrick Moriarty
Headteacher

PSRP 6th Form Macmillan Coffee Morning

After 8 weeks of planning, writing and sending letters, making phone calls, collections and organising, the 6th Form PSRP held their first **Macmillan Coffee Morning** to raise much needed money for the charity.

This is part of an Asdan CoPE module on Volunteering that the students are all working towards achieving.

The coffee morning was a huge success and we managed to raise over **£300**. All food and drinks were kindly donated by Kosher Kingdom, Daniels, The Beigel Bakery, Sharons, Waitrose (Ballards Lane), B Kosher, Mendys and Caterlink. Orli's Borehamwood very kindly donated a prize for "Guess the number of spots on the cake" and the winner was Ella Azulay in year 13.

The students showed excellent team work and really enjoyed organising and being in charge of the event.

Many thanks to all the staff and 6th form students who supported the event, by buying the cakes and drinking the coffee & tea.

The PSRP 6th Form are also currently collecting items of unwanted clothing, unwanted games, DVDs, CDs and books for Norwood as part of their ongoing projects. If you would like to make a donation, please can you only send in items that can be carried into the school. There is a box in the PSRP reception for any donations. All larger items should be donated direct to a Norwood shop.

**Thank you for all your support,
Adam Solmons, Nicky Haugh
and Umer Kayani, Year 12**



WANTED! – KEN AND BARBIE DOLLS

Dear Parents

I am seeking your help in replenishing my collection of Barbie and Ken dolls. These are naturally used for teaching and learning purposes.

If you have any unused or old Barbie-style dolls (in any condition) please ask your child to bring them to me in B008.

All the best,

Mr C Stump
Head of Sociology
Lead Practitioner - Teaching and Learning



Young Enterprise

Our Year 12 Young Enterprise company has made an impressive start.

Phase, run by Managing Director Ryan Peltz, is selling specially imported mobile phone cases which can withstand the many perils of everyday life.

You may have seen them at various parents' evenings and information evenings as well as on their stall in the Barnet Christmas(nukah) Fayre. Their polished sales technique and giant mobile phone costumes look set to propel them to success.

Keep an eye on this company - their plans are impressive and these young people are certainly going places.

Mr D Salbstein
Business Studies



Appeal for Parents at Year 9 Careers Fair

Parents: would you be prepared to provide students with an insight into your profession?

Preparations for the third annual **Careers Fair** for students in Year 9 are now underway and, as in previous years, we need your help.

The event will take place on **Wednesday 2nd March** and, following a survey of Year 9 students about work areas they want to find out about, we are keen to hear from parents who can talk about careers in the following areas:

**Law, Acting, Music, Medicine, Nursing, Sport, Photography,
Veterinary/Animal care and Psychology.**

The Careers Fair is a key event on the Careers calendar and is always well received by students. For most of them it is the first step towards thinking about their own futures and we aim to make it as engaging and inspiring as possible.

If you work in any of the above areas and could spare a couple of hours of your time, please contact Mrs Raff or Ms Lewis in the Careers Office:

craft@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk; hlewis@jcooss.barnet.sch.uk

JCoSS Coding Club

Key Stage 3 JCoSS students have participated in the global 'Hour of Code' by rolling up their sleeves and learning new skills in computing.

KS3 Coding Club is now running on Thursday lunchtimes in C118 and welcomes novices to l33t coders (if anyone still says that). We have recruited a number of students with varying levels of knowledge – some taking their first steps with basic sequences, to those developing more complex functions and multiplayer games.

As in the real world, we seem to have a shortage of female coders. There is no obvious reason for this, so parents, if you'd like your daughters to pick up a good skillset for the 21st Century, please point them in the direction of the Coding Club.

If anyone wants to have a go at the challenges at home, it can be accessed at www.code.org/learn

Matthew Clayman 12W (JCoSS' answer to Neo!)



JCoSS Students Enter Mastermind



Two Year 9 JCoSS teams are preparing hard to battle against 6 other schools including Harrow School, North London Collegiate and JFS for the grand title of 'Mastermind in Harrow 2016'. The competition, held at Harrow School in February is raising money for the charity 'Mind'.

JCoSS students competing are: Stefan Tucker, James Saker, Ben Conway, Ethan Levenson, Josh Yonish, Elisheva Landau-Pope, Alice Thompson, Hannah Bentwood, Poppy Flack and Tal Cohen.

Team Captain Ethan Levenson said, 'I am really excited about the competition and I am really proud of my team for raising so much money. I am really hoping that we will bring home the trophy for JCoSS!'

Hannah Bentwood, Team Captain for the other JCoSS team said 'I am looking forward to the competition and we are all enjoying fundraising for this fantastic charity. We are working really hard in preparation for the competition and hopefully we will win as a result!'

6th Form Sports News

Well done to Sammy Bradley for coming 3rd in the Borough Badminton competition.

Congratulations to the JCoSS 6th Form team for winning the Maccabi 5-a-side football tournament.

Notable performances from: Aaron Spalter, Nathan Rosenthal, Ollie Mirracco, Sammy Bradley, Charlie Maxwell and Aaron Shimoni.

Lastly, we are very pleased to say that the 6th form team are currently unbeaten in the Barnet Football league!



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you very much to the many parents and students who volunteered at the Book Fair earlier this month. It was a very successful event, and we even had to ask for more stock on day 2!

Currently, JCoSS has the highest revenue on a Half-Price Autumn Fair in the whole of the UK and as a result Scholastic have given us an extra bonus in the form of free books. Altogether, we managed to choose over 70 free books worth £650 and these will soon be available for the students to borrow from the LRC.



Bookbuzz January Challenge

Year 7 students should now have read their free book from the Bookbuzz scheme sponsored by the JPA.

As part of their English Homework we have asked them to create a bookmark about their chosen book, which should be handed in to their English Teacher after the holidays. The best bookmark will be laminated, given out to every Year 7 student and displayed on the plasma screens in the Heartspace. The winner will also receive a prize!

Competitions to enter

- Bookbuzz: Design a book cover competition – Closing date: 22nd January 2016
<http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/bookbuzz/fun-stuff/competitions/35/>
- World Book Day competitions: <http://worldbookday.com/play-and-win/competitions/>
- The World Book Day Award: “Where does your reading take you” - Closing date: 15 January 2016
<http://worldbookday.com/wobod/>
- Lovereading4kids: win a copy of David Walliams’ “Awful Auntie” – Closing date: 1st Feb. 2016
<http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/12160/Awful-Auntie-by-David-Walliams.html>
- National Book Tokens / Caboodle: several book competitions to enter
<http://caboodle.nationalbooktokens.com/caboodle-competitions>
- Scholastic competitions – Closing date: 5 January 2016 (win: Wimpy Kid, Tom Gates or Little Stars goody bags or a £50 Halfords voucher)
http://clubs-kids.scholastic.co.uk/clubs_content/win_stuff

Chanukah at JCoSS

We are immensely proud of Evie Raphael who won the JCoSS/Jewish Care Chanukiah design competition, which was voted for by Jewish Care staff and service users. Her design was made into a permanent half-ton outdoor chanukiah which was installed at the Wohl Campus in Golders Green. The grand ceremony and lighting took place on 7th December, which JCoSS students attended, plus there was a performance from the JCoSS Choir. They also participated in a Chanukah quiz with service users and had tea together.



Another group of students have made a short film which was shown at the Jewish Care Michael Sobell Centre during Chanukah. The film explored the idea of Chanukah heroes and featured users of the Centre reminiscing about their memories of Chanukah.

Students also raised £700 for Jewish Women's Aid, one of our chosen school charities on the Chanukah non-uniform day.

Deputy Head Girl Kezia Niman spoke at the Chanukah in the Square VIP reception in Trafalgar Square last week. She represented the school with wonderful self-assurance and eloquence, acting as an outstanding ambassador for the JCoSS.



It's been a very busy start to the school year for the JPA with our Annual General Meeting in October followed by a meeting with Mr Moriarty and Ms Robinson to discuss future plans.

We are pleased to announce that with your help we raised **£5,996 last year**. The money has been donated to the School for items and projects which the Teachers and Support Staff requested and was approved by Mr Moriarty.

- We have donated £2,000 for the part funding of beautiful lasting Mosaic panels depicting the Days of the Week which will be displayed very soon in the Heartspace. These were worked on by Students, Parents, Teachers, and Trustees last year.
- The Year 7 Bookbuzz scheme was wholly funded with £475 to enable the library to acquire more books and provide one free book for each Year 7 student.
- We have donated £1,000 for the part funding of specialist music equipment and £500 for a piano mover to assist in piano recitals around the school.
- We have committed to wholly funding £2,500 for specialist lighting for the main hall which will enable easy positioning of lights and colour changes without the need to close the hall and erect scaffolding. This funding will give greater flexibility for school entertainment and concerts.

We are delighted that 154 Year 7 Students attended the amazing Year 7 Student Disco where we managed to raise over £1,000. This was achieved by Kati Pauk Event Manager donating her services and engaging her Team of suppliers at no cost. These included a DJ, a Photographer, a Photobooth, Dancers, a Magician, a Tattoo Artiste, and Sweets. A massive thanks goes out to all of them, the Parents for buying the tickets, the lovely small but perfectly formed JPA volunteer team, the Teachers and support staff and finally the Year 7 students who behaved superbly whilst having a great time. Please see the photo below. For more photos of the night go to <http://stevehampshirephotography.com/?p=9249> password stevehampshire349.



Coming up :-

- Our Annual Quiz Night on Sun 6th March – please save the date for a Quiz Night like no other! This year's Quiz Night will be hosted by The Chase's very own Paul Sinha. For those who don't know, Paul is the white coated comedian contestant on this top ITV Quiz Show. Tickets will go on sale in January.
- Our star studded Annual Comedy Night in July. Date to be confirmed.

Thanks to all you great helpers and supporters - we couldn't do it without you!

Julia & Sharna Co-Chairs JPA

Informal Jewish Education News

Alan Senitt Programme

Students from Year 10 have started the Alan Senitt Leadership programme which consists of a series of leadership seminars with students from other schools. Along with students from Immanuel College, Nower Hill School and Copthall School, our students will plan and run a social action programme which will be delivered in the local community.

Volunteering and Gap Year Fairs

JCoSS 6th form students met with representatives of over 20 charities at the annual JCoSS volunteering fair, where they heard about a wide range of volunteering opportunities as well thinking about the value of volunteering in terms of life skills, work experience and applications for university.

A couple of weeks later they were also able to meet with a range of gap year providers and hear from people who had taken a gap year in order to begin thinking about how this could form a part of their future plans.



Faith School Linking Day

Students from Year 8 met up with students from Eden Muslim Girls School to spend the day at the London College of Fashion, exploring ideas around faith and fashion. It was an exciting, thought provoking and stimulating experience for all involved, with a new set of social networks being forged between the students from both schools.