

We are

Associated

Lending A **HAND**

THE GIFT OF
Jewish Education

From Learning to Legacy

LEARNING FOR ALL



A Message from our Leadership



Spiritual Accounting in the New Year

DR. RABBI MARK SMILEY '72
HEAD OF SCHOOL

During the time of Elul and Rosh Hashana, there is a concept in Judaism called השבון הנפש - *Cheshbon Hanefesh* - spiritual accounting. Every morning in Elul we hear the shofar blast, reminding us that the new year is upon us. We take stock of what we have accomplished in the last year and evaluate where we see ourselves in the future.

This year, at AHS, we know that our future includes a transition. As you know, the Atkinson branch of AHS, which houses the Kamin Education Centre, is no longer an appropriate space for the northern AHS community. In the last few months, we have been constantly evaluating who we are as a community day school. *Cheshbon hanefesh* means reminding ourselves of what we stand for - outstanding academics in a rich traditional Jewish environment delivered to a diverse community of learners - while also being open to new ideas for reaching our target audience.

Transitions are never easy. The unknown can be scary for all of us. But in AHS's over 110-year history, we have been here before. We have done our *cheshbon hanefesh* and then moved forward in the right direction. Spiritual evaluation is part of that process. This year, when we hear the shofar blast, we will draw wisdom from our process and move forward from strength to strength.

שנה טובה

We are Associated is published through the Advancement Office and is distributed to over 10,000 members of the community including parents, grandparents, alumni and friends of the school.

WE ARE ASSOCIATED TEAM: JENNIFER GALET, ELYSA GREISMAN '82, MELISSA KAPLAN, SHAUNA KIPPER '98, SIDURA LUDWIG
DESIGN: RAQUEL WALMAN DIGITAL DESIGN
PHOTOGRAPHY: REBECCA ANSEL, KATHERINE FOGLER, BRAD SILVERBERG

ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF TORONTO
CENTRAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – HURWICH EDUCATION CENTRE
252 FINCH AVENUE WEST, TORONTO ON M2R 1M9 | 416.494.7666

KAMIN EDUCATION CENTRE – 300 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill | **POSLENS EDUCATION CENTRE** – 18 Neptune Drive, Toronto
HURWICH EDUCATION CENTRE, DANILACK MIDDLE SCHOOL – 252 Finch Avenue West, Toronto



Using Our Passion to Move Towards The Future

ELAINE OSHER
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My youngest child graduated AHS in 2012, but as a family we never graduated from the school community. Throughout my children's time at AHS, I was involved in the school in many different ways through PTC. After joining the Board, I chaired the Vaad Hachinuch, and participated on numerous other Board sub-committees. I have dedicated my time and energy to AHS because of my passion for the school and what it stands for.

When the Board entered the difficult process of deciding to put the Atkinson building up for sale, I had the privilege of attending many parent and community information sessions. I was overwhelmed by the passion and commitment demonstrated by everyone present. They asked difficult questions, but also showed a strong desire to see our school weather this transition and continue to flourish. Many of you expressed what we as a Board feel – that our community needs AHS; a strong traditional community day school where children from all Jewish backgrounds can learn together.

We need the strength of a united community as our school grows into its next phase. I encourage everyone – parents, past parents, alumni – to get involved in Associated as we move towards the future.

Shana Tova!

associatedhebrewschools.com



HOW TO REACH US
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT, ELYSA GREISMAN '82
905-889-3998 X 541

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EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION *With Prayer*

The Grade 1 Siddur Ceremony is so much more than receiving a siddur. It is an opportunity for the students to proudly show those they love how hard they have worked all year to read, speak, sing and pray in Hebrew. It is a chance for families and loved ones, many of whom stood proud at their own AHS Siddur Ceremonies, to look on with pride and the knowledge that the rich traditions of Judaism are being passed on to their children and grandchildren. It is the next generation of proud Jews being empowered to stand and pray.

“

I was deeply moved watching my son, Coby, holding his very own siddur and praying with his entire Grade 1 class with such enthusiasm and pride. Having recently returned from the March of the Living where we stood in the abandoned synagogues of Europe and learned about the rich Jewish life that was extinguished, hearing the familiar tunes of prayer being so sweetly sung by our children brought me to tears. Among other reasons, we chose to send our four children to Associated as opposed to other day schools specifically so that they could acquire the skills and knowledge to be able to pick up a siddur, walk into a synagogue anywhere in the world, and instantly feel they are a part of something. As I watched Coby at the Siddur Ceremony my heart was overflowing with pride and I knew that we had made the right choice.

”

DANIELLA SAMUEL '92
PROUD PARENT TO COBY SAMUEL-BERGEL

“

We are so proud of Jasmine and all her classmates. We beamed and brushed away our tears of joy as we marveled at all she has learned and accomplished. We watched our beautiful granddaughter recite her prayers and daven as her parents [Natasha '93 and Danny '92 Holland] and her grandparents had. We remarked that no matter where in the world she goes she can stand as a proud Jew and participate with confidence in any congregation. Watching Jasmine daven from her own siddur with such confidence and seeing firsthand all her achievements is a memory I will treasure forever. Thank you Associated Hebrew Schools for the patient and kind teachers, and the extraordinary education you have provided our family.

”

JUDY HOLLAND
PROUD GRANDPARENT TO JASMINE HOLLAND



Daniella Samuel '92 and Ari Bergel '90 with their son, Coby



Judy Holland (second from right) and Family



NEW ROLES, NEW SUCCESSES, *Much Mazel!*

A FEW EXCITING CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN ASSOCIATED'S ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE THIS YEAR. THE SCHOOL IS PLEASED TO WELCOME THESE NEW ADMINISTRATORS TO THE AHS TEAM.

Mrs. Reesa Karch

GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL, DANILACK MIDDLE SCHOOL



EDUCATION: BEd, OCT, Principal's Qualifications, pursuing a MEd

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mrs. Karch has become a core member of the Danilack administrative team over the last three years as a Vice-Principal, overseeing the CDL and developing deep relationships with parents, staff and students. She supervised and developed its resource team and oversaw its enrichment program. Mrs. Karch also chaired the anti-bullying and mental health awareness initiatives over the past three years.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: "All students can thrive in an authentic and positive learning environment that promotes positive mental health and where their academic, behavioural and social-emotional needs are met. A focus on 21st Century learning that encourages collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking are key to ensuring students develop the skills they need to be successful in our ever-changing world."

Ms. Judith Shapero '86

JUDAIC STUDIES PRINCIPAL, DANILACK MIDDLE SCHOOL



EDUCATION: BEd, OCT, MA, pursuing a PhD

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Ms. Shapero most recently served as Vice-Principal of Jewish and General Studies at TanenbaumCHAT, and is a frequent Course Director at York University's Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and its Jewish Teacher Education Program. She has led engaging innovations in curriculum development such as introducing the Tanakh Standards and Benchmarks initiative and leading TanenbaumCHAT as a pilot school for the LHILI Rabbis enhancement project. Among her many awards, she has received York University's Division of Humanities Excellence in Teaching Award, JTS's Fannie and Robert Gordis Prize in Bible, and a Gold Solomon Schechter Award from USCJ for Family Education.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: "Each child can be inspired to תורה לשמה - Torah Lishma - the joy of active, curious, lifelong learning, and can learn to be knowledgeable, proud, contributing citizens of Judaism and of the world at large."

Mrs. Nadine Sheinberg

VICE-PRINCIPAL & LIBRARIAN, KAMIN EDUCATION CENTRE



EDUCATION: MEd, OCT, Graduate Diploma in Jewish Studies

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Mrs. Sheinberg was an integral part of the Danilack leadership team, first re-creating the library as a hub for literacy and learning, and then as a Vice-Principal working with teachers in both the General and Judaic studies departments.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: "All students thrive in an inclusive, supportive environment in which all members feel valued and supported for the unique qualities and strengths they bring to the community."

Ms. Tamar Swerling

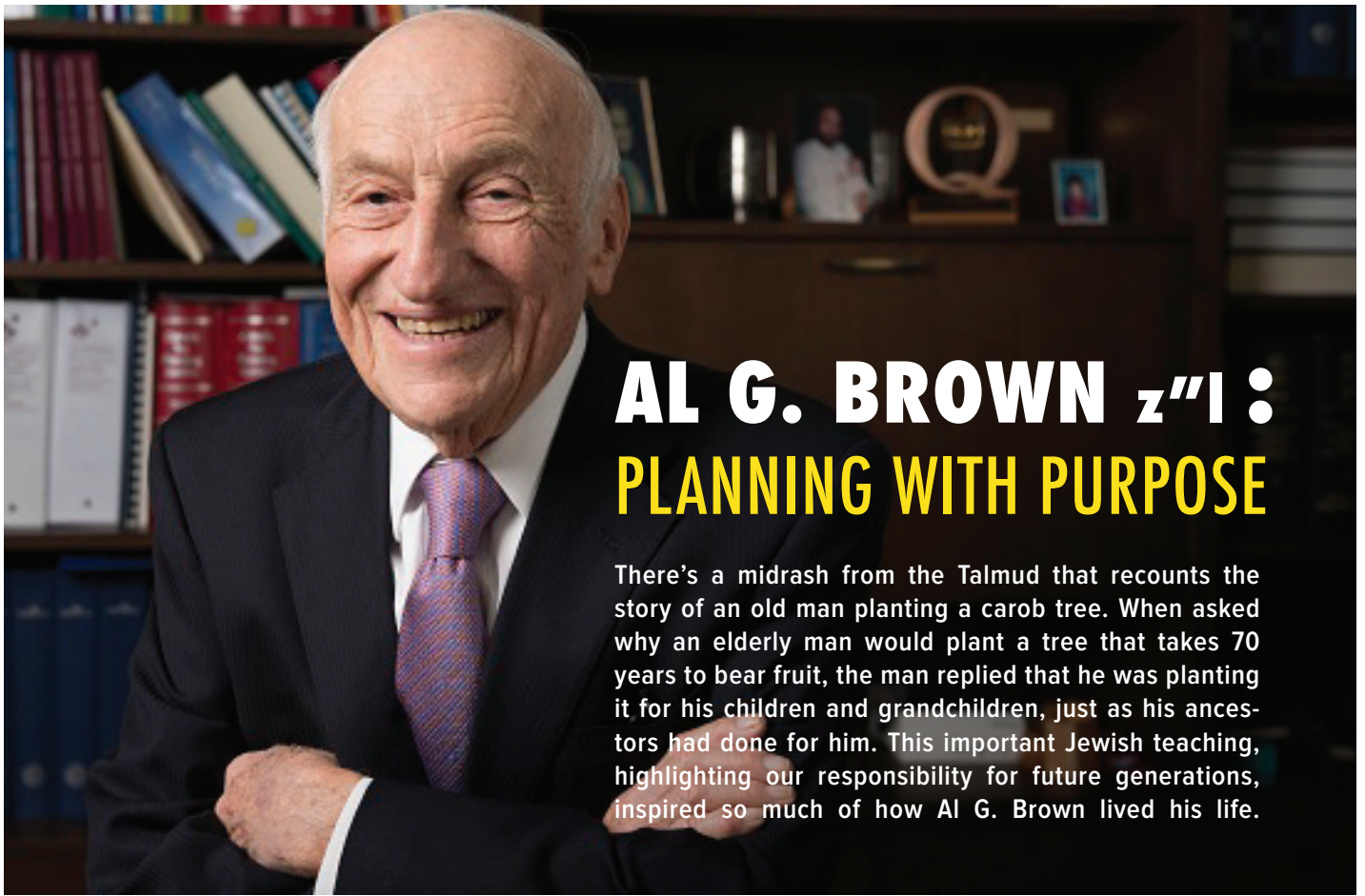
VICE-PRINCIPAL & BRANCH CDL COORDINATOR, KAMIN EDUCATION CENTRE



EDUCATION: MEd, OCT, Principal's Qualifications, Special Education Qualifications

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: During her years at Kamin, Ms. Swerling has taken on various leadership roles such as Literacy and Math Coach, Teacher Mentor, and Lead Teacher. She is an experienced teacher and leader in the areas of literacy, mathematics and special education.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: "All children have the desire and ability to learn and be successful. This can be accomplished through engaging, supportive, intellectually stimulating, creative classroom environments where children are held to high standards and are challenged and motivated to put forth their best effort at all times."



AL G. BROWN ז"ל : PLANNING WITH PURPOSE

There's a midrash from the Talmud that recounts the story of an old man planting a carob tree. When asked why an elderly man would plant a tree that takes 70 years to bear fruit, the man replied that he was planting it for his children and grandchildren, just as his ancestors had done for him. This important Jewish teaching, highlighting our responsibility for future generations, inspired so much of how Al G. Brown lived his life.

Al G., who passed away recently at the age of 96, was of a generation that laid the foundation of today's Toronto Jewish community, recognizing the value of Jewish education, volunteerism and philanthropy. Well known for establishing his namesake consulting firm, Al G. Brown and Associates, he worked with his two children, Golda '66 and David '70, as well as his granddaughter, Sarah '03. Al G. was also a long-time volunteer and donor to Associated Hebrew Schools, where both his children attended day school. He served on the AHS Board, was a Governor of the School, and established a number of scholarships and endowments at AHS.

"My father really wanted to make sure that he was able to give to the community in perpetuity," said his son, David, explaining that Al G. donated a life insurance policy to the Jewish Federation, naming a number of community schools and agencies as

beneficiaries. "Giving in this way requires vision and planning," David explains. "When you look at what you want to continue giving down the road, insurance policies can be leveraged to make a significant impact."

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFETIME, AL G. BROWN EMBODIED A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY THAT WAS TRULY INSPIRING. THROUGH HIS LEGACY, HE HAS SOWED SEEDS THAT WILL BLOSSOM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

For more information on how you can leave a legacy to AHS, **PLEASE CONTACT** Elysa Greisman, Director of Institutional Advancement 905-889-3998 x 541



Al G. Brown with his children David and Golda, and granddaughter Sarah Brown



The Brown/Krakowsky Family



Al G. Brown with his great granddaughter Rose



Healthy Students Healthy Minds

As the world improves at talking about mental health and wellness, so do our schools. After all, with 1 in 5 children and youth in Ontario experiencing a mental health challenge, this needs to be a priority.

Supporting healthy minds is at the forefront of Associated's whole-child approach to programming and is built into the school's curriculum and improvement plan. Teachers and administrators receive ongoing professional development and training to help them identify when children are in need of extra support.

"In the lower grades, we are watching for students who may cry more than normal, express feelings of not liking themselves, or uncertainty around why they are behaving a certain way," explains Kamin Branch Principal, Karen Sitnik. "Early detection in the classroom can be key to identifying students who need help outside the classroom."

When students need help, teachers work to reduce stigmas, break down

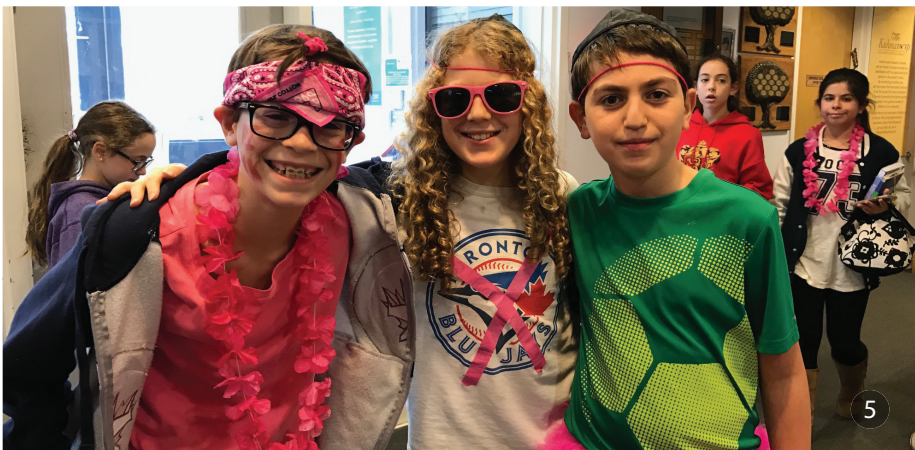
barriers, and provide tools and tactics for coping with stress and anxiety. At both the Kamin & Posluns Education Centres, early primary teachers set up Peace Corners in their classrooms – areas that allow children to regroup, reflect, problem solve and resolve conflicts peacefully, as well as calm their bodies when they are experiencing feelings of stress or worry. Mindfulness activities, such as breathing exercises and yoga poses, when beginning the day and during transition times helps redirect students and focus them, preparing them to learn.

"Greeting each child individually at the start of the day, asking about difficult situations they may be experiencing at home, is part of our daily routine," explains Posluns Branch Principal,

Ora Shulman. "We make it a priority to know what is happening in the lives of our students and to let the students know we are here to support them in any way they need."

"Feelings of worry are normal; we all have them," states Danilack General Studies Principal, Reesa Karch. "The problem is when those feelings start to take over. Teaching students that feelings are normal and how to regulate them is important, but they also need to learn how to recognize when it is no longer at a normal level."

During Canadian Mental Health Awareness Week, Danilack students were involved in a number of important initiatives to support mental well-being. Students learned to build self-care and stress release into their day through yoga,



Above: (top left, clockwise) **1.** Danilack Anti-Bullying Week **2.** Kamin Pink Day **3.** Practicing Mindfulness at Posluns **4.** Screenagers **5.** Danilack Anti-Bullying Week **6.** Danilack Mental Health Awareness Week

the arts and mindfulness. They also heard from community psychologists about anxiety and depression and learned about healthy peer relationships from guidance counselor, Daniella Aptowitzer.

The Danilack Middle School also addressed current topics such as

healthy media use, by viewing and engaging students and parents in workshops about the film *Screenagers*, as well as encouraging parents to engage in open dialogue with their children about the popular Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*, which deals with teen suicide.

“Reducing the stigma around mental health is the key to helping students feel it is ok to ask for help. Working as a team with parents and mental health professionals, in an open capacity, is key to successfully helping those students in need.”

Judith Shapero '86
Danilack Jewish Studies Principal



TRANSITIONS and moving forward

ON MAY 15, 2017 THE ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF **SELLING THE ATKINSON BUILDING AND RELOCATING** THE KAMIN EDUCATION CENTRE COMMUNITY.

The Atkinson building opened in 1995 with space to house over 750 students. Enrolment for 2017/18 is 305. With numbers steadily decreasing over the last five years, school leadership recognizes that the Atkinson building is no longer an appropriate fit for Associated’s York Region community. The Kamin Education Centre will remain in the Atkinson building for the 2017/18 school year and possibly for 2018/19.

“There are many reasons for the decline in enrolment,” says Head of School, Dr. Rabbi Mark Smiley. “The rising cost of both tuition and housing makes choosing Jewish education very difficult for young families. The introduction of free full-day JK and SK in the public schools impacted all of the Jewish preschools. Plus, in York Region we are competing with a very strong public school system – schools in our catchment areas that have large Jewish populations.”

The Board is currently in the process of determining whether it is financially viable for AHS to maintain a presence in York Region in a smaller location. In order for this to happen, the school needs to have enough Grade 1 students to maintain three classes, as well as \$10 million in donations.

“The community support for AHS is outstanding,” says Board President, Elaine Osher. “From the parents, alumni, staff and community members that I have spoken to, I hear again and again how important an AHS education is to them and to their children and the wider community.”

Immediately after making the announcement in June, the Board hosted a series of information and consultation sessions with current AHS parents and community members. These were followed by the creation of two action groups, one

for enrolment and one for fund-raising, as well as a blog and Facebook group (Community Conversation) to engage parents and interested community members. Both action groups have met over the summer and members are working on their mandates. In addition, the school sent out a parent survey to collect further information for next steps.

“We are determined to find a solution that both meets the needs of our northern families, as well as places the school in a fiscally responsible position,” says Osher. “This transition is not easy, but AHS will continue to thrive in our community as it has for over 110 years.”

••• **The Board has committed to making a decision about the future home of the Kamin Education Centre in October 2017.**

From Learning to Legacy: **AHS Class of 2017/5777**



Class Valedictorian,
ISAAC BEGUN



Class Valedictorian,
REENA ZEVY



Associated's newest grads, the class of 2017/5777, are by all accounts a special group of students that impressed teachers and administrators alike. Over 86% of last year's class graduated with an average of at least 80%. The majority went on to TanenbaumCHAT, while others continued at a variety of public and private high schools.

"Graduation is significant because each student has finished something remarkable, and is now ready for a new beginning," says Dr. Brenda Dzaldov, Director of Teaching and Learning at AHS. "But what is really powerful about graduation is that as we recognize each child as an individual, we also now see clearly that these students are connected as a community. We are all transformed. These moments are reminders of what we cherish – our values, commitment and memories."

Class valedictorians, Reena Zevy and Isaac Begun, shared beautiful reflections on their years as AHS students and captured the excitement of graduation in their addresses. Quoting a lesson she learned from her Bubby, Reena told the crowd: "Middle School has been about the journey... Associated has taught me the value of *derech eretz* - showing kindness and respect." Likewise, Isaac's inspiring words encouraged his classmates to go forth as AHS graduates ready to "discover yourselves and reach for your unlimited potential."

Renee and Jay Rosenzweig's son, Joseph, is the last of their three children to graduate from AHS, and Renee reflected on the momentous occasion saying: "Graduation is a time to thank Associated for the amazing memories, friendships, *derech eretz* and *menchlekeit* they have imprinted on our children over the years. We feel grateful to have been a part of such a warm and nurturing community."

Last year's graduating class has also left an important gift to future AHS students through the Grade 8 Legacy Project, which raises funds to "pay it forward" in support of Kadima, Associated's Annual Campaign. The Legacy Project helps to ensure that an excellent Jewish education will be available to future generations, and last year's initiative was proudly chaired by Sharon Fluxman, Heather Ringel, Renee Rosenzweig and Bonnie Wisener, who were all parents of 2017 graduates. The committee is pleased to report that many parents and grandparents chose to honour graduates with gifts to the school, and 30 families participated in the campaign as Grad Sponsors with special donations of \$500 or more.

Mazel tov to the Class of 2017/5777!

You will always be part of the AHS family and we now welcome you to our caring and committed alumni network. May you go from strength to strength!



If you wish to honour a graduate, or recognize another Milestone Moment with a gift to AHS, **PLEASE CONTACT:**
Advancement Office
905-889-3998 x 544
associatedhebrewschools.com/donate

Smachot V'Chadashot שמחות חדשות

ALUMNI NEWS | NOTES & NACHAS

MAZEL TOV!



Jack
SON to Kayla (Goldrich) '03
and Josh Bernick



Daniella Rebecca
DAUGHTER to Allysa (Moses) '04
and Robbie Just '00



Maya Rose
DAUGHTER to Jaclyn (Milstein) '01
and Josh Lakien



Mia Sunny
DAUGHTER to Sara (Gurza)
and Jordan Lass '02

מזל טוב



Amira Ita
DAUGHTER to Yardena Davis '93
and Kobi Rosen



Levi and Penny
SON and DAUGHTER to
Dani (Ben-Dat) '96 and Avi Ross '95



Madison Beth
DAUGHTER to Jessy (Kaner) '94
and Howard Werger

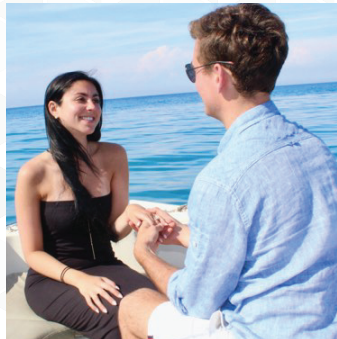


**Jonathan Kipper '02 to
Eliana Grosman**
• ENGAGEMENT •

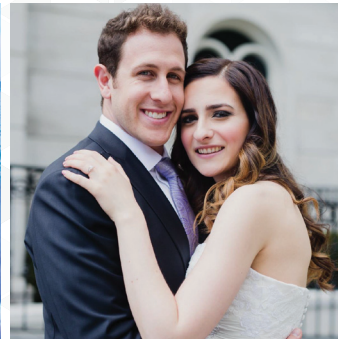
MAZEL TOV!



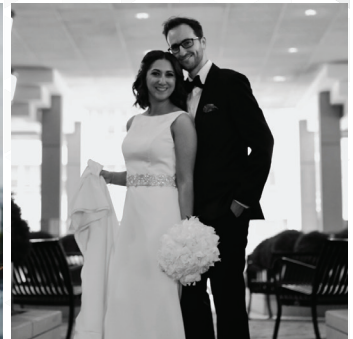
**Jonah Koplowitz '99 to
Danya Borenstein '04**
• WEDDING •



**Michael Saskin '08 to
Hillary Weisleder**
• ENGAGEMENT •



**Kyle Borenstein '02 to
Shirley Bouskila**
• WEDDING •



**Aaron Koplowitz '02 to
Marlee Mozeson**
• WEDDING •

מזל טוב



**Rafi Yablonsky '00 to
Samantha Glied-Beliak**
• WEDDING •

Yasher Koach!

to Teri Rubinoff '82 on completing her PhD in Education at York University

▶▶ YOUR NACHAS IS OUR NACHAS!

Please let us know about your special milestones
and achievements.

Email us at alumni@ahschools.com

ASSOCIATED'S VALUES ARE ALWAYS *in style*

Current AHS parent, Avi Raphael '89 is a trendsetter and partner in well-known fashion agency Slavin Raphael, one of the most exciting fashion wholesale and distribution companies in North America.

In this role, Avi places leading apparel, accessory and footwear brands with top Canadian retailers. The company represents brands like Frame, New Balance, Hunter, Soia and Kyo, Tkees, Matt & Nat and many more. In 2013, Slavin Raphael also opened their flagship retail store, Tiger of Sweden, at 56 Ossington Ave. in Toronto.

When Avi started in the fashion business over 20 years ago, he began as an unpaid intern. "I had no resume and no experience and just tried a new approach," he says. Eventually, Avi worked his way up to partner and Slavin Agency became known as Slavin Raphael.

**"MY AHS TEACHERS
TAUGHT ME TO BE
PERSISTENT, NEVER
GIVE UP, AND NEVER
STOP LEARNING."**

- AVI RAPHAEL '89

Avi credits these lessons for inspiring his work ethic and curiosity. Associated also imparted a sense of communal responsibility that Avi carries into both his personal and professional life.

"Charity work and giving back is a cornerstone of our business and family," he says. "I am proud to be involved with the SickKids Innovators program, which engages the next generation of philanthropists in support of Sick Kids Foundation. Just as my parents were for me, I want to be an example to my children and instill the Jewish values I learned at Associated. It's not what you make, but what you give."



THE RAPHAEL FAMILY



AVI WITH DAUGHTER GEORGIA



SONS RHYS & ROGEN



Lending A Hand

The Torah speaks extensively about helping others, particularly those in need. In Sefer Devarim, the Torah tells us: “When there is a needy person among you... do not harden your heart and do not hold back your hand” (15:7).

This past Spring, Posluns Grade 5 students took this Jewish value to a new level when they participated in a very special project to “lend a hand” to those in need.

“I was inspired to find an opportunity where the students could use technology to positively impact the life of another person,” explains Posluns Vice-Principal, Lee-Ron Kaye. What she found was the Prosthetic Kids Hand Challenge, a project born of a desire to help anyone with access to a 3D Printer be able to be a part of work that can change the life of a child – a perfect fit with her vision.

When the students found out they would be building prosthetic hands for children who don’t have two functioning hands, the excitement was palpable. They carefully began the important task in front of them, using everyday items like Velcro, screws, stretchy cord and fishing line. Working in teams, they assembled the raw pieces printed by their 3D Printer into functioning

prosthetic hands to be matched up with children in need.

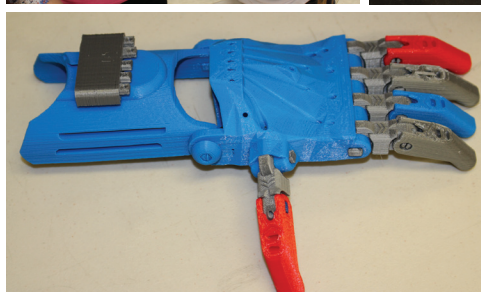
It is not always easy to find projects that tie together academic excellence, a commitment to Jewish values (helping those in need), and character development (helping one another) – this was one of those rare opportunities. “When you think about how your gift will impact the day-to-day life of a child your age, that’s meaningful,” said Mrs. Kaye. “That’s impactful.”

“It felt great knowing we were going to help children who, because of this disability, are probably having trouble with daily life,” said Grade 5 student, Moishe Weitzner. “It is amazing to know how much I’m making a difference, and how much I am brightening their lives forever.”

Pictured Top Left: Posluns Vice-Principal, Lee-Ron Kaye, helping students assemble their prosthetic hand.

Pictured Top Right: Moishe Weitzner (right) and his friend attaching the fingers to their prosthetic hand.

Pictured Bottom: (clockwise from left): Students separating the pieces printed by the 3D Printer; students attaching fingers to their prosthetic hand; filament printed into the pieces required to assemble one complete hand; students ensuring they have all the necessary parts; a prosthetic hand almost completely assembled.



LEARNING FOR ALL



Pictured: Teacher providing one-on-one support

ASSOCIATED'S UNIQUE CENTRE FOR DIVERSE LEARNING (CDL) IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE LEARNING OF ALL STUDENTS, WHILE MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOSE WITH A VARIETY OF EXCEPTIONALITIES.

STAFFED BY SPECIALLY TRAINED EDUCATORS WHO PROVIDE ONGOING MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF EACH CHILD, THE CDL WORKS COLLABORATIVELY WITH PARENTS TO MEET THE LEARNING NEEDS OF A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION.

"The CDL addresses the needs of students who require extra support, as well as offering opportunity for enrichment and accelerated learning," explains Danilack Principal, Reesa Karch, who also helped to create the school's CDL learning policy. "The professionals and programs we have in place through the CDL allow us to provide the very best education we can to a wide range of learners."

For example, the learning strategies course was developed specifically for Middle School students by AHS educators.

Danilack students also have the opportunity to be paired with a coach who teaches them to use specialized programs on iPads to enhance their organizational skills and work habits.

"The CDL is an incredible resource and support for students," says Danilack parent, Jennifer Ritter. "By understanding and supporting students' unique learning profiles on an individualized basis, AHS better enables them to reach their full potential, building their knowledge, skills and confidence."

Middle school students also have opportunities for enrichment through an advanced math curriculum that provides specialized course-work and training to over 50 students.

With over 25 teachers holding special education qualifications, and ongoing professional development for educators, Associated is proud to serve as a leader in the field of diverse learning, and support the learning of all students.

Thank you to the Weinbaum Family Foundation for its ongoing generous support of CDL at Associated.



Integration of technology



Math Enrichment students



Small group learning

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
- Helen Keller

Associated is not only classrooms and curriculum; it is a community supported by an incredible team of parent volunteers who devote time and energy to making the school such a special place. From pizza days to book fairs, school celebrations and field trips - volunteers enhance the life of the school every day.

Below, some of our parent volunteers share what makes getting involved at AHS so meaningful to them. Their reasons are diverse, but they can all agree, volunteering at Associated is both rewarding and fun!

TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, WE SALUTE YOU AND WE THANK YOU!

ENRICHING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

NAOMI BREIDO '91
Kamin Parent Volunteer



“

I feel very thankful that I have had the opportunity to be involved in my children's lives both before school, during school, and after. What was important for me was that my children saw that I was giving back to the community, that I was helping without a cost, that I was being a team player to support their school. I know that when I walk out of the school after volunteering each and every week, I have this sense of fulfillment; that I have helped others. There are times when I don't even see my children and continue to feel happy that I have contributed to making a lunch hour run smoothly.

”

MARCY KROACH
Danilack Parent Volunteer



“

My attitude when volunteering is to treat every child as I would treat my own. There are many mothers who cannot volunteer because they work full time, so I want every kid to feel comfortable coming to me if they need someone or something. Hopefully they know they have someone there who cares about and supports them, even if it is not their own parent. Often, I will see young children at the mall who say hi to me and their parents look at me wondering who I am. Then I explain that I volunteer at school and smiles cross their faces. Spending time with the students gives me as much as I hope they are getting from me.

”

MAYA ROTH
Posluns Parent Volunteer

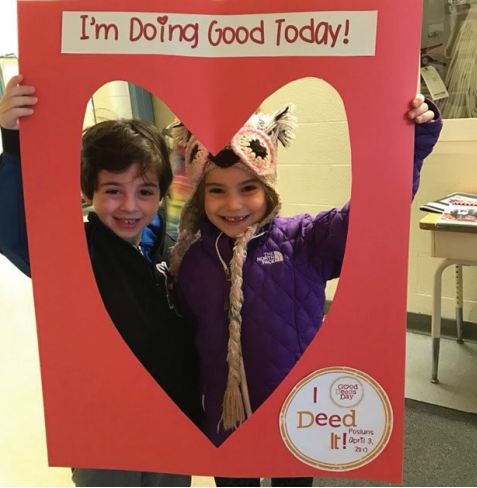


“

Volunteering at Posluns is a gift that extends beyond the simple act of giving one's time. It enhances my appreciation for what goes on within the school day that makes Posluns such a special school, it adds to my relationship with the administration and staff, and allows me the opportunity to deepen my connection with the community. Lastly, and definitely not least, the children benefit tremendously from seeing their parents volunteer around the school. This active role modeling will hopefully teach our children how to enrich their communities in the years to come.

”

To learn more about how you can get involved as a volunteer at AHS
PLEASE CONTACT
Michelle Zaldin, PTC President, michellezaldinptc@gmail.com.



BUILDING A BETTER ME

Merriam Webster dictionary defines "character" as moral excellence and firmness.

But **how does one teach character?**

It's a question the educators at Associated Hebrew Schools ask themselves everyday, as they strive to weave Jewish ethics and values into the very fabric of the AHS educational experience.

Middot (Jewish virtues or character traits) do not only imply moral excellence, but the embodiment of *derech erez* - proper virtues and, more importantly, proper behaviour. "Following the middot in our behaviour means that we strive to imitate the virtues of G-d," explains Posluns Principal, Ora Shulman.

"We teach ourselves and our children the middot that guide our actions. When we try to act out of the goodness of our hearts with generosity, honesty, integrity, pleasantness and friendship... when we love human beings and our actions are guided by pursuing peace, then we too are acting in the ways of Hashem and become partners in the act of *ma'aseh bereshit*, the act of creation," says Shulman.

At both the Posluns and Kamin Education Centres, monthly Rosh Chodesh ceremonies introduce the students to a "middah", such as responsibility or kindness, and they then spend the following weeks learning about the virtue and how to practice it.

"The students are excited by the concept of 'building a better me,'" says Posluns Vice-Principal, Lee-Ron Kaye. "They are inspired to help one another, be role models, and take action. They are learning to put Jewish virtues into practice."

"Monthly middot initiatives have inspired the students to get involved with Good Deeds Day, recycle school supplies, collect food for food-banks, and bake for community members," says Kamin Principal, Karen Sitnik. Students are also presented with certificates recognizing when they have exemplified the middot of the month.

Noya Zaltzman, a Kamin teacher who is responsible for programming and engagement at Kamin, explains: "Our character education this year was embedded in all aspects of the learning. This helped students unleash the *"Mensch"* within them. The teaching of *Middot* reinforced deeper development of knowledgeable, moral and passionate citizens who love their Judaism and understand the need to take action that will positively impact their local community as well as communities in Israel."

Pictured above (left to right): Posluns Good Deeds Day, Danilack Passover Food Drive

Pictured below: Kamin Good Deeds Day



The Gift of JEWISH EDUCATION

“Associated gave me a strong Jewish background, made me feel proud to be Jewish and gave me both a strong Jewish and secular education, enabling me to be both a citizen of Israel and the world.”



DEBBIE MILLER '71

Associated graduate **DEBBIE MILLER '71 & FAMILY** made a generous donation towards Tuition Support.

Debbie Miller was born and raised in Toronto, but today she lives in Israel with her South African born husband, Alan, and is the proud mother to three daughters and savta to two grandchildren.

“I made Aliyah after finishing my B.A.,” states Debbie. “I always felt that I wanted to live in Israel and that my destiny is here. I knew that if I stayed in Canada, I would educate my children to come on Aliyah, so why follow them later?”

A proud Associated graduate, Debbie and her family recently gifted the school a generous donation in support of tuition support.

“When it was time for me to start school, my parents thought they couldn’t afford the tuition,” she explains. “Fortunately, a friend told them that tuition was scaled according to what one could afford, so they enrolled me in Associated.”

“I live in Israel but not everyone does. I want to do my part to help ensure Jewish children in Toronto have strong ties to their Judaism, their Jewish heritage, and Israel. The teachers at AHS left a major imprint on me. I got a very, very good education.”

“Our sages said, all Jews are responsible for one another,” Debbie explains. “These words have been true for all the ages and never more so than now. **The gift my family gives to Associated is a small way of thanking the school for what it gave me, and which I tried very hard to pass onto my children.** It is also a thank you from my late parents to Toronto for giving them a chance to rebuild and succeed beyond what they dreamed possible during the darkness of the Holocaust and the very tight early years in Canada. The gift is really from them; we are only the conduit.”



Pictured: Debbie and Alan Miller and Family

LIFE IS *SWEEET*

AT ASSOCIATED

Living downtown did not stop the Aben family, owners of Toronto's beloved ice cream shop, Dutch Dreams, from sending their three children to school at Associated Hebrew Schools.

Knowing

that they wanted to raise their children with a strong Jewish identity, the Abens looked into a number of Jewish day schools before deciding that AHS was the right fit for their family.

Mom, Dina, grew up in a very observant Toronto family, while dad, Theo, spent his formative years between West Africa, Toronto and Holland. Despite their diverse upbringings, both found that the sense of *Yiddishkeit* and Jewish environment at AHS were familiar.

"Learning to be a proud Jew in Canada and to be connected to Israel was very important to us," Theo states. "All our kids have thrived at Associated, making friends and connecting their Jewish life with the mainstream urban life where we live. The nurturing environment has provided them with a safe and very Jewish environment."

"Whenever any of our children struggled academically, the Associated principals and teachers always worked hard and diligently to ensure that the kids received the tools and resources they needed to succeed," adds Dina. "Our kids have always loved going to school at Associated. **They are proud of their school, they are proud to be Jewish, they are always excited to celebrate all the *chagim* at home, and they love to engage in discussion at the Shabbat table. What more could parents ask for from a school?"**



Dutch Dreams ice cream shop



THE ABEN FAMILY

(from left to right)

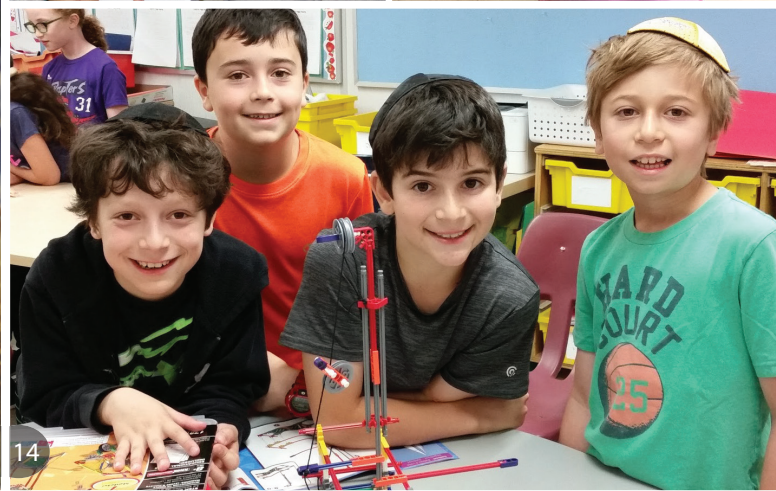
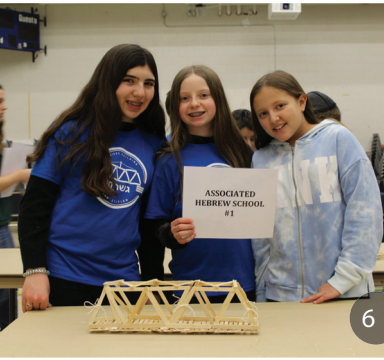
Dina, Theo, Ari, Ilana and Elie

MEMORIES FROM 2016-2017



1. MATZAH FACTORY TRIP, CEDARVALE | 2. WALK WITH ISRAEL, KAMIN | 3. CONNECTING GENERATIONS, DANILACK | 4. GRADE 5 TEKES SIYUM & MOVING UP CEREMONY, KAMIN | 5. GRADE 7 SHABBATON, DANILACK

ENJOY THESE SNAPSHOTS OF SOME OF THE GREAT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AT AHS FROM THE SECOND HALF OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.



6. BUILDING BRIDGES, DANILACK | 7. A SWEET TREAT FOR SHAVUOT, POSLUNS | 8. NURSERY GRADUATION, CEDARVALE | 9. PLASTIC GRAB BAG CHALLENGE, POSLUNS | 10. YOM HA'ATZMAUT, DANILACK | 11. GRADE 2 SHABBAT PLAY, KAMIN | 12. CELEBRATING ROSH CHODESH SIVAN, KAMIN | 13. EARLY ENGINEERING, KAMIN | 14. PULLEYS AND GEARS UNIT, POSLUNS

KADIMA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Your Support :

- Provides an excellent Jewish education to a diverse community of students
- Ensures AHS remains financially accessible to the greatest possible number of families
- Provides access to innovative curricular materials
- Funds important upgrades in technology and student support services



Share our Nachas !

Your dollars **ALSO** support something that makes Associated truly special - the “**Nachas Moments**” - the joy and pride we feel when our students celebrate Jewish holidays, discover a passion for Israel, love of the Hebrew language, and pride in their Jewish identity.

Sponsor school holiday celebrations throughout the year...

Become a Nachas Moment Sponsor!

Visit associatedhebrewschools.com/donate, call 905-889-3998 ext. 544 or email kadima@ahschools.com



▶▶▶ Thank you to those who supported Associated during the ‘Day of Giving’ campaign, confirming our community’s support and commitment to Associated and Jewish day school in general. ◀◀◀

COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!

INFORMATION SESSIONS



Posluns Education Centre

18 Neptune Dr.
(Bathurst & Wilson, Toronto)

▶ **WEDNESDAY**
NOVEMBER 1ST
▶ **7:30PM**

Kamin Education Centre

300 Atkinson Ave.
(Bathurst & Centre, Thornhill)

▶ **TUESDAY**
NOVEMBER 7TH
▶ **7:30PM**

TO RSVP OR BOOK A PERSONAL TOUR:

admissions@ahschools.com
905-889-3998 x 545
associatedhebrewschools.com

ASK US ABOUT:

- Free busing
- Tuition Support for JK & SK

The Associated Hebrew Schools experience delivers uncompromising academic excellence in a rich traditional Jewish environment to a thriving diverse community.



252 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M2R 1M9



WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR! שנה טובה ומתוקה