

January 2024 Impact Report

Thank you for partnering with us to build a warm and inclusive Jewish educational community, inspired by Jewish values and intellectual traditions. Together, we are living our values and creating a safe learning environment in which curiosity, confidence, and kindness grow!

Here is what you've made possible:

Moreshet/מורשת (Heritage)

- We welcomed over 30 alumni and their families to the SJCS *sukkah* for an alumni *Sukkot* event with *Morah Shoshana*
- Over 230 people attended our *Chanukah* party, including PJ Library families, current SJCS families, and SJCS alumni
- We joined Jewish Day Schools in Portland, Vancouver, and Seattle in a two-year pilot program to establish a professional learning community for Hebrew teachers, facilitated by *Ivrit B'Merkaz/ עברית במרקז* (Hebrew at the Center)—the leading professional organization in North America focused on Hebrew language instruction



"We love the enriched learning and watching his intellectual curiosity be fostered and developed. He comes home asking us thought-provoking questions about history, science, Judaism, and we know it's because his mind is stimulated. We're so pleased with what we've discovered at SJCS!"

– SJCS Parents

- We enhanced our Hebrew offerings by hiring an additional professional to provide enrichment, including for our native Hebrew language speakers
- We enhanced our music offerings by bringing back *Morah Shoshana* for twice-monthly choral singing

*"Middot/מידות (positive traits) are woven into the fabric of SJCS, where students embody the school's values in their everyday interactions, at school and beyond."
 – SJCS Parent*

Kehillah/קהילה (Community)

- 98% retention rate from last school year to this school year
- Our Math Night welcomed families to an interactive and energetic evening of math games and learning about our new math curriculum
- We proudly joined the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Seattle as an institutional member

- We integrated the Seattle Sephardic Heritage Initiative into our *Kehillah M'Shulevet/קהילה משולבת* (Integrated Community) program with the Jewish Day School (JDS)
- As part of the initiative, students participated in a private tour of the largest Sephardic cultural heritage collection in the Western US, led by Devin Naar, Isaac Alhadeff Professor of Sephardic Studies at the University of Washington
- Also as part of the initiative, we held a multi-generational Sigd program that focused on the history of the Ethiopian Jewish community and its special holiday, while enjoying an Ethiopian feast



- We came together—including our broader community—in the days immediately after October 7 to begin to process collectively and support one another
- We welcomed three displaced Israeli students and their families to the SJCS community
- We distributed and have been wearing blue ribbons in solidarity with the hostages
- Our former board presidents, Rebecca Finkel and Ronnie Stern, attended the rally for Israel in Washington, DC



Makom/מקום (Place)

- We engaged current and former SJCS families in a community-wide project to identify SJCS's first-ever mascot, culminating in the creation of *Sasson HaSna'ee*/ששון הסנאי (Sasson the Squirrel)
- We started an intergenerational program with residents at the Kline Galland Home
- We invested in our professional development and future success by hiring dedicated consultants to support our fundraising and recruitment efforts

- Packed 576 pounds of food for Jewish Family Service (JFS) to distribute to Seattlites in need
- Participated in Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW's clothing drive for unhoused refugees seeking asylum
- Joined People of Color in Independent Schools (POCIS) Seattle as a proud member
- Installed a PJ Free Little Library
- The whole school attended a Mariners Game at T-Mobile Park (taking public transit!) along with students from the Jewish Day School (JDS)

- We participated in mulching at Green Lake Park
- We were one of the first Jewish day schools in North America to join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition—in which we committed to make operational updates to address climate change
- Our 5th graders inspect our trash, recycling, and compost bins weekly to ensure our bins are properly sorted, and weigh trash cans as we have a goal of reducing our trash. We were awarded a state ecology grant to support this project.



Spread the Light Campaign

- In December 2023, our community came together to raise over \$125,000 for SJCS so we can continue to live our values and innovate for the future
- 98% of current families donated, along with alumni families, grandparents, and other members of our community
- 35 lapsed donors returned
- 39 new donors participated

We are so grateful for your partnership. Together, we can continue to provide a welcoming educational community that combines the timeless wisdom of Jewish intellectual heritage with contemporary insights into children's learning and growth. Thank you for your generosity!

In addition to beloved individual donors like you, we are grateful to the following institutional funders for their ongoing support of SJCS:

The Samis Foundation
 Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
 The Better Together Program
 Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools
 Washington State Department of Ecology

Spread the Light Campaign Donors

Community Builders

Anonymous

Joann and Carl Bianco

Rebecca Ringer and Bill Cohon

Kristen and Dylan Cohon

Theresa and Ben Glatstein

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Ollie and Brandon Yarborough

Laurie Mendelson and David Zimand

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Ayelet Goldin and Frode Johannesen

Kindness Kindlers

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Spread the Light Campaign Donors

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