

A Message from the Assistant Principal



As we honor our eighth grade students tonight, it is important to remember where they have been and where they are going. They will be missed at The Hasten Hebrew Academy, as they begin their high school experience. They take many skills and positive attributes to the various schools they will attend. We will proudly watch as they make their distinctive marks on their new learning communities. We are a school with a long tradition, and we will continue to teach a love of learning and Judaism. But how did these young adults come to the place where they are seated this evening?

Many have been a part of our school since they were toddlers. They have enjoyed many Model Seders, many Math Counts and Science Fair contests and many Grandparents' and Special Friends' Days. Remember how cute they looked performing the songs that they learned in their Early Childhood years? And how impressive their Hebrew was in the assemblies of the primary grade years. Now they are representing our school in the larger community with their numerous service projects and writing awards. They are demonstrating leadership in sports, water conservation groups, choral groups and tutoring younger students.

I have enjoyed watching this class grow from preschoolers to eighth graders. They have returned from their recent trip to Israel that required maturity, cooperation, and patience. This is quite a difference from the first Fall Leadership Retreat they participated in as sixth grade students. Each year the students have challenged one another to grow. They will continue to mature as a result of the foundation they have received at The Hasten Hebrew Academy. We hope they will stay in touch and share what they are passionate about so we can write an article about them for the *Shabbat Shalom!* As graduates of this school they will continue to be a part of the community! We hope they come and visit often! We look forward to following their next steps into young adulthood.

Honoring Drs. Ora and Mark Pescovitz this evening is such a pleasure because they have so often stepped in and helped with whatever we as a school community have needed. I have been honored to be included in their children's education both as a classroom teacher and as their Assistant Principal. Congratulations to a wonderful Academy family and thank you for all you do!

I am also very pleased to see Karol Cook honored for her many years of service to our school. While she is happily working with the first grade, I know her years with fifth grade were equally enjoyable for her and her students. Thank you, Karol, for all you do!

Sherry Hamstra