



Care to Share Testimonial Presentation

To book a tour of the Montessori Jewish Day School:

Call: (416) 784-5071

E-mail: adminMJDS@mjds.ca

Web: www.mjds.ca

Letter from Aviva Reifler

Dear Montessori Community,

Lilach Golan, Director of Judaic Studies at MJDS, has been chosen to represent Canadian Educators at the International Educators Conference being held in Israel this December.

Throughout the years Lilach's enthusiasm and dedication to the Jewish National Fund has been an inspiration and her leadership in the community is something to be applauded. Walking into our vibrant Montessori school, it is clear that all staff value the importance of Judaic education in the daily lives of our students. As a community, we are dedicated to developing the academic growth of each student and foster a positive, student-centric learning environment. We are proud to have Lilach take part in the upcoming conference and look forward to seeing her implement the many divergent ideas that is sure to result from her trip.

E-mail from Lawrence

Hello Regina

I trust all is well with you and your family. Things are going very well here in Victoria. The boys are adjusting nicely and learning to enjoy this paradise. They did remarkable well at their new school this Winter/Spring. In what is considered the finest public middle school in the Province they produced essentially straight A's and A+'s. Their classmates think they are brilliant because of their vast range of worldly knowledge. They definitely arrived well prepared – thank you.

The weather is extraordinary – every day is just about perfect.

Bye for now,

Lawrence

Letter from Bailey & Jonathan Daniels

Dear Regina,

It is hard to believe that our six years of being part of the Montessori Jewish Day School community has suddenly come to an end. We wanted to take a moment to thank you for leading this wonderful place of learning. We were impressed from the start at the opportunities for individual development and independence that the Montessori philosophy affords.

As opposed to the traditional pre-school system where children are prescribed a “curriculum” (and often a lot of play) because they are a certain age, we appreciated that each of our three children got exactly what they needed at the time they needed it in an absolutely engaging way. To be able to seamlessly instill a love of Judaism at the same time was just the icing on the cake.

We will truly miss the calm and peaceful atmosphere, the respect granted to the children, and the staff and families that make up the MJDS community. Thank you for your dedication to making the Montessori Jewish Day School such an inspiring institution.

Yours truly,

Bailey and Jonathan Daniels

Letter from Aytan Kadden

I live in Jerusalem and am a teacher and "Rav Bet Sefer" in the elementary school of Kfar Adumim (on the way to the Dead Sea). During the week of October 19, I participated in a program of the Jewish Agency which sent me to visit Jewish day schools in Toronto. Amongst the schools I visited I was privileged to visit the Jewish Montessori Day School.

Without a doubt this was one of the highlights of my week. I was greeted warmly by Lilach and Regina. Lilach dedicated nearly two hours to me, taking me on a tour of the school and exchanging and sharing educational ideas. I was very impressed with a whole host of things. The approach of the school which believes in the natural curiosity of each child is wonderful. Providing space and tools to every child to pursue their questions and ideas is truly refreshing in modern education. Furthermore, finding a school that truly has an educational philosophy which guides every action is rare and a very special thing.

This truly shows that education is a serious endeavour, not to be planned from one day to the next. I was likewise very impressed with the presence of Hebrew in the classroom during the course of the day as well as the emphasis on Israel. Finally as a teacher and as a father I was jealous of the approach that provides for such intense one on one learning as well as demands that the teachers be "on top of" each child's constant development.

Thank you for providing me with a wonderful visit and an insight into a most interesting and exciting school! Good luck with all of your future endeavours!

Aytan Kadden, from Jerusalem-Kfar Adumim

E-mail from Liane Sela

Today I had the pleasure to spend an hour and a half in school with my daughter Mika Sela. About a month and a half before the date Mika reminded me every day not to forget the date of my observation, which was scheduled in her presence in the office.

This morning, I dropped off Nili (Mika's big sister) and Mika at 8:30 am. As Mika was leaving the car she said, "Ima, you have to be at 9:00am sharp in my class!" What can I say; I was so scared that if I went somewhere I would be late, so I just quietly waited in the car...

And then finally, I was in the class. Mika was already very busy doing her Math exercises. She showed me together with Sarit, how she is using the special Math material.

Then, Madame Maria Elena, the French teacher, invited the children to go to the French classroom. On their way, the kids were already singing in French with special hand movements Madame taught them. So, I learned French because with Madame it was very easy and I think I even actually remember some of the words...

We went back to the class and Mika showed me how she reads, a little more Math, and then we started a lesson with Pnina about different geometric shapes. Everyone in the group was fascinated as they followed Pnina's explanation and questions.

I looked around the classroom and saw how every other group in the room working at the same time was also very busy. But there was no problem to hear Pnina; no loud noises, everything was harmonic, clean and interesting. In fact, as I was saying good-bye to my daughter and rushing to work, Mika was so into the lesson she did not notice me saying to her I am leaving...

In short, it was a real pleasure to spend the morning at MJDS. I was impressed by the hard work all the children and the teachers in the class – Sarit, Alla & Pnina were doing. I never regret anything I have done or chose in my life, but if someone gave me the chance to start my Day School again, I would definitely love to do it in MJDS.

E-mail from Freda Marcovitch

Dear Regina,

It was a pleasure attending the Purim party at MJDS today. We were 4 generations attending. My mother is a Holocaust survivor and what a thrill to see a great grandchild taking part in a Purim party celebrating our Jewish heritage with singing, dancing, and playing games.

Thank you for the wonderful work you and your staff do in giving our children the best Jewish education in Toronto. Melanie has learned so much in so many languages.

I am so thankful and proud to be a part of it all.

With best wishes always,

Freda Marcovitch

E-mail from Matthew Cooper

Hello, Regina and Andrea,

I am writing to thank you for welcoming me to MJDS to observe your Elementary classes for the afternoon. As a student in the Elementary Diploma Course at the Toronto Montessori Institute, it was invaluable for me to experience such a creative application of the Montessori program. Furthermore, as an experienced Jewish educator, it was an absolute privilege to witness the integration of the best that Montessori and Jewish day schools have to offer.

The first thing that impressed me when I entered the school was what a warm welcome I received from the MJDS staff. Everyone took time to introduce themselves and to speak broadly and openly about the program at your school. In observing the classrooms themselves, I found the teacher/student dynamic to be very intimate, comfortable and caring.

In fact, when I returned to TMI, I offered to my own instructor how it easy it was to tell that the teachers really cared about their students. The students themselves seemed full of life and deeply engaged with each other and the program. From the students, to the teachers and to all of the staff, it was truly a remarkable and enjoyable day of observation for me.

With thanks and appreciation,

Matthew Cooper

Letter from Sue Pearce

A note from a student teacher written during a practicum period at MJDS.

Initially when I found out I would be working at MJDS for the month of March I was looking forward to having the occasion to put into practice the curriculum I had been studying and working with over the past summer. After having spent some time here and getting to know the school, its culture and all the staff and students, I have also come to enjoy the experience of working in a Montessori environment that maintains its own special culture.

One of my favorite experiences so far has been Shabbat. There is such a special feeling at the end of the week when everyone gathers to go through the rituals of Shabbat, sing and break bread together. It seems to lift the spirits of everyone in the classroom and unite them together as a group.

It is also very evident that the children have a strong love of learning. I have been astonished at their knowledge of history, geography art, music, nature, and science which speaks to a strong emphasis of culture at home, as well as in the classroom environment.

The teachers exude this same enthusiasm. They work extremely hard to make sure each lesson captures the imagination of the children. Their own passion for knowledge and culture comes through in every lesson they give and the way they communicate with the children. I have been witness to some very cool and original science experiments, math challenges and stories of history that I will be sure to implement in my own elementary classroom one day.

Sue Pearce

Prior to taking the Elementary Training course, Sue was a Casa teacher at an accredited Montessori school for several years.

A Note from Pnina Dinkin

A teacher (and mother) observing in a classroom

Today I had an opportunity to observe our Upper Elementary class from a teacher's perspective. The students were all absorbed in solid work, but this is not what struck me the most; it was the peacefulness in the class. It was peacefulness which does not come from the level of noise but peacefulness which was evident through the relations between the students. They were helping each other in the true sense of the word; without judgment or the need to prove that they are better, because they accept and know what they are.

If they carry these qualities throughout their lives, then they will be able to handle whatever life throws at them. They will be able not only to succeed in the world, but to change it for the better.

As I observed, I had a glimpse of a bright future, of individuals who are healthy in mind and in spirit.

Pnina Dinkin

A Note from Laura & Lawrence

Dear Regina Lulka,

As Ryan and Jack near the completion of their time at MJDS, Laura and I would like to share with you our impressions of the impact the school has had on them.

While both boys display all the youthful exuberance and carefree attitudes that one expects of twelve year olds, they also possess character traits that betray wisdom quite uncommon for their stage in life. They demonstrate a compassion for their fellow man, a sense of responsibility for their community, and a global awareness that one typically encounters in only the most sophisticated adults. They are also relentlessly curious and respond to new ideas with intense inquiry and a desire to understand them and make them their own. Consequently, I have no concerns about Ryan and Jack entering a new and different school. They have developed tools that will enable them to excel socially, emotionally, and intellectually regardless of the environment. Most remarkably, in the 7 plus years that they have attended MJDS they have not once expressed reluctance to attend class. Rather, they are eager every day to get to school as soon as possible. Truly they have acquired a love of learning. I am sure none of this comes as a surprise to you as this is very much the intention of a Montessori education.

We are grateful for the efforts that you and others have undertaken to maximize the quality of education at MJDS. They have yielded a great dividend for our family. My hope is that the school continues to thrive so that as many other children as possible will have the opportunity that our boys have had.

Sincerely,

Laura Nashman and Lawrence Saunders

E-mail from Sari

There are a few things I have wanted to share with you over the past few months, and reading my copy of Tomorrow's Child just reminded me.

Firstly, one of the things I always wondered about with the Montessori system was how learning math the Montessori way would translate to real life. Well, Jaden's abstract math skills are pretty impressive! He can always figure out time, money, and basic fraction problems, and he easily calculates addition, subtraction and multiplication in his head. Yesterday, I was hugely impressed as we were playing monopoly and he ALWAYS knew how much change was needed from the bank.

Lucas also impresses us regularly with his math and reading skills, and he is also starting to do abstract math problems in his daily life. I also love that he is able to express his creative side at school. His Chumash project was beautiful and he showed it off so proudly to all his grandparents, aunts and uncles on Friday.

During our monopoly game the other day, when I commented on how impressed I was with Jaden's banking abilities, he said his teacher had made him work on his math book so much that week that he felt like he had done nothing but math. The more he did it, the easier it got, and he said now he was so happy with how well he was doing that he was going to ask her if he could do a lot of math again the next week. He has a teacher who understands that even within the prepared environment, allowing a child to choose and giving him independence does not mean leaving him alone to fend for himself. Jaden needs guidance and sometimes that guidance needs to be a little vigorous. Sharon recognized that but never did anything about it.

Thanks,
Sari

E-mail from Tina

Dear Regina Lulka

I don't know if you are still in school and checking e-mail but I had to say, yet again, what an extraordinary school MJDS is.

It is a school and extended family all wrapped up in one. The warmth we felt every single day we entered the front doors is unbelievable. The teachers and support staff are all remarkable and you know how I feel especially about Andrea. Now Sean is at an age where he does yet recognize how lucky he is to have spent his pre-school years in such a happy, safe and 'smart' environment. I hope the lessons he learnt regarding education, support, friendship and respect continue to develop. We for sure will be doing our best!

If ever there is a new family looking at the CASA program, it would be my pleasure to provide the strongest of references.

As we will still have friends at the school, we look forward to hearing what you are all 'up to'.

I will miss you all,

Tina

E-mail from Brenda Staff

Regina,

It is I who want to give you a huge thank you for having us visit, especially on such a busy day for your school! I hope you could tell that I was hugely impressed with the quality of the learning environment, both interpersonal and physical. It is a pleasure to see high quality programming for young children in day to day operation. I know that my mind will flash back to happy scenes from that visit for some time.

Thank you and all your staff,

Brenda

Brenda Stagg
Associate Dean, School of Community & Liberal Studies
Sheridan
1430 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, ON Canada L6H 2L1
905 845 9430 X 2317
FAX 905 815 4072

Write Your Testimonial Today

We would love to hear from you!

E-mail:

regina@mjds.ca

Facebook:



Mail:

55 Yeomans Road
Toronto, ON M3H 3J7