

Upcoming Events

May 3- Grade 5 Open House at 630 p.m.

May 3 - Heads Up to Middle School 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

May 3 - Middle School Showcase 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

May 4 - Gr. 4 Trip To Hannah's Suitcase Play

May 5th - Gr. 7 Trip to St. Joseph the Worker

May 5th - Open House SK to Grade 4 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

May 6th Leo Baeck Day Gr. 6 to 8 (afternoon)

May 7th Mother's Day Tea (JK1 - 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.) (JK2- 2:45 -3:30 p.m.)

May 10th Middle School Visitor - Mr. Levey

May 11th- Grades 1 to Kortright Centre

May 12th- Leo Baeck Day Grades 1 to 5 (afternoon)

May 12 and 13th - School Play (evening)

May 13th - Gr. 3 trip to Pioneer Village

May 13th - Grades 1 & 2 Prayerbook Workshop

May 13th - SSAF Track & Field Meet



THOUGHTS...

from the Head of School

For many young Jews, a trip to Israel is the moment which defines their Jewish identity. In recent studies of Jewish engagement, a trip to Israel joins a Jewish summer camp experience and Jewish day school as the three most powerful factors in impacting lifelong change in Jewish identity. So until The Leo Baeck Day School sends our Grade 8s to Israel as a

graduation trip (as most Reform day schools in the United States do), how do we give our students a taste of that transformative experience? For three years now The Leo Baeck Day School has sponsored the daily presence of shinshinim, young Israelis, fresh out of high school, who take an extra year prior to entering military service bringing the Israeli experience to a diaspora Jewish community. We have been very lucky in the selection of our shinshinim, who have to date been shared with Holy Blossom Temple. They are vibrant, intelligent and warm Israelis who exude enthusiasm and build real relationships

with our students in a way that a penpal never can. The program has been so successful that it will be expanded next year, with the South Campus hosting two shinshinim in conjunction with Holy Blossom Temple and the North Campus sharing two shinshinim with Temple Kol Ami. These youngsters also spend



the summer at Camp George, connecting with the Reform community on all three fronts. When interacting with our students, they bring a knowledge of real Israeli culture in a way that speaks to our young people. They play modern Israeli music and teach our students about current Israeli athletes and actors. Their presence at our school brings our students one step closer to experiencing the magic of the Jewish State, and for that we are thankful. If you are interested in hosting our guests for any portion of next year or finding out more about this exciting program, please do not hesitate to contact me at epetersiel@leobaeck.ca.

May 14th - Rosh Chodesh
8:45 a.m.

May 17th Mitzvah Day 3:30 to
5:00 p.m

May 18th SSAF Soccer
Tournament Under 10 Co-ed
Soccer

May 25th - SSAF Soccer
Tournament Under 14 Boys
and Girls

May 26th - Heads Up to Grade
1 & AIM French Program 7:00
p.m.

May 27th - Grade 7 & 8
Vaccinations

Yom HaShoah Commemoration



Students at North Campus commemorated Yom HaShoah by watching *Healing Voices*, a documentary that follows two Holocaust survivors as they journey back to concentration camps and other Holocaust sites in Europe with a diverse group of Canadian university students.

"I set out to make this documentary because I wanted to capture what it was like learning about the Holocaust firsthand from survivors," said Riva Finkelstein, who produced and directed the documentary for her graduate thesis at Ryerson University.

Last May, Finkelstein, along with a group of 60 Canadian university students from different religious and ethnic backgrounds, embarked on a trip called The March of Remembrance and Hope to learn about the Holocaust. They learned from survivors and educators about the dangers of hate, intolerance and genocide while visiting memorials and former Nazi concentration camps in Poland and in Germany. For Faigie Libman, one of the survivors on the trip and the main character in the documentary, this was her first return to Nazi soil since her liberation in 1945.

Students had the opportunity to see this inspiring film and to participate in a Q and A with Finkelstein about her experiences making the documentary, and with Libman about her life as a Holocaust survivor and her participation on such a unique trip. "I felt happy when the Holocaust survivors in the documentary smiled," said Grade 8 student Arielle Rashkovan in reaction to the film.

Mark Nirenshtein, in Grade 6, appreciated Faigie's primary message: "If you give love, you get love."

IB Word of the Month:

PRINCIPLED: We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. We take responsibility for our own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

For the Grade 8 students, participating in the planning and execution of the Yom Hazikaron assembly was particularly meaningful.

"Yom Hazikaron made me feel united with every other Jew in the world. The solemn ceremony felt like a funeral for every fallen soldier."
Ethan Avinoam, 8A.

"The Yom Hazikaron assembly opened our eyes to the emotion, risks and courage the soldiers put forward on behalf of many."
Amanda Silcoff 8A

Yom Hazikaron: A Teacher's Reflection

Yom Hazikaron, a day of remembrance for those who fell in the struggle for the establishment of the state of Israel and in its defense, is always a hard day, especially as an Israeli teacher. It is a day of collective and



personal sadness. When you teach in the Diaspora, you always think "How do I transfer to my students the love and connection to Israel that I feel?" we do it in many ways and on various occasions. Yom Hazikaron is a special event because you are touching every soul. Everyone has a child, brother, cousin or friend the same age as the soldiers, which makes it easier to connect with them.

This year, the two Grade 8 classes wanted to take an active part in the assembly. They students were actively involved from the very beginning. They wanted to choreograph the dances, they wanted to read and choose the songs that were sung. For me, it was a real reward for all the work and emotions that I put into my work in order to bring "Israel" to them. It took many hours to put together the appropriate texts, music and slides that would be meaningful to the students. " The Yom Hazikaron assembly was very meaningful to me as it helped me realize how lucky we all are to have a country like Israel," said Talia Shapiro of 8B. "The most meaningful part of Yom Hazikaron is when we took a minute or two to remember all the soldiers to fell for Israel's independence. Thank you to all those soliders," said Jonah Leider, also of 8B.

I want to thank all the Grade 8 students for their wonderful work. A special thank you to Julian who sat for hours with me to put all the slides and videos together.

Naomi Kfir, Hebrew Teacher

Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebrations!



Leo Baeck at the joint-school assembly.



Grade 7 and 8s during their advocacy training.



Nursery students take a pretend trip to Israel.

**Yom Ha'atzma'ut:
Leo Baeck celebrates Israel's 62nd Birthday!**



Yom Haatzmaut was an amazing day of celebrations at the North Campus. The Israeli spirit was felt across the school. For the 5th year in a row, Leo Baeck students from grades 3-6 participated in a parade on Atkinson Avenue from Netivot

HaTorah to Associated's Kamin Campus in celebration of Israel's 62nd year of Statehood. Leo Baeck was among 4 schools who marched in the parade and attended an assembly at Associated. Other schools included Netivot HaTorah Day School, Associated Hebrew Schools and Zarienu. During the assembly, each of the schools sang or danced to Israeli music. Leo Baeck presented two Israeli dances that were choreographed by Ronit Weinreich.

Grade 7 and 8 students participated in a round robin of Israel advocacy activities run by The Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA). Students had the opportunity to watch an Israeli film, learn about Israeli politics and share their feelings about a selection of Israeli photographs.

Nursery students had a pretend adventure to Israel, decorating their own "El-Al" airplanes, Israeli flags and traditional Israeli pioneer sunhats.

The day concluded with an assembly arranged by Yaniv, our young emissary, which focused on Israel's achievements during its years as a country.