

We are

Associated

associatedhebrewschools.com

**THE VIBE SISTERS:
BUILDING COMMUNITY
THROUGH DANCE**

**KAMIN'S NEW PRINCIPALS:
LEADERSHIP PARTNERS**

Thanks A Million • Welcoming Shirley Granovsky to Our Family of Funders



Great plans for a great school

At Associated our eyes are fixed firmly on the future.

As one of North America's leading Jewish day schools, we are committed to uncompromising educational excellence and a process of continuous improvement. I am delighted to tell you about three important school plans that are designed to keep **Associated at the leading edge.**

Dr. Mark Smiley '72 | Director of Education



THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN is a system wide initiative that uses measurable goals to link improvements in student achievement to enhancements in teacher instruction and assessment. Parents may already have noticed some important changes, including learning that is increasingly based on projects and real world examples.

THE ELEMENTARY ENHANCEMENT PLAN focuses on building the capacity of our literacy and math programs. Made possible by the generous support of the PTC, the plan allows faculty to take on enhanced curriculum leadership roles that will in turn improve the classroom experience. It will be complemented by enhanced professional development and the use of coaches.

The Board of Directors recently adopted a new **STRATEGIC PLAN** that defines a number of educational, administrative and governance initiatives that will keep Associated well positioned for the future.

Rosh Hashana is a time of renewal. We see the tremendous possibilities that the future holds. That's exactly what we are doing at Associated. With unparalleled leadership we are bringing the best educational thought and practice to our school. Our goal is simple. We want to set the pace for Jewish day schools in Toronto and throughout North America.

May this New Year be one of renewal for all of us and one in which we are all blessed with a brighter future and in which we see peace in Israel. Shana Tova U'Metuka from all of us at Associated.

Our New President is part of the Family

Maye Pearl '88 | President



MAYEER PEARL may be Associated's new President but there is nothing new about his relationship with the school. In fact, for the Pearls, Associated is a family affair.

Mayeer graduated from Associated in 1988. He and his wife Stacey are Associated parents and have two children at Posluns. His mother, Susan, is also a graduate and was a teacher at Associated for many years. Mayeer's father, Ernest, was a student and later a board member. Harold Dessen, Mayeer's grandfather, is a two-term Past President of the school whose outstanding leadership earned him the nickname, "Mr. Associated." Harold's wife Eva taught at Associated, was a Board member and co-chaired the Va'ad HaChinuch. If all of that isn't enough, Mayeer's great grandparents were instrumental in the early years of Associated.

Mayeer is well prepared for his new role. Most recently he served as a Vice President and prior to that was the school's Treasurer. He has co-chaired the Budget & Finance and Admissions & Tuition committees as well as being a member of the Development and Scholarship Committees. In 2008, Mayeer co-chaired an Associated reunion that attracted over 700 alumni.

Mayeer is incredibly enthusiastic about Associated and his new role. **"What makes Associated so special is that it is a model of inclusivity with students from an incredibly diverse range of religious, cultural and financial backgrounds," he says.** "I am particularly excited to have the opportunity to build on the accomplishments of my predecessor, Sally Zigler, and the foundation of strategic planning that she established. I look forward to moving the school ahead and being part of its exciting evolution. Associated has been a jewel in the crown of the community for over 100 years and there is no doubt in my mind that it will be for generations to come."

We are Associated

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TWELVE YEARS AGO,

twin sisters **Marnie and Rena Schwartz**, recognized a gap in the dance studio market in Toronto. There was nowhere to go if you wanted to receive top-quality dance instruction at a recreational, rather than competitive, level. They envisioned not just a studio, but a dance community where every child feels special and welcome.

Now, Vibe is in its thirteenth season, welcoming hundreds of students in more than 200 different dance classes.

For the sisters, who not only dress alike, but often finish each other's sentences, it's still about being inclusive.

"There is that community feel," says Rena. "We wanted to create that from the beginning – boys, girls, all different shapes and sizes, all different ages, levels are welcome..."

"... and deserve to feel like they're #1," adds Marnie.

"And part of our community," says Rena.

Marnie Schwartz
with son Shayne Deutsch
and daughter
Sydney Deutsch



Rena Schwartz
with son Jonah Goldfarb
and daughter
Samara Goldfarb



– ASSOCIATED PARENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS –

Marnie & Rena Dance Partners **Building Community**

The sisters, who both have kinesiology and education degrees from York University, can trace that sense of community back to their elementary school days when they were students at Associated Finch and Leslie from grades 1-6.

"It was amazing taking Hebrew and English at the same time and having that experience relative to some of our friends who were in public school," says Rena. "I remember feeling very nurtured. **I see that now with our kids – [Associated] is such a warm, friendly and wonderful place.**"

Each twin has a daughter in Grade 1 and a son in junior kindergarten, all at Posluns. Now that they are

Associated parents, as well as business owners, they see many similarities between their dance community and the school community.

"A lot of our Vibe values are really similar to Associated values," says Rena. "Being your best, trying your best, being true to yourself and being good people. Feeling comfortable in your own skin – those are some of the traits they try to instill at Associated."

Both sisters attribute their organizational skills with their elementary school experience. Juggling a dual-language program, plus many extra curricular activities as children trained them

how to be busy without feeling overwhelmed.

"We were never procrastinators," Rena remembers. "Dance, gymnastics, swimming, skating – and school with two languages. We were forced to have really good time management skills. And Associated supported that."

Now, they say they can recognize Associated students amongst their dancers.

"They are great participants in the dance class. They have amazing attitudes. We like to think that's the way we were. **Associated builds long-lasting characteristics in people that carry them through life.**"



Great Learning Happens Together

Danilack Middle School • Rabbi Rafi Cashman, Judaic Studies Principal; **Dr. Brenda Dzaldiv**, General Studies Principal | **Kamin Education Centre • Leia Ger**, General Studies Principal; **Karen Sitnik**, Judaic Studies Principal | **Posluns Education Centre/ Associated Cedarvale • Elana Shapiro Davidson**, General Studies Principal; **Ora Shulman**, Judaic Studies Principal

Above, top row: (left to right) Leia Ger; Dr. Brenda Dzaldiv; Rabbi Rafi Cashman | front row: (left to right) Karen Sitnik; Ora Shulman; Elana Shapiro Davidson



W

When Dr. Brenda Dzaldov, Danilack Middle School general studies principal, talks about teacher collaboration, she smiles remembering the preparation of the grad song and staff video:

"When I thought about this video and how it included every teacher, I thought about how my belief is that we all become better through collaboration. There is no way we could accomplish what we accomplish here on our own. The old egg carton philosophy of education where teachers are on their own in their rooms doing their own thing just cannot work anymore. **It's about working together to create the best possible teaching and learning that we can.**"

A recent article from the Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement notes that "collaboration between teachers can be a powerful tool for professional development and a driver for school improvement." At Associated, that tool is made even more powerful by bringing outstanding educators to the table from four campuses.

"What excited me about coming to Associated was the fact that it has such a wide range of expertise," says new Kamin general studies principal, Leia Ger. "When we as principals sit around the table, the conversation and planning just flows. [In the past] I've been working with one or two other leaders. Having six of us is fantastic."

Each branch is led by a team of educators, including two principals, vice-principals and co-ordinators. Principals problem solve and plan curriculum together, working as educational partners.

"We said from the beginning that we work together," says Dzaldov, in describing her relationship with Judaic studies principal Rafi Cashman. **"The more integration the kids can get, the more they understand that learning looks the same in general studies and Judaic studies."**

That model of an open, sharing learning environment is passed down to all faculty. Teachers in each branch collaborate on their classroom lessons. "In our campus, nobody works on their own," says Elana Shapiro Davidson, principal at Posluns. "The beauty for teachers is that anything that's taught, they are co-teaching. Kids see all grade teachers as their teachers. Our educational philosophy is that the kids belong to all of us."

At the middle school, part of the campus-wide collaborative philosophy resulted in a teacher mentor/

mentee program, led by Karen Sitnik, the new Judaic Studies principal at Kamin.

"Thirty-three percent of teachers leave the profession in the first three years," Sitnik explains.

"This is because they are not getting the support they need."

The New Teacher Induction Program (or N-Tip) was designed for teachers new to the school, new to the profession or new to the subject. Teachers had mentors who they met with on a regular basis to work on goals.

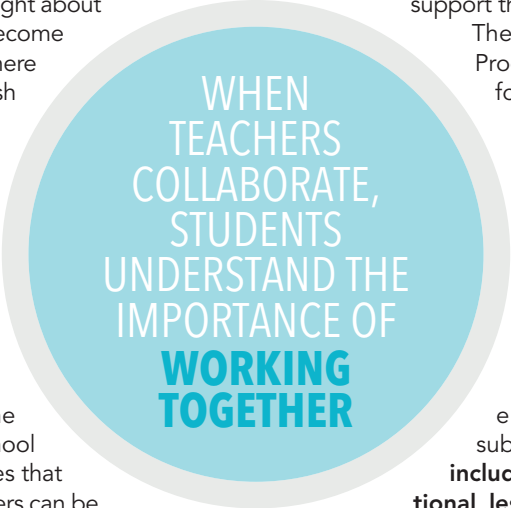
As well, teachers from all campuses are involved in professional learning communities (PLC), which bring together Associated educators from different subjects. **Effective collaboration includes recognizing that educational lessons can be shared across disciplines.**

"One interesting thing that's happened this year is that Dr. Dzaldov led a literacy collaborative across all of the campuses," says Rabbi Rafi Cashman, Judaic studies principal at Danilack. "While it began as looking at literacy in general studies from Bet Hayaed to Grade 8, part of the conversation became about Hebrew literacy. I learnt a tremendous amount from the collaborative."

Posluns principal Ora Shulman agrees that everybody benefits from sharing expertise. "As one school, we know that there is a great deal of experience and expertise around the system. Ultimately the teacher is the textbook. So it is important for them to enrich their toolbox, to share those successes but also to look critically at what they are doing in order to make the most for their students."

When teachers collaborate, students understand the importance of working together.

"The idea is that in the group, your learning is better than it is on its own," says Dzaldov. "We have a saying: Educators are preparing students for the future and we don't even know what it will look like. But we do know one thing – they're going to have to collaborate." ●●●



WHEN
TEACHERS
COLLABORATE,
STUDENTS
UNDERSTAND THE
IMPORTANCE OF
**WORKING
TOGETHER**



THAT MODEL
OF AN **OPEN,
SHARING
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT**
IS PASSED DOWN
TO ALL FACULTY

It took Gerda Frieberg only nine weeks to chronicle over 100 years of her family's history. Her recently released memoir, "I Kept My Promise" is the captivating story of Gerda's early years in Silesia and her harrowing, almost unimaginable experiences surviving the Holocaust.

Gerda Frieberg

She kept her promise

The book's title recalls the commitment made to a fifteen year girl Gerda became friends with in the Olberalstadt labour camp. An only child whose parents had been murdered, she demanded of Gerda, "The world must know and never forget what has been done to us. You must promise that you will carry the torch of remembrance." Upon learning of the girl's suicide, Gerda thought "I lost my friend and at that moment I remembered what she asked of me. **I vowed that I would keep my promise.**"

The close bond Gerda has with Associated has only been strengthened by her book. Three of her grandchildren are Associated graduates. She is also one of the school's leading supporters having made a gift of over \$1 million in 2006. Gerda has spoken to students at Associated on many occasions and this year on Yom HaShoah, she discussed her book with students at the Danilack Middle School. Later in the year, she used a lunch and learn with staff to provide additional insights. Copies of the book were made available to staff and students.

While Gerda has been speaking to audiences about the Holocaust for over 50 years, she confesses that speaking to children is most difficult. "The first thing I think about is the one million children that were murdered," she says. "But then I steady myself by thinking about how lucky I am to have the opportunity to speak to these children – and to have grandchildren of my own." Her message to children is to take action and stand up for what is right. "Not all Germans were evil," she recounts, "but they were followers." She

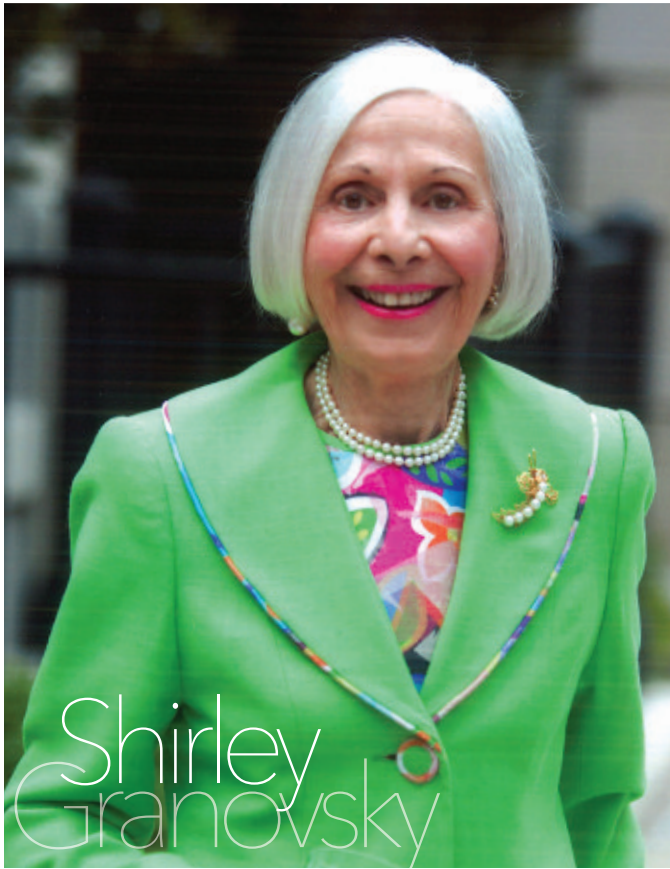
exhorts children to not make the same mistake.

In the book's prologue Gerda says she wrote her memoirs "as a legacy for my grandchildren and future generations." Her matriarchal status in many ways represents her personal victory. "Before the war I was Josef Steinitz's daughter and they took that away from me. When I came out of the camp, I was nobody, I was stateless. Now I am my children's mother and my grandchildren's grandmother." She adds that many survivors derive a sense of victory from returning alive to their old homes in Europe. **"My victory," she says, "is to see one grandson receive his rabbinic ordination while another is serving in the Israeli army."**

Gerda's post war life is nothing short of astounding. She and her husband came here with nothing respectively earning 75 cents apiece as a seamstress and a dollar an hour as a carpenter. They managed to create a strong financial foundation and raise a family. Gerda's communal endeavours are legendary. She served in leadership roles at B'nai Brith Women and Canadian Jewish Congress and was a founder of the Holocaust Remembrance Centre. Gerda has received dozens of awards and commendations for communal efforts and her commitment to conveying the lessons of the Holocaust. If that isn't enough, she has earned her pilot's license, climbed the Himalayas, canoed Algonquin and makes most of her own clothes.

On a recent visit to the school, Gerda was overheard telling someone in the office, "This is my home." Indeed, Associated is so proud to count Gerda Frieberg as part of our family.





Shirley Granovsky

Thanks a million

SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY's recent \$1 million gift to Associated is her way of saying thank you to the school. When she and her late husband Phil were just starting out, it was very important to them that their children receive a Jewish education. Phil had been a student at Associated's Brunswick Avenue Talmud Torah and they wanted their kids to follow in his footsteps. At the time, paying full tuition was challenging and they were faced with the possibility of sending their children to public school. Fortunately, Associated provided financial assistance that allowed three of their children to attend the school. "It might be years later but I never forgot what Associated did for us and our family. This donation is an expression of my gratitude for the compassion we were shown by Associated and my desire to make sure that others who might not be able to afford it can benefit from a Jewish education."

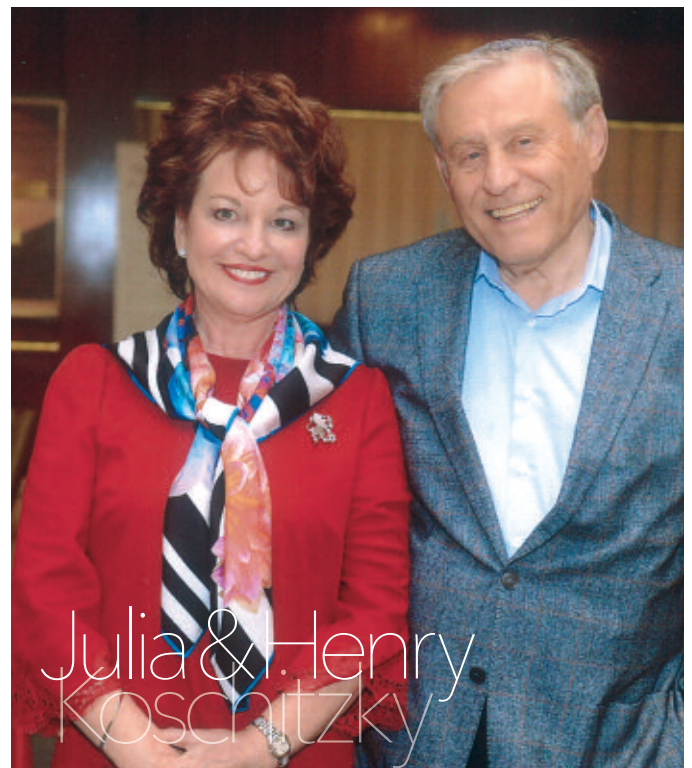
"This very generous donation is a wonderful example of 'paying it forward' that will hopefully encourage those who believe in Jewish education and helping others to do the same," said Dr. Mark Smiley, Associated's Director of Education. "Mrs. Granovsky's philanthropic leadership will have tremendous positive impact on Associated and the families we are able to help."

ASSOCIATED EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO MRS. GRANOVSKY.

"Henry and I were thrilled to learn of Shirley Granovsky's exemplary gift to Associated which further serves to strengthen our friendship that began three decades ago through community involvement and affiliation. This gift, meant to help parents struggling to provide a quality Jewish education for their children, is yet another example of the inspirational leadership Shirley and Phil z'l have provided to our community. May G-D bless her with good health, strength and wisdom to continue her noble efforts for many years to come." — Julia Koschitzky

THE KOSCHITZKYS PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

Henry and Julia Koschitzky are very much a part of Associated's past. Henry served as President of the school from 1985-1987 and as Chairman of the Board from 1989-1993 while Julia was the Parent Teacher Council President from 1979-1981. They have since remained ardent supporters of the school, supporting every major initiative and fundraising campaign. Seven years ago, The Koschitzkys made a landmark investment in Jewish education and the future of Associated as well as other schools in our community. With UJA Federation as their partners, they established the The Koschitzky-UJA Federation Grant supporting financial assistance programs at Jewish day schools in Toronto. Since its inception the fund has provided over \$4 million to Associated alone. This generous funding allows Associated to meet the highest standards of excellence while maintaining broad accessibility. Now, Henry has re-committed to Associated, agreeing to becoming Chair of the proposed Past President's Council and assuming an important role in the future of the school. The new Council will help ensure the presence of ever-important institutional memory and will provide essential advice to the school's leadership on a range of important issues. **We are honoured to have Henry return to an active leadership role at Associated and so proud to count both Henry and Julia as dear friends of the school.**



Julia & Henry Koschitzky

KaminLeaders

We are excited to welcome two new principals to the Kamin Education Centre this year.



Karen Sitnik

Leia Ger

JUDAIC STUDIES PRINCIPAL | GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL

“We want to build a culture that is positive, open, collaborative and focuses on relationship-building.”

– KAREN SITNIK –

From the outset, new Kamin principals **Leia Ger** and **Karen Sitnik** are clear about their goals for the coming year. “We want to build a culture that is positive, open, collaborative and focuses on relationship-building,” says Karen.

Leia and Karen have each taken different paths to their positions at Kamin but both are highly skilled professionals with advanced degrees in education. Karen has spent almost all of her career at Associated, as a teacher, curriculum leader and most recently as a vice principal at the Danilack Middle School. Leia has served in leadership roles at a number of schools, organizations and educational enterprises including being the Principal at the Kehila Jewish Community Day School in Hamilton.

Because of their varied backgrounds, Karen, the Judaic studies principal, and Leia, the general studies principal, are creating a powerful partnership. They see the possibilities for great synergy. “We are two parts of a whole,” explains Leia. “Teachers can look forward to receiving twice as much support but at the same time Karen and I will come together as a seamless unit.” “The same is true for parents,” adds Karen. **“We will be able to provide parents with more direct communication on a broad range of specific topics.”**

Karen’s experience at Middle School provides her with a unique vantage point. “I know where Kamin students are going when they leave here in Grade 5 and what is necessary to help them get there.” She’s also excited about returning to the elementary environment. “It’s nice to come back and be able to engage and instill Jewish pride in young learners,” she says.

For Leia and Karen the ultimate goal is clearly student achievement and they are able to view that through many lenses. “We want every student to feel that they can succeed,” says Leia. “Equally, we want parents to clearly understand what success looks like for their child. Finally, we want teachers to regard student success as a reflection of their own professional success.”

The front office won’t be the best place to find next year’s principals. **“Leadership belongs with students, parents and teachers – in the classroom, the front of the school, the parking lot and the playground,”** says Karen.

Both Leia and Karen are incredibly excited about the coming year. “We are looking forward to creating a Kamin community based on common language and shared Jewish values.” With their well-articulated goals and impressive backgrounds, the new Kamin principals are already headed for great success.

ShinShinim

We are so thrilled to introduce you to this year's amazing Shinshinim...

Posluns

Yarden Ish-Shalom (Haifa)

This year, I want to create a kind of bridge between the community and myself so that we can really connect and learn from each other. I expect to work hard, but also enjoy my work and have a lot of ShinShin-style fun with all of you!"

Nitzan Phillipson (Jerusalem)

This year, I want to both teach and learn about the amazing connection between Israel and Jewish communities around the world. I want to share with all of you the magic of Jerusalem, and have you share with me the beauty of Toronto. I'm so excited to get to know all of you, and cannot wait for the year to start."



YARDEN

NITZAN

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST SHINSHINIM | ShinShinim are post high school Israeli teenagers who develop programming and activities for our school community that bring to life a sophisticated, personal, and relevant connection to Israel. The name of the program comes from the Hebrew letters 'shin, shin' that stands for 'Shnat Sherut' or 'year of service.' Associated has been part of the ShinShinim program for the past three years and this year for the first time each of our campuses will have their own Shinshinim.

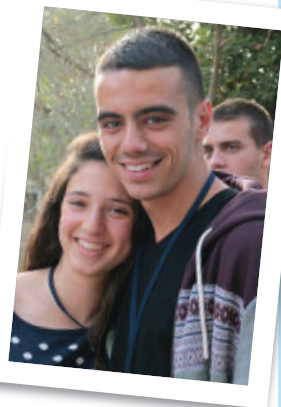
Kamin

Nethanel Merran (Even Yehuda)

I can't wait to come to Associated. I expect to express myself and to pass on the values I believe in, and on the other hand I want to learn from everyone in your community. I look forward to getting to know all the students and teachers, and especially to have fun and gain memories with all of you."

Ziv Fox (Shaarei Tikvah)

I am very excited about the next year. The thing I am looking forward to the most is to get to know all those who'll be a part of this year for me. I hope that I'll succeed in sharing with you new issues from my own point of view. I know a challenging year is ahead of me, but I can't wait for it to start! See you soon!"



ZIV & NETHANEL

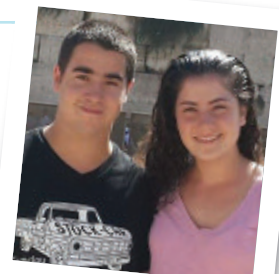
Danilack

Yotam Meizeles (Eilat)

I am so excited to get to know the students, staff and families at Associated Danilack and look forward to meeting you all very, very soon."

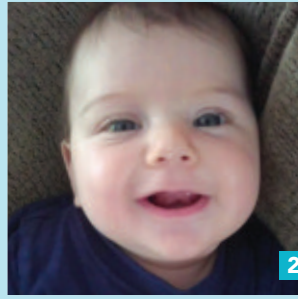
Omer Itzack (Kibbutz Mizra)

I am so excited to come to Associated and share my love of Israel with you and I look forward to creating beautiful artwork with you next year. Most of all, I cannot wait to meet all of you and spend an amazing year together."



OMER & YOTAM

Associated expresses its gratitude to Michael and Diana Naiberg as well as our Parent Teacher Council for the funding allowing us to continue and expand our ShinShinim program.

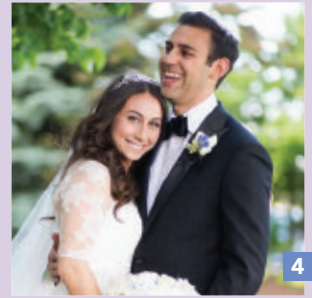
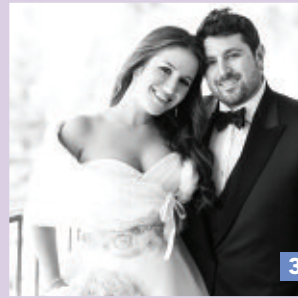
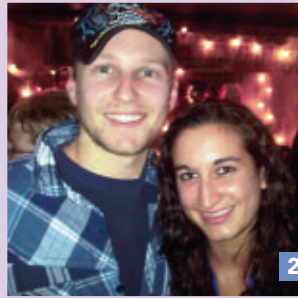


THEY'RE COUSINS!

- 1 Adir Ariel, son of Glen and Sara (Greenwood) Weinberger '98
- 2 Joshua Pesach, son of Paul '95 and Harriet Greenwood
- 3 Lex Benjamin Holland, son of Nikki Holland '90
- 4 Ryan Matthew Koral, son of Michael '97 and Rachel (Wrock) Koral '97
- 5 Daniel Asher Schechter, son of Ilana Pister '98 and Joshua Schechter

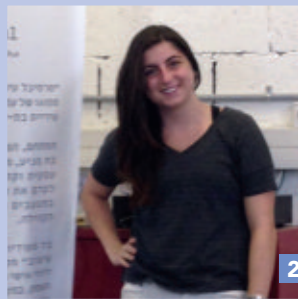


Welcome to the World!



- 1 Robbie Handelman '02 married Jessica Tobianah
- 2 Robbie Just '00 became engaged to Allysa Moses '04
- 3 Leora Koral '01 married Justin Wise
- 4 Dara Koplowitz '03 married Adir Dishy '03

Mazel Tov!



- 1 Pnina Brown '06 pictured here with father David Wm Brown '70 recently made Aliya and enlisted in the IDF
- 2 Jenny Dzaldov '08 is spending a year in Israel participating in the ArtJerusalem Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as part of a degree in Architecture and Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto
- 3 Justin Goldrich '02 graduated from Queens Law School
- 4 Hartley Perlmutter '02 received his smicha from Yeshiva University in 2013 and participated in the 2014 Chag Hasmikha

Yasher Koach!

Alumni Now & Then



Above: Emily holding a book given to her by her grade 3 teacher.

EMILY (ZARNETT) SNOW '75

I have fond memories of my elementary years at AHS. I am forever grateful to my parents for having the foresight to send my three siblings and me to AHS.

I met one of my closest friends at AHS and have been friends with her for nearly forty years. As well, my circles of friends still include AHS students. There is an indescribable bond amongst AHS students and when we meet we feel forever connected.

As my husband Howard was also a student at AHS, the decision to send our three children to this school was a natural one. We feel very fortunate to have been able to give this invaluable gift of an AHS education to our children.

THEN . . .

Below: Emily in Grade 3, 1969-70.



Above: Dinah and her daughter Devin

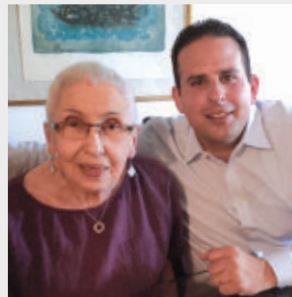
DINAH GOLDSTEIN '93

My Associated story begins as a timid grade 1 student, joining my class with the hope of making great friends and at least one BFF. I developed lasting friendships, and built a strong Jewish foundation.

Years later, I returned as a proud AHS teacher. I am privileged to have both of my daughters attend the school, allowing them to create their own AHS memories, which they will cherish for a lifetime.

THEN . . .

Below: Dinah with her husband-to-be Mark '93.



HERSHEL RECHT '93

On July 28, I made the trek up to Barrie to visit my Grade 5 teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Matheson. With my 1989-1990 report card in hand, we chatted away for over two and a half hours. I owe much of my success to Mrs. Matheson's kind, compassionate and encouraging teaching style.

Thank you Mrs. Matheson. Your kind and guiding hand that helped lead me to where I am today. For that I am forever grateful.



Mr. Danilack was my favourite teacher. Here's why.

When we recently sent out a mailing asking our alumni to re-connect, we were delighted to receive a poignant handwritten note from **Grace Polsky Freedlander** telling us about her experiences at Associated. Based on the excerpt below, Grace is likely one of our oldest alumni.

"I go back to the days of the Brunswick Talmud Torah, 1939-1945, 5 days a week after school and Sunday morning from 9:30 am to 11:30 am."

Her favourite teacher was Mr. Danilack and she recounted a truly remarkable story. She had been asked out on a date but her mother wouldn't let her miss Hebrew school and suggested that the young man pick her up from school when it ended. This is how the evening unfolded in her words.

"I told Mr. Danilack that this boy will be calling for me at 7:30. Well 7:30 came and there was a knock on the door. Mr. Danilack answered. He opened the door, and said, 'Hello, she'll be right there. Please sit down while she gets her coat.' As we left Mr. Danilack said, 'Goodnight and have a good time,' just like a father. I'll never forget as long as I live what a wonderful man he was."

Mrs. Freedlander turned 84 this past April and we wish her much health and happiness and look forward to hearing more stories about her wonderful experiences at Associated.

Alumni we want to hear from you!

Be sure to visit our website and complete the contact form in the Alumni section. You can also let us know about your special milestones and achievements.

Send us an email at alumni@ahschools.com

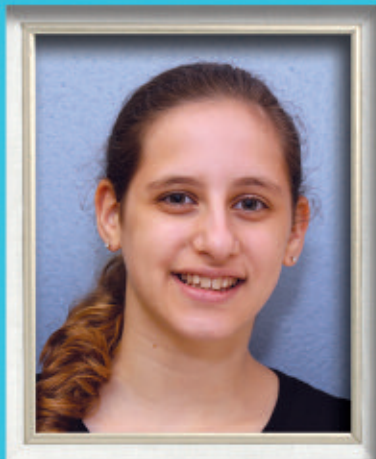
associatedhebrewschools.com/alumni/form

“From the minute we walked in the door, she was embraced.”

– Rebecca Ansel –



Rebecca Ansel '79 & Dr. Murray Miskin '51



Jordana Ansel '14

For any parent, switching schools for your child after the year has already started would be a stressful experience.

But when alumna Rebecca Ansel walked into Danilack Middle School in November 2012 to enroll her daughter Jordana in Grade 7, it felt like coming home.

“From the minute we walked in the door, she was embraced,” Ansel says. “Grade 7 is a tough time to switch schools, but we didn’t feel it was tough at all.”

And it’s no wonder, given the long history that Ansel’s family has with the Associated. Ansel is a graduate of the school from the class of 1979. Her father, radiologist Dr. Murray Miskin, is an alumnus of the school (1951) from the Brunswick Avenue days. Her grandmother, Mrs. Gert Miskin, was a nurse school teacher for close to 30 years at the Neptune branch.

Now, Ansel is the proud mother of an Associated graduate.

“I am so not worried about high school. [Jordana] was always going to TanenbaumCHAT. Now she is prepared academically, she’s prepared socially. She’s got confidence. She can self-advocate... The number of times she has emailed a teacher or an administrator without me knowing about it – it blows my mind. And they were always receptive. They never said you shouldn’t be contacting me about this. [The school] really encourages the kids to put themselves out there,” Ansel says.

That sentiment is echoed by her father, a regular contributor to our Kadima campaign, as he reflects on his time at the school almost 70 years ago.

“It imbued me with a love of Torah, a love of Israel that is constant,” he says. “I learnt a tremendous amount. Ivrit b’lvrit. Our Hebrew teachers only spoke Hebrew – to the point that I thought they didn’t know English!”

Rebecca agrees and says that same commitment to Hebrew language was there when she was a student. She remembers a time she was visiting Israel with her parents and listening to a radio comedy sketch in a taxicab, laughing along with the jokes.

“The taxi driver asked me, ‘How do you understand this?’ And I said, ‘Because of my schooling.’”

For Jordana, her memories of Associated will be not only of rigorous academics, but of staff and students who cared enough to make her feel part of the middle school family from her first day.

“The teachers are always around to help you,” she says. She was even inspired to become a student mentor to new Grade 6 students in her Grade 8 year.

“I wanted to help someone like all the people did for me when I came.” Her mother smiles widely, “We had a phenomenal experience here.”

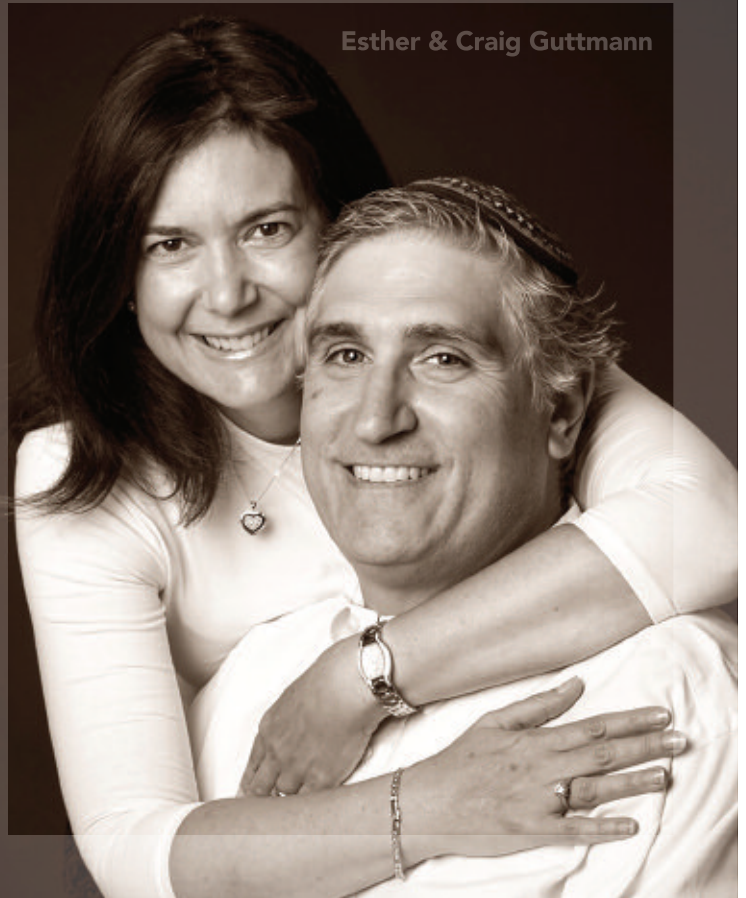
By Sidura Ludwig

Coming Home

“Everyone was so warm and embracing. We were back where we belong.”

"When I saw the anxiety of parents whose children had special needs and I realized that there were so many families affected, I knew we were doing the right thing." That's how Craig Guttman describes his efforts in organizing an annual golf tournament in support of programs for diverse learners in Toronto. The Max Guttman Memorial Tournament was first held to benefit She'arim, a day school dedicated to students with special needs, but later provided funding for a number of schools offering specialized programs including Associated. The Max Guttman Memorial has become the UJA Golf Classic but the winner's cup still bears the names of Craig's parents.

Craig
Guttman



Esther & Craig Guttman

In fact, Guttman's ties to Associated are formidable. His mother Sheila always told him she was in the first class at the Brunswick Avenue Talmud Torah. Craig and his brothers Mark and Sean are Associated alumni as are Craig's children, Mia, Judah, Elie and Max. Craig's father Max was a generous supporter of Associated and Craig established the Guttman Family Foundation at the school in 2001.

Craig, who is the president of Algood Caster Innovations, has become a leader in securing funding for special needs programs in the city. "It all started with my father," he says. In She'arim's early days, Rabbi Kelman approached Max Guttman and asked him to host a parlour meeting. Max recruited a number of prominent givers who became annual supporters of the school. After Max's death in 1998, Craig started the golf tournament to continue Max's legacy of support.

"My father's support was *l'sheim shamayim* – for the sake of heaven," Craig says referring to the fact that none of Max's kids directly benefitted from his fundraising efforts. **"It was always about the kids in the community."** That's also what has motivated Craig in his communal efforts. He has spent countless hours advocating on behalf of programs for diverse learners and speaking to the parents of children affected.

"When parents told me they were questioning whether Associated was a good fit for their kids, I told them that they've got it all wrong," he says. "You've got to worry about your child's educational needs and Associated will be able to deal with those effectively." In the end he was proven correct. "At the end of the year, they thanked me for encouraging them and told me that Associated was a great experience for their kids."

Craig recognizes the impact that Associated had on his own children. **"It was a great school for them. The education was phenomenal. The transition to high school was easy. Today, some of my kids are living in Israel while others are involved in the community."**

Craig is working to meet the needs of children in the community and find sustainable ways of supporting programs like Associated's Centre for Diverse Learning. With his father's legacy of support and his own determined spirit, we're betting that Craig is going to be successful.

Guttman Family Foundation

It's all
about
the
kids



Celebrating Learning. Engaging Students.

Celebrating student learning into the outside world. Research shows that “The best way to ensure high levels of student learning is through high-level teaching, deep student engagement, and authentic tasks.” Here are some examples of

“

THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE HIGH LEVELS OF STUDENT LEARNING, IS THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL TEACHING, DEEP STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITH CONTENT, AND AUTHENTIC TASKS.”

Dr. Brenda Dzaldov,
General Studies
Principal,
Danilack

INVENTION CONVENTION

Dr. Brenda Dzaldov challenges anyone who thinks teenagers only care about social media and their friends to come check out the Grade 8 Invention Convention.

Students were asked to design and create a hydraulic-powered prototype that serves a useful purpose and moves on at least two planes. Family and friends came for the evening to hear the students' presentations and watch their demonstrations. One example created by three students was “The Hydraulic Hygienist,” a dental educational tool for children. An assortment of hydraulically-operated toothbrushes moved in multiple directions to demonstrate and encourage proper brushing technique.

“The students stand in front of those inventions. They dress up in suits or the theme of their invention!” says Dzaldov. “They tell you about the science behind it, or how they created it, what it is, how it works.... That’s engagement. Engagement is the visible face of motivation.”

KASHRUT PROJECTS

Sometimes technology can help blend ancient, biblical learning with the modern day. The Grade 6 Kashrut projects had students present their learning on the laws of keeping kosher using a variety of computer programs. Parents and grandparents were invited into the classroom to watch the group student presentations on topics such as why we keep kosher, how to make a kosher kitchen and which animals and fish are fit for kosher consumption. Students used programs such as PowerPoint, Powtoons, Animodo and video. And everything was done in Hebrew.

“We were last to present,” says Grade 6 student Rachel Jacobson. “So we got really nervous! But it was fun because it was interactive.”

Classmate Jessica Aviv agreed. “It was fun. We weren’t watching one of the videos and one of the parents didn’t know Hebrew, so I had to translate.”

“This is an authentic task,” says vice principal, Karen Sitnik. “It’s about creating meaning for students now. The goal is that they make a connection [between what they’re learning and their own lives]. Through these kinds of projects, we look at the big ideas.”

“Celebrating learning is key; this is not a school where we do work in a notebook and then put the notebook away



g and engagement at Associated is about challenging students to take their lessons beyond the classroom and arch shows that leading-edge educational institutions focus on the quality of student learning rather than teaching. h levels of student learning,” says Dr. Brenda Dzaldov, general studies principal at Danilack, “is through high-level engagement with content, and authentic tasks.”

innovative projects from across our branches that celebrated the rich, engaging learning happening at our school.

SIDDUR CEREMONY

For Kamin parent, Lori Grafstein, the impact of her daughter's Grade 1 Siddur Ceremony was felt long after the event.

“A couple of days after the ceremony, Liat saw her siddur sitting on her night table,” Grafstein says. “She turned to me and, with a broad smile on her face, said, ‘I can’t believe I have my OWN siddur!’ For her, it signified the beginning of a very special connection to Judaism.”

The Siddur Ceremony is a longstanding Associated tradition. Students proudly present songs and prayers from the morning Shacharit service to an audience of family and friends. Students are then presented with their own siddurim, decorated with a cover they designed.

“Through presentations like this, students see that learning is not compartmentalized,” says Joyce Lambert, last year’s acting principal at Kamin. “This is a demonstration of what they have achieved. They can be proud of what they do and of their efforts.”

HEBREW RESTAURANT

At Posluns, Grade 1 students engaged in learning Hebrew language by creating their own restaurant. Students planned a menu, served the food, gave and took orders, all *b’lvrit* (in Hebrew). They also talked about the difference between a weekday menu and a Shabbat menu, what it means to welcome guests into your home and how we serve guests as part of the concept of *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests).

“We want them to associate learning Hebrew, or any learning, with something that is useful,” says Ora Shulman, Posluns principal. “The brain is an organism destined to learn as long as the stimuli is meaningful. We want kids to continue to feel that they are stimulated and getting something out of [the experience].”

POETRY SLAM

During Poetry Month in April at Posluns, a “slam dunk” had nothing to do with basketball. Grade 5 students participated in their first Poetry Slam, performing verses penned by Dr. Seuss to the Goo Goo Dolls, Shel Silverstein to William Blake.

“Celebrating student learning is not about the classroom boards looking beautiful or the product at the end of a unit. It’s about kids feeling good throughout the process of learning,” says Posluns principal, Elana Shapiro Davidson. “It’s about poetry slamming in Grade 5 and an 11-year-old reciting Emily Dickenson with pride.”

Dr. Brenda Dzaldov agrees. Engaging students in learning is about making each step of the learning process relevant.

in the desk. Students are creating rich, engaging culminating products in both Judaic studies and in general studies.”

Our Kadima Supporters Speak

Goldberg Family



Helene, Shawn, Aaron (grade 5) and Chaim (grade 7)

SHAWN & HELENE GOLDBERG | On the highest level, we support Kadima because we want Associated to inspire our children and give them the tools to achieve their greatest potential – academically and spiritually – by focusing on their individual skills while instilling Torah values and Jewish education in a complex world.

Associated has provided our children with both a quality general studies and Judaic studies education. It has provided them with the foundation to become good standing members of the Jewish community along with the population at large.

We feel that day school education is in our bones. Shawn's grandparents were one of the founding families of the first day school in Ottawa in the 1940's. Helene's dad was in the first graduating class and she graduated from the same school in 1985.

We distinguish between the tuition that we pay and our contributions to Kadima. Tuition is for our children's education. **Kadima helps those in our community who are not as fortunate and allows all kids access to a Jewish day school.** Kids are the future and we need to ensure that they have a good starting basis to attack both the secular and the Jewish world.

Fostering community needs to start at home and we hope that our children will learn from us, just like we learned from our parents. Our kids need to learn to help give back with both time and with money.

Through our support for Kadima, we feel that we are helping those children who want a Jewish education but are unable to afford it and in that way are making an important difference in their lives.

Ringel Family



Heather, Jacob (grade 6) and Ian

IAN & HEATHER RINGEL | Associated has had a tremendous impact on our family. Both Ian and his late brother Norman attended Associated over 50 years ago. It was very important to their parents to provide their children with a Jewish education. Most of the friendships made back then are still in place today. In fact Ian has known most of his friends since grade 1.

Our son is blessed to be surrounded by a fantastic group of friends and we are blessed to know their parents. It is these families that make the school so special. We experienced a nurturing environment at Posluns with outstanding leadership and teachers. Jacob has been able to grow emotionally and scholastically as well as being enthusiastic about his Judaism and obtaining the tools to make a contribution both within our community and outside it.

We believe that it is important to support Kadima as it clearly helps provide the "extras" that tuition does not cover that help make a good school a great school. We recognize that tuition can only cover the ever-increasing operating costs. We also hope that our gift will help any family who wants to send their child to Associated but is struggling.

Tzedaka is important! It's important for our son Jacob to see the importance of looking beyond your own needs and understand that even though you may not "reap the rewards" personally, you have an obligation to the community. **We are fortunate to have one of the largest Jewish day schools in the world here in Toronto and we feel it is up to us to make it the best day school in the world.**

Kadima

Kadima, Associated's Annual Campaign, supports excellence and innovation at Associated and ensures the future of our community by remaining financially accessible to the greatest possible number of families.

By making a 3-Year commitment to Kadima at ANY level

...you will be considered a valued member of **Kehillat Kadima** – a new program now in its second successful year – ensuring stable funding.

TO MAKE YOUR 1-TIME GIFT OR 3-YEAR COMMITMENT

Online: associatedhebrewschools.com/kehillat

Email: kadima@ahschools.com

Call: 905-889-3998 ext. 544

Thank You! קהילת קדימה
Kehillat Kadima



Why

we chose Associated

Associated welcomes hundreds of new families every year. Here is a glimpse at why two of those families chose Associated.



**Darin Brock
& Dr. Maian Roifman**

Choosing the right school for our daughter, Ellie, was of utmost importance to us. We were looking for a school that was warm and loving, offered a strong Jewish education and fostered a sense of community, Jewish identity and love for Israel.

“ Associated Posluns has exceeded our expectations. ”

We were most impressed with the many caring, creative teachers and the superb leadership in the principals, who fuel the success of the school and inspire the “ruach” felt as soon as you walk through the front doors.

Associated’s strong Hebrew language program and emphasis on Jewish values such as *Tzedakah*, *Tikun Olam* and love and support for Israel were very important draws for us.

We are thrilled that Associated Posluns provides Ellie with an education that will enrich her Jewish identity and strengthen her bond with Israel, which are invaluable goals for us.

Having recently moved to Thornhill Woods, a Jewish neighbourhood with a number of excellent public schools, one of which is walking distance from our home, the decision to enroll our son, Lucas into Associated for JK was not necessarily an easy one. Ultimately though, given that I attended Associated, and my husband a similar Jewish day school in South Africa, we wanted Lucas to establish a strong connection with his religion, culture and community; a similar Jewish experience as we did growing up.

“ As a result, Associated seemed to be the perfect choice. ”

After visiting the Kamin Campus, we were highly impressed with the staff, class sizes, technology, and innovative curriculum. In addition, the free busing service was a real positive and would free up time for our morning commute. We have been priming Lucas for the start of the new school year and are very excited to watch him grow and establish himself as a proud Jew and true mensch!

Edith '93 & Rael Levy



To find out more about **What Makes Associated A Great School**, you can arrange a personal tour. Contact Pearl Greenspan | pgreenspan@ahschools.com | 905-889-3998 ext. 337 | or visit agreatschool.com



Year in Review *Highlights*

ANNIE | (top) Posluns production of Annie Jr. involved students from grades 2-5. The cast of approximately 60 actors sang, danced, and performed their lines beautifully. Watch out Broadway... here comes Posluns! • **MACCABEATS** | (below, left) The Maccabeats mesmerized students at Associated in a spectacular "One School" concert that brought together grade 5 students from Posluns and Kamin with students at Danilack. The sensational a capella group wowed the audience with many of their best known songs. This unforgettable experience was made possible through the very generous support of the PTC. • **BABY DUCKS** | (below, right) Baby ducklings from the Green Acres Farm hatching program joined students at Associated Cedarvale. A couple of ducklings hatched right before their eyes in the incubator in the main school office! Students examined the cracked shells and helped take care of the new ducklings. They had such a fun week but sadly had to return the ducklings to the farm. • **CHAGIGAT CHESSED** | (bottom, left) At Danilack's Chagigat Chessed (celebration of kindness), students, staff and parents came together to learn about important causes and donate their loose change to charity. What a great way to draw attention to all the wonderful organizations in Toronto.





WALK WITH ISRAEL | (top, left) Associated families showed their support for Israel walking together with over 20,000 people in this year's Walk for Israel. In addition they proudly cheered on Danilack's own Justin Goodman as he led the crowd in the Canadian and Israeli national anthems.

• **POSLUNS GOES FOR GOLD!** | (top, right) While the winter Olympics took place, students at Posluns immersed themselves in learning related to the events. Activities included almost every discipline including math, literacy, science, nutrition and gym. Students wrote Olympic-themed stories, tracked medal counts and analyzed the physics involved in many sports.

• **PREDATORS WIN!** | (center, right) The Posluns Predators won this year's Yitzchak Rabin hockey tournament, an all-day Jewish Day School Sports League event. The team played three games in total. The last game was a nail biter. They were leading 5-3, but the opponents came back and tied the game with one minute left. It was down to a shoot-out. A great goal against the other team won the day.

• **CUDDLE UP & READ** | (above, left) Students in MMB, Nursery, JK and SK enjoyed a light dinner and variety of literacy activities. Students dressed in their pajamas had a fun time listening to engaging stories from storyteller Cheryl Thornton.

• **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY** | (above, center) Every class at Danilack built a Little Free Library, each of which was stocked with books and delivered to an organization in the community. Recipients included the Reena Foundation, B'nai Brith Seniors Centre, and the City of Vaughan Community Gardens. Danilack was the first school in the GTA to become part of the Little Free Library initiative.

• **HEBREW LITERACY** | (above, right) More than 60 parents and grandparents volunteered to read Hebrew books to our students in class. So many wonderful books were brought to life in our classrooms! Everyone enjoyed precious moments listening to incredible family favourites.

Powered by **Excellence.**
Inspired by **Traditional Judaism.**

agreatschool.com



**OPEN HOUSE
JOIN US!**

**Posluns
Education Centre**

18 Neptune Dr.
(Bathurst & Wilson)

• **SUNDAY** •
OCTOBER 26th
[10:00 AM]

**** Ask
about our
FREE BUSING
from north
of Hwy 7**

**Associated
Cedarvale**

1445 Eglinton Ave. W.
(Beth Shalom Synagogue)

• **SUNDAY** •
OCTOBER 26th
[3:00 PM]

**Kamin
Education Centre**

300 Atkinson Ave.
(Bathurst & Centre, Thornhill)

• **SUNDAY** •
NOVEMBER 2nd
[10:00 AM]

VIEW

our e-brochure at
www.ThisIsAssociated.com

For further information,
contact Pearl Greenspan
pgreenspan@ahschools.com
905-889-3998 ext. 337



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**Giving is
great.**

**Sharing
is
cool.**

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when your
gift helps your
very own
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and simultaneously fulfill
a **great mitzvah!**



HOW IT WORKS:

In lieu of presents, guests are asked to donate to Associated. Half is given as a cash gift to the birthday boy or girl and half is donated to the school in his/her honour. Portion to the school is tax receiptable.

WHY IT WORKS:

Boomerang Birthday is a convenient, stress-free way for party-goers to give the birthday boy or girl exactly what he or she wants while it teaches the value of *tzedakah* and giving back.

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We wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year! שנה טובה ומתוקה