



**JCFS Yeshiva Program**  
***B'hatzlachah!***

***Creating Opportunities for Success***  
 November 10, 2017 – 21 Cheshvan 5778

### Greetings

**Every year, I meet with numerous families** whose children are experiencing difficulty at school. Whether or not these meetings result in a placement at the JCFS Yeshiva, they are helpful to parents considering how best to address their children's educational needs. If you know of families for whom JCFS Yeshiva services may be beneficial, please encourage them to enquire.

As you know, **local school districts refer students** to TDS, including students who are currently at the JCFS Yeshiva. Working with one's local school district to evaluate a child for a therapeutic placement can be very beneficial for one's child. This issue includes information that may be useful for interested families.

The 2017-18 **school year has gotten off to a good start** at the JCFS Yeshiva. Mr. Alex Lavin, Rabbi Neil Brill, and Ms. Meg Butler teach our fourth and sixth grade students. Mrs. Lauren Furlong and Ms. Alice Hoffmann teach our first-third grade students. In addition to students in our dedicated Yeshiva classrooms, we provide Jewish educational services to students in three other classes at the Therapeutic Day School. We have welcomed new clinicians: Alexandra Joseph, Alexis Linn, and Samantha Armes.

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B'hatzlachah!

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## Calendar Notes

- Wednesday, November 15, 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Parent Teacher Conferences in the evening.
- Tuesday, November 21. Pizza lunch
- Wednesday-Friday, November 22-24. Thanksgiving Break
- Tuesday evening, Dec. 12 – Wednesday, Dec. 20. Chanukah
- Thursday, Dec. 14, Wednesday, Dec. 20, and Thursday, Dec. 21: Early Dismissal days (1:45 pm).
- Monday, Dec. 25 – Friday, Jan. 5, inclusive. Winter Break

## REACH support for our Jewish education program

We are grateful for the continued support of REACH/ATT for making some of their teachers available to our students.

- For the third year, Mrs. Loskove has been meeting with 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on Kriah (reading), Chumash (Bible), and holidays.
- Rabbi Rephoel Wolf, a new REACH professional, teaches Gemara to a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student

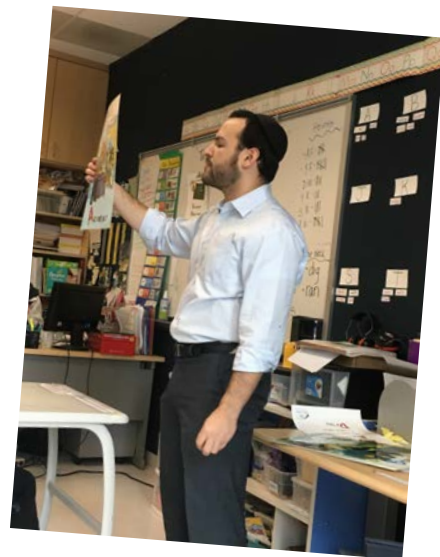
## Kehillah Jewish Education Fund support; a visit from Simcha Safran

The JCFS Yeshiva Program is grateful for the ongoing support of the [Kehillah Jewish Education Fund](#), a valued community partner. KJEF supports the JCFS Yeshiva with a monthly allocation of \$255 and has provided our program with \$14,187 since inception.

On Tuesday, November 7, Simcha Safran, Director of Operations and Donor Relations at KJEF, visited the JCFS Yeshiva classrooms, Beit Midrash, and saw our students hard at work on academics and art.

## Safety Kid

Rabbi Yakov Danishefsky, Clinical Intern, JCFS, recently presented the Safety Kid ® curriculum of Magen Yeladim International to 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and to 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our students were engaged in the presentation and learned valuable lessons about safety: “Ask for help, Bring a friend, Check first, Do tell.” We are pleased to have participated in a program that has been presented at many other Jewish day schools.



## Door Contest Winners

Yeshiva Rooms 130 (“It’s time for ‘smore learning’”) and 133 (“fall puns to LEAF you smiling”) participated in the TDS Door Competition with creative and positive door art.

Congratulations to Ms. Meg and the students and teachers of Room 133 for their winning submission. Students contributed puns, including:

- How do trees access the Internet? They LOG on.
- Why are footballs inflated on Thanksgiving? Because of the PUMPKin pie!



### A Parent's Experience of Applying for Tuitioning

**Note: The following is shared for informational purposes only. It is not intended either as legal advice or as a recommendation.**

*A parent shared the following in July 2017 based on their experience of applying to have their child referred for therapeutic day school placement. The parent applied to the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS, <http://cps.edu/Pages/DiverseLearners.aspx>).*

**“One may apply to ODLSS or to their home CPS school** to have their child referred for therapeutic day school placement. Some home schools are more cooperative than others. ODLSS may take a shorter time to process the case than a home school.

**“When seeking to have a child ‘tuitioned’** through CPS, one should have as much documentation as possible, including:

- Any school-based IEP or testing
- Any outside-of-school evaluations that may have been done.
- Documentation of diagnoses

- A list of all services provided to that child from birth till present, both school-based and private
- Letters from teachers or professionals working with the child recommending a therapeutic setting for the child.
- Include a personal paragraph explaining why one is seeking placement at this time. For example, one has moved from outside Chicago.
- If one is moving from another state, include a letter from the school principal, social worker, and teacher.

**“The process is not pleasant:** All the documentation needs to focus on the challenges of the child so that those needs can be serviced. It is ok to include positive statements, but the focus should be on which needs need to be addressed.

**“All information can be scanned and emailed** to ODLSS at [privateschoolevals@cps.edu](mailto:privateschoolevals@cps.edu) . They respond within 14 days to the email and then they call to set up an appointment at 2651 W. Washington, Chicago.

**“When meeting with Chicago Public Schools,** it is important to reiterate your child’s challenges. Listen to their recommendations and then find a plausible reason why they should consider referring your child to therapeutic day school.

**“In my case,** CPS wanted to send my child to my local public school and provide instructional supports. I explained that that school was too big and would be overwhelming for my child, considering his social-emotional needs. I emphasized that my child would be more successful in the smaller environment of a therapeutic day school and requested placement at the JCFS Therapeutic Day School.”

## Our Lives

Mazal Tov to Mr. Alex Lavin, Teacher in the elder JCFS Yeshiva classroom, on his recent wedding.

Mazal Tov to Alexis Linn, Clinician, on her recent wedding.



## About the [JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva](#)

The JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva, a Jewish therapeutic school program founded in 1991, creates opportunities for students’ academic, social-emotional, and Jewish success, and seeks reintegration for all Jewish students with emotional or behavioral disabilities.

The Yeshiva combines the therapeutic services and general studies curriculum of the JCFS Therapeutic Day School with Jewish studies and tefillah in two self-contained classes and a Beit Midrash. The general studies curriculum is based on Illinois State Board of Education requirements.

Each student's education program sets forth his or her unique educational goals. Progress is evaluated regularly. To assist students, the following services are provided as indicated: social work services; speech-language therapy; occupational therapy; physical education in the Knapp Center gym; art; library/resource department; life-skills room; Transition and Vocational services; and support for reintegration to mainstream Jewish schools.

Our therapeutic team approach brings together staff, family, outside providers and educators, and the student. Faculty communicates regularly with families.

**JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva**  
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