

June 2011

Dear Parents:

I hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying a great summer. I miss the children and look forward to seeing them when school resumes in just a few weeks.

I, together with the rest of the administration and staff, are greatly anticipating an exciting opening of the new school year. This year we open with:

- *A new Kindle Library!
- *Laptop Carts for 7th-8th graders!
- *A new J.S. Leadership Team of:
 - Suri Nowosiolski -
 - Dassi Weiner -
 - Ariella Agatstein –

to accompany our GS Leadership Team:

- Debbie Davis – Lower School Coordinator
- Jenny Zacuto – Language Arts Coordinator
- Sharon Ryan – Mathematics Coordinator
- Stella Lerner – Middle School Coordinator.

- *A revised and upgraded Math, Language Arts, and Dinim Curriculum.

- *New PTA Leadership this year where the goal is to bring a warm, “family” orientation to the school experience.

This year, we anticipate the WASC accreditation process which will culminate in a visit from the WASC Committee in February of 2012. We ask parents to participate on surveys and committees. Yavneh also continues to progress towards our goal of “objective-based grading”, which will enable school and parents to better articulate goals and assessments.

Once again this year you can view and download all summer packet information including the calendar, parent handbook, bus application, lunch application, carpool information, etc. off of our website (www.yha.org). Please select “Summer Information Packet” from the top of the page and a dropdown menu will appear.

This venue allows you to view and print all essential information and prevents papers from being lost. In the event that you have no access to the internet, please let us know and we will be glad to print you a “hard copy”.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION:

There is a mandatory Middle School Orientation meeting for middle school students (grades 6-8) to take place on **Wednesday, August 24, 2011 from 7:45 for boys and 8:00 for girls until 10:30 AM**. This meeting is mandatory since we will be discussing items critical to your child's success. Students will have lice checks and will be receiving their lockers, books, schedules, and planners on this day. We are letting you know about this important meeting with enough notice to plan your schedules in advance because **even if you attended a meeting in prior years, you still need to attend this year.**

MIDDOT MENTORING:

Students are continuously taught and reminded that although academic excellence is admirable and expected, proper middot and menchlich'keit are the core of our goals. Good grades on report cards are insignificant if one's behavior and ethics fall short of Torah standards.

Students are taught this by our teachers both formally, through grade level curriculum themes and programs, and informally through role-modeling and use of daily classroom procedures and expectations.

We, at Yeshivat Yavneh, are very proud of our Middot Mentoring program. In this program, all grades from Early Childhood through eighth grade spend time during the year paying special focus on a number of middot themes. These themes become alive through special projects, stories, assemblies, and grade-level integration opportunities. Additionally, grades 5-8 are divided into groups which are mentored by a Rebbe or Morah for a few minutes each week to delve more deeply into the theme and to grapple with practical issues related to the middah.

We live in challenging times in which outside influences often portray a culture and a model that runs counter to our Torah goals. Our children need, more than ever, for parents to be aware of these influences – media, websites, music, TV, movies, technology etc. – and to take a strong stand in support of Torah values. Middot, ethics, and values must be modeled and supported in the home.

With your help, we endeavor to make wonderful middot, part of your child's Torah personality. I thank you in advance for your support and assistance in this program which is central to your goals as parents, and to our mission at Yeshivat Yavneh.

I am looking forward to a wonderful academic year and to greeting your children on Thursday, August 25th for Pre 1-8 and Monday, August 29th for

ECD. If I can be of any help or address any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Until then, enjoy the rest of summer.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe Dear
Headmaster
Yeshivat Yavneh