

newsletter

Kislev 5772 כסלו

November 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Torah portion that has struck me most recently is the story of Abraham and Sarah's hospitality. Their tent was open on all four sides and when Abraham saw strangers, he would rush to them to beg them to accept his hospitality. At JCoSS, a school which uniquely embraces all 'kinds' of Jews and Judaism, our tent is open on all sides, and through the good deeds of our students, exemplified in our recent Mitzva Day, our students are learning to follow the examples of Abraham and Sarah.

Only last month during the Yom Kippur service we cautioned against having "legs that run to do evil" – my aspiration is that JCoSS students have legs that run to do good. We look forward to an exciting Chanukah and we will be hosting, once again, the Norwood Chanukah party in which dozens of JCoSS students will provide refreshments and entertainments for adults with learning disabilities.

We were thrilled to host our first Sixth Form Open Evening which was a very well attended and received event. We are all very exciting at welcoming our first Sixth Form cohort, not just to be high achieving students, but also to help lead our younger students in exciting and communal activities.

Year 7 parents will have received a report and attended a parents evening at which, I hope every student was demonstrated to be rushing to do good, and to learn in a positive and constructive way. Our recent Grandparents' Open Afternoon demonstrated the menschlichkeit (determination to be good) not just in the school, but also in the families of our young people. Thank you for being strong supporters of your children, of JCoSS, of menschlichkeit and of learning.

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner
Headteacher

**Our Poppy Appeal raised £130.
Thank-you to everyone who
contributed.**



Please Help!

We have a Morrisons 'Let's grow for it!' voucher box at reception and a Nestle 'Box Tops for Books' box at reception. Please help us to collect lots of vouchers!!

WEATHER AFFECTING TRAVEL

As we move into the winter months and potentially face bad weather, please check our website www.jcross.org and your mobile texts for the latest, up-to-date information.

If the Little Bus Company are able to run most routes, school will stay open.

Unless notified, the school is open.

If you use The Little Bus Company, please ensure that they have up-to-date mobile telephone numbers. If there is a sudden snowfall overnight, the Little Bus Company will make a decision at 6.30 in the morning as to whether it is safe to travel eg. due to snow. A blanket text will then be sent out from the Little Bus Company to say whether they are operating the snow route, (route to be shown shortly on our website), or not able to operate at all.

Reminder

School closes at 2pm on 8th December due to staff training. And school closes at 1.25pm on Fridays during winter months.

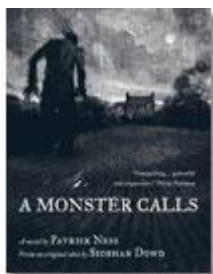
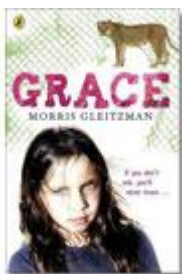
BOOK CLUB

Every Thursday, Book Club, a small group of readers, comes to the library to discuss their favourite topic: books!

We have been reading last year's Red House Children's Book Award older readers' shortlist - on this list was *Trash* by Andy Mulligan, which we agreed was too fast-paced, confusing and badly written. We also read *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan about which we had split opinions. "I never usually read this kind of book, but it gripped me from the start and I absolutely loved it!" one member commented. Others disagreed. One said, "I couldn't force myself to read it all, at the 25th chapter I stopped, finding it dull and unexciting."

The Red House Children's Book Award 2012 has now announced its older readers' shortlist: *Grace* by Morris Gleitzman, *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness and *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece* by Annabel Pitcher. We are very excited to delve into these books, and will vote once we make a decision on our favourite! We'll just have to wait and see...

By Ella G-E and Orli V-V, 7F.



Cyclists

Please wear high visibility jackets when cycling to and from school in addition to cycling in your own time. While it is advisable from a safety perspective to make this good practice at all times, it is particularly important to adhere to it as we approach dark mornings and evenings.

Reminder

All parents bringing their children by car, should drop off using the Castlewood Road entrance only and not use the Westbrook Crescent entrance.

In accordance with the school travel plan, parents should not arrive to collect their children from school more than 15 minutes prior to home time. Parents should park on the school side of the JCoSS road, off Castlewood Road.

The Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau / Macmillan Welfare Benefits Service helps people affected by cancer to access welfare benefits to relieve the cost of cancer.

We are seeking volunteers to help us in our High Barnet office due to the high volume of clients needing our support.

We have a number of different volunteer roles so contact us if you are interested in finding out more information on 020 8440 4227 or infomacmillan@barnetcab.org.uk

Parent Governor Election

As you will know, parents and carers were recently invited to stand for election as parent governor on the Governing Body and I now announce that the new governor is Mr Geoffrey Greenhouse. The number of votes cast for each nominee was as follows:

Name	Number of votes
Geoffrey Greenhouse	54
Caren Rosenthal	17
Claire Raphael	28
Jane Wise	21
Spoiled papers	2

Thank you very much to all the nominees for putting their names forward.

Shirley Paul

Clerk to the Governors



Science: I'm a Scientist Decipher my Data By Mrs Follet (AHT)

I'm a Scientist, Decipher My Data was conceived by Declan Fleming, a secondary school Chemistry teacher at Pates School, Cheltenham. Gallomanor, the team behind I'm a Scientist, Get me out of here!, has teamed up with Declan and three initial scientists to develop the Decipher My Data concept and find funding to make it a reality.

The three founding scientists are:

Dr. Ian Walker – road traffic psychologist at the University of Bath

Dr Rob Aldridge – Public Health Trainee, NHS

Professor Dudley Shallcross - Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, University of Bristol

Classes from Years 7 & 8 are currently participating in the National 'Decipher my data!' project.

The project was born out of the idea that students benefit from performing real science using real data in the classroom. Students and teachers become scientists working alongside leading researchers on scientific studies to produce better results than either could achieve on their own. Decipher my data! is not one single project but a series of science projects, which use the Decipher my data! website to download data and upload results. The projects will encourage students to use scientific strategies in a real world scenario.

Each project consists of three phases:

- Context setting
- Data collection and analysis
- Reporting and Reviewing

Unwanted uniform needed!

The JCoSS Parents Association would like to sell Second Hand school uniform to new JCoSS parents. All proceeds go to the school. Please hand in to Reception, washed and labelled 'JPA Uniform.'

Year 8 credit lottery winners:

Ella R- £10
Anaya S- £20
Nathan C -£30

Well Done!

Head Lice

There have been a few cases of head lice at school so please be vigilant and check your child's hair.

Safety Warning

Students are reminded that they are advised not to walk through Victoria Park on the way to or from New Barnet Station. There are buses every 15 minutes from Westbrook Crescent, where there are security and teaching staff on duty after school. If students feel that they must walk, which they are advised not to, the residential streets are much safer.

JCoSS Staff vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Learning Support Assistant (NJC scale Point 13 - £17,195 pro rata). 36 hours per week, term time only/40 weeks per year (Initially this post in on a fixed term contract until end of the summer term 2012)
Start date: 21st February 2012 or as soon as possible.

For more details, please go to our website www.jcoss.org

News from the PSRP

Autism and JCoSS

The Pears Special Resource Provision (PSRP) is a specially resourced base for students with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). It is an integral part of JCoSS, demonstrating another facet of the school's inclusive ethos. We currently have sixteen students within the provision; some of whom share the same lessons as their peers in the main school. Others, who find the main school environment a little challenging for a variety of reasons, are taught the same subjects but in smaller groups within the PSRP.

The National Autistic Society defines ASC as being '... a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways.' Interestingly, autism as a diagnosis has only been around since the 1940s, although there have been many famous people in history who are thought to have had ASC. Amongst these were Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Lewis Carroll, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Thomas Jefferson. ASC is an 'invisible' disability in that individuals display no physical differences to their typically developing peers. There isn't a cure but individuals can develop strategies to help them make sense of the world. So in addition to their academic learning, the PSRP students work with the provision's specialist staff to help develop the skills that they will need to cope with life as they grow older. Our current group of students is a vibrant group of young people who are very much a part of the JCoSS community. We enjoy working with them and look forward to seeing the progress they will make in their time at JCoSS.

Mrs Dennis: Senior Learning Support Assistant - PSRP

First Class Sixth Form

We held our 6th Form open evening earlier this month, which was attended by almost 500 people wanting to hear what the school had to offer 6th Formers.

We were overwhelmed by the tremendous feedback that was received on the night. Parents and prospective students were impressed by what we had to offer - small class sizes allowing individual attention, impressive facilities including a fantastic modern new common room and outstanding, professional teachers. Chloe, a year 11 student who came on the evening said "I was mesmerised the second I walked into JCoSS, all the teachers were so lovely and friendly and the school had no faults. Anyone would be silly to throw away an opportunity to attend this school."

Responding to demand, we are holding further talks and tours of the school, hosted by Mr Moriarty. There are a number of dates over the coming months, as follows: Monday 12th December 5.30pm
Tuesday 10th January 5.30pm and Wednesday 8th February 5.30pm. If you know of anybody that wishes to attend, please ask them to go to our website to register their attendance.



Our new 6th Form common room

JCoSS Netball Round-Up

The Year 7 Girls netball have started their season incredibly well winning all their games so far. We have played all away games and have had to rally round when we have had a few injuries.

The team have played :

Wren Academy winning 7-0,

East Barnet Girls winning 8-5

Bishop Douglass winning 9-6

Ashmole School winning 5-3

Our final game this term is on 1st Dec v QE Girls @Home in the Sports Hall. Please come and watch if you can 4pm start.



The Team: Talia F, Lauren M, Rebecca S, Indigo S, Lauren C, Isabelle M, Anna C, Arabella S, Tamar L, Sara S.

The Year 8 Girls netball have also started their season really well. We have played all away games and have won most of them. It is so nice that we have so many players wanting to play – if the enthusiasm is still there next year, we might have 2 teams!

The team have played :

Wren Academy draw 8-8

East Barnet Girls winning 12-6

Bishop Douglass winning 12-8

Ashmole School winning 13-8

QE Girls lost 9-14

The Team: Jamy B, Lauren B, Lottie F, Rosie F, Jodie R, Michal B, Ella L, Ella D, Danielle K, Harley B, Vivien G, Neve G.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

INDIGO SMITH ON BECOMING THE NEW JCOSS PRIME MINISTER AND ZACHARY LETZER FOR BECOMING THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Well done to all the candidates who participated.



Spreading Sunshine Across JCoSS and Beyond

By Emma Queralto

Recently Sunshine Club have been looking at how mean comments (deliberate and unintentional) cause huge stress, and developing strategies to overcome this.

Everyone agreed, nobody likes to be on the receiving end of unkind comments and we all like nice comments. But how often do you pro-actively give kind and encouraging words to yourself and others? Again everyone agreed, not nearly

enough. This is especially important for young people as to create high confidence and self-esteem they should receive at least 6 positive comments to counteract 1 negative comment.

Mitzvah day was the perfect opportunity to encourage a daily good deed of giving kind, encouraging words to others. Highlighting good qualities and actions lifts the human spirit, boosts confidence and helps everyone be their best.

Students made colourful messages of kind words to give to friends, family and teachers to spread sunshine across JCoSS. It was heart-warming to see students about to thank friends for listening, their teachers for believing in them and mums about to be recognised for making the dinner.

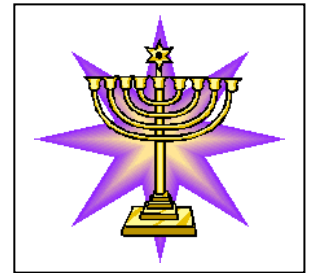
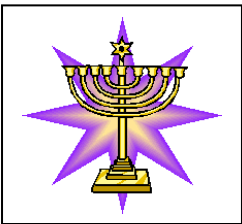
I hope this inspires you to actively make more kind comments to those around you. It's also a great way to lift your own spirits and reduce stress. Go on, do yourself and others a Mitzvah and spread a little sunshine each day.



Chanukah 5772

Our second Chanukah Show takes place on

Wednesday 14th December at 7.30PM



The show, taking place in the school hall, is once again varied and exciting, including items from the school orchestra – JCoSSO - JGLoSS, drama, solo instrumentalists, singing..... and more!

Tickets are available from Reception at £3 for adults and £2 concessions.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

TICKETS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FROM RECEPTION

ADULT TICKETS..... @£3/TOTAL £.....

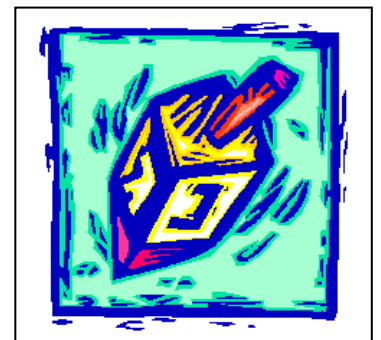
CONCESSIONS (Children and Senior Citizens)@£2/TOTAL £.....

I enclose a cheque/cash for £.....

Child's name..... Tutor Group:.....

Signed (Parent)

Please print name.....



Students have their say

This term saw the launch of the Student Ambassadors Scheme across school. Students applied for roles supporting and advising each subject area at the end of last academic year and since September having been working with staff to give student ideas and opinions on their lessons in a subject which is of personal interest to them. They will be able to attend the beginning of Faculty meetings, help with departmental activities and events, assist with displays and lesson planning and later in the year may get the opportunity to help teach younger students. It's a great opportunity for them to expand their knowledge of a subject and take on some extra responsibility around the school.

This year's Subject Ambassadors are:

- ❖ English: Nik O & Ilana H
- ❖ Maths: Daniel M
- ❖ Science: Jonah Z, Jayme C & Joel A
- ❖ French: Sophie P & Ruby R
- ❖ Geography: Sammy S, Ella L & Ben W
- ❖ History: Kezia N & Ella D
- ❖ Expressive Arts: Matthew C & Sophie I
- ❖ Art, Design and Technology: Harley B
- ❖ P.E.: Nathan R, Sammy B & Sam Morris
- ❖ Jewish Education: Lauren B



French Café

The last fortnight has seen two Year 7 Parents' Evenings at JCoSS and the French Student Ambassadors, Sophie and Ruby, did a fabulous job of recruiting for and organising the French Café we ran on both evenings. They arranged for other members of Year 8 to man the stall, serving tea, coffee and cakes to parents and staff, all whilst speaking in French! They raised the grand total of £258.68 for the international charity "Action Against Hunger, a charity which works to ensure communities around the world have access to sufficient food and can develop sustainable ways of feeding their people. A huge thank you and well done must go to Ruby Rose, Sophie P, Michal B, Taryn P, Kezia L, Jodie R, Sophie I, Karla C, Gemma E and all the staff and parents who gave so generously.

Humanities Student Ambassadors making links with the wider world

The Student Ambassadors in both History and Geography and have been working hard with Ms Burton to develop and refine their own brief and have come up with ideas they would like to roll out across the school. These include involving all Student Ambassadors in Open Days in their subject areas, inviting in subject-specific guest speakers and hopefully developing a link with a school in a less economically developed country (LEDC). Good luck!

Interested in getting involved?

Due to student departures we do now have vacancies for Student Ambassadors in ADT, JE and Maths. If you are in Year 8 and would like to be considered for any of these roles please submit a letter of application to the relevant Head of Faculty as soon as possible.

Are you in Year 7 and interested in becoming a Student Ambassador? At the end of the Spring term 2012 we will be opening up this opportunity to your year group. Further details will be given in your Year 7 assemblies.

Miss Kemp
Head of Faculty – Modern Foreign Languages
Gifted & Talented Lead Teacher

Informal Jewish Action/Social Action Madness!

Lots of exciting things have been happening at JCoSS over the past month. Mitzvah Day on the 18th and 20th November stands out as a day when our students were able to make a real difference. The day involved an impressive donation of hats, scarves and gloves for World Jewish Relief and toiletries for JGift. Students were able to visit nearby Livingstone Primary School to read with the Key Stage one students there. In addition, there was a high attendance at two special lunchtime clubs involving students knitting a square to contribute towards a quilt World Jewish Relief is sending to the Ukraine and packing toiletry hampers that will be sent to Jewish Women's Aid. The school day ended with a special assembly which included a performance of a unique Mitzvah Day jingle written by our students. On Sunday 20th November students visited the Jewish Blind and Disabled Residence in Mill Hill to have a tea party and socialise with the people who live there. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the day-You are all Mitzvah Day Super Stars!

A particular thanks needs to go to the following students who gave up so much of their time to help prepare the school and organise the assembly at the end of the day: Taryn P, Ryan P, Abi W, Sophie I, Rachel L, Megan C, Rebecca S, Jay S, Noa L, Joshua N, Chloe H, Lielle N.



Thinking ahead put the following dates in your diaries!

December 15th Lunchtime Charity Chanukah Fair. Students will need to bring in 50p which will go to our chosen charities to enter a fun filled lunch time Chanukah fair. There will be games and competitions and a chance to buy cakes and biscuits.

Feb 3rd-4th JCoSS Shabbaton for years 7-8. We are hosting our first shabbaton. Come and experience a truly magical Shabbat at school. There will be lots going on and everyone will be catered for.

April 30th- May 3rd Year 7 trip to York! The Jewish Education and Humanities department are excited to announce our forthcoming residential trip to York. There will be opportunities to see the sights and learn about the history of this great city. In addition, the trip promises to be fun filled and a great bonding experience.