

אביב תשפ"ה | Spring 2025



ASSOCIATED  
HEBREW SCHOOLS  
בית ספר קהילתי

# #WeAre Associated

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Associated is the only Ministry-inspected Jewish Day School in the GTA, offering high school credits to Grade 8 students

WE ARE ASSOCIATED is distributed to members of the AHS community, including parents, grandparents, alumni, friends, and supporters of the school.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL & THE PRESIDENT



**DR. LEE-RON KAYE**



**ELLIOT MARER '92**

It is a great privilege to work with, educate, and be inspired by the children in our school, day in and day out. As we continue to explore this year's theme of Freedom and Responsibility, we have been instilling in our students the 21st-century skills that will enable them not only to excel in years to come, but to make thoughtful choices that take into consideration the needs of others and the world around them. We know that freedom and responsibility are deeply interconnected, and as our students exercise their freedom of choice, they understand their responsibility to align their actions with values, community, and purpose. Through recognizing the connection between the two, we make freedom a vehicle for growth, leadership, and impact.

Throughout this issue, you will see examples of how much we value community here at AHS – from celebrating the way we came together in support of the Day of Giving, to taking guidance from the wisdom of our grandparents, to letting our students light the way with their insights on the meaning of freedom and responsibility.

Israel remains at the forefront of our minds, our hearts, and our actions, with our Myths and Facts interactive learning program, a very special collection of donations from our students that enhanced the Purim of many Israeli children, and making connections with our milestone Challah Cover project to bring Shabbat to our chayalim.

We continue to prize student voice as we foster excellence and achievement for our students, from combining STEAM with Hebrew language learning, to exploring creativity through poetry, and so much more.

As we greet the spring, we invite you to join us in reminiscing and looking forward to many more meaningful moments as a community.



# Inside Associated With Peter Rewega

Director of Education, Danilack Principal



**WAA:** AHS was very excited to welcome you as Director of Education. Now that it's been a few months, can you tell us how the year is going? What has been a highlight so far?

**Peter Rewega:** The year has been incredible, filled with meaningful moments that reaffirm why I'm here. I've been inspired daily by the passion of our students, the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Head of School and the unwavering support of our parents. One moment that really stuck with me, and confirmed I was in the right place, was when I found myself reprimanding a student for running in the halls... while blowing a shofar. It was funny and symbolic, blending the spirit of Jewish life with the energy of youth. That's the magic of Associated I have experienced so far.

**WAA:** You've had a very successful tenure in the TDSB. What are the biggest differences you find between AHS and the public board? What has that transition been like for you?

**Peter Rewega:** After 20+ years in the TDSB, learning from incredible colleagues, I know relationships are at the heart of everything. That truth remains at AHS, but here, the connections are personal - friends of my kids are in the halls, families from my shul connect with questions, and after 20 seasons at Toronto hockey rinks, there are a lot of relationships. Also, Jewish values seamlessly shape every part of school life. Being surrounded by like-minded people who share those values has made this transition much easier. At Associated, we're not just teaching, we're building identity, community, and lifelong ties to Jewish learning and living. This shift has been deeply fulfilling, aligning my work with my personal values in a way that truly feels like home.

**WAA:** What is your educational philosophy?

**Peter Rewega:** I'm a firm believer in the power of compassion, but equally, I believe in setting high expectations. Students thrive when they know they're supported and challenged. Accountability is key, not just for students but for all of us as educators, parents, and leaders. It's not healthy for schools, teachers, and parents to carry the full weight of solving every issue; students must be active stakeholders in their growth. Engagement is also critical. Whether through sports, music, academics, Judaism, or friendships, when students are engaged, they find joy in learning, and that joy is the foundation of a strong community. Being an active member of the school - in the halls, in classes, or on the foursquare court at recess - is extremely important, both to build relationships but also to show the students: I can still beat them!

**WAA:** We know you bring so much to the table, with your wealth of educational experience and professional knowledge. What is something you are most excited to share of yourself or your expertise now that you're here at Associated?

**Peter Rewega:** Beyond my experience, what I'm most excited to share is my belief in the transformative power of relationships. No matter how strong a curriculum is, if you can't build genuine connections with students and staff, meaningful learning won't happen. I'm passionate about creating environments where people feel seen, heard, and valued. I'm also deeply committed to the idea that Jewish education doesn't end at graduation. We're not just preparing students for academic success, we're laying the foundation for lifelong Jewish engagement, identity, and purpose.

**WAA:** What is your favourite thing about AHS, or the AHS experience you're most looking forward to as Principal and DOE?

**Peter Rewega:** My favourite thing about AHS is the incredible sense of purpose woven into everything we do. So many moments this year have deeply moved me: the powerful October 7th assembly where our community came together, the Grade 6 My Family Story project that filled a shul with grandparents and parents, students wrapping yellow braids in support of our dearly missed hostages, a student wrapping tefillin on the arm of an IDF soldier, and the Grade 8 students who started their own Mincha minyan. Even in sports, the excitement is contagious, like when a player on our second girls' basketball team proudly yelled, "I scored my first basket!" And it's not just about the experiences; it's the academic drive of our students, seeing them work at recess, quiz each other in the halls - that doesn't happen everywhere. After spending so much time at Danilack as the Principal, I'm really looking forward to connecting with the strong staff at the other two branches to get the full AHS experience. I can't wait to continue building on this foundation, working alongside incredible staff and families to ensure that our students are successful.

**WAA:** Do you have anything else you want to share with us?

**PR:** I want to take a moment to thank a few people. First, I'm deeply grateful to **Dr. Lee-Ron Kaye** for bringing me along on this journey. To our outstanding staff, thank you for your passion, dedication, and tireless work. To the parents, thank you for trusting us with your children and for being such engaged partners in their growth. And most importantly, to the students, you inspire me every day with your curiosity, your energy, and your commitment to learning.

On a personal note, as a father of four boys, one of whom is an Associated graduate, I understand how crucial it is to find the right environment for our children. That's what makes AHS special: it's not just a school; it's a community, a family, and a place where Jewish values and academic excellence come together to shape the future - and I am very proud to be part of it.



## Lunchtime Clubs

The best part of lunchtime clubs is the opportunity for student choice. At the beginning of the year, we advertise all the clubs offered at AHS's Danilack Middle School on a bulletin board, including a blurb from the teacher running the club. Students choose which clubs they want to be a part of.

Some of our clubs - like Kippah Crochet Club, or Mandala Club - are flexible, with students attending on days when they feel inspired. Some, like intramurals, are more of a commitment. Students are put on a team, and have the chance to try all kinds of different sports.

Danilack has over a dozen clubs, including STEAM Club, Open Gym, Cartooning, Photography, Space Club, Chidon HaTanach, Games Club, and Chess Club. Danilack Band is a really cool one, because they actually perform many times throughout the year. Choir with Irina is another club that performs during the year. Students in Debate Club participate in debate tournaments to implement the skills that they learn, and our Eco Team spearheads Tu B'Shuat Spirit Day and helps make our school more environmentally friendly. In "Shmooze Don't Snooze," students discuss Jewish topics that are of interest to them.

Teachers volunteer their own time to run these lunchtime clubs, in order to connect with their students and share their interests. It's an opportunity for the students to build friendships across grades, show their talents, and have choice in the way they spend their free time. It's also an opportunity to stay off of their technology and communicate with others face to face, especially through games and conversations.

Some of our clubs are initiated by students. Space Club was spearheaded by a group of Grade 8 students. They launched a giant helium balloon with a tracker inside, and observed how far it travelled. Music Club started out as a very popular elective, and students liked it so much that they wanted to turn it into a club, as well. Students in this club are learning how to use a program called Logic to create their own digital music.

There's something for everyone, and we're always open to more clubs, changing up what is offered throughout the year.

## The Gift of Poetry: The Irene Arkin Poetry Prize



AHS is proud to host the **Irene Arkin Poetry Prize**, rewarding excellent creative poetic writing amongst our student body in three age divisions. **Irene Arkin**, one of our school's most lovely neighbours, pioneered this prize last year with the goal of encouraging students to love poetry and to thrive creatively.

We had the absolute pleasure of sitting down with Irene Arkin to learn more about her, her writing, and her inspiration for creating this opportunity for our students. "I was born loving poetry," Irene tells with a smile, recalling how in elementary school, she would sometimes have a poetry book hidden inside her schoolbook – having already read ahead in the chapter – until the teacher told her to put it away.

When asked about the inspiration for this prize, though, she shares a less happy memory: she had written a poem about the clouds, and her teacher insisted she could not have written it herself, because it was so good. She resolved that she would do what she could to ensure no teacher said such a thing again to any child with talent for writing, and would promote poetry however she could.

Living next door to our Posluns campus at 2 Neptune Drive, Irene frequently saw AHS students cheerfully playing and learning right outside her window – so the connection was as natural as it was fortuitous.

Irene writes constantly, and she has published a poem entitled "Mother Earth," as well as a short story of hers that was published in the *Toronto Star* when it won a creative writing contest hosted by the newspaper many years ago. Now, Irene writes for herself, and continues to encourage young people to try their own hand at writing. She shared a poem with us that she wrote back in 1991, when she volunteered as a nurse in Israel during times of war, which resonates just as strongly today.

Irene is passionate about poetry; she fondly quotes the **Lubavitcher Rebbe's** definition of poetry as "The need to express a thought with a limited number of words is what makes a great poem."

An avid reader of *The Jewish Review of Books*, Irene highly recommends the poet **Emmanuel Litvinoff**. As a child, she particularly enjoyed the poems of **Robert Louis Stevenson**; as she grew older, her tastes shifted to William Blake, especially his poem "The Lamb," which even inspired a toy lamb collection of her own.

## Last year's winning poems

### Junior Division Winner:

#### My Garden

This is my garden  
I will plant it with care.  
Here are the seeds  
I will plant it in there.  
The sun will shine  
The rain will fall  
the seeds will sprout  
and grow up tall.

–Eva Z, Grade 3

### Senior Division Winner:

#### Growing Up

I remember when I was six  
I thought wow, what would it be  
like to be eight  
I can go on playdates on my own  
and I'd be in grade three  
But when I was eight  
All I thought was wow, what  
would it be like to be ten  
I won't even have playdates,  
they're called hangouts now  
and I would get to leave  
elementary school  
But when I was twelve

I thought Wow what would  
it be like to be thirteen  
To finally be a teenager  
But now I am thirteen  
And now all I think about  
is back to when I was six  
Thinking Wow, what  
would it be like to be  
thirteen

–Sydney Werger '24

## STREAM Integration: Robotics in Hebrew

Our Hebrew Language Department is committed to engaging our students authentically with the Hebrew language, leading not only to excellence and facility in Hebrew but also to a genuine love of the language and eagerness to speak in Hebrew. In this exciting interdisciplinary project, our second graders explored the world of robotics through Hebrew studies and STREAM education.

The students began their journey on this project by reading a Hebrew story about a robot, sparking curiosity about how robots impact our daily lives. Students engaged in group brainstorming sessions, discussing - all in Hebrew - about innovative robot designs and special features that could be incorporated.



Taking their ideas further, they sketched models and brought their robots to life using recycled materials, combining creativity with sustainability. The project culminated in student presentations, in which each child showcased their unique robot and explained its special abilities in Hebrew.

This hands-on experience fostered collaboration, problem-solving, and a deeper understanding of technology—all while strengthening our students' budding Hebrew language skills!



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Posluns Education Centre



Hurwich Education Centre

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# Freedom and Responsibility

## In Their Own Words

Our theme for this school year is "Cherut V'Acharayut" - freedom and responsibility. Some of our students shared what this means to them.



"Freedom is that you get to make your choices to do what you want. And responsibility is when you make a mistake you have to fix the problem that you've made and be careful of what you do because it is your responsibility."

**Bree,**  
Grade 6

"It means to take responsibility for our actions and respect our privileges of freedom by respecting others, ourselves and the environment"

**Annaelle C,**  
Grade 7

# חרות ואחריות

"Freedom means that you are free to make choices and to do what you want. Responsibility means that someone is trusting you to do something important and you are going to follow through with that."

**Amiel F,**  
Grade 6

"Freedom means doing what you want and responsibility is taking charge even if you don't want to or it is hard. Responsibility means bringing the group together."

**Leonard F,**  
Grade 6

Freedom and responsibility are equally important in life. Freedom allows us to make our own decisions, while responsibility ensures we stay safe and consider others.

**Leora D,**  
Grade 8

Freedom without responsibility could turn very messy, with a high risk of chaos. Meanwhile, responsibility without freedom can feel very restricting and suffocating. Freedom allows us to act, think, and choose without restraints, while responsibility makes sure that our choices do not harm others, showing us that responsibility grounds freedom.

**Kaitlyn L,**  
Grade 8

במשפחה שלי מנסים כמה שיותר להיות עם אחריות. כאחות הבכורה האחריות שלי במשפחה היא להיות המנהיגה, לדוגמא, האחים שלי הרבה פעמים מבקשים דברים ממני שאני פחות רוצה להביא להם אז בתור האחות הגדולה אני צריכה לתת להם את מה שהם ביקשו או להסביר להם למה הם לא צריכים את מה שהם ביקשו. ההורים שלי כל הזמן אומרים לי ולאחים שלי שיש לנו את הכוח להיות אחראים וטובים אחד לשני. מכיוון שאני בכיתה ה' אני רוצה יותר לשים לב לאנשים שסביבי ולעזור יותר לילדים בביה"ס שצריכים עזרה וגם לשים לב יותר לחברים שלי ולוודא שאין משהו שמפריע להם.

**Carmel L,**  
Grade 5

# Challah Covers for Chayalim

Each year, our Grade 2 students eagerly look forward to participating in our Challah Cover Project with the Esther's Friends Fund. Each student designs and creates their own unique Challah cover, with the help of grandparent volunteers. Led by **Stephanie Kepecs**, this project is done in memory of **Esther Zeppieri ז"ל**, past AHS PTC (now AHSPA) President.

This year, the Challah Cover Project had an additional component: the Esther's Friends volunteers designed five special Challah covers - one corresponding to each Grade 2 class - for Chayalim in Israel. Not only did the students come away with a keepsake item that they will use in their Shabbat celebrations for many years to come, but they also are proud that their donated scraps of cloth will enhance Shabbat for the Chayalim who are working so hard to keep Israel safe.

The challah covers made their way to several different locations in Israel, through the kindness and dedication of AHS parents and grandparents. **Ruth Smith**, a 94 year-old Holocaust survivor and longtime Esther's Friends volunteer,

lovingly quilted together the five special Challah covers out of scraps of cloth donated by each student from their own Challah Cover projects. **Reena Greenwald '67**, proud grandparent of eight AHS alumni and current students, was going to her grandson **Gabriel Greenwald '18's** "masa kumta"- a hike that Chayalim go on before receiving their division's ceremonial beret. She graciously agreed to deliver the Challah covers to **Brigadier-General Barak Hiram**, a former AHS parent, and he and his wife distributed them to their final destinations.



We were pleased to host our Esther's Friends volunteers for a special lunch in the Honey and Barry Sherman ז"ל Makerspace to express our appreciation for all of their work on this project. Our Grade 2 students gave a beautiful performance of some songs from their Shabbat repertoire, and the volunteers had the opportunity to peruse the finished Challah Cover projects displayed on the walls as they shared sweet anecdotes from their volunteer work with the students - this year and over the past decade and more. As a special surprise, a video message from Brig.-Gen. Barak Hiram arrived just in time to share on the big screen with the volunteers - depicting a group of his Chayalim thanking the group for the thoughtful Challah Covers.

Our Grade 2 students celebrated what they had been learning in their Shabbat unit by inviting family members to join them for a culminating Chagigat Shabbat. All of the Challah covers that they had designed were on display, and everyone enjoyed singing along as our students led their families in Shabbat songs and Tefillot - taking great pride in the knowledge that they had brought some Shabbat spirit to our Chayalim as well. We are deeply grateful to the ongoing commitment of our team of dedicated Esther's Friends volunteers, who continue to provide our students with this incredibly meaningful experience.



# Increasing Joy for Israeli Children

This year, thinking ahead to Purim as early as the fall, we asked our students to bring in Purim costumes in good condition that were no longer needed, to donate to the over 900 Israeli children who were orphaned and displaced since October 7, 2023. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the amount of costumes that were donated - not to mention the parents who went out and bought brand-new costumes for this important cause.

The donations filled two overstuffed large duffel bags, and we are very grateful to those who helped us to get them to their destination. Todah Rabbah to **Marcee Rosengweig**, grandmother to JK student **Leo S**, who brought the costumes to Israel, and to **Margalit Kavenstock**, who sorted and coordinated the next stage of their journey. The costumes were distributed to the children at a conference of families from several of the impacted kibbutzim from Otef Aza. Immediately, the children eagerly tried on the costumes, many of them wearing them for the entire weekend-long gathering. We were touched to receive a heartfelt thank you letter from the community in Israel, written in Hebrew and English, thanking our AHS community for these costumes which have brought so much joy to children in need of it.

This initiative was a wonderful opportunity for our students to strengthen their connection to Israel, and to do something personal in order to bring joy to others. We stand in support with the bereaved families, and are proud that our small action was able to provide some comfort.



הילדים כבר מדברים על תחפושות לפורים אבל פחות מתאים לכן להתעסק בזה? אנחנו פה בשבילכן, עם אוסף תחפושות חדשות!!!!

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# ISRAEL: Myths and Facts



As a Jewish Day School, we have a responsibility to combat disinformation, and to imbue our students with the critical thinking skills necessary to uncover the truth. With anti-Israel propaganda being shared more and more over social media today, we took the step to enhance our curriculum by proactively creating a new program about Israel: Myths and Facts.



Myths and Facts is a self-navigated interactive digital platform which takes students through 10 oft-repeated “myths” and facts about Israel, with definitions of terms that are frequently thrown around in discussions, and data-backed explanations about Israel today.

Students in Grade 8 were introduced to 5 myths about Israel that they will likely encounter - on social media, on a billboard, or even on a protest sign when walking down the street. With each “myth,” they learned a corresponding fact, highlighting Israel’s diversity and inclusivity.

Next, Grade 8 students worked in groups to choose one myth or fact from the program, which they then researched in more depth. They created a poster, a presentation, and a write-up, dispelling the myths with well-researched facts.

Finally, the Grade 8 students set up a “gallery walk” for students in Grade 5, and each group presented their research. This was a wonderful opportunity for the older students to practice standing up for Israel in a supportive environment - and an opportunity for our younger students to learn more, and to gain confidence in their own abilities by seeing student role models speaking up and taking action.

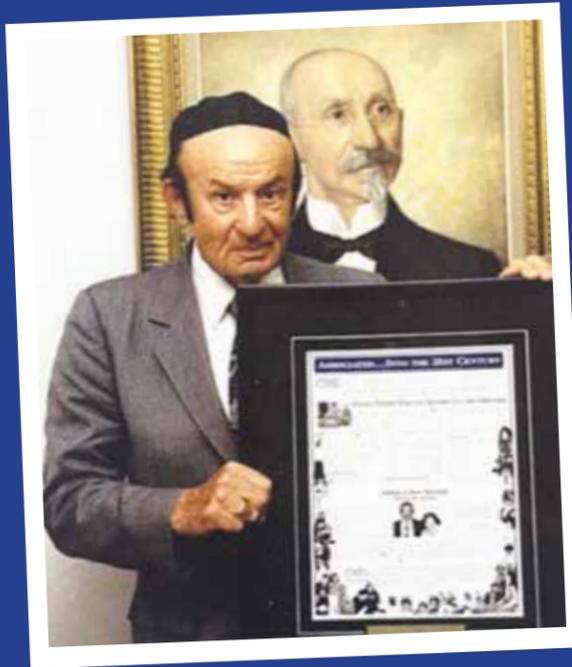
We have always believed that Jewish Education is the answer to the challenges that face us. Our students are not just learning history; our history is rooted in who they are, and they are an important part of the story.







## Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Nathan O. Hurwich '21 z"l (1909-2008)



Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and parents enter the Nathan O. and Roey Hurwich Education Centre every day, but many don't know who the Hurwiches are.

**Nat Hurwich** grew up in downtown Toronto and attended Hebrew classes Monday-Thursday after public school, and on Sundays, at the Talmud Torah (what would become AHS) during WWI. Hurwich was a leader and philanthropist to many Jewish and Israeli organizations, among them Associated Hebrew Schools.

Without any children of their own, he and his wife Roey opted to help educate the children of Toronto's Jewish community by making arrangements to leave their estate to Associated. Explaining his involvement with AHS, Hurwich said, "Without the Jewish schools, we have no future."

Roey passed away in 2005. When Nat died at age 98 in 2008, he was Associated's oldest living alumnus. AHS is grateful to have been the recipient of Mr. Hurwich's incredible bequest. Our community is so fortunate to stand on the shoulders of giants like him and other donors who have made arrangements to leave their planned gifts, ranging from \$1,000 to over \$1 million, to Associated over the last 118 years.



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*Together* we are shaping the future of Jewish Education



# Grandparent Wisdom

From Generation to Generation, Wisdom Flows- דור לדור יביע אומר Tehillim/Psalms 145:4. In Jewish tradition, learning is not only a personal journey but a shared legacy. Grandparents hold a unique and powerful place in this chain of transmission - as storytellers, living links to the past, and models of lifelong learning. Their presence in a child's Jewish education strengthens identity, deepens connection, and cultivates a sense of continuity across generations.



## Sid Halpern

**Grandparent of AHS Alumni Sophie '20, Lily '20, and Leo '18 Halpern**

"Get involved in the community. I learned a long long time ago, if it's going to be, it's up to me. One person can make a difference. And it's not the word that's important, but the action. And also I learned early on, Talmud Torah K'neged Kulam. Education first and foremost is the key to success in any venture you may embark on."

## Ruby Kaplan

**Past AHS Staff and Grandparent of AHS Students Mira, Ari, and Scarlett M, and Talia and Ben K**

"The lesson to be learned is that Jewish people must stand up for what they believe in. Never allow anyone to belittle you."



## Adele and Steve '73 Weinstein

**Grandparents of AHS Student Ofra G**

"It doesn't matter if you help a little or in a big way, as long as you are doing as best you can."



## Mordechai and Lyn Ben-Dat

**Grandparents of AHS Students Shaiya and Orly B-A; Maytal and Shayna F; Rose, Bailey, and Lea P; and Penelope, Levi, Theodore, Jack, and Rae R; and AHS Alumni Aliza Fisher '23, Adin Bendat-Appel '22, and Gabrielle Fisher '20**

"3,000 years ago, King Solomon told us why speaking kindly was so important. He said that 'A word, fittingly spoken, is like apples of gold in settings of silver.' So let King Solomon guide how we speak and what we say. Goodness, in the form of kindness and caring, usually brings about a much better result than anger."



## Andrea Rush

**Grandparent of AHS Students Gabriel and Noa R-G**

"Continue building a community school that shares and executes the vision of Pirkei Avot: EVERY Jewish person has a share in the world to come."



## Bernie Green '56

**Grandparent of AHS Students Mara, Gavin, and Mia G, and AHS Alumni Noa Green '23 and Avi Green '21**

"My advice to parents is to continue to send their kids to day school, and for children to absorb the knowledge imparted by the teachers, to enjoy their friends who come from all kinds of diverse backgrounds, and to have lots of fun."

## Kathy Samuel

**Grandparent of AHS Students Carmel E; Joseph, Joshua, Jonah, Benjamin, and Jaden S; and Ellie and Noah S-B; and AHS Alumni Jordan Samuel '24, Ethan English '24, Coby Samuel-Bergel '24, and Eden Samuel Bergel '20**

"Continue living Jewish lives with pride, especially in the difficult times we're facing as Jews in the world today. Being united and proud as Am Israel has never been more important, and will get us through these trying times. Am Israel Chai."



## Brenda Lass '71

**Grandparent of AHS Students Isadore, Riley, Annie, and Mia L**

"Our family has always believed in providing our children with Jewish values, and also the understanding that Jews from all sectors play an essential role in our lives. There are many Jews who observe in many different ways. If a Jew chooses to be a part of our lives and is respectful, we want them. They are part of our community!"

## Dr. Louis Fields

**Grandparent of AHS Students Brady and Payton S, and AHS Alumnus Carter Sonshine '23**

"I was a student at the Brunswick Talmud Torah day school in the mid-fifties and graduated from the Neptune Associated Hebrew Day School in the mid-sixties. I believe that the survival of the North American Jewish community will be based on three pillars:  
1) Education in Tanach and Talmud.  
2) Learning the history of our people.  
3) Teaching a love for the State of Israel and instilling a commitment to the survival and success of Israel."



# 30-Year Reunion



What a wonderful evening reconnecting at our 30th reunion! It was amazing to see how the 11-year journey through elementary school shaped such a strong, lasting bond. Coming together as a community with our AHS alumni of '94 and '95 felt especially meaningful at this time. We enjoyed Haudalah, reminiscing over yearbooks and photos, and a tour of the school that brought us all together. We truly value our connection with our alumni and would love to stay in touch. We look forward to many more moments like this.

# S'MACHOT V'CHADASHOT



David '98 and Rachel (Albert) Hartman on the birth of **Eve Sara**



Orly Frieberg '05 and Daniel Prupas '05 on the birth of **Shayn Brenner**



Ashley '10 (Offenheim) & Sagi Carmel on the birth of **Liam Ezra**



Zachary Glazer '08 and Ariella Eydelman on the birth of **Tali Yael**

# שמחות וחדשות



Orli Bogler '08 and Justin Cuperfain '06 on the birth of **Eden**



Engagements **Joseph Moryoussef '11 to Lianna Freedman**



Engagements **Adeena Zeldin '08 to Eden Gershon**



Engagements **Ze'u Bell '17 to Annie Rosenblum**

## MAZAL TOV TO...

## מזל טוב!



Noah Osher '06 and Taylor Himmel on the birth of **Jayce Parker**



Elisheva '04 and Asher Brauner on the birth of **Sophia Renana Tehilla**



Hillel '11 and Carly Katz on birth of **Zohar Simcha**



Krystal Barkhordarian '11 and Nissim Nacson on the birth of **Dahlia Esther**



Wedding **Rebecca Starkman '11 to Noah Matarasso**



Wedding **Naomi Stochinsky '11 to Michi Ellert**



Wedding **Jordan Friedman '11 to Brianne Rupay**



**Achievements**  
Edan (Edan Cohen)'12 from his Officers Course. Edan is currently serving in Israel's Air Force, IDF, as an engineer. He graduated this year as an Officer and was awarded the "best soldier" award from his graduating class.

# Mazal Tov to all our Class of '25 graduates!



FOCUS

May you continue to grow, to question, and to explore – and may you build a future in which your knowledge serves a higher purpose: to do good, to make an impact, and to help shape the world into a better, more moral, and worthy place.

# Peace of mind



AHS had the honour of welcoming a delegation from Peace of Mind, an organization offering support and trauma processing for IDF veterans, with an unforgettable display of unity, gratitude, and support. In collaboration with Peach of Mind, we planned a reception that would both uplift their spirits and offer our students a firsthand experience of what it means to stand with Israel and its protectors.

The delegation entered our school to see students lining the hallways, waving Israeli flags and singing. Our choir performed a repertoire of songs, and our Head of School, Dr. Lee-Ron Kaye, hosted a lunch reception, allowing for the delegates to engage in meaningful conversations with students, faculty, and families and for our community to connect, express gratitude, and show our unwavering support.

This visit was a powerful lesson for our students on the importance of solidarity, gratitude, and the deep bonds that connect us as a people.



# Crafting Connections at our Grandpal Events

From crafting afikoman bags in JK to molding mezuzot and candlesticks in Grades 2 and 4, celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat in Bet Haya'eled, and even building and playing student-designed arcade games in Grade 3's STREAM showcase, our Grandpal Events this year have woven grandparents into the fabric of school life. These meaningful opportunities remind us that Jewish learning is most powerful when shared. With more events planned for the Spring, we continue to celebrate the joy, love, and legacy that grandparents bring into our school community.





Celebrating 77 Years of Israel - Happy Independence Day!  
יום עצמאות שמח

**INSPIRING STUDENTS**  
*WITH THE* **STRENGTH OF**  
*TRADITION AND THE*  
**POWER OF INNOVATION**  
התחדשות מתמדת בעידן  
של מציאות משתנה

