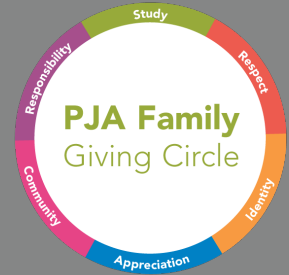


TALES FROM THE PJA Family Giving Circle

Updates on projects recently
funded by the
PJA Family Giving Circle.



Manhigut + Middle School Movie Night

Manhigut will be hosting the first annual Middle School Movie Night on February 27, 2020 with the help of PJA Family Giving Circle grant money! Sixth through 8th graders will be provided with dinner and entertainment and will enjoy a wonderful evening together. Pajamas, comfy clothes, blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags are welcomed!

Problem Solving Labyrinth & Sensory Pathways

The Problem Solving Labyrinth has arrived! Volunteers will soon map out the lines and add the problem solving wording to a small canvas blueprint to bring our idea to reality. Once that is complete, (and the weather is nicer) we will recruit a team to paint the labyrinth out on the asphalt on the playground.

The Sensory Pathway team is working with PJA maintenance staff on collecting materials to frame and install in different hallways. Some of the funds have been spent on sensory materials for the beautiful space.

Shelter Feed at Laurelwood Center

In November of 2019, a group of PJA students and parents served the community at Laurelwood Center. Eight students and three parents helped cook, and an additional two students and one parent helped serve the 120 residents at the Laurelwood Center, a relatively new shelter primarily for women but also open to men who are in couples with women. The total cost for the meal was \$383.11; that included some staples and cooking items such as aluminum foil and disposable pans that we will be using for all of our shelter feeds this year. The menu included hearty chicken enchiladas, rice and black beans, fruit salad, broccoli salad, and chocolate chip caramel cupcakes.



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Redesigning Recess

The project has been going well and has been at rest for a couple of months. A group of parent volunteers, as well as one paid employee from the PJA maintenance staff, met to begin building the cover purchased with last year's Giving Circle funds. We will be meeting again soon to finish the project. We are so grateful for the funds that are making this undertaking possible.

Here is what has been accomplished so far:

- Pavers and a small retaining wall is completed
- Concrete has been laid for the posts of the cedar cover
- There is a dig pit that is almost completed
- The mud kitchen, rain barrels, and mixing table have been purchased and will be moved under the cover
- Mahogany boards for a stage were donated by Michael Hyde, Director of General Studies
- A parent volunteer will be making easels to hang around the playground this spring
- Shovels and outdoor trucks have been purchased for the dig pit
- A parent volunteer has cut live edge pieces of wood from chip drop to make benches for the stage area this spring



Family Camp

The first-ever PJA Family Camp was held in September 2019 at Camp Solomon Schechter near Olympia, Washington. Over 100 participants gathered in a beautiful setting to celebrate Shabbat together, to learn and play together, to explore, eat, and sing together. Sarah Glass, PJA Admission Director, and a committee of dedicated parent volunteers worked together to create a powerful weekend of community building.



Sarah Glass had pondered the idea of a PJA Family Camp for a long time. "I saw for myself," she says, "that the shared experiences my children had with their classmates outside of the school building – experiences like the fifth grade trip to Islandwood and the sixth grade Shabbaton – were incredibly valuable in creating a deep connection to their school community. I wanted to replicate that with our PJA families."

Judging from our post-camp survey results, it was a success. As one participant wrote, "We got to know other families much better – both within our class and other classes. Our kids also had the chance to run around in a safe space and we could see them gaining independence just in the one weekend. And it was just really fun."

We already have plans in place for our second annual PJA Family Camp to be held October 23 - 25, 2020 at BB Camp in Lincoln City.

MS Self Defense

Plans are underway for two self defense sessions for each Middle School class, led by Naga Self Defense. Details at: Nagacommunity.com