



MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

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A partner agency of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation



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Repairing Together: Building Community

Now entering its sixth year, Repairing Together continues its mission of breaking down barriers and giving MJDS students a chance to deepen their Jewish identity while expanding their knowledge of other cultures. This year students from MJDS, Indian Community School, Bruce Guadalupe Community School and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary have already shared their backgrounds, made music, created art and explored nature together.

Kindergarten students gathered at MJDS to learn about *Shabbat*, Israeli dancing and try *challah*. First through third grade students traveled to the Urban Ecology Center to learn about the importance of birds in Native American culture.

Sixth grade students had the rare opportunity to welcome Ojibwe horses back to their ancestral lands for the first time in over a century.

Children learned about the history and importance of these horses to local Native American tribes.

This month students will spend a day at the Jewish Museum and America's Black Holocaust Museum.



As the Repairing Together program continues to build, it is inspiring to see students across different cultures interacting, collaborating and laughing together. Divisions remain across our city between cultures, neighborhoods, religions and more, but with each session, these students show that a better, more unified world remains possible and within reach.

MJDS

CHAVERIM

Fall 2022 | 5783



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Dear MJDS Community,



We are appreciating our 41st school year, enjoying activities and traditions that we may have taken for granted before the pandemic. Being able to celebrate weekly, indoor *Shabbat* Sing with family and friends; field trips; lunch in the cafeteria; volunteer opportunities; alum reunions, Upper School Choir and *Chanukah Pajamakah* build our essential essence of *mishpacha*!

Our responsibilities as Jews, and as people, remain in focus. Our students learn our core values of **empathy**, **wonder** and **tikkun olam**, and it becomes part of who they are. After years of building on our rally cry of **moving from me to we**, MJDS students are successful academically (80% of alums are on their high school honors list), and they are *mensches*. Alums like Zach Sinykin (page 3) directly connect experiences from our school to their current professional accomplishments.

Eighth grade students have reintroduced monthly *mishpachot* gatherings and are building *Mishpachot Magic* boxes for families (page 2). Students in lower and upper school are working together, and have taken on a huge project: planning and building a Tiny Home to support local, homeless veterans (page 2)!

The **Repairing Together** program continues to build momentum as MJDS and our partner schools challenge stereotypes and enjoy adventures together (page 4).

As excitement builds within our walls, I am grateful for the trust and support we have built with our community. Your partnership helps make an MJDS education available to more young people, who are prepared for a lifetime of success, leadership and engagement with the world.

Bivrachah,
Aaron Lippman
Head of School

Where
academic
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and Jewish
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Our Values at Work: Building a Home!

Students are designing and building a custom Tiny Home to be delivered to the Veterans Village in Racine!

The Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin organization addresses the needs of homeless veterans, providing each with their own personal home for sleeping and relaxing. Each house includes a bed, chair and television. Meals and bathroom facilities are available 24 hours a day in the communal lodge, which encourages veterans to interact with each other and reduces isolation.

The village currently consists of fourteen individual homes to which MJDS students will be adding one more!

Lower school students were quick to volunteer to help with fundraising. To secure material and hardware donations they created a PowerPoint deck to pitch to local companies.

Upper school students will work on a blueprint and get hands-on experience in carpentry, electrical, interior design and more. We are targeting a spring 2023 delivery.

Follow our progress on mjds.org.



Core Values: Building Our Connections!

Mishpachot (families) are multi-age student groups that meet once a month under the direction of eighth grade students. The program is beneficial on many levels. It builds community in the school, creating connections between upper school, lower school and early childhood. It also provides an excellent opportunity for students in eighth grade to build leadership skills.

Eight groups of twenty-five students from grades 3K-8 meet once a month to engage in a special activity based on a Jewish value. During their first gathering, students participated in ice breaker activities and celebrated *Kabbalat Shabbat* together.

Our oldest Lions wanted the *Mishpachot* Magic to continue beyond school walls, and designed activity boxes to take home. Each emphasizes a different Jewish value including: respect, inclusion, empathy, self-care, *tikkun olam* and kindness. The final steps will be teaching younger students how to use them, then sending boxes home to be shared and enjoyed with their families.



Alum Spotlight: Zach Sinykin

Ten years after his eighth grade trip to Israel with his MJDS classmates, Zach Sinykin returned to plan a presidential visit!

While living in D.C. last summer, Zach was an advance associate for the Biden administration and helped plan the President's trip to Israel.

"In Israel, it's a very big deal for the President of the United States to visit. It doesn't happen very often," Zach explained. He heard from others that Biden grew emotional when visiting with Holocaust survivors. "As a young, American Jew who feels afraid sometimes to read the news due to the state of our American politics, [hearing this] was meaningful. As a Jew, watching how divided and dangerous the country's political climate has become, it was really cool to see a president carry himself the way Biden did."

Zach's years at Milwaukee Jewish Day School played a valuable role in shaping his values and how he sees the world. "My favorite aspects of my private,



Jewish education were learning about Israel, the value of *tikkun olam* and studying the Holocaust. It's important to understand our Jewish values and that we are stewards of the world. We should do our very best to make an impact and protect the most vulnerable.

"MJDS helped me understand what Jews went through which helps me try to work through the complex issues we're going through as a society," Zach said.

He recently began law school at Chicago Kent College of Law and hopes to become a judge. No matter how far he travels, Milwaukee and MJDS will always hold a special place in his heart.

"The people rock," he said.

Building the Future: Preparing Our Students for a Rapidly Changing World

In a current and future world which changes by the minute, it's no longer adequate to feed facts to passive young learners. MJDS is preparing students for this new world by utilizing self-directed learning. Taking a comprehensive approach that spans all grades and subject matter, teachers are helping pupils to set personal learning goals, develop plans to achieve these goals, adjust their plans as necessary, and evaluate outcomes. When students have choices and take ownership of their education in this way, they become more engaged, independent learners. As a result, our graduates are curious, creative, problem solvers who are ready to meet whatever challenges the future brings.

