



Eleanor Kolitz Academy

Ram Recorder



February 20, 2009

210-302-6900 - www.eka-sa.org

Shevat 26 5769

Parasha: Mishpatim

Candle Lighting 6:09 pm

FEBRUARY 2009		
23	M	Final Day to turn in Candy Orders!!!
25	W	Wear your favorite color day
26	Th	PIE meeting 2:00 p.m. Fisher Board Room
1-27		Anne Frank Exhibit Don't Forget to buy an Ad in the Yearbook – Honor your child or a special teacher!
MARCH 2009		
6	F	Kabbalat Shabbat Grades 1-8
7	Sa	Parents Night Out (see form following)
10	T	Purim 12:00 Dismissal
12	Th	Mensch Breakfast 7:50 a.m.
15	Sun	Tuition Assistance Forms Due



Fifth grade performs at Grandparents/Special Guests Day

D'var Torah – Parashat Mishpatim

We are taught from a young age to help poor people. In פְּרִשְׁת מִשְׁפָּטִים, however, it says, "לֹא תִטֶּה מִשְׁפָּט אֶבְיֹנָךְ, "לֹא תִטֶּה מִשְׁפָּט אֶבְיֹנָךְ, "לֹא תִטֶּה מִשְׁפָּט אֶבְיֹנָךְ" ("Do not favor a poor person in his court case").

What does this mean? Don't favor the poor person in judgment? What about all the times the Torah warns us, including in פְּרִשְׁת מִשְׁפָּטִים, that we need to take care of the poor? If I, as a judge, see a poor person in front of me, should I not try to make his life a bit better? The Torah's answer is, "No." As a judge, one should not feel pity for a poor person, because that is not a judge's job. You must judge based on what is right, and what is just.

There are times when we should consider our feelings, and there are other times when our feelings should not influence us. When we are trying to figure out who is right and who is wrong in a case, we have to use our minds.

The wise person knows how to find a balance between following his heart, which would feel sorry for the poor person, and following his mind, which wants to protect the trust in the system of justice. It is great to give צְדָקָה/charity, but as a judge, one must be fair and truthful. Whether we are judging a case in a courtroom or a case with our friends, we should all remember that as judges, our role is to give out צְדָקָה/justice, not צְדָקָה/charity.

Shabbat Shalom

Gaby Bucay, 8th Grade

An Update from the Search Committee

Friends,

On behalf of the search committee, I would like to give you a brief update on the current state of affairs concerning the search for a new Head of School.

To date we have reviewed the resumes of nearly thirty qualified individuals and interviewed nearly 20 of those. In addition, we have had five candidates visit our community. Each has expressed his/her positive impression of the EKA, our students, and our community. Needless to say, we have been quite pleased with the quality of individuals with whom we have spoken.

In terms of next steps, we are going to sponsor a second visit for one of the candidates to conduct a second interview beginning February 26th. As part of the agenda, Susan Blumenthal has volunteered to host an open house/meet and greet for our parents to visit this candidate on Sunday, March 1 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. We invite you to join us at this time. Susan's address in Elm Creek is 11714 Elmscourt and her phone number is 479.7901.

We are all committed to finding the best possible Head of School for the EKA and are working hard to achieve this goal. Thank you all in advance for your patience and understanding through this complicated process.

Kindest regards,
Dan Weingart

What do EKA students accomplish after the EKA? They become...

- ✓ Captain of the Clark Tennis Team
- ✓ President of the Small Cities Council of BBYO
- ✓ President of the Clark High School Junior Class
- ✓ Vice President of the Clark Freshman Class
- ✓ President of San Antonio Chapter of BBYO
- ✓ President of a University of Kansas Sorority
- ✓ President and Vice President of B'nai Tzedek
- ✓ First Place, Journalism, UIL Invitational Tournament
- ✓ Lead Actor, Churchill Drama Production

These are only a few examples of the myriad list of activities and accomplishments of which our former EKA students (and their parents) can be proud. The list goes on and on...

What is so telling about our EKA graduates is that they all leave our school with such confidence that they're typically not afraid to try *any* new adventure. The small size of our children's classes and close-knit environment here at the EKA allow our students to feel good about their abilities and confident enough to tackle any challenge.

While one parent may be thrilled at his or her child's success on the soccer field, another may be ecstatic about his or her first prize in the science fair. Different parents (even within the same household) have varying feelings about the successes of their children.

Similarly, different parents may want many different things to develop from their child's elementary and middle school experience.

The common thread amongst all of us, however, is that we all want to see our children reach their full potential. The EKA provides the perfect environment for our students to succeed through encouragement, motivation, and camaraderie, all within the context of Jewish ethics and teachings—inside the classroom and out. Many of our teachers provide differentiated instruction in the classroom that is, tailoring the lessons to suit the various levels of the students. In this way, each student can be challenged to perform at the level at which they're most comfortable and able. Similarly, the EKA provides a wide range of activities (and the list keeps growing and growing) in which our students can participate and excel. Moreover, our teachers are among the best and brightest in the city and certainly among the most nurturing, instilling our children with the confidence that they need to continue to do well once they leave the confines of the EKA.

I think we are all fortunate to have this incredible school within our reach and don't often realize how fortunate until our kids move on. I hope you'll continue to send your children to the EKA, as I have. The rewards you'll reap in the future are tenfold and will make it well worth your investment—even in today's harsh economic times!

Monica Lizka-Miller
Parent and President, EKA Board of Trustees

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance applications are now available from Mrs. Gold. **Enrolling families who are also applying for Tuition Assistance must submit their application form by the March 15, 2009 deadline.** All Enrollment Fees are required to be paid and all financial obligations associated with the 2008-09 tuition contracts are to be current in order to receive your Tuition Assistance determination.

Tuition Assistance determinations will be made by May 1, 2008.

If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact a member of the PSAS support team at 1-800-722-2577 or Mrs. Gold at 302-6906.



There will also be a variety of special events throughout the month – lectures, films, family programs, and a symphony quartet performance. All events are in the Holzman auditorium, and the only one with a cost is the symphony;

Feb. 22 – *Dear Kitty* (family oriented film) (2pm) Feb. 25 – Film: *Steal a Pencil for Me* (7pm)

Food Drive

To all E.K.A. students, families, and friends:

The JCC is helping to collect canned and other non perishable foods for the San Antonio Food Bank, and the E.K.A. Knesset would like to ask everyone to donate to this worthwhile project. A container has been set up in the hall near the E.K.A. office for your convenience.

Please give generously.

Thank you,

Moriah Sonsino, Public Relations Officer

Spirit Day Calendar

February 25 – Favorite Color Day

March 4 – Job Day

March 18 – Character Day

April 1 – Wacky Wednesday (mismatch day)

April 22 – Fiesta Day

May 6 – Pajama Day

May 27 – Other Countries Day

Mensch of the Month

The students listed below have all received the Mensch of the Month award for **February**, the recipients will attend the Mensch Breakfast in March.

1st Grade: Addie Lamb, William Kavy

2nd Grade: Everest Schneider

3rd Grade: Jonah Katzman, Philip Silberman

4th Grade: Ari Rotenberg

5th Grade: Grace Goldstein

Middle School: Shayna Block, Noa Barenblat, Michal Cohen, Hannah Kavy



Middleschoolers created a set for their claymation video.



First graders celebrated George Washington's Birthday.

Help Eighth Grade Travel to Israel

This year, the eighth grade class plans to start a new tradition. The students would like to take your prayers and messages with them to the Western Wall. As a way to help fund their trip, students are selling "Chai" Notes. Each note is \$18 and it allows for an individual to send a handwritten prayer/message to Israel. The eighth grade class hopes you will support their trip by having them deliver your message to the Western Wall.

"Chai" Notes

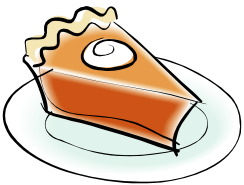
Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
of Notes _____ x \$18 = _____
____ Credit Card MC VISA AE
Card # _____
Exp. _____ Sec. code: _____
Check # _____ Call Me _____
Checks payable to the EKA

"Chai" Notes

Note:

Fold for Privacy

Please mail "Chai" Notes to Eleanor Kolitz Academy, attn: Chai Notes
12500 N. W. Military Hwy., #150, San Antonio, TX 78231
For additional "Chai" Notes email Amy at amy@sokolfamily.com or call 493-7639



PIE

Take a Little Piece of the Pie!!


Candy sale orders are due in office no later than Monday, February 23rd.

PIE Meeting Thursday, February 26th, 2:00 p.m. Fisher Board Room

Operation Purim '09 is Underway at the EKA!

Purim is right around the corner (evening of March 9 and day of March 10), and this year, we will be sponsoring a unit of the Israel Defense Forces! Through Connections Israel, we will receive a photo of and a letter from, our sponsored unit. Best of all, we get to provide our brave soldiers with some delicious משלוח מנות/*Mishlo'ach Manot*/Purim treats. If each student would be able to bring in \$3, we could reach our goal of sponsoring an entire unit. Please give your contribution to your Chumash teacher. Thank you very much for your participation and support. Shabbat Shalom, and Happy Purim!

-Rabbi Aryeh A. Leifert, Director of Judaic Studies



Purim Operation '09
Bringing Jewish People Together

Send a Purim Basket
to an **Israeli Soldier**

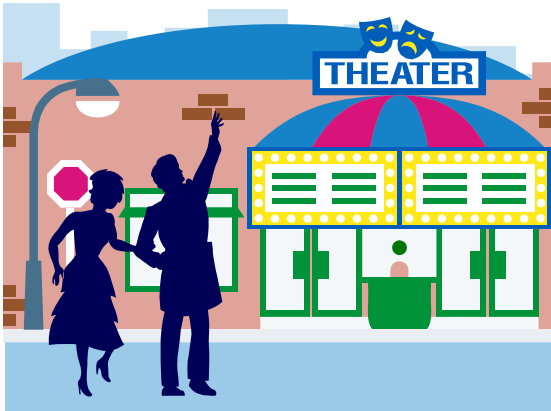
**Our goal is to raise \$300 to adopt
an IDF unit**

Adopt an Israeli Army unit
Let them know that you're
thinking about them...

CONNECTIONS
ISRAEL
www.connectionsisrael.com

Parent's Night Out!

EKA 8th Grade Babysitting Fundraiser
This money supports the 8th grade trip to Israel!



When: *Saturday, March 7th*

Time: 7:00pm-10:30pm

Where: EKA

Who: EKA 8th Graders

Fee: \$25 - 1 child

\$35 - 2 children

\$50 - 3 or more

(Only family members)

Reservations Recommended

\$5 additional fee for drop-ins without reservations

Parve snacks and drinks will be served

Contact EKA office at 302-6900 by 3/6/09

You are cordially invited to Rodfei Sholom's
Shabbat Lecture Series with
Rabbi Doron Kornbluth

While American Jews often agree that they are proud to be Jewish, many pause when asked "why?" Is it the comedy? The culture? What is Jewish pride, and how does it translate into our identity as American Jews?

Friday, February 27, 2009
Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:15pm
Followed by Family Shabbat Dinner
Lecture open to all following dinner at 8:30pm
Pride versus Prejudice:
Sources of Jewish Pride in a non-Jewish World

Saturday, February 28, 2009
Shabbat morning services 9 am
Lecture following services:
Raising Kids to Love Being Jewish

Reservations for Shabbat dinner are required. Please complete the form. Your payment is your reservation. A table seats 10. If you wish to reserve a table, please notify the Rodfei office.

* Babysitting and children's activities will be available

If you plan to attend DINNER, please fill out this form and return it with your payment by Monday, Feb. 23rd to:

Congregation Rodfei Sholom,
3003 Sholom Dr., San Antonio, TX 78230

**FOR QUESTIONS OR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 493-3558
or e-mail: rodfei@sbcglobal.net**

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

___ adults \$20.00 ea ___ children \$12.00 ea (4 - 18 years)

___ seniors \$12.00 ea ___ family of 2 adults and 2 children \$60.00

Enclosed is my check for the amount of \$ _____

Please charge my credit (card type): _____ (no amex)

Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (as it appears on your card)
