
KOL KADIMA

The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

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16 Tishri, 5768
Candlelighting 6:31p.m.

September 28, 2007
Havdalah 7:25 p.m.

Schedule of Events

September 26 Progress reports mailed

September 27 **October 7** No School

October 1 Bowling and lunch at Kevin Wender's Sukkah

October 10 Blue Dog Exhibit

October 17 PSAT 10th grade only

October 26 Parent Conferences Half Day

Reminders

You can purchase honorials or memorials on the web site or by calling the school at 767-4818
We have Kroger and Schnuck's cards in the office

Head of School

Dear MJHS Families,

Today we will be mailing the mid quarter grade reports. I hope each of you have been accessing power school on a regular basis so there are no surprises. Please note, there is time to improve, with effort and cooperation between school and home. Our staff is available to discuss any concerns. Please email the teacher to set up an appointment or call the school office.

We will be having a Parent Council meeting on October 11 at noon in the school's teacher lounge. This will be a brief meeting to explain the purpose of the council and how the council can effectively help support our school. Please feel free to bring a brown bag kosher lunch and join Bonnie Belz and Pam Malkin who will be leading this meeting.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Sukkot break. Sukkot is a joyous holiday that follows the most solemn holiday of the year. Sukkot is both an agricultural and historical holiday. It signifies the forty years we wandered the desert living in

temporary shelters and it is also the festival of the harvest.

Another observance of Sukkoth relates to the four species known as the lulav and etrog, which is used in reciting blessing and we all associate with waving in all directions. The citron used is the etrog native of Israel. The three species that are bound together are the lulav (palm branch), two willow branches (aravot), and three myrtle branches (hadassim).

We use these four species because they represent parts of the body and different kind of Jewish people. The palm represents the spine and represents a person who has the knowledge of Torah but lacks the performance of Mitzvoth. The myrtle, which is oval in shape, represents the eye and represents a Jew that performs mitzvot but lacks Torah knowledge. The willow leaf represents the mouth and represents a person who has no Torah knowledge or Mitzvoth. The etrog represents the heart and represents Jews who have Torah knowledge and who perform Mitzvoth. The represented body parts have the potential to be used for sin, but we join them together to perform mitzvot. We also bring the four species together to remind us that each type of Jewish person is important and we must all be united. I wish all of you and your families a Chag Sameach

Shabbat Shalom

Adrian Weissman

Parent Corner

Concentration Tips

The art or practice of concentration is to eliminate distraction and focus on the task at hand. If you find that you read through material and suddenly

discover that you have no idea about what you've just read, or if you attend lectures and have

difficulty paying attention to what is being said, these tips may help:

Stick to a routine, efficient study schedule
Study in a quiet environment
For a study break, do something different from what you've been doing (e.g., walk around if you've been sitting), and in a different area

Avoid daydreaming by asking yourself questions about the material as you study it

Before lectures, look over the notes of the previous lecture and read the course material pertaining to the lecture so that you can anticipate the main ideas that the instructor will cover

Show outward interest during lectures (attentive expression and posture) to self-motivate internal interest

Resist distractions by sitting away from disruptive classmates and by focusing on the instructor through listening and note taking

J. R. Hayes, *The Complete Problem Solver*, Franklin Institute Press, 1981

Dean of Jewish Studies

Sukkot in Israel – Real Joy

On the Sukkot festivals there is a special mitzvah "*And you shall rejoice on your festival.*" (Deuteronomy 16:14), and, our Sages explain, **the only true joy is shared joy**. Indeed, the verse in full reads: "*And you shall rejoice in your festival -- you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite, and the stranger, and the orphan, and the widow, who are within your cities.*"

When you ask people who made Aliya to Israel "in what way is living in Israel different than living in the US" the most common answer is "**The holidays**".

When living a Jewish life you get very busy when the holidays come around. There is all kinds of

preparations, shopping to do, clothing, cleaning and it's is the main thing on your mind for a few days

before, but in Israel it is much more exciting. Let me give you a little taste of it.

The whole week before the holiday you see and feel a special excitement in the air. Everybody is running around, to stores and shopping centers that are selling holiday supplies. Every city has this big 4 kinds market where thousands of people hang out, checking things out and buying. Music is played in the streets which are packed until late at night. Students are off school and are involved in all the preparations, and you feel you are part of something very big. Judaism is all over. You feel it, smell it and breathe it in.

The preparation time comes to an end and everything shuts down. Silence. It is candle lighting time. The streets are emptied out, no transportation, families walking together to shul holding their four kinds, and you hear the holiday Kiddush and songs from all the Sukkas you see on your way. A holiday atmosphere spreads in the air. Later, During the Chol-Hamoed, lots of festivals and fairs are held throughout the country and family Sukkah-visits are the main attraction. The traditional Birkat Cohanim at the western wall always holds tens of thousands of people, and representatives from all the nation take part in an international parade down the main road of the capital to the western wall. In simple words I would say, the holiday is all over and you cannot escapethis wonderful atmosphere.

This is definitely a feeling of shared joy, which obviously fills you up with joy and gives you a happy holiday. I highly recommend you try it out sometime, but for this year may I wish y'all a joyful holiday and may you experience the shared joy among you family and friends.

Chag Sameach