

The story of your child's creation.

D'var Keshet from the Head of School

June 1, 2018 / 18 Sivan, 5778

Parashat B'halot'cha, Numbers/Bamidbar, 8:1-12:16



“B’Yachad – We Did This Together”

On August 16, the first day of school this year, I was greeted by a magnificent rainbow as I drove into the parking lot. The next day, we all woke up to a front page Metro section article in The Columbus Dispatch announcing an unprecedented gift from Leslie and Abigail Wexner. In hindsight, the article's words quoting CJDS Board of Trustees President, Andrew Grossman, now prove prescient: “This transformational gift will allow us to release the true potential of this school and all that it has to offer the Jewish community of Central Ohio.”

Thanks to the generosity of this largest gift from the Wexners, we are well on our way to soaring to new heights at CJDS:

100%

Financial support from the Board of Trustees for the Hadesh Yamenu campaign, with an unprecedented total of \$250,000.

100%

Staff Participation (largest staff total ever)

100%

Parent Participation (first time in 5 years)

In the last 18 months, a total of \$866,000 has been pledged to the school... Not including any Wexner funding.

We have received an additional \$143,000 in grants for security, restoring our wetlands ecosystem and pond, gardening and intergenerational service learning and for teaching fine arts with Jewish texts inspired by artist David Moss.

We have been able to attract phenomenal talent from around the country:



Rachel Arcus-Goldberg came to us from Gann Academy in Boston, with 15 years of experience in Jewish educational leadership.



We have hired our first full time Development Professional, Julie Tilson Stanley, from Luria Academy in Brooklyn, also with 15 years of experience in the field.



And we welcomed Mark Mitzman as our Business Manager, who brings 40 years of accounting and legal experience to us at CJDS. And this fall, we welcome joyfully to our faculty several stellar new educators who are passionate about our mission and extremely excited to teach at CJDS. (Many are introduced in this issue of the Ma Koreh, and a few more will be announced later in the summer).

We also created a new award winning viewbook, that has captured the imagination of families locally and around the country. There was such great national buzz about the viewbook [[link to viewbook](#)], that Ms. A.G. and I were invited to write an article about how our viewbook came to be, which you can read [here](#), in HaYidion, the quarterly magazine of Prizmah, the Center for Jewish Day Schools.

And enrollment for the 2018-19 school year is up... **21%**.
And there is even so much more.

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Why?

Why are people pouring energy, resources, ideas, and love, into CJDS?

It comes back to our theme for this year, Kavanah, which comes from the Hebrew word kivun, meaning direction. Together, we are moving in a common direction, focused on shared goals.

I conclude this final D'var Keshet of the year by offering this "kavanah" about the why of CJDS:

Because we believe with all our heart and soul in sophisticated learning that is filled with joy. Because we want critical thinkers who not only have access to the highest level academic tools, but who can put them to work in the service of real life problems.

Because we want to contribute to the world in positive and memorable ways. Because we seek out experiences that make us feel awe – because goosebumps are the standard for excellence when it comes to living a life of meaning. Because it is inspiring to be a part of something larger than each one of us. Because together, we can do things that can only be achieved as a community.

Yachad – we did this together. We are doing it together.

I am filled with excitement for next year. The sky is truly the limit with a team as creative, as dedicated and as talented as ours; we will continue to take off and soar further.

And now, we exhale together.

Shabbat Shalom and have a safe and refreshing summer, Kayitz Tov!



Dr. Tali Zelkowitz
Head of School