

We are

Associated

associatedhebrewschools.com

**Families
Helping
Families**

**Fostering
Independence
in Our Students**

**IVRIT
JUST SPEAK IT!**





Greetings



MAYEER PEARL '88
PRESIDENT

DR. MARK SMILEY '72
HEAD OF SCHOOL

HAKARAT HATOV

FOCUS ON THE CHILDREN

Among the many values we cultivate at Associated is HAKARAT HATOV. We acknowledge the good that others do for us.

We live by that code every day. However, because we take the time for introspection and self-evaluation on Rosh Hashanah, *hakarath hatov* is especially poignant at this time.

We have been blessed with Board members who live and breathe Associated. They are a formidable, thoughtful, caring leadership group. As is natural with every organization, however, some are now stepping down from their board duties.

It is imperative, therefore, that we convey our gratitude and thanks to them for having selflessly served the school with their skill, their time, their resources and most especially, their goodness. They were all devoted to the children, the parents, the families, the staff and the administration that comprise the wonderful and wondrous institution we call Associated Hebrew Schools.

We express our appreciation to:

- **David Wm. Brown, Sheldon Carr and Louis Greenbaum**, all former past Presidents of the Board of Directors, who have retired from the Board but who, thankfully, will still serve on the Past Presidents' Council;
- **Claire Glowinsky and Mark Zigler** who have been directors for 12 and 23 years respectively;
- **Dr. Cathy Giordano (3 years), Ronit Holtzman (6 years), Heather Ringel (3 years) and Jonathan Zepp (7 years)** for their service on the Board.

I would also like to thank the members who have served over the years on the Va'ad HaChinuch, the Scholarship & Endowment Committee, the Marketing Committee and the Personnel Committee. As a result of changes this year to the bylaws aimed at modernizing the governance of the school, these committees will no longer be standing committees of the Board.

**L'Shanah tovah
tichateivu
v'techateimu**

We no sooner return to school this year from a restful, restorative summer holiday than we break from the classroom to celebrate ROSH HASHANAH.

How fitting that we find some of the key messages of the holiday are the very same ones that infuse our classrooms and inform the instruction by our teachers throughout the entire year.

The Torah and Haftarah readings of Rosh Hashanah focus on children.

We read of young Yitzhak's birth and of his mother Sarah's concern for the values that he is destined to embody. On the second day of the holiday, we read of the child's rescue from near sacrifice. We also read of the birth of the prophet Samuel and then the remarkable promise by the prophet Jeremiah, after the expulsion to Babylonia, that our children will indeed return to the borders of their families and their people.

It is a time of year – the beginning of a New Year and the return to school – when our hearts and minds turn to our children and our focus is upon a hopeful future.

A well-known Yiddish proverb tells us that each child brings his or her own unique blessing to the world. No one can better understand the profound truth of this statement than our community of families and staff at Associated.

Your children – our children – are an ever-present blessing.

**Shanah Tovah
U'metukah from all
of us at Associated**



CLAIRE GLOWINSKY



MARK ZIGLER

associatedhebrewschools.com



We are Associated is published through the AHS Advancement Office and is distributed to over 8,000 members of the community including parents, grandparents, alumni and friends of the school.

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Leading by Example

DANILACK MIDDLE SCHOOL'S OUTSTANDING REPUTATION IS FURTHER ENHANCED BY TALENT AND LEADERSHIP

Talent & Leadership



DR. BRENDA DZALDOV AND RABBI DR. RAFI CASHMAN

At Danilack Middle School, we have high expectations of our students – and our principals lead by example. Both Dr. Brenda Dzaldov and Rabbi Dr. Rafi Cashman have recently achieved major accomplishments in their careers.

Dr. Dzaldov's book, *Ready, Set, Learn: Integrating powerful learning skills and strategies into daily instruction*, was recently published by Pembroke Publishers. *Ready, Set, Learn* is a guide for educators explaining how every lesson can be an opportunity for students to develop the skills and strategies they need in order to learn.

Dr. Dzaldov shows how incorporating learning strategies into everyday work will improve students' achievement, and create responsible, independent learners.

"Many of the theories and practices in the book are part of the ongoing professional learning that our outstanding AHS faculty does everyday to improve student achievement and create responsible, independent learners," says Dr. Dzaldov.

And Danilack is proud to welcome another doctor to the building! Rabbi Dr. Rafi Cashman

was recently awarded his PhD in education from the University of Toronto. Rabbi Dr. Rafi Cashman's thesis was on modern religious education and, specifically, how students learn to be religious and understand normative religious practice through their experience at school.

"My doctoral research has helped me clarify the complexity of an education that prioritizes both General and Jewish studies," says Rabbi Dr. Rafi Cashman, "and the way in which students make connections between these two realms of knowledge and practice."

***Kol hakavod* to Drs. Dzaldov and Cashman! We are not only proud of their accomplishments but thrilled to watch them continually inspire our students and staff to strive for excellence. Danilack Middle School's outstanding reputation is further enhanced by their talent and leadership.**

GIVING BACK

HELPING OUR FAMILIES

SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY

BY SIDURA LUDWIG

Even after more than 50 years, Shirley Granovsky has not forgotten the sacrifices she and her husband had to make to send three of their four children to Associated Hebrew Schools. There was a time the family did not have a car or even a telephone. And there was a time they needed tuition assistance.

"I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth," says Mrs. Granovsky. "Through the years things got better for me. I had tucked away in my mind if the time ever came when I could give [the school] substantial assistance, I would."

In the last two years, Mrs. Granovsky has donated over \$1.5 million to AHS, earmarked especially for tuition assistance for families. Thirty-five to forty percent of the Associated student body relies on subsidies. The Kamin Education Centre recently announced a preschool subsidy program for Junior and Senior Kindergarten – a brand-new initiative for the school to fill a need we saw in the community. For many families, access to subsidies is the deciding factor for whether or not they can afford Jewish education for their children.



"Without the financial assistance from Associated we would not have been able to send our children here. Both my husband and I feel very strongly about providing a good solid Jewish education for our two daughters and instilling Jewish values in their lives," says AHS parent Melanie Krukin. "We are so grateful that our children have the opportunity to benefit from an excellent Jewish and General Studies education that will have a lasting and positive impact on their lives."

The late Leon Katz, z"l, understood the struggle facing young families. Mr. Katz was a past Associated parent and Board member. In 1981, he approached Board member Shelly Carr to discuss making AHS a major beneficiary in his will and earmarking that donation for tuition assistance for families. When Mr. Katz passed away earlier this year, the fund he planned became available to the school. A \$1 million scholarship fund in support of tuition assistance was set up from his estate. Now, that fund will generate approximately \$40,000 annually in interest income for school subsidies – which will go a long way towards helping our families.

Associated is grateful for these recent gifts, as well as the ongoing financial support it receives for tuition subsidy from UJA Federation through the generosity of community donations to the annual UJA campaign and the Julia and Henry Koschitzky Education Fund.

If you, or someone you know, would like to support tuition assistance at Associated, please contact Elysa Greisman, Director of Institutional Advancement, egreisman@ahschools.com or (905) 889-3998 ext. 541.



On a Mission

JODY AND JONATHAN YOKEN WITH THEIR FOUR BOYS *(from left)* WESTON, RYDER, TOMMY AND MASON

Their soft-spoken modesty and unassuming demeanor belie the fact that JODY AND JONATHAN YOKEN are on a mission. Quietly, without fanfare, the young couple is determined to help enable other parents to choose Associated Hebrew Schools for their children's education.

With four boys under the age of five, and with ongoing interests that include music, the outdoors, sports, gymnastics and yoga, the Yokens lead a very active life. Nonetheless, the constant spinning and swirl of their family of six have not deflected Jody and Jonathan's attention away from the goal they established for themselves last year. They made their decision once it became apparent how transformative and positive an environment the kindergarten at Associated had been for their son Ryder.

"We knew we were going to send the kids to Jewish school," Jody explains. "So we tried

Associated first and were so pleased with our son's first year experience. The sense of community – in and out of the classroom – that Associated evoked in us left us no doubt that he will continue here."

"It is a great place," Jonathan adds. "So we decided to try to help make it possible for other families to send their children to the school."

Jody and Jonathan bring rare hybrid perspectives to their Associated experience. Jody grew up in Toronto and attended AHS. Her parents, Esther '64 and Barry '64 Naiberg, have a long history of involvement with the school, starting from their early days as students and continuing through adulthood and parenthood as volunteers.

Jonathan, on the other hand, grew up in New England. He was more familiar with the whaling fleets of his hometown New Bedford, Massachusetts, than he was with the herring filets of Toronto's Jewish community, the home he

adopted in 2009.

"It can be a bit of a challenge to break into the local community," Jonathan notes. "However, sending our children to Associated was the perfect way of joining the close, tight-knit group whose friendships began in day school. Being part of that community is very important to us."

Jody concurs. "We now have many close friends whom we met through Ryder and his experience at school. Associated opened us up to the opportunity of meeting a great deal of people. We are very happy about that."

The Yokens are striving to open up that opportunity to others as well. They have given the school a generous gift dedicated to providing tuition assistance to families that need it. "If we could help in any way," Jody adds, "it would be to encourage and to help more people come to Associated, to experience such a wonderful school in the way our son has."

It's a great place!

Fostering...



Independence

at Middle School

BY DR. BRENDA DZALDOV

Adolescence is a period of intense change, both in brain development, as well as in personal and social development. As students transition from childhood to adolescence, they need an academic environment that emphasizes engagement in learning, focuses on goal-setting and risk-taking, and that teaches and encourages independence.

At Danilack Middle School at the Hurwich Education Centre, fostering achievement and independence starts with teachers who can offer strong guidance to the students in grades 6-8. There is a well-known theory (Shulman, 1986) regarding *pedagogical content knowledge*, the notion that teachers need to master two types of knowledge: (a) content, also known as “deep” knowledge of the subject itself, and (b) knowledge of the “how” to deliver the curriculum. At Danilack, we honour Shulman’s theory but believe there is a third, equally important part of excellent teaching: that is rapport.

If teachers do not have a relationship with their students, and care about them, then students will not develop the trust they need to learn, take risks and grow. All of our extra-curricular activities are staffed by our teachers, which means that students not only develop relationships with their teachers inside the classroom, but outside as well. Extra-curricular activities are a big part of how our students develop their sense of self, as well as their place in the school. One student found his group of friends in games club on Thursdays. Another spent her lunchtime each day in the art room, sometimes joining the film/photography and art club activities, and sometimes just sitting quietly with friends doing free art. Others find their place in the gym, be it for intramurals, team sports or “free gym” in the winter. Teacher supervisors build rapport with students by

understanding their interests, as well as being more accessible to them. When students have the freedom to explore their identity, with caring staff for guidance, their confidence, social development, academic development and comfort grow.

With that guidance as their framework, our students soon become leaders at school. They choose their own *tzedakah* projects, join the Chesed committee and become active on our student council. In Grade 8, they become mentors and help guide new Grade 6 students through the transition to middle school – having lockers, finding class rooms, and learning how to rotate through different subjects with different classrooms and teachers. The resilience and the flexibility they learn from being in an environment that fosters independence helps them to successfully transition to high school.

By the time our students graduate from Grade 8, they’ve gone from being timid students to confident, independent and knowledgeable Jews and Canadians. As Jack Sable, one of our 2015 valedictorians shared in his address, “The dedicated teachers here at Associated have not only taught us how to conjugate French verbs, how to do a proper sit-up and how to behave like Jonah the Prophet when you’re stuck in a whale, but also how to think critically and how to be responsible citizens in the Jewish community.”



“ A reflection of the values that Associated helped instill in me ”

A Deep Sense of Community



When asked whether his early education at Associated Hebrew Schools played a role in helping mould his character, Michael Mostyn ('88) responds with the characteristic poised assertiveness by which he is known. "Absolutely," the CEO of B'nai Brith Canada answers without any hesitation. "Associated clearly influenced my life choices, even if only at the subconscious level. Those years at the school from grades 1 through 8 had a very significant bearing on who I became. My work today, fighting anti-Semitism, fighting for Israel, helping the needy and living a good, moral life are a reflection of the values that Associated helped instill in me."

Mostyn reminisces warmly about his years at Associated and considers himself "very lucky" to have been a student there. "I developed many friendships during those early days. The classmates were close. I still remember my teachers, even as far back as Grade 1. Associated had a major impact on all of us, fostering a love of Torah, of Judaism, of our traditions, of Zionism and of the Jewish people."

Accordingly, Mostyn says, it was a "no-brainer" for him and his wife, Ella, to decide to send their children to Associated Hebrew Schools. "When life came full circle for us and we became parents, Associated was on our radar screen. We had a long history with Associated. Moreover the school has such an outstanding reputation, providing a premier education in both English and Hebrew, in a non-judgmental environment. It brings in Jews of various backgrounds. It is a wonderful place that fosters a deep sense of community. Indeed that is what is really unique about Associated Hebrew Schools. It is just terrific that children from different, diverse backgrounds attend the school. Children see that and absorb it. It is exactly what we should aspire to be as a community."

Michael Mostyn '88

AHS ALUMNUS AND PARENT

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE



...who supports the school's annual campaign, Kadima, and Kehillat Kadima, the campaign that encourages support of our annual campaign at any level for three years, providing stable funding the school can rely on for programs that impact the day-to-day lives of our students and families.

We surpassed our annual goal this year, raising over \$250,000, thanks to the support of our "Kehillah" – our community of supporters.

VOICES OF KADIMA

CURRENT STUDENT
GRADE 8

CURRENT PARENTS

CURRENT PARENTS

CURRENT PARENTS
GRADE 8 LEGACY PROJECT



I made a donation in honour of my Bar Mitzvah because I would like to see more Jewish children be able to go to a Jewish school, to be able to learn about their heritage and where they came from, and not have to worry about cost. If these children do not go to a Jewish school and learn Judaic studies, then who will teach them?

**CHAIM
GOLDBERG**
•••••



We support Associated because of its commitment to academic excellence in all spheres of our children's education – General Studies, Judaic Studies and Ivrit. Our children have been challenged and supported by fantastic teachers who have made learning fun. The school's warm, community spirit has made our family very comfortable and provided an excellent environment for our children to develop and grow.

**AARON &
MELISSA '91
KOMLOS**
•••••

Above (l-r):
Aaron and Melissa Komlos
with their children Leora (SK)
and Ryan (Gr. 3)



We decided to participate in the AHS Kehillat Kadima campaign, as we wanted to show appreciation for the positive influence that Associated has had on our children and family over the past four years.

We moved to Toronto so our kids could have the gift of a Jewish education. We moved from a community where this was not available, so perhaps when you do not have something and then you experience it, you value it even more.

We want our kids to learn that *tzedakah*, no matter what amount, is an important responsibility and mitzvah for everyone, which in turn enables others less fortunate to experience the same opportunities that they enjoy.

**DR. KEVAN
& BARBARA
ORVITZ**
•••••

Above (l-r):
Dr. Kevan and Barbara Orvitz
with their children Jenna (Gr. 8)
and Cira (Gr. 6)



We are thrilled to support Associated as we proudly celebrate the graduation of our eldest child, Daniel. We are most grateful for the excellent education that our children have received at Posluns and Danilack, from such caring and professional teachers. We recognize the importance of donating to the Kadima campaign so that students continue to receive an education that is progressive, and which has Jewish values and traditions at its core.

**ROBERT
KURTZ
& CAROLINE
DOBKIN-
KURTZ**
•••••

Above (l-r):
Robert Kurtz and
Caroline Dobkin-Kurtz
with their children
Jared (Gr.7), Daniel '15
and Mireille (Gr.3)

Our Kehillah represents the past, present and future of our school, including current parents, parents of Grade 8 graduates, past parents, alumni, grandparents and even current students. We are so proud to honour them for their ongoing support of and commitment to our school.

Thank You!!

We invite YOU to join us on this already successful mission to bring important funding to our school. We need your help to continue to make a tremendous impact on the student experience at Associated. Please contact us at associatedhebrewschools.com/kehilat or call (905) 889-3998 x544.

PAST PARENTS



ALUMNI



GRANDPARENTS



“

As past parents, Jerry and I support the school because it was there that our daughters received an excellent foundation in their Jewish education and made lasting friendships. We hope that by supporting the school, other children will have the same opportunities.

JERRY & TERRY DYKOPF

• • • •

*Above (l-r):
Jerry and Terry Dykopf
with their daughters
Rebecca (Dykopf) Aziza '02
and Aliza (Dykopf)
Gershuni '98*

“

We believe in and support Associated Hebrew Schools, not only because we met there when we were both in Grade 1 and not only because our three children thrived and graduated from the school.

We support Associated because, as the central community kindergarten through Grade 8 day school, Associated has the privilege and duty to provide an excellent learning experience, with superb teachers, to the full range of students. The school delivers this exceedingly well. It has done so in the past and is doing so in the present. We all need to support the school so that it can continue this important work in the future. Our Jewish community depends on the success of Associated. Associated depends on us.

BRIAN '71 LASS & BRENDA '71 GASNER LASS

• • • •

*Above (l-r):
Brenda Gasner Lass '71
and Brian Lass '71*

“

Neither of us had the opportunity to attend a Jewish Day school when growing up. It was, and is, important for us to make sure our children and grandchildren have the best Jewish education possible – one that suits our beliefs and lifestyle. That is why we continue to support Associated Hebrew Schools.

ROBERT PRESZLER & ROSE GREISMAN

• • • •

*Above (l-r):
Rose Greisman
and Robert Preszler*

So Proud

WE ARE

EXTREMELY PROUD TO CONGRATULATE JULIA KOSCHITZKY FOR HER RECENT APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA.



JULIA KOSCHITZKY

The distinction, announced by his Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, was conferred upon Julia “on her dedicated promotion of education and interfaith dialogue.”

Julia’s volunteer involvement at Associated Hebrew Schools is merely part of the beautiful tapestry from which the awarding of the Order of Canada emerges. Julia is well known for her uniquely incomparable example of involvement, leadership, philanthropy and activism on behalf of the Jewish community in Canada, Israel and around the world. As a parent of former Associated students, she served as Chair of the AHS Parent Teacher Council. Julia’s husband, Henry, is a past President of Associated. Both are extremely generous supporters of AHS.

MAZEL TOV TO JULIA ON THIS WELL-DESERVED HONOUR!



Wedding & Engagements

Simmi Toby '06 engaged to Adam Blankenstein (far, left)

Michael Rubinger '02 married to Robyn Deverett '03 (left)

Daniel Rubinger '01 engaged to Julia Giddens (right)



BIRTHS

Max Lior, son to Sean '93 and Ruthy (Frank) '95 Dunec (far, left)

Aria Ayelet, daughter to Luke and Keren (Ross) '91 Moynihan (left)

Maya, daughter to Robert and Rachel (Burko) '02 Pensler (below, far left)

Bailey, daughter to Jordan and Miri (Ben-Dat) '98 Pelc (below, centre)

Theo, son to Avi '95 and Daniella (Ben-Dat) '96 Ross (below)



Yasher Koach!

Samara Bell '12
on receiving UJA's Shem Tov Teen Leadership Award (far, left)

Sofia Freudenstein '12
on receiving a Bronfman Youth Fellowship (left)

Daniel Held '96
on receiving his EdD in Education (right)



Alumni
We want to hear from you!

Please let us know about your special milestones and achievements. **Your nachas is our nachas!**

Send us an email at alumni@ahschools.com

associatedhebrewschools.com/alumni/smachot

REBECCA COPELOVICI '00



When I was a student at Associated, I cannot say I knew that I would end up moving to China and representing Canadian business interests abroad. I also did not realize at the time how learning a language such as Hebrew, with a non-Romanized alphabet, would give me a leg up in learning Mandarin Chinese.

Living on the other side of the world from home and working my way up through an organization I have come to love, I am able to see how much of an impact my schooling has had on the person I am today. Associated taught me the importance of creativity, thinking out-of-the-box and a general curiosity towards new places, people and ideas.

Since graduating from Associated, I started independently traveling the world, studying International Relations in university with a semester in Hong Kong and upon graduation, moving to China.

I am now the Executive Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, leading a multicultural team conducting business in three languages. Every day I get a chance to apply my creativity and out-of-the-box thinking when evaluating how best to support Canadian businesses, educational institutions and governmental entities looking to do business with China.

I had absolutely no idea I would end up where I am today. There are not too many people I have met who enjoy what they do as much as I do. I am thankful to Associated for giving me the curiosity and interest to see what the world is like on the other side and would encourage fellow alumni to do the same.



RUTHY DUNEC '95



Twenty-five years ago, while attending Associated, specific themes were constantly reiterated. "Think Big, Dream Big, Work Hard". These themes stuck with me throughout my school years.

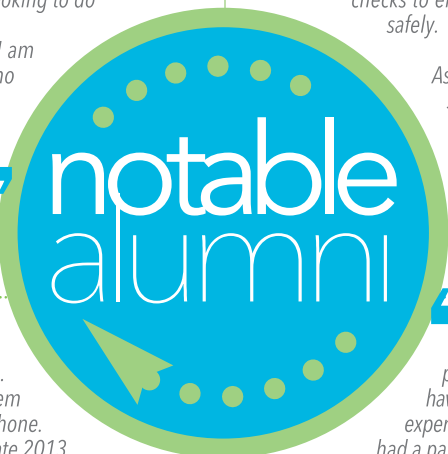
I never considered that my childhood love for gymnastics and dance would turn into a viable business, or that I would work with the cast of the Tony-Award winning Broadway Musical "Billy Elliot".

As a child I was a strong athlete and loved gymnastics. At university, I studied kinesiology to nurture my love for fitness, wellness and nutrition. While there, I coached gymnastics and taught acrobatics classes.

After graduation, I started to "Think Big" to add to the "Work Hard" theme of my life. I knew I was meant to be a gymnastics and acrobatics coach. Over time I developed my own kinder program, now known as KinderBounce. I continued to "Dream Big" and developed my own acrobatics program, known as Dance Trix.

In 2010, the Billy Elliot musical production approached me to train many of the cast members, especially the six "Billys". I trained the cast on their cartwheels, walkovers and tumbling skills. I was also entrusted to perform safety checks to ensure the tricks were executed safely.

Now 34 years old, I married a fellow Associated alumnus and have three children. My eldest starts at Associated this fall. Associated has been the foundation of my thinking, dreaming and working. If you build the foundation strong, there's no telling what can be built on top.



MICHAEL KORAL '97



I am the co-founder of needs.com – an SaaS platform that identifies sales leads for small businesses and entrepreneurs in real time through social media. We help small businesses grow by providing them actionable sales leads directly to their inbox or smartphone. Along with two co-founders, I started needs.com in late 2013.

We wanted to grow our established businesses: a web development firm (AycelInternet.com) and our full service web brokerage firm (WeSellYourSite.com).

We saw that many people posted their needs or wants on their Twitter or Facebook feeds and we knew that it was difficult for the average person to pick out these "diamonds in the rough". We created a script that monitored social feeds and delivered only posts that had "purchase intent" in them. We launched to the public in late 2014 and have been growing ever since.

A memory from Grade 8 at Associated, almost two decades ago, has stuck with me all these years. I tried out for the boys' basketball team. I thought I was a pretty good player and assumed I would make the team. But I did not make the cut and was pretty devastated. After that, I was determined to practise as much as possible and prove that I had what it takes.

A year later, I made the team at CHAT. All that work paid off!

That same determination has stayed with me all these years. Starting up needs.com had its challenges, but I knew that if we kept going, we would make it a success. Now we have a growing staff and happy clients. I'd be foolish to say that Associated did not help me get to where I am today. Thanks AHS!



JORDANA TALSKY '96



I attended Associated for nine years. Currently, I am a practising lawyer (wills and estates) and also a professional singer. Music is my passion and I have been fortunate to have had wonderful experiences in the arts, which Associated had a part in bringing to me.

My voice was discovered by my Grade 1 teacher Mrs. Diamond, at our Shacharit service, where I sang a solo. She encouraged my parents to enroll me in piano lessons. Later, our school's music teacher Mr. Gilden welcomed me into the school choir. When I decided to audition for the prestigious Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, he prepared the song Av Ha'Rachamim for my audition piece. I was accepted! My experiences in that choir have given me the memories of a lifetime.

I performed in Canadian Opera Company productions and became a member of the vocal jazz ensemble in high school. At McGill I continued training with opera instructors and singing in an cappella group, a funk-jazz group and a Gilbert and Sullivan Theatre Society. While completing my law school degree at Western, I became a regular performer at a jazz club in London. I began pursuing music more seriously at that point, delving into song writing.

Today I play in venues and at jazz festivals across Ontario. I have released an album that can be heard on radio stations across Canada and abroad. One of my original songs was a finalist for the 2014 John Lennon Songwriting Competition. I will be making my Los Angeles debut this fall.

If I may offer a message to readers, it is this: a good education and steady job are important, but growing up does not have to mean letting go of our dreams and passions—they can only enrich and sweeten our lives.



Our students at Associated Hebrew Schools consistently make our school proud through their high achievement in a variety of areas: academics, the arts and sports. Here is just a snapshot of some of the students' accomplishments we are celebrating from the 2014/15 school year.

Student Achievements



Posluns Creative Writing Contest winners (l-r): Hannah Muraven, Amy Maisel and Sadie Meirovitz



Among those involved in the **Chidon** this year are (l-r): Paige Zaldin, Mrs. Lily Zorer (Middle School coach), Shirelle Maged, Ms. Rebecca Friedman (Elementary coach - Kamin and Posluns) and Jacob Phillipson.



Danilack student finalists for **My Family Story** exhibition (l-r): Ori Epstein, Aviah Rosen and Jackson Berkel.

Creative Writing

The Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education 2015/5775 Creative Writing Contest. These students placed in either the English or Hebrew categories:

Kamin Education Centre

- Daniel Iliyae (Gr. 3)
- Aliya Willinger (Gr. 4)
- Gilly Driham (Gr. 5)
- Jada Hart (Gr. 5)
- Adam Lebowitz (Gr. 5)
- Tyler Rastin (Gr. 5)

Posluns Education Centre

- Hannah Muraven (Gr. 1)
- Sadie Meirovitz (Gr. 2)
- Amy Maisel (Gr. 4)

Public Speaking

Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking

Shira Barth (Grade 7, Danilack) placed first in the first level of the **Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking** contest.

Chidon Hatanach

The **Chidon Hatanach** is the annual nation-wide Bible contest. AHS students dominated the Grade 5/6 category:

Second Place

Jacob Phillipson (Gr. 5, Kamin)

Third Place

Zahava Zarnett-Klein (Gr. 5, Posluns)

Top Five

Shirelle Maged (Gr. 5, Kamin)
Eliyahu Freudenstein (Gr. 6, Danilack)

Top 10

Josh Posel
Ori Epstein (Gr. 6, Danilack)

Varsity Sports

The following **Danilack** sports teams **placed first** in their varsity competitions:

- Ultimate Frisbee (boys)
- Soccer (boys)
- Volleyball (boys)

My Family Story

The display by Aviah Rosen (Grade 6, Danilack) was chosen for the final exhibition in Israel. Ori Epstein and Jackson Berkel (Grade 6) also submitted displays.

Math Contests

Each year, our students participate in international math contests organized by the University of Waterloo and University of Windsor.

The Caribou Math Contest is for grades 3 and 4. A number of our students from Kamin and Posluns placed in the top 10%:

- Berry Richulsky (Kamin)
- Spencer Mozeg (Kamin)
- Matthew Goldberg (Kamin)
- Brandon Taitz (Kamin), Rachel Pevsner (Kamin)
- Josh Wolgelerenter (Posluns)
- Ami Gorodzinsky (Posluns)
- Lior Klein (Posluns)

The Canadian Math League (Grades 6 and 7):

- Grade 6 Team**
Placed in the top 11% for its category
- Grade 7 Team**
Placed in the top 6%

The Gauss Contest (Grades 7 and 8):

- Perfect Score**
Joey Hershkopf (Grade 7, Danilack)
- Outstanding Achievement**
Zachary Kulik (Grade 8, Danilack)

Kol Hakavod!

• to our students on their achievements •

AHS

...was a Welcoming Sanctuary

Avi and Eva Benlolo and their children, Talia 11, Ariella 8, Chaiel 14, with Charlie (the dog).

“SENDING MY CHILDREN TO ASSOCIATED MADE PERFECT SENSE.”

Four decades ago, when Avi Benlolo arrived as a youngster in Canada from Israel, his parents enrolled him at Associated Hebrew Schools. The place was as much a welcoming sanctuary as it was a school. The young lad, who only spoke Hebrew, felt at home.

Years later, Benlolo's children would receive the same open-armed welcome. "I have a strong Jewish identity," Benlolo says. That deep-rooted Jewish identity can be traced in part to his parents and to his early education at Associated.

"Starting my education at Associated strengthened my knowledge about Judaism and Jewish values that I use every day in my work," he explains. As President & CEO of Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies, Benlolo is well known as an activist who stewards one of the western world's preeminent organizations dedicated to promoting tolerance, justice and human rights.

Sending his children to Associated made perfect sense to Benlolo. "Celebrating the holidays and learning our customs and beliefs informed my

character. I want this also to inform the character of my children. The kids come home and they sing the songs of our traditions and of modern Israel. They are learning a great deal about Israel and Zionism. They already feel connected with great pride to the Jewish community in Canada and to the State of Israel."

Avi and his wife Eva are very happy to be affiliated with and supportive of Associated. The school's philosophy fits perfectly with Benlolo's key passion, namely, "trying to make the world a better place."

• • • •

"The values I was taught as a child, and that my own children are now learning, were critical in shaping my understanding of the world – and that is why Associated is so very important to us."

Simply Speaking: Using Ivrit at Associated



ASSOCIATED IS
AT THE FOREFRONT
OF RE-THINKING
HOW TO TEACH
HEBREW

Many of us have had an “ulpan” experience where we learned or improved our Hebrew during an extended period of time in Israel. One reason this worked was because we could use the Hebrew we learned when we left the ulpan building. In contrast, someone may know a lot of Hebrew words or grammar, and even be able to read a book in Hebrew, but may have no capacity to **function** in Hebrew with actual Israelis because the Hebrew was never “alive” for the student to use in daily life! We want our students to not only know the Hebrew they

learn in textbooks, but also be able to buy an apple, take a bus, read a sign, or haggle with the cab driver when they visit Israel!

This difference, and the opportunities for Hebrew language learning that result, demand that we at Associated think carefully about the classroom experience we offer. It requires finding opportunities to learn and practise language authentically, not through the lens of a textbook or a story contrived for a new language learner. It also means finding enough time to practise students’ creative or productive language

skills (speaking and writing), since most have few opportunities outside the classroom. And as we move our students forward in their language development, it means helping them progress toward achieving a level of mastery that begins to resemble that of native speakers.

Associated is at the forefront of re-thinking how to teach Hebrew. Our aim is to improve our students’ ability to speak the language, even when they are not in Israel or around Israelis. This means we no longer rely on textbooks or material that are of

BY RABBI DR. RAFI CASHMAN

פשוט מדברים עברית



questionable interest or relevance to students. We have worked hard to create exciting units like: reading and creating Israeli comics; baking in Hebrew, from the recipe to the conversation around the kitchen table; and discovering Israeli humour. We read real Israeli newspapers and magazines, watch Israeli movies and learn to speak like Israelis actually speak, which is not always the same as classroom talk.

In order for language to be learned, it has to be lived.

**We're excited to
make Ivrit come alive
for our students!**



Science In Hebrew!

This past year, Grade 1 and 2 classes at Posluns had the unique opportunity to participate in science workshops conducted in Hebrew. These workshops were led by Dr. Edna Nahon, who has a PhD in genetics and biochemistry from Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in Be'er-Sheva, Israel and a post doctorate from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She has taught undergraduate and postgraduate students at BGU and gifted students from grades 4-8.

The science workshops at Posluns were about the properties of light. The children asked questions such as: What is light? What are the light sources? Why is the sun important? And what is photosynthesis? Students also wanted to know what is white light, what is a rainbow and how does white light split to create a rainbow. Dr. Nahon guided students to discover the answers to their questions by playing games, singing songs and doing arts and crafts.

At first, Dr. Nahon thought that the idea of teaching science in Hebrew to children of this age might be too big a challenge. However, she said she was "amazed by the children's response and their level of cooperation and understanding." **We look forward to offering more unique and integrated Hebrew learning experiences for our students!**



A NORTH-AMERICAN-WIDE INITIATIVE



ATIDENU: Our Future

With its focus firmly on the future, Associated Hebrew Schools is proud to be the only Toronto Jewish day school participating in the ATIDENU program through PEJE (Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education). PEJE is a North America-wide organization with the vision that day schools are essential for fostering an engaged Jewish people and therefore an enduring Jewish future.

"ATIDENU" literally means "our future." The 18-month recruitment and retention program is designed to help day schools market the "Jewish" in education to today's parents with the aim of increasing enrolment and retention of new and current families.

"A shift is occurring that requires schools to convince parents (even families who are traditional in their observance) to commit to the

day school model, which has been a given until now," says Dr. Mark Smiley, Head of School.

ATIDENU is a North American-wide initiative that sold out its first round of 25 school placements. The program includes coaching with PEJE professionals, recruitment strategies, help in identifying market segments, support in building word-of-mouth and social media marketing, and the development of a school "Parent Ambassador" program. The end of the program will see a three-year recruitment and retention plan with the specific goal of seeing enrolment increase by 10 percent.

"In addition to the high-level professional development being offered to our marketing, advancement and admissions personnel," says Dr. Smiley, "this program will allow us to follow our strategic plan which supports an outreach

model of admissions that PEJE has been advocating for quite some time."

With enrolment trends changing more dramatically in the Thornhill and north GTA, the school decided to focus the ATIDENU resources on the Kamin Education Centre. The best practices gained from the program can then be applied to the other branches.

"The Jewish day school product is an exceptional one with a great and unique value proposition," says Dr. Harry Bloom, Vice-President of recruitment and retention at PEJE. "We are confident that the partnership of PEJE, committed day school leaders, and the AVI CHAI Foundation can positively impact new recruitment and retention for future generations of day school families."

AHS is grateful to receive financial support for this program from the Julia and Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education.



Associated ATIDENU Team:

back row (l to r):

Rick Rotman | Marketing & Communications Consultant

Elysa Greisman '82 | Director of Institutional Advancement

Adele Yermack | PEJE Aditenu Coach

Melissa Komlos '91 | Admissions Co-ordinator

Dr. Mark Smiley '72 | Head of School

front row (l to r):

Ossy Goldenberg | Admissions and Tuition Manager

Sidura Ludwig | Lay Leader, Kamin Parent

Pearl Greenspan '71 | Admissions Co-ordinator

Choosing the Associated Journey...

“There is a sense of a personal touch in the school.”

Associated resonates with the Bergman Family

Jordana and Arik Bergman have been on the Associated Hebrew Schools' wavelength for nearly six years. That was when their oldest child, Eyal, now entering Grade 4, started at the Posluns campus. The school has resonated with the family ever since. Two more young Bergmans have followed in Eyal's learning footsteps at Posluns: Eden is entering Grade 2, Lior is in JK. The youngest, Elan, who completed the *Mini Mensch and Me* program at Cedarvale, is slated to go to Nursery at the Posluns campus next year.

From the outset, the school made a good impression on Jordana and Arik. **"We were impressed with the school environment, with its leadership and especially with the quality of the teachers.** The leadership makes an effort to know every child at the school and to be sensitive to what is unique about each child. There is really a sense of a personal touch in the school. It is a function of the people who go there – teachers, students and families and the warm, loving environment that permeates the place."

As alumni of Jewish day school education in Toronto, Jordana and Arik were determined to provide a comprehensive Jewish education to their children. In that respect, the Bergmans state, "Associated really addressed our desire to give our kids a solid Jewish education, to learn *what* it means to be a Jew and *how* to be a Jew. By Grade 1, the children were chanting prayers. They really absorb what they are learning."

Especially important for Jordana and Arik is the love for Israel that is taught in the school. "That, in particular, works so well with what we do in our house. The love of Zionism, of Israel, conveys a very strong bond and connection with Israel, its people, and its language," they say.

Lior's teacher once told Jordana and Arik that their son "has such amazing *derech erez*" (respect for others). The comment has remained with them ever since. "We are so very happy the idea of respect is being passed on to him – how to be a *mensch*, namely caring about each other and the community."

"Associated speaks to us," Jordana emphasizes. "It is more in line with our family. It seems like a nice group with a nice social dynamic – and it is!"

Lurie Family very impressed

Rebecca Kirsh and David Lurie have always had well-defined plans and hopes for their three children's education.

School would provide the tools - the Hebrew foundation - by which the children would make choices about the lives they would ultimately lead. And those choices would be infused with Jewish values.

Thus far, their plans are unfolding with excitement and enthusiasm and their hopes are showing early signs of being fulfilled. Simon (6) and Noah (4) are at the Posluns campus while Mira (18 months) is beginning her educational journey at *Mini Mensch and Me* at the Cedarvale campus.

"We chose Associated for three reasons," Rebecca and David explain. **"The school is known for the importance it places on teaching Talmud Torah and Jewish values. It has an excellent reputation for the level of its General Studies program. And we really liked the overall vibe we felt from the teachers and the other parents."**

"We've only been very impressed," Rebecca says in describing the atmosphere at the school. "The teachers are very responsive, concerned about the students and dedicated. They make tremendous efforts on behalf of the students."

David gives one example of how his children, even at so early a stage in their lives, are acquiring Jewish values. "The teachers teach the *parshah* of the week and discuss how it relates to our daily lives and how to become a better person. It engenders participatory learning and the stories come alive."

"I'm floored!" he beams.

Jordana and Arik Bergman with Eyal, Lior, Eden and Elan



Rebecca Kirsh, David Lurie with Noah, Simon and Mira

“The teachers... make tremendous efforts on behalf of the students.”

Memories FROM 2015



1. DONATING MISHLOACH MANOT PACKAGES FOR PURIM, CEDARVALE | 2. SPRING ART IN NURSERY, POSLUNS | 3. SNUGGLE UP AND READ, CEDARVALE | 4. DAVENING TOGETHER, KAMIN | 5. GRADE 7 SHABBATON AT CAMP GEORGE, DANILACK | 6. LEGO PORTRAITS OF JEWISH HEROES, DANILACK | 7. CARING FOR LITTLE CRITTERS, POSLUNS | 8. GREEN APPLE CRUNCH FOR ECO DAY, DANILACK |

ENJOY THESE SNAPSHOTS OF SOME OF THE GREAT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AT AHS FROM SPRING 2015 TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.



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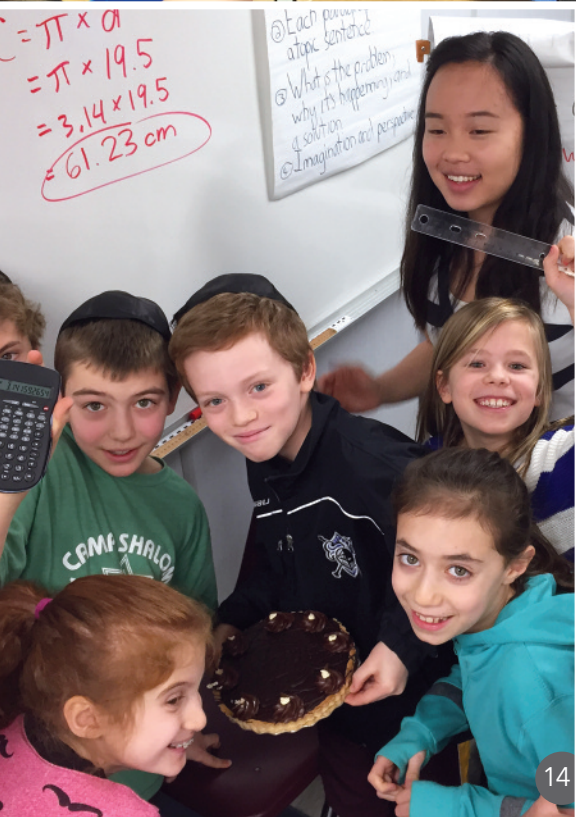
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16



17

9. CLASSROOM SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, KAMIN | 10. FUN WITH ART, CEDARVALE | 11. BASKETBALL TEAM, DANILACK | 12. CELEBRATING SHAVUOT, KAMIN | 13. CLASSROOM SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, KAMIN | 14. CELEBRATING PI DAY, POSLUNS | 15. WALK WITH ISRAEL, DANILACK | 16. LAG BA'OMER CELEBRATIONS, KAMIN | 17. MUSIC CLASS, POSLUNS |

YOU can help strengthen our Jewish Future.

Support Kadima

Associated's Annual Campaign

Associated remains committed to providing the very best Jewish educational experience to the broadest community of students possible, regardless of a family's ability to pay. With your support and a successful Kadima campaign, we will fulfill this mandate and instill in our students a passion for Judaism that will make our community proud for generations to come.

This campaign, in conjunction with Kehillat Kadima — our exciting initiative for stable funding with gifts at **ANY LEVEL** for 3 consecutive years — **allows us to continue to fulfill our mission.** >>>>>>



קהילת קדימה
Kehillat Kadima

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A Great School

Posluns Education Centre
18 Neptune Dr. (Bathurst & Wilson)
• SUNDAY •
OCTOBER 18th
[10:00 AM]

Associated Cedarvale
1445 Eglinton Ave. W. (Beth Shalom Synagogue)
• SUNDAY •
OCTOBER 18th
[3:00 PM]

Kamin Education Centre
300 Atkinson Ave. (Bathurst & Centre, Thornhill)
• TUESDAY •
OCTOBER 27th
[7:30 PM]

ASK US ABOUT:
• Free Busing
• Tuition Assistance for JK & SK

Julia & Henry Koschitzky
Centre for Jewish Education
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

VIEW our e-brochure at www.ThisIsAssociated.com

TO RSVP OR BOOK A PERSONAL TOUR:
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We wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year! **שנה טובה ומתוקה**