

newsletter

אלול Eilu 5771

September 2011

Dear Parents,

It has only been a few short weeks since we were on our Summer Holidays and we are already celebrating Rosh HaShana, the Jewish New Year. It is a perfect opportunity to reflect, introspect and plan for the future.

Following a very successful year, we have been delighted to welcome 189 new Year 7 students to JCoSS. Already they are proving themselves to be hard working *mensch*s, good people, who want to succeed. Our extra-curricular clubs are full of vibrant students and dedicated staff. We have even won a football match! Well done to the new Year 7 team for their 5-3 win, the first victory on our spectacular All-Weather Pitch.

JCoSS is proud to be a member of the 2012 Olympics Education Network and we are very proud to have been selected to host the Faraday Engineering Challenge Day on 18 January. On this 'extra-curricular note, please do have a look at the Extra-Curricular Programme enclosed with the newsletter – there is a very impressive range of activities for your child to choose from.

We are looking forward to hosting our Year 7 Grandparents at our Grandparents' Afternoon on 2 November and our Sixth Form Open Evening on 10th November. Please do spread the word about our outstanding A-Level provision that will open next September.

I wish you a Happy and Healthy new year. When we hear the *shofar*, the rams horn, blown in the synagogue, may we think of it as both a herald of new opportunities and a wake-up call to treat our fellow members of the community with kindness and generosity.

Shana Tova! Happy New Year!

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner

Headteacher

Green Fingered Volunteer Needed

Since winning the Big Green Jewish Environment competition last term we have been working hard planning for our new Edible Garden. Students will begin work on this in the spring however we are looking for a green fingered individual to help us maintain the garden over the summer holidays. If you are interested in helping with this exciting project please email vrose@jcross.barnet.sch.uk or call the school office.

Parents wishing to book a child on a single/return coach journey with the Little Bus Company should email LBC at least 24 hours in advance to office@littlebus.co.uk, copying arogers@jcross.barnet.sch.uk. The email should include:

- your child's name
- date of journey
- morning or afternoon
- number of coach route

The Little Bus Company will email back to confirm or deny the request depending on the availability of a seat on that route. Once confirmation has been received, please send your child with payment to reception at school to ask for a coach pass. This procedure should also be followed if your child usually travels by coach, but wishes to use an alternative coach route.

Thank you
Mrs Rogers

Thank-you!

Following the collection last term of 3,500 Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and 4,000 Tesco for Schools vouchers we have ordered practice footballs, tag rugby equipment and stopwatches, World War Two Evacuation Suitcase full of belongings and a Classic Roofed Bird Table!
Let's see how well we can do next time with double the number of students and parents!

Rosh Hashanah

It is Rosh Hashanah again, each year it comes around so fast, and each year I reflect on what has been achieved and what is still waiting to be achieved.

This year we have two year groups; we have a vibrant buzz around four walls, teaching and learning is taking place and the students are happy.

The ultimate achievement at JCoSS is to be a Mensch: a good person who does good things for those around us within and outside of our community, a perfect message for Rosh Hashanah the time in the Jewish calendar for self-reflection.

The students have been learning the Unatane tokef prayer, one of the key prayers of the mussaf service (additional service) of Rosh Hashanah. It is a prayer that talks about what will happen to each of us in the coming year.

It reads: ...Who shall rest, and who shall wander; who shall be tranquil and who shall be harassed; who shall be at peace and who shall suffer; who shall become poor, and who shall become rich; who shall fall and who shall rise...

The prayer ends by stating that Repentance, Prayer and Charity will change Gods mind.

There is a modern day version of the prayer written and sung by Leonard Cohen: Who by Fire? It's haunting but worth a listen.

What would we include if we were making a JCoSS version of Unatane Tokef? Who will receive credits and who reminders; who a commendation and who a reaction; who a mensch award and who a detention; who shows kindness and who selfishness; who excels and who falls behind...

We can all think about our lives and our achievements whether in the context of Rosh Hashanah or otherwise. Perhaps our Repentance, Prayer and Charity will include our own self reflection, and resolution to become better people.

I encourage all of our JCoSS community to think about what we would like to achieve with the coming year, I believe that it is in our hands to make good things happen.

May I wish you and your families a Shannah Tova u'metuka, a happy sweet and healthy New Year.

Elaine Robinson

Assistant Head, Director Jewish Education

LRC News

We are delighted to welcome our new librarian, Mrs Corinne Mulkis to JCoSS. She joins us with a wealth of experience in school libraries and will be using her knowledge and expertise to develop the library over the coming months. She will be expanding the range of resources we have on offer and will be preparing for the incoming sixth form. She has already recruited a willing band of student librarians who are helping her with the day to day running of the library. All Year 7 students are being introduced to the LRC during English lessons and will continue to have a dedicated reading lesson in the LRC once a fortnight.

Booked Up

We are pleased to be part of the Booktrust's 'Booked Up' scheme again this year. Year 7 students are able to choose their free book from a list of specially selected titles. If you would like to find out more about this scheme, please look at their website: www.bookedup.org.uk/

Home Learning Club:

Thursday, 4-5pm in the LRC

Mrs Mulkis is running home learning club; students are welcome to come and do their home learning after school in the peace and quiet of the LRC.

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club is a great opportunity for you and your child to buy books and to help the school library expand. For every book purchased the school library receives money towards FREE books. Students will bring home a leaflet five times a year. The deadline for the first set of orders is 31.10.11. These should be returned to Mrs Mulkis in the LRC.

Amazon Wish List

If you would like to donate a book to commemorate your child's birthday, bar/batmitzvah, or any other occasion, we have a wish list on Amazon. To access the list log on to www.amazon.co.uk and click on [gift and wish lists](#). Enter JCoSS in to the name bar. Select the book you would like to buy. Tick the gift box and note the student's name and the occasion of the gift to enable us to put a commemorative plaque in the donated book. Many thanks and we look forward to receiving your gifts!

Mrs Lightman

Assistant Head Teacher - English



Y8 JCoSS students have formed part of the Judging panel for the Royal Society of Chemistry's Young People's Book Prize. This week we reviewed 'The Icky Sticky Snot and Blood Book' by Steve Alton and Nick Sharratt. Students commented on the interactive nature of the book and the level of information which was both informative and entertaining. We look forward to next week's book. We will let you know our favourite at the end of this half term.

The Shortlisted books are:

The Icky Sticky Snot and Blood Book
 What's the Point of Being Green?
 How the World Works
 What Mr Darwin Saw
 The Story of Astronomy and Space
 What Goes On In My Head

For more information on each book please visit:
<http://royalsociety.org/awards/young-people/shortlist/>



Y7 Induction Day

Year 7 have made a great start to English lessons. We are delighted that so many of them completed their summer reading project so beautifully and are using their reading kites in library lessons before putting them on display. During the induction day lesson we were very impressed by the creativity of our new students. They wrote poems about kites using some very imaginative language. Below is an example:

Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Year 7 students saw their hopes and aspirations for the forthcoming year soar as they flew their very own kites to mark the first day of term.

Inspired by the work of Janus Korczak, a Polish-Jewish children's author and paediatrician, JCoSS students explored their ambitions for the year ahead and wrote these on their very own kites.

Eve, 7R said "It was quite an unusual thing to do. It was amazing to see how many people had made their own kites and how high they flew. My hopes for the year ahead is to do well in my subjects and to make some really good friends, which I have already done after just a few weeks!"



My Kite, by Ella 7F

Mesmorising
 My kite is a bird
 Circling gracefully around the high branches
 She makes me smile
 A friend
 Bold, bright, beautiful
 My kite will never leave me

Stunning
 My kite is a wish come true
 I lovingly guide her
 She does the same to me
 A joy
 She gracefully flies
 Strong and peaceful
 My kite will be my friend forever

This poem has been given a commendation by Mr Stowe-Lindner

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.

Dates for the Diary

29-30 September (*Rosh Hashanah*) – school closed, with early closing on 28th September at 1.25pm.

- 7 October – early closing at 1.25pm (*erev Yom Kippur*)
- 13 October (*Succot*) – school closed, with early closing on the 12th October at 1.25pm
- 14 October (*Succot* second day) – school open for optional non-curriculum activities (see below). There will be no regular timetable, school buses or school cafeteria on these days.
- Wednesday 5 October 4-9pm – Prospective Parents' Open Evening (school closes 2pm; buses run early for students who are not assisting).
- 19th October early closing at 1.25pm (*erev Shemini Atzeret*) and start of half term
- Wednesday 2 November Year 7 Grandparent's Open Afternoon (3-5pm)
- Wednesday 16 and Tuesday 22 November 4.30-7.30 pm – Year 7 Parents' Evening (you may attend either day)
- Wednesday 14 December - Chanukah Music and Drama Evening



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Street Dance and/or Hip-hop?

There is a demand for Street Dance and Hip-hop. If anyone can offer assistance or knows anyone who can, please contact Ms Miller at the school and we can hopefully offer it in the EC Programme after half term or in the Spring Term.

Footwear for PE, the all-weather pitch and in the Drama Studio

Trainers (clean please!) or jazz shoes or plimsolls (very cheap from ASDA or TESCO) or ballet shoes – all of these can be worn for Drama Lessons. Heavy school shoes are not appropriate. Soft, rubber-soled, non-marking school shoes are fine. Appropriate footwear should also be worn for the all-weather pitch - astro's, moulded boots or trainers are all fine. For the sports hall, trainers or plimsolls should be worn.

Chanukah Show Rehearsals

With so much going on in the way of Extra-Curricular every lunchtime, it is very difficult to rehearse shows. Our first performance this year is the Chanukah Show. Rehearsals for this will be from 4-5.30 on Mondays and on Friday lunchtimes. There will still be opportunities to participate in the Chanukah Show – as members of JGLOSS, JCoSSE (the Ensemble), soloists (yet to be decided). However the Drama and Dance parts of the concert will need lengthy rehearsal time – hence the after school Club.

Costumes

The Drama Department costume store is under way. I would be grateful for donations of any suits, hats, shirts, blouses, scarves, gloves, shoes, handbags, coats, dresses, material etc. etc. etc. Also, if anyone has a dress rail they no longer need – please let me know!

Music Lessons

Mrs Howe would like to remind all students that the lessons are now posted on the board in the Music Corridor. All students taking lessons will also be issued with their timetable. Students will be warned in advance of any changes that may take place. As stated in the letter that was sent out last term, lessons cannot be made up if missed or forgotten by the student. Lessons can only be re-scheduled if the tutor misses the lesson. All peripatetic music tutors are aware of the holiday dates.

Ms S Miller

Head of CEA Faculty

Video link with North London Collegiate School library

On Monday 12 September at 12.25pm precisely, JCoSS was linked via video with the staff and students of North London Collegiate School. We had been invited to listen to a visiting writer, Vince Cross, speak about his new book, part of his 'My Story' series about a girl training for the Berlin Olympics. As well as listening to the talk, JCoSS students were able to ask questions directly to the author.

JCoSS students were interested to hear about the main character's experiences in 1930s London especially when she comes face to face with the rise of fascism and sees Oswald Moseley and his black shirts marching through the streets of the East End.

