



what's new bi@lik



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, January 25th Senior Division Ski Day
Wednesday, January 27th Pizza lunch



SAFE ARRIVAL

Please remember that it is very important to call Safe Arrival if your child will be late, absent, or out of town at any time. Even if the teacher is aware of the absence, Safe Arrival must also be told. It's easy to reach Safe Arrival...just call 416-783-3346 ext. 5 or email safe@bialik.on.ca.

FROM THE PTA



"MEHALEV"

Bialik has always prided itself on being one great big family. Our philosophy of nurturing the spirit, and care and concern for each other, goes far beyond the walls of the school.

It is in this spirit and in keeping with our strong values of tzedekah and tikkun olam that the Bialik PTA is forming a new volunteer committee to help out our own: **Mehalev** ("from the heart").

This initiative will include and be extended to the entire Bialik family, from the administration and staff to parents and students. The goal of Mehalev is to set up a volunteer database of parents, teachers, administrators, etc. who may be called upon to help other Bialik families, if and when needed. Help may be in the form of cooking meals or a Shabbat dinner. Volunteers may be asked to prepare extra lunches for the child(ren) of those who need a hand; to drive a student to and/or from school.

Volunteers will not be intrusive. We will simply be helping out at a time when others need some support. Food deliveries will be dropped in cooler bags outside homes and children will be picked up or dropped off without the imposition of a visit.

This committee is still in its infancy. We hope to grow it in order to provide an extra hand and extend our hearts in any way possible. If you are interested in lending a hand, please send a confidential email to mehalev@bialik.on.ca. Requests for volunteers will be made via email with as much notice as possible.

If you find yourself at the other end of the spectrum and could use someone to lean on, please send a confidential note to mehalev@bialik.on.ca and someone will be in touch.



SENIOR DIVISION LEARN IN

Drivers needed. If you can help out with driving senior division students to and/or from various activities the afternoon of Wednesday, February 3rd, please email tammybrown@rogers.com. Thank you.



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT (FEBRUARY 22)

If you have any unused, unwanted gifts or extra loot bags, please drop them off in the office for use as prizes at Bingo Night. The more prizes we have, the more fun we'll have!



GET INVOLVED

The PTA is looking for a *Recess Buddies Coordinator* to take over from the current coordinator, Andrea Kohn, for next year. Recess Buddies is a fantastic program created and run by Bialik parent volunteers for grade 1 and 2 students. This year, the program was expanded to 3 lunchtime recesses (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). We are looking for someone to take over from Andrea to coordinate the volunteers for next year. Andrea will train her successor. This successful program is dependent on parent participation. If you are interested in this position, please email pta@bialik.on.ca.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE FOOD COMMITTEE

The number of delivery volunteers over the last couple of months has dropped dramatically. Many people are not showing up on the dates they signed up for. Without delivery volunteers, the food does not get to your children in a timely manner. Please, if you agreed to volunteer for food delivery, come. If for some reason you are unable to come, please let the committee know by emailing deannalustig@hotmail.com so that they can try to line up additional volunteers.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION



SAFETY ALERT FROM SONIA SHRON

Dear Parents,

I want to share with you a very serious situation that is putting our children at risk. Yesterday at pick-up time, I was outside the front door on Bathurst and what I saw was very frightening. Cars were lined up along our fire route (the drive-through) from Hillmount to Viewmount. Parents and children were milling about, creating congestion. If the fire department had tried to access the building via the fire route, it would have taken precious time for all the cars to move – time that could have resulted in a catastrophe in the school.

I am appealing to all Bialik parents to please abide by our policy regarding drop-off and pick-up. Please:

- Do not tell your children to exit the school via the main door; they should be going out through their designated exit doors. Arrange a meeting spot either in the school yard or near the school on Viewmount or Hillmount.
- Do not congregate in the front lobby at the end of the school day.
- Do not wait in the drive-through; there are parking spots in the teachers' lot and on the streets around the school.

Let us all work together to make our school safe for everyone and not wait until the disaster happens.

Thank you for your help in keeping our children safe.



GREEN LINK

Continuing with our 12 tips to a greener home:

Green Home Step #3: Take a tour of house being green-ed.

Maybe you're wondering, does a 'green home' look like one of those hippy communes from the 1960s? Will it smell? Does it have to have a windmill on the roof?

Well, some people have pushed the limits of design toward... let's say: *earthy*. But these are not the norm. To put your fears to rest, click [here](#) for part 1 of a 3-part video series about giving a typical home a green make-over using bamboo, recycled glass, products derived from plastic soda bottles, and more.

Green Team Initiative - The Walking School Bus

As part of our initiative to become an EcoSchool, Bialik's Environmental Stewardship Committee would like to begin a "Walking School Bus" initiative to help students get to and from school safely and by green means. A walking school bus is where students in a designated area walk a predetermined path to school, picking each other up along the way. Each walking school bus will be accompanied by a parent volunteer for safety. If you live in 1 of the following 3 areas, we would greatly appreciate your taking 2 minutes to fill out this [survey](#), indicating your interest in having your child(ren) partake in a walking school bus.

1. West of Bathurst Street to the Allen, South from Briar Hill Avenue to Wembley Road
2. East of Bathurst Street to Mona Drive between Hillhurst Boulevard and Glencairn Avenue
3. East of Bathurst Street to Ledbury Street between Glengarry Avenue and St. Germaine Avenue



SMART BOARDS - A WONDERFUL TEACHING TOOL

There's a buzz of excitement in Ms. Maggie Orner's grade 3 classroom, as the students learn how to add currency using a SMART Board – technology that has become a central part of Bialik's engaging educational experience. On March 1st, the SMART Board campaign will officially kick-off with the goal of outfitting the remaining classrooms with SMART Boards. If you've never seen or experienced a SMART Board, please click [here](#) to watch a 3-minute video demonstrating the features and ease-of-use of this wonderful educational tool.



SUPERVISED PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY'S BREAKS

Sabrina's Before & After School Care Program is offering full-day supervised programs during February's PD Day and Mid-Winter Break. Please click [here](#) for more information and to register your child(ren).



KABBALAT SHABBAT INVITE

All Bialik grandparents and special friends are invited to join us for the Student Council Kabbalat Shabbat assemblies dedicated in their honour. Please see the [invitation](#) for more details.



DOLLARS FOR DAVID - THANK YOU

Thank you to all the Bialik families who participated in the Na'amat Chanukah Dollars for David fundraising program by honouring Bialik teachers, assistants, specialists, staff, and administrators with Chanukah Tributes.

The campaign was up 17% from last year – thank you for making Chanukah much brighter for the 18,000 children in Na’amat day care centres throughout Israel. We hope we can count on your support again next year.

Joanna Shore & Janis Spinner, Na’amat Dollars for David co-chairs

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS



Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS) has been a government-designated Children's Aid Society since 1980. As such, we have a mandated responsibility for all Jewish children in the GTA under the age of 16, who are in need of care, protection, and a permanent home.

Right now, we have an urgent need for Jewish foster parents, and you can help. Simply by reading and forwarding the attached [flyer](#), you'll be helping JF&CS spread the word to all of the loving Jewish families out there who have room for one more in their home ... and one of those homes might just be yours!

Please help to ensure that no Jewish child is left without a loving family.



United Jewish Appeal invites you and your family to *The UJA Campaign 2010 Closing Celebration*, with guest speaker *Dan Senor*, best-selling author of *Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*.

[Dan Senor](#) is an author, geopolitical expert, investor and adjunct senior fellow for Middle East studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. An accomplished speaker – Senor will discuss how Israel's ever-changing global political situation has transformed the state into "a high-tech powerhouse".

Join us for an evening of fascinating discussion and unique entertainment as we celebrate the achievements of our lay leaders, volunteers and community.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 | 7:30 p.m.

Events On the Park, 1095 Leslie Street (North of Eglinton)

Tickets: \$20 if purchased on or before February 9th (\$25 after that time).

Dessert Reception | Kashruth observed

[Buy your tickets](#) online now or contact Julie Gonik at jgonik@ujafed.org or 416.635.2883 ext. 5229 for more information. Tickets also available at the door.



Koffler Centre of the Arts Presents
CROSS-CULTURAL SUPER JAM SESSION
Musical Melding: Jaffa Road with Eccodek

An exciting new series featuring dynamic collaborations between eclectic Canadian musicians and Jaffa Road.

Wednesday, January 27, 8 PM | Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St West (MAP)

\$12 advance* | \$15 door

With electrifying onstage chemistry, [Jaffa Road](#) combines original and ancient poetry sung in Hebrew, Spanish and English with pulsating dub grooves, belly dance rhythms, ambient electronic textures, and exhilarating improvisations. In this debut musical mash-up, Jaffa Road is joined by members of Juno-nominated [Eccodek](#): Andrew McPherson and Deliveryboy. Weaving their cinematic instrumental style into this cultural mix, the sound-scientist producer with sample savvy Deliveryboy will dip into Eccodek's signature palette of dubwise global fusion, blending together ancient and modern sounds from the four corners of the globe. Click [here](#) for full details or find us on Facebook

Advance tickets on sale NOW through:

TicketWeb (or call 1.888.222.6608) *TicketWeb service charges apply.

Rotate This, 801 Queen Street West (MAP) | Soundscapes, 572 College Street (MAP)



Chai Lifeline Canada's Sing for the Children

Dudu Fisher at this wonderful event to support Chai Lifeline Canada.

Monday, February 22, 2010 | Roy Thomson Hall | 8 PM

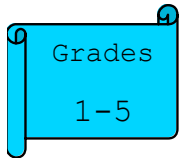
Tickets from \$40

For more information on ordering your tickets, please view their [flyer](#).



NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

The Preschool students will be celebrating Tu B'Shvat through songs and stories by attending morning assemblies on Thursday, January 28th. This holiday, 'the birthday of the trees', helps us to focus on the importance of trees, the need to respect and preserve nature, and our responsibility to support forestation in Israel.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY DIVISION

MS Read-A-Thon/Reading Week

Wednesday, January 27th is **Dress-Up as a Character in Your Favourite Story/Novel Day** for the entire elementary division. Please help your children create and dress in a costume that depicts the uniqueness of their character. Remind them to bring in the book and be able to talk about the book from which their character is taken. This day is a great deal of fun for the students and gives them the opportunity to share and recommend books to read for fun and to raise funds for MS research. Please encourage your children to read daily and record the minutes they have read on the collection envelopes. Last year our students read a total of 49,000 minutes during this event.

Israel Interactive Centre

All grade 4 students will visit the Israel Interactive Centre as part of their Jewish Studies Moledet unit, for one-hour sessions during the next two weeks. They will learn about and experience aspects of the geography and topography of Israel.

Tu B'Shvat Celebrations

Grades 3C and 2A will help the division to celebrate Tu B'Shvat on Friday, January 29th as follows: 3C at 9:15 a.m. and 2A at 12:35 p.m., both in the upper gym. Parents and guests are most welcome. We look forward to a great performance in story, song, and dance.

Character Counts

As we highlight cooperation this month in all aspects of the curriculum and classroom interactions, here is a list of books that you can read with your children, as recommended from our library, to trigger discussion about cooperation:

Mr. Tall and Mr. Small / Barbara Brenner : Holt publishing house;

Bye-Bye Pie / Sharon Jennings : Fitzhenry & Whiteside;

Bone Button Borscht / Aubrey Davis : Kids Can Press;

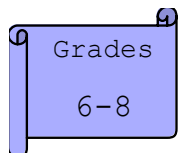
The Enormous Potato / Aubrey Davis : Kids Can Press;

Today I Will Fly / Mo Willems : Hyperion Books for Young Children;

Seven Animals Wag Their Tales / Howard I. Bogot : Pitspopany Publishing Company;

Why Should I ... Help? / Claire Llewellyn : Barron's;

Chapter books: (gr. 3-5) The Big Tree Gang / Jo Ellen Bogart : Orca Book Publishers;
Two Heads Are Better than One (The Amazing Days of Abby Hayes Series) / Anne Mazer : Scholastic;
The Case of the Wild Wolf River, etc. (The New Adventures of Mary-Kate and Ashley Series) / Judy Katschke : Scholastic;
Ski School Sneak, etc. (Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew Series) / Carolyn Keene : Aladdin Paperback.



NEWS FROM THE SENIOR DIVISION

Funds for Haiti

Student Council undertook fundraising events to support the relief effort in Haiti – a soda and chocolate sale last week, a staff versus student hockey game at lunch, and a raffle to be drawn on Friday for a Memorex iPod speaker system. We thank all those who contributed so generously.

Ski Day

Our much-anticipated Ski and Snowboard Day takes place on Monday, January 25th. Buses arrive at 7:00 a.m. for loading and we will leave school for Mt. St. Louis at 7:30 a.m. promptly. We expect to arrive back at school between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. There will be a message on the school answering machine if buses will be delayed beyond 5:00 p.m. This is a reminder that all skiers **MUST** wear a helmet and that wrist guards are recommended for boarders. We are looking forward to an excellent day of fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie for all – beginner to black diamond.

Tu B'Shvat

Our grade 6 Tu B'Shvat celebration takes place on Thursday, January 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the upper gym. Each of the three classes will present a segment of the celebration and we are delighted to welcome the 175 students, teachers, parents, grandparents, and special friends who will be joining us.



ATHLETICS

Please send your children with their own water bottle, clearly marked with their first and last name, to ALL practices, games and tournaments.

Senior Boys Basketball

Coaches: Benjy Cohen and Marcus Dickler

Practice Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. in the Upper Gym

***UPDATED* Quarter-Finals:** Tuesday, January 26th at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym

Semi-Finals: Thursday, January 28th at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym (if the team wins their quarter-final game)

Finals: Thursday, February 4th at 5:00 p.m. at Hoop Dome (if the team wins their semi-final game)

Standings: <http://www.netivot.com/StudentLife/JDSBasketballStandings/tabid/62/Default.aspx>

Senior Girls Basketball

Coach: Mark Tweyman

Practice Schedule: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:45 a.m. in the Lower Gym

4/5 Co-ed Basketball

Coaches: Jeff Lieberman and Yasmin Shalev

Practice Schedule: Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:45 a.m. in the Lower Gym

Season Schedule: TBA

Senior Girls Volleyball

Coaches: Jaimie Kudlats, Dani Ross, Becky Fraser

Parent Volunteer: Natalia Wilner

Practice Schedule: Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Upper Gym

TanenbaumCHAT Invitation Tournament: Thursday, March 11th

Senior Boys Volleyball

Coach: Marcus Dickler and Jeff Lieberman

Parent Volunteer: Mike Wilner

Practice Schedule: Mondays at 7:45 a.m. in the Upper Gym

TanenbaumCHAT Invitation Tournament: Wednesday, March 10th

Junior and Senior Cross Country

Coaches: Robyn Rosen-Codas and Poppie Butler

Parent Volunteer: Mark Cohen

Winter Training: Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Lower Gym (meet your coaches in the lobby)

Junior and Senior Hockey

Coaches: Larry Tobin (Senior), Allan Corber and Matt Cockburn (Junior)

JUNIOR TEAM (Grades 3-5):

Schedule Online: <http://allplayers.bladenet.net/allplayers/index.do?associationCode=CA00016969>

SENIOR TEAM (Grades 6-8):

Schedule Online: <http://allplayers.bladenet.net/allplayers/index.do?associationCode=CA00016969>

NEW House Leagues

Facilitators:

Grade 5: Jeff Lieberman and Tybie Trossman

Grade 6: Daniella Ross and Stefanie Rakowski

Grade 7/8: Shawn Stevens and Marcus Dickler

Students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will participate in an intramural House Leagues program. Our student volunteers decided on the following 3 sports: basketball, soccer, and hockey. House Leagues run from November 30, 2009 to March 25, 2010.

Schedule:

Grade 5 students: Thursdays at 12:25 p.m. in the Upper Gym

Grade 6 students: Mondays at 12:25 p.m. in the Upper Gym

Grade 7/8 students: Wednesdays at 12:25 p.m. in the Upper Gym

Thank you to all coaches for volunteering their time for the Bialik Athletics program.



BULLETIN BOARD

Former Bialik parent, PTA Chair, and Board member, Marilyn Herbert, is opening a new centre at Bathurst and Eglinton that will feature programming for adults and children. This is a new literary community centre that starts with the idea of the “book”. Please view her open house [invitation](#) or visit her website at www.bookclubinabox.com.

Registration for programs is open. They can be reached at erin@bookclubinabox.com or 416-784-9436.