



what's new bi@lik



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 1 st	Sushi lunch PTA Book Club – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 3 rd	Senior Division Learn In
Thursday, February 4 th	Senior Division Cafeteria



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



CALL SAFE ARRIVAL NOW FOR FEBRUARY BREAK

The Safe Arrival line is starting to take vacation notifications for days before and after the February Mid-Winter break. Avoid the rush, please call or email safe@bialik.on.ca with the dates your child(ren) will be away.



ADULT HEBREW

Back by popular demand: **Adult Hebrew 101**. It was so much fun, people want to do it again! Did you miss it the first time? Now is your chance. Please see the Hebrew 101 [flyer](#) for more information.

Announcing: **Adult Hebrew 201**. Already know how to read and write? Want to know how to converse with your friends and kids' teachers? Going to Israel and want to speak like a local? Sign up NOW for our 12-week course. Please see the Hebrew 201 [flyer](#).



COFFEE HOUSE WITH SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

The Coffee House scheduled for Tuesday, February 2nd has been cancelled. Please stay tuned for information about our next event.



"MEHALEV" (FROM THE HEART)

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far to be part of the new Mehalev committee. The response has been fantastic.

If you are interested in helping or you need a hand, please send a confidential email to mehalev@bialik.on.ca.



AFTER 4 ANNOUNCEMENT

A reminder to get your Spring Session forms into the After 4 Box in the office. You can find the forms online by clicking [here](#).

Hot off the Press – the Act 1 Production for spring will be “*The Wizard of Oz*”.

Changes: Keep your eyes open for information about an exciting *new Rock Band* program for spring. Please note that for the Spring Session, we are no longer offering a kickboxing class.



LOST & FOUND NEWS

Kids lose things all over the school. Most end up in the Lost & Found and are unlabeled. Here are just a few of them:

- 1 pair white high top runners, blue lining and laces. Found in a white Speedo bag. Logo: UL.XUSE. Will fit older student. Look almost new.
- 1 pair black boy's boots, almost new, size 9, Logo: W-Workload, two velcro closures
- Black snow pants, size 6x/7, Jupa brand
- Black Roots boy's sweatshirt, white fleece lining, size 11-12 years
- Light teal colored Osh Kosh sweatshirt, zippered front with frill along zipper, flower on front, Size 8
- Tan coloured, suede look coat, pink fur lining Benetton make, small size
- These and many more sweatshirts, jackets, gloves and hats and lunch bags are just waiting to be claimed in the Lost & Found (located downstairs in the multi purpose room. Follow the pink signs).



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT (FEBRUARY 22)

It's around the corner! Be part of a super evening that will put a smile on your child(ren)'s face(s). Our gym was sold out last year, so don't miss out!

New this year: pre-pay for bingo and raffle tickets, pizza and salad. Send in your [form](#) with payment ASAP. Drinks and snacks will still be available for sale during the evening.



GET INVOLVED

The Calendar Committee is looking for people who can make a few phone calls to advertisers to confirm contact information. Please email bialikcalendar@gmail.com if you are able to help out.



TU B'SHVAT SEDER THANK YOU

Thank you to our wonderful grade 6 parents who helped make our Tu B'shvat seder so special: Marla Brown, Tammy Brown, Jackie Florence, Sara Gladstone, Elise Gropper, Elana Gryfe, Rana Lindzon, Laurie Naimer, Rose Orlan, Maxine Sacoransky, Tovah Shoore, Yona Viner, Michelle Wagman, Cheryl Wagner, and Renat Zaltz. The gym looked festive and parents, grandparents, and students enjoyed the "fruits" of your labour.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION



GREEN LINK

Continuing with our 12 tips to a greener home:

Green Home Step #4: Start Small. Keep it Simple.

A really simple way to start making changes: bring in the plants. Stop by your local book store for books and magazines that will help you learn about the benefits of keeping plants in your home, and which ones will impart the most benefit to you and your family.

Green Team Update

A message from your Green Team Environmental Stewardship Sub-Committee:

We continue our campaign to eliminate the use of single use plastic water bottles at Bialik. We encourage all families to send reusable water containers to school that students can refill at the water fountains during the day. Thank you for your support of our Green endeavours



SMART BOARD FACTS...DID YOU KNOW?

18 million students in more than 600,000 classrooms in more than 100 countries around the world are currently using SMART products. Bialik has 30 functional SMART Boards in the school, and the boards are used daily by classes in each grade. By September 2010, Bialik hopes to have 50 SMART Boards – one per classroom and various multi-purpose spaces – in the school. Watch this wonderful [news clip](#) from News18 to see how excited teachers and students are about using the SMART Board in Chippewa Falls' classrooms.



NEW FIRE-ROUTE POLICY INCREASES STUDENT SAFETY

The Bialik community takes the safety of our students very seriously. As you read in last week's newsletter, we are very concerned about the number of cars stopped in our fire route during pick up each day. In our ongoing efforts to keep our children safe and our fire route (drive-through) clear of double parked cars, we will be blocking off the fire lane drive-through during pick-up time each day.

Beginning on Monday, February 1st, there will be a barrier set up across the drive-through, just south of the handicapped parking spaces from 3:30 - 4:10 p.m. each day. This will allow parents to access the staff parking lot and the spaces on the south side of the guest parking. People who arrive before 3:30 will still have access to the guest parking spots in front of the school and along the lay-by.

This will allow clear access to the school by emergency vehicles and this will also provide a safe area for students who need to cross the drive-through to reach their parents' cars in the teachers' lot.

We encourage those of you who have been using the drive-through for pick up to look for alternate places to wait for your children and arrange for them to meet you at another convenient location.

We ask you, as parents, to work with us as partners in ensuring the safety and security of all our children.



AVOID TICKETS - DON'T TURN ONTO HILLMOUNT

Parents should be aware that there is no turning onto Hillmount from Bathurst between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The signage is very clear, but some people seem to miss it and are making this illegal turn. The police have been ticketing regularly for the last several weeks. Please make sure that you do not turn onto Hillmount during the prohibited times.



KEEPING OUR KIDS WARM

During our cold winter months, it is very important for parents to ensure their children are coming to school dressed in scarves, hats, and mitts. Please also speak to your children about the importance of dressing properly at recess, wearing all of the warm clothes you have sent them with to school. Thank you.



ATTENDANCE

We have a very full and enriched program of activities at school, which requires maximum use of school time. As stated in our handbook, we ask parents not to take students out of school during the school day or during lunch, as this disrupts learning for the child and for the class. Students are often engaged in group activities at lunch and during classes, so when some students are away it impacts on the functioning of groups. Therefore, we ask that you please try to schedule appointments out of school hours. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



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).



PARTIES ON SHABBAT OR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Bialik looks upon Shabbat and chagim (Jewish holidays) with respect, and encourages our students to do likewise. As detailed in the parent handbook, we ask that you not schedule any parties on erev Shabbat, Shabbat, erev chag, or during the chag. We greatly appreciate your understanding and thank you for your cooperation.



HOCKEY TOURNAMENT - FEBRUARY 5TH

Our Junior and Senior Hockey teams will be playing in the annual Inter-Jewish Day School Hockey League's Yizhak Rabin Tournament all day on Friday, February 5th. They will compete in a round robin and we wish them the best of luck as they represent us on the ice.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS



UJA Federation Presents an Israeli King

Meet the only Israeli player ever chosen in the first round of the National Basketball Association draft, rookie, [Omri Casspi](#), of the Sacramento Kings! Read more about Omri Casspi in [Sports Illustrated](#). See Omri in [action](#).

Join us for a night of sports, games, music, entertainment, food and fun for the entire family.

Saturday, February 6, 2010 | 7:30 p.m.

[TanenbaumCHAT Kimel Family Education Centre](#)

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst Street, Vaughan

Tickets: \$10 per person or \$25 per family (3 or more people living in the same household). Kids under 3 are free.

Complimentary refreshments and snacks will be served | Kashruth observed

See Casspi take on the Raptors live on Sunday, February 7th at the ACC at great discounted prices! Click [here](#) for details. Register early. Space is limited.

Buy your tickets [online](#) now or contact Michelle Spring at mspring@ujafed.org or 416.635.2883 ext. 5685 for more information.

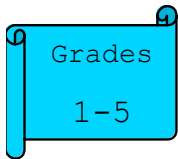


Request from Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC)

Last year, a proposal to increase the federal charitable tax credit from 29% to 42% was submitted to the Federal Government at budget time. During a time of economic hardship and likely government cutbacks, charities need additional donations, and this is bound to occur if donors are given a greater incentive. Should this change be made and combined with the existing provincial charitable tax credit (generally 17.5%), there would be a total \$59.50 tax benefit for giving \$100 to a charity, up from the current tax benefit of \$46.50, for taxpayers at the highest marginal rate.

Ask the Federal Government to increase the charitable tax credit in the March budget.

Act Now! Click [here](#) to learn more and send a letter to Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty and strengthen the foundation of the charitable organizations you believe in.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY DIVISION

MS Read-A-Thon/Reading Month

We are beginning the third week of Reading Month and reading to raise funds for research into a cure for MS and to support people who live with the disease. The special event this week is "Drop Everything and Read," which will take place on Thursday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m. Every student in the division will stop what they are doing, take out a book and read for 15 minutes. Teachers and parents should make sure that every child has a book to read either from home or from the school/class library. Everyone can then add 15 minutes to the envelope on which they are keeping track of minutes read.

If you have not signed up to be a lunch time reader, you can still do so by contacting your child's classroom teacher. Keep reading and enjoy!

Israel Interactive Centre (IIC)

Grade 4 students continue their study of the geography of Israel in the Israel Interactive Centre (IIC) with their teachers and Nurith Sela. These hands-on sessions give the children an excellent sense of the physical characteristics of the country.

Tu'Bishvat

In the afternoon of Wednesday, January 27th, grade 2 students were treated to a session of games related to Tu'Bishvat led by representatives of JNF, to enrich their understanding of the significance of this chag.

Young Emissaries of Israel

Grade 5 students participated in a workshop on Jerusalem, facilitated by Yonatan and Ron, our young Israeli emissaries. They learned about the many places of interest and important landmarks in Israel's capital city, through games and hands-on activities.

Character Counts

Last week's division-wide activity of writing a Cooperation acrostic poem resulted in some truly beautiful and creative products. Working in pairs to produce a class poem, each class came up with their own profound and artistically presented messages about what it means to be cooperative. Grades 4 and 5 wrote their poems in wonderful Hebrew. We hope that they will take all of this to heart and put it to practice on a regular basis both in the classroom and out in the yard.

The acrostic below is a compilation of some of the sentiments that students from different grades included in their English acrostic:

C – care for each other

O – opens doors for others

O – obviously people should cooperate to make the world a better place

P – promotes participation

E – each student should show cooperation

R – respect the partner you work with

A – always working with one another

T – team work

I – if you cooperate people will cooperate with you

O – our class is good at cooperating by working together

N – never exclude

Grades

6-8

NEWS FROM THE SENIOR DIVISION

Funds for Haiti

Student council ran several fundraisers over the past week in support of UJA's Haiti Relief Fund. We are proud to announce that with the generosity of our Bialik family they were able to raise \$783. UJA Foundation will be matching our gift, so in effect, the benefit to Haiti is approximately \$1500. Tikkun olam and giving tzedakah are key Jewish values, which the Bialik family together demonstrated in a meaningful way. Thank you.

Learn In

On Wednesday, February 3rd, we will hold our annual Learn In where we welcome members of the Bialik parent body and community to share their professional expertise with our students. Students attend three different sessions in the morning and participate in one activity in the afternoon. The range of choices is varied and interesting. We thank Ziona Hagler and the devoted group of parent volunteers for their help organizing this wonderful day for our students. Lunch is provided to the students, teachers, and speakers courtesy of the PTA, and we thank them for their generosity.

Read-A-Thon

Our Read-A-Thon for Chai Lifeline Canada continues through February 18th. Students are reminded to keep reading as they contribute toward raising money to make a difference in the lives of children who struggle with health challenges that make daily life difficult and unpredictable. They are counting on our support!

Basketball Playoffs

Bialik's Senior Boys' Basketball team played a great game in the quarter finals of the League, winning against Leo Baeck South by a large margin and earning a spot in the semi-final game against Heschel. The skills that the boys have developed over the course of the season were evident in their excellent passing and team cooperation. Today, January 28th, the playoff game is at home, and we encourage all members of the Bialik community to come out and cheer on the team. You are guaranteed to be treated to some fantastic basketball playing! The game begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym. All are welcome!

Knitting Club Begins Again

Senior division students are invited to join the knitting club where they will meet other senior division students, learn to knit, and have fun! This year, we will be knitting scarves for the homeless and, to succeed, the knitting club needs donations of knitting needles. Please send any donations with your child(ren) to Room 7.



NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Alumni Relations Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are available now! We are actively seeking to fill open positions on the Alumni Relations Committee, currently led by Shirley Slavens. There are many ways to get involved and you do not need to be Bialik Alumni to join in the fun – become a class champion, help plan an upcoming event or use your tech savvy to get our online community connected. Please click [here](#) to see the available positions. Contact alumni@bialik.on.ca by February 10th if you are interested in joining the committee to help shape our Alumni program at Bialik.



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

[Standings Online](#)

UPDATED Senior Girls Basketball

Coaches: Mark Tweyman and Billy Farbstein

***NEW* First Practice:** Monday, February 1st at 7:45 a.m. in the Lower Gym

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

UPDATED No practice on Wednesday, February 3rd

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

TanenbaumCHAT Invitation Tournament: Thursday, March 11, 2010

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 10, 2010

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](#)

SENIOR TEAM (Grades 6-8): [Schedule Online](#)

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

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

House Leagues run until March 25th.

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



BULLETIN BOARD

Join Gallery 133 for a session designed to help you navigate a gallery. This complimentary workshop titled “The Art of Looking” will provide a fun, relaxed environment for honing your viewing skills. For more information please click [here](#).

We are looking for a full-time nanny who is engaging with toddlers, and is also able to cook and do light cleaning, to start immediately or within the next few months. If you have anyone in mind who might be available, please call Kathy at (416) 878-0088 or email kvarkony@rogers.com.