



jewish community
day school of rhode island

The Jewish Community Day School
of Rhode Island
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A Feinstein Leadership School
Good Deeds Program

Helping to better the lives of others
is the greatest of all achievements!

As a Feinstein Leadership School, we are committed to
teaching our students to be caring of others.

Head of School: Robert Sarkisian
Feinstein Coordinator: Susan L. Adler

“The world rests on three things: Torah, Service, and Acts of
Loving Kindness.” (Ethics of Our Fathers 1:2)



Alan Shawn Feinstein is founder of the Feinstein Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to helping the needy and empowering students of all ages to help better their communities. The Feinstein annual campaign against hunger has become the most successful grass roots effort to fight hunger of all times. 40,000 plus Rhode Island Jr. Scholars and their teachers spearhead this campaign each spring.



What are our Feinsein Junior Scholars up to?



Our Edible Garden is More Than a Dream

Here at JCDS, we've been busy in our garden learning about sustainability. 5th graders sowed seeds this past winter, directly into raised beds, which we've enclosed with glass. This "cold frame" enabled us to be winter gardeners. Our kale and spinach have miraculously sprouted. So, too, has the dreaded Japanese Knotweed, an invasive plant species likened to Godzilla. In fact, it is one of the top invasive plants plaguing the UK and USA today. By learning about it and how to potentially destroy it so that it doesn't destroy ecosystems, our students are practicing what it means to treat the earth with kindness, a charity that will benefit future generations. According to Jamie Woods, some of the items on our community garden Wish List include: a rain barrel, a compost turner, and organic soil. Last year, a Feinsein grant was instrumental in helping us grow.

Zmira Stouber, JCDS Alum, Begins Special Group

In honor of her Bat Mitzvah, Zmira is working on a special project. She wants to collect as many granny squares as possible over the next year and turn them into blankets for people in need. Once a month, a group of women and girls will meet at her home for tea, cookies and crocheting. She is also asking people to make them on their own and send them to her. You may donate skeins of yarn by dropping them off at Temple Emanu-El. She states, "Please help me make lots of people feel safe and warm." We are proud of you Zmira! Kol Hakavod!



Purim Bags – A Delicious Mitzvah

This year, families at JCDS had a wonderful opportunity to perform a delicious Mitzvah, a good deed. One of the four Mitzvot associated with the holiday of Purim is to give gifts of food to at least two people. As a fundraiser, members of the school community sent Mishloach Manot to families of the school. Bags were handed out to every family in the school and more than \$1,500 was raised. This year, 31 families, staff, board members and friends participated. This money will be used for cultural events and field trips at the school. This event has become an annual tradition at our school. Thanks to all the families who participated and all the parents who shopped and made the bags.



The Students of Kindergarten and 1st Grade are Feinsein Jr. Scholars

The students, have donated money to Meir Panim Soup Kitchens in Israel that provide quality food in an exclusive dining setting, free of charge, to those in need. The soup kitchens are designed to look just like high-class, prestigious restaurants. Meals are planned by a nutritionist and tastefully prepared by a professional chef. The menu is varied and consists of four courses per meal. They have also sent money to Ozer Dalim to help with food and medical expenses. Needy people, especially those with a short-term cash flow problem due to medical or other emergency situations are able to borrow money interest-free from these funds and pay the loan back over time.



Wendy's Smiles Across the Miles

This program named in memory of Wendy B. Adler, has been a Schechter tradition for many years and we are glad that we have included it in the Jewish Community Day School curriculum. Wendy would send pictures to friends who weren't feeling well. Susan L. Adler began to do the same thing and have her students participate. When Wendy passed away, Susan decided to name the program after her beloved sister-in-law. Each week, "Morah Adler's" Jr. Feinstein Scholars send pictures to sick people and shut-ins of the community and beyond. A letter is sent with each packet wishing the person a quick and full recovery. We have also been sending letters of condolence. When the class receives a letter in return, these letters are taped to a bulletin board by the door of the classroom. Every time the students enter or leave the room, they are reminded of their good deeds and it gives them a smile. It also gives them a positive attitude for the day. One woman wrote, "Your pictures brought a smile to my face and they will help me get better much quicker." Our goal is to help students feel a sense of connectedness to others and an obligation to help those who are not well. In addition to this, packets of "smiles" are sent each month to different nursing homes in the state. If you know of someone who would benefit from a package of smiles, please let Morah Adler know. You can reach her at 751-2470, mailbox 51.



Mimi Heath's Walkathon

For her Bat Mitzvah Project, Mimi Heath, JCDS

Alum, raised money for the children of Haiti. She held a walkathon on April 18, 2010 and Kadima and Junior USY participated. Her goal was \$1,800 but she ended up raising \$2,231. Mimi donated her money through Plan USA, an organization that has many volunteers in Haiti and whom her family has supported before. We are proud of you Mimi! Kol Hakavod!

תודה רבה Alan Shawn Feinstein Gives the School \$63,147

Thank You JCDS is pleased to announce that, as a result of our participation in the Feinstein campaign to Fight Hunger, Mr. Alan Shawn Feinstein has awarded the school \$63,147: \$53,147 in matching funds for the amount the school community raised to fight hunger, and an additional \$10,000 because we were the elementary school which raised the most money for the hunger campaign. We are thankful to the students, parents, teachers, Board members, and greater community for their support in donating to the Feinstein Fight Hunger campaign, all of whom helped us to raise such a dramatic amount! We truly appreciate Mr. Feinstein's commitment to the school and to the larger community. In addition to this check, Mr. Feinstein also gave the school \$3,526 for the cans the students brought in for the Food Pantry. Kol Hakavod to all! Thank you, Mr. Feinstein!



By Nicholas Lowinger, JCDS Alum

My name is Nicholas Lowinger. When I was little, I began donating my gently used shoes and clothing to an area shelter. One day, a little boy came up to me and took a pair of boots from the top of my donation bag. He put them on immediately and was so happy because this was his first pair of shoes. I could see that the boots were much too big for him, and wished I had had some others that would have fit him better. I knew then that at some point in my life, I wanted to provide new footwear to needy children.

My Bar Mitzvah is in November of this year. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am collecting new shoes and sneakers for children in local shelters, from infancy through age 17. Most shoe donations to shelters are used shoes. While these shoes provide adequate shoe covering, everyone wears out their shoes differently, and therefore these are not the best fit for someone else. With new shoes and sneakers, children can break them in, and this will be much better for them. It is my hope that they will feel better about themselves because they will have a new pair of shoes.

Recently, I opened up a non-profit corporation called, *Gotta Have Sole Foundation, Inc.* This will allow me to continue this important work long after my Bar Mitzvah. My plan is to contact shoe importers and retailers nation-wide for shoe donations, and to collect monetary donations in order to purchase any shoes we may need. Having contacted many of the RI shelters, *Gotta Have Sole Foundation, Inc.*, has already made over fifty shoe and sneaker donations. The exuberant expression on the children's faces while receiving these shoes has been greatly satisfying to me.

2nd Graders' Random Acts of Kindness

WE CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD



With KINDNESS

Here are some ways that the 2nd graders are putting a smile on others' faces:

Jeremy – helped a friend when he slipped on a hike

Noa – helped my Mom take care of my little baby brother.

Joey – my sister found something that belonged to me and we fought about whose it was. Then I bought her an apology present.

Jonah – helped Joey when we were playing baseball. He slipped and fell and I helped him inside and waited with him till he could return to class.

Odelia – my brother woke up crying for something to drink. I gave him some orange juice and he felt better. I think he was thirsty because I put too much salt on his chicken.

Nina – after school we sometimes play football. Someone fell and I went to get a band aid.



Joshua Levanos' Mitzvah Project

For his Bar Mitzvah project, Josh Levanos, JCDS Alum, is collecting new and used soccer

balls and equipment for the John Hope Settlement House. The John Hope Settlement House provides services to over 10,000 Providence residents each year. They have a child care center, a gymnasium and classrooms. They help low income families build strong financial futures. Josh is proud to be helping such an important community organization here in Providence. We are proud of you also. Way to go Josh!



The Second Graders are Feinstein Jr. Scholars

When Morah Adler's mom came home from the hospital after having open heart surgery, the 2nd graders sent the Adler family a Shabbat meal catered by Accounting for Taste. It was a wonderful surprise and the food was delicious. They also sent a meal to Raz family when Danielle was born. What wonderful Mitzvot!



Our PK Students are Feinstein Jr. Scholars

During the year, the students have been adding their good deeds to a Mitzvah Tree.

In this way, the students have a constant reminder of the good things they do each day.

Here are some examples:

- Lyndsay offered her pieces of “connectors” to Leon so he could finish his building.
- Isa gave Chesed, kindness to her siblings before they went to their school.
- Lev gave Kavod, honor to the class by reminding the students how to behave at the table.
- Leon showed Kavod by picking up in the classroom without being asked.



RI Flood Relief

The 4th grade raised \$23 for the RI Flood Relief which was matched, making the total \$46. Mrs. Rudnick also donated to this fund. Many of our families were affected by the torrential rains during Pesach. If you would like to contribute to the fund, you may send in a check to the school and mark it RI Flood Relief. Our goal is to reach \$200. Please help us reach our goal.



The 4th graders also collected more than \$40 for Mazon in honor of Purim. Kol Hakavod Kitah Dalet!