

# KOL KADIMA

## The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

Vol. 4 No. 1

1 Elul, 5769

August 21, 2009

Parsha: Shoftim

Candle Lighting 7:24 p.m.

Havdalah 8:20 p.m.

### Schedule of Events

August 26 Fall Class Pictures

September 1 7:00 Meet the Faculty Curriculum Night

September 3 6:30 Informal College Prep Housekeeping Meeting with Senior Parents and Becky Pharr

September 10 Mid Term Progress Reports

September 21 Art Class Field Trip

October 14 PSAT Exam

October 18 Anshei Bar-B-Q Fest

### D'var Torah given by Courtney Thomas

This week's Parshah is Shoftim. The word Shoftim literally translates into justice. The most famous words of this Parshah are "tzedeq, tzedeq tirdof: justice, justice, you shall pursue." Many people ask why justice is used twice. There are two opinions for this; one is the obvious reason that it was used twice for significance. The other opinion is that the first justice is personal and the second is the justice of the courts. Tirdof is a strange word to use, because the root word rodef is usually used negatively, to pursue someone to threaten his or her life. The point of using such a serious word is because it is for emphasis on the fact that we must seriously be just, and we should seek justice. We can see another example from when we see Aaron described as a man who "ohev shalom v'rodef shalom" or loves peace and pursues it. Obviously this isn't meant in a hostile way. There are two approaches to this word; it could be used positively or negatively. This parshah is trying to show us that we should approach this commandment positively and respectfully.

### The Summer of Good Test Scores

Our Advanced Placement students were all rated as well qualified or extremely well qualified by the College Board after sitting for their AP exams this past spring.

Our seniors are also to be commended for their excellent scores on both the SAT and the ACT this summer.

### Logan Bierman at National Youth Leadership and Israel

Junior Logan Bierman attended the National Youth Leadership Youth Forum on Medicine this summer. Young scholars from across the nation participated in the NYLF/MED. Sessions took place in eight cities throughout the United States. Scholars joined other high school students from around the country who demonstrated academic excellence, leadership potential and an interest in a career in medicine.

Logan also had an Israel experience. He went with a high school program called Alexander Muss High School in Israel. He studied Jewish History while experiencing it first hand by visiting historical sites in Israel and living for 6 weeks in Israeli society.

### Governor's School

Monte Eiseman, current senior, had an extraordinary summer at the Tennessee Governor's School in the field of engineering. The program had a wait list because of the competitiveness involved so it was an honor for Monte to be selected. He will receive college credit for attending.

Alex Nahon, current junior, had an equally wonderful summer at the Governor's School in the field of Fine Arts. Alex was involved in all aspects of the program and as a result is now working with the Playhouse on the Square.

### Logan Belz in Costa Rica

Senior Logan Belz had an incredible experience this summer in Costa Rica. He was a participant with Moon Dance Adventures where he earned 50 hours of community service helping children play basketball and learn how to read English. He also saved turtle eggs from poachers and returned baby turtles to the ocean.

### Jessica Rubin at Mori no Ike

Senior Jessica Rubin spent the summer in Minnesota at Mori no Ike, a Japanese language and culture learning program. She wrote and acted out a play with her class in Japanese and she learned how to play a Japanese children's song on the trumpet.

## Kevin Wender in Israel

Senior Kevin Wender also toured Israel this summer with a group called Young Judaea. Young Judaea is built on a framework that emphasizes three core facets: peer leadership, political non-partisanship, and religious pluralism. Within this framework, the programs and activities focus on instilling members with three core values: Judaism, Zionism, and Jewish identity.

## Art Program Speaker comes to MJHS

MJHS is proud of the new Fine Arts Program introduced this year. The program includes many guest speakers in the art world. The first of the speakers came this week. Her name is Suzannah Herbert.

## Iranian Nuclear Expert Visits

Mr. Yehuda Yaakov visited the school this week to speak to our student body. He is an Iranian Nuclear Threat expert and he requested a stop at MJHS as part of his short stay in Memphis. Our entire student and faculty body were invited to attend.

## Golf Team is Ready for Season 2

Under the leadership of Captain Logan Belz and Co-Captain Logan Bierman, the MJHS golf team launches its second season. Golf pro Mark Grace returns to coach our team and Stuart Thomas returns as the team sponsor. Members of this year's team include: Logan Belz, Logan Bierman, Jake Tobey, Monte Eiseman, Parker Mantell, Alex Nahon, Jason Vela and Nathan Light.

## Student and Honor Council Officer Elections

At our first Town Hall meeting, the students gave nominations for Student Council Officers. Running for President will be Monte Eiseman and Logan Bierman. Running for Secretary will be Courtney Thomas and Jessica Rubin. Running for Treasurer will be Alex Nahon and Seth Harrison. Honor Council President nominations were also taken. Running will be Parker Mantell and Courtney Thomas.

Candidates will be campaigning the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. They will deliver campaign speeches at the next Town Hall meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. After the speeches, the student body will vote. Results will be announced on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Ambassador Applications

Head of School, Dr. Brock will begin accepting resumes for Student Ambassadors next week. Please see her if you

are interested in becoming a recruiting expert for our school.

## Community Service

As part of our curriculum again this year, all students will be required to perform at least 20 hours of community service. Community Service forms are available in the front office.

## Discipline Emphasis

Dr. Brock announced to the student body on the first day of school that the faculty and administration will be emphasizing 3 core points in the school discipline plan. The points are Respect, Honesty and Punctuality. The school mission statement and culture fit in perfectly with these values.

## Open Invitation Anytime!

The Memphis Jewish High School invites you to come for a tour of our school! Dr. Elizabeth Brock, Head of School, remarked, "The students that have visited our school are very impressed with our program and our facility. I think they especially enjoy having a lap top computer for the day when they visit our classes!"

Call 901.767.4818 for a tour or a day of shadowing.

## Mazal Tov

To **the Brakha Family** for the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rachel.

## Toda Raba

To **Tami Eiseman** for bringing cupcakes to the Kabbalat Shabbat program today!

## Refuah Shlemah

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Courtney Thomas** for a speedy recovery.

**SAT Sunday Testing Date Change – on the MJHS calendar, all ACT and SAT test dates were printed. The Sunday testing date is always the Sunday following the Saturday test date. However, the College Board just announced that the October 11 Sunday test date has changed to October 18 due to a holiday conflict.**

