MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217

414-964-1499
mjds.org
hello@mjds.org

Lina Wallace
President, MJDS Board of Directors

Aaron Lippman
MJDS Head of School

A partner agency of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION

ISACS Independent schools association of the central states Accredited Member School

Milwaukee Jewish Day School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, any gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national/ethnic origin or ancestry, age, disability, or reprisal or retalliation for prior civil rights activity in the administration of the school's educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, financial aid programs or other school-administered programs.

Mackenzie Clyde Field Day

Field Day has become a joyous tradition at the end of the school year. Three years ago it was decided that the day would be dedicated to a special student, Mackenzie Clyde, who lost her brave battle against brain cancer. She left a lasting impact on MJDS, as students remember her story and remind themselves to #LiveLikeKenzie.

Staff and students encourage each other to have a positive attitude, put the needs of others ahead of their own, find the fun throughout the day, keep smiling and wear cute jewelry!

This year, after an all-school assembly with special guest Courtney Clyde (Kenzie's mom), students got to work on a *mitzvah* called Beads of Courage. They attached single beads to cards with messages of encouragement to children undergoing cancer treatment. Second beads were connected to keychains that students carry with them as symbols of hope.

The remainder of the morning was spent outdoors enjoying the beautiful day, playing games and engaging in friendly competition. In the afternoon, students set up a lemonade stand and washed cars to raise money for the MACC Fund.

On this school-wide day of fun and reflection, MJDS students raised $724.28!



MJDS
MILWAUKEE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

CHAVERIM

Spring 2023 | 5784





Where academic excellence and Jewish values prepare children for a lifetime of success, leadership and engagement with the world.

Dear MJDS Friends and Family,

Looking back on this school year, I am proud of our staff and students' growth, inspired by their creativity and humbled by their compassion.

After a seven year process, MJDS has been re-accredited by ISACS, the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. The process demonstrates to all constituents that as an educational institution we provide a values-driven culture and a learning environment that authentically provides the highest quality holistic education.

We ended the year with Mackenzie Clyde Field Day, named in honor of a former student who bravely battled brain cancer and left us too soon. Each year our school enjoys a day of play and friendly competition in the morning, then hosts a car wash and lemonade stand to raise money for the MACC Fund and their childhood cancer research.

The bittersweet part of each school year is saying goodbye to our graduating eighth grade class. I was fortunate to spend two weeks with these incredible students on our recent trip to Israel and was reminded of what a gift it is to work with young people. Watching these children engage in uncomfortable situations and step outside their comfort zone was so powerful. When they seriously wanted to quit hiking up Masada, hunting scorpions in the dark or crawling through narrow cave passages, every student persevered and recognized that the journey changed them. Celebrating Shabbat entirely in Hebrew and realizing as Jews they were not a minority in Israel profoundly connected students to their Jewish identity.

Thank you for being part of our community. Please enjoy some stories of reflection before we set our sights on MJDS' 42nd year. Have a terrific summer!

Bivrachah,
Aaron Lippman
Head of School

Repairing Together: Optimism Ahead

This year Repairing Together focused on interactive programming with an emphasis on social interaction and connection.

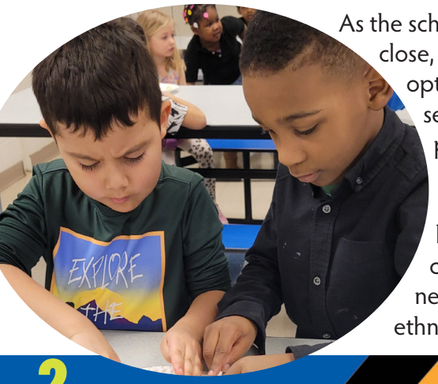
Kindergarteners spent the year visiting each other's schools and learning about their hosts' cultures. Students from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School joined students at MJDS to make *charoset* together, which was a big hit. Our students visited Indian Community School (ICS) and learned about Native sports; practiced traditions, including smudging; and read about Native Water Protectors.

Students in first, second and third grades collaborated in programs that focused on nature and culture, with many hands-on learning opportunities. They ended the year with "Field Days," enjoying the May sunshine while playing games together. Hersch, an MJDS 3rd grader, said he made about seven new friends throughout the year!

Fourth graders participated in a community-wide project with the Latino Arts Center and Familia de Arte. They carved positive messages into clay butterflies which will be glazed, painted and installed along fences in the Walker's Point neighborhood.

Fifth grade worked on a spoken word and poetry session with local rapper Klassik.

And MJDS seventh grade students piloted a student-led program, teaching ICS students about the Holocaust. ICS students then taught MJDS about Indigenous boarding schools in North America. It was a day of collective solidarity that ended with a unifying bird dance led by the ICS Earth Dancers.



As the school year draws to a close, there is reinvigorated optimism going into the seventh year of the program. Repairing Together will continue to build bridges across cultures, neighborhoods and ethnicities.



ETC: Students With an Eye on the Future

Exploring the Core (ETC) is a course for seventh and eighth graders that promotes deep thinking and rich learning experiences, and encourages students to expand their horizons. This year they held an Entrepreneur Fair. In groups and individually, students generated a business idea; spent months working on a plan; created logos, websites and other marketing materials; applied for funding through the Sandy Mitz Technology and Innovation Student Project Fund and built booths and developed sales pitches.

Throughout the process they maintained a focus on "What does it look like, sound like and feel like to own your own learning?" To answer this question, students were required to brainstorm, plan, manage time, collaborate, consult experts, learn new skills, innovate and create.

The MJDS technology program was started by Sandy Mitz z"l, a proud alumni parent of three sons, board president and long-time volunteer and supporter of MJDS. He had a deep interest in tech, and recruited students to help with technology projects. Sandy passed away in May 2016, and his family established the Sandy Mitz Fund to help students dive deep into projects that interest them. Lynda Mitz, his wife, met with students to hear about their experiences and observed, "This is such a happy school. They didn't have a class like this when my kids went here and it's beautiful to see how MJDS continues to grow."



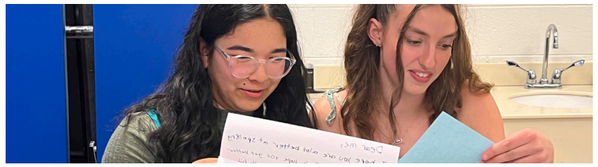
Class of 2019: Looks Forward and Back

The Senior Dinner is a special MJDS tradition. Alums who are graduating from high school return to MJDS, with their parents, to reconnect before heading out into the world. They view their eighth grade video, enjoy dinner in the cafeteria (MJDS pasta is the most common request!) and open time capsules filled with memories they left for themselves four years ago. The school is filled with laughter, tears, a hint of anxiety about the future and a lot of love.

Alum parent and former MJDS board president Nathan Bernstein attended with his wife Shannon and daughter Talia. "MJDS was the third leg of our stool," he explained. "Raising our daughter, it was me, my wife and MJDS. We lived it and give the school credit for how well Talia and all her classmates are thriving. They all had space and encouragement to discover who they are."

Alum Macy Lamberton attributes meeting her "best friend for life" at MJDS with building her self-confidence. "We all got along, there weren't any bullies."

Her mother, Leandrea, added, "Do you know how rare that is? Nowhere else is as nurturing. It set her up for a really good high school experience."





Next fall the young adults will spread across the country from Brandeis University in Boston, to Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Arizona State in Tuscon and Tulane University in New Orleans. Others staying true to their midwestern roots will attend Loyola, the University of Kansas and Indiana University. The University of Wisconsin in Madison and in Milwaukee will also welcome former MJDS Lions.

MJDS is proud to be part of the Class of 2019's story and is looking forward to the next chapter!

Mazal tov: A Fond Farewell to the Class of 2023

