

# Annual Report

As I assume Board leadership from Jared Gellert, I reflect on my own family's connection to Jewish Day School, which runs deep. My in-laws sent all four of their daughters to Einstein, who together now send three of their own children to Einstein, including Briana's and my daughter, Aviva, who will be a first-grader this coming year. Similarly, my parents also sent my brother, sister, and me to Jewish Day School, which has had a lasting impact on my life.

I truly believe it is our sacred obligation to deliver an exceptional education for our children: one rich in Jewish tradition and values that nurture the development of the whole-person and cultivate both self-confidence and respect for others by teaching foundational skills and knowledge and laying a foundation for lifelong success.

Einstein is today in a very strong position, with a great staff, robust enrollment, and healthy financials. My plans are to build on this by focusing on three main goals: 1) Support our administration, faculty, and staff to deliver a great educational program, 2) Rebuild enrollment — offering and delivering a program which people value and wish to be a part of, and 3) Strengthen the operational and financial foundation of the school, through targeted improvements and strategic investments.



Gabe Kopin Incoming President

These are not new goals, and the key is to take a data-driven approach to gauge progress, always be honest with ourselves regarding what is working well and where improvement or change is required, and not hesitating to take deliberate and thoughtful actions when required.

In my tenure as Board Chair, this will be my approach to helping guide Einstein forward. I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as President of Einstein's Board of Trustees — building on the efforts of those who have come before me — and will do my best to help strengthen Einstein in the years to come.



Gerri Chizeck Head of School

What a rich, complex, and challenging year it has been. Many things worked really well this year. Our enrollment increased and our protocols were effective in keeping everyone safe. We transitioned to online teaching when needed, and our faculty worked hard to make those times as positive as possible for our students.

Our new kindergarten teacher implemented a stellar new curriculum during the first semester. We were outdoors often, bringing the joy of learning to our students. Hebrew and academic learning were robust, and the *Charlotte's Web* performance brought pride to our students and the entire community. We began on the first day of school with Shehecheyanu and ended with Shehecheyanu moments, welcoming parents back to campus.

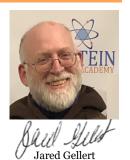
The board has tasked me with implementing curricular innovations, and in a year of COVID that was a tall order. Yet we were able to take the first steps and have big plans for next year. We already have strong enrollment and an excellent program planned for next year, including a new math program based on Singapore math; a social-emotional learning program, Second Step; further rollout of project-based learning, and more

STEM-related activities. Along the way, we will renew our scope and sequence for all subjects including service learning — which connects Judaism to academics — as well as Hebrew.

It has been a memorable year, and my hope is to continue to bring my experience, educational knowledge, and passion for Jewish Day School education to help Einstein reach new heights. With you as my partners, I have no doubt this can be a reality.

It has been a privilege to be Einstein's Board Chair and do my part to keep our people alive. Just as my ancestors kept these traditions and this people alive for me, I have sought to keep these traditions and this people alive for the generations to follow me. I am but a link in a chain, a worker bee in our efforts to maintain open channels between the divine and the people. I thank you for this opportunity.

I step down confident in the job that Gabe will do. Not that I am going anywhere; I will be the treasurer next year and contribute to the school's success in any way I am able. I am grateful to the Federation, without whom the school would not exist. I am particularly grateful to the Board of Directors, faculty and staff teachers, and the passion of the two heads of school with whom I have worked: Rabbi Jeremy Winaker and Gerri Chizeck. Lastly, I am grateful to all the parents who have entrusted their children to the school, because without the children, there would be no school.



**Outgoing President** 

Indoors or outdoors, the learning never stops!

### Communities Near and Far

Our annual curriculum theme emphasized our own community and its connection to other cultures worldwide, focusing on friendship and Tikkun Olam — healing the world.



Highlights included school plays, DASH week (Days of Arts, Science and Humanities) The Places You'll Go, a multidisciplinary thematic learning week, and the election unit, when we pursued the theme of elections and citizenship.

When asked what they remembered most about the school year, in addition to "wearing masks," and "our teachers and friends," our upper school students remembered all of the

hands-on learning experiences they shared together. They particularly loved science explorations, learning about endangered and invasive species, and outdoor adventures, from taking regular classes outdoors to hikes and swimming. They loved activities that made them think and be creative. The majority of our younger students said they remembered "EVERYTHING." Our students love learning, love school, and love our community.

This summer, to expand our offerings in thematic and hands-on learning, our faculty is spending time pursuing professional development in the project-based learning approach, social-emotional learning (specifically the Second Step program combined with Jewish values), and in creased emphasis on STEAM — science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. We can't wait to get started!

### FAREWELL SIMA MALKA & ELLY ALEXANDER—We'LL MISS YOU!



Sima Malka has gone the extra mile to help her students connect with the Hebrew language and to Israel, being able to provide firsthand accounts of her homeland. She would always return with gifts for her students when traveling to Israel and taught them how to make Israeli food! Most importantly, Sima made great efforts to develop relationships with each student, helping them to excel.

Sima, thank you for your service to Albert Einstein Academy — you'll be greatly missed.

Elly Alexander has been with us for over 20 years, starting as the librarian and then moving on to department chair for Language Arts and social studies. She cares deeply about each child's learning and wellbeing. She has also been invaluable in mentoring new teachers and worked hard to ingrain values and a sense of social justice in her students, teaching the importance of responsibility and civic engagement.



Elly and Rick demonstrated their commitment to Einstein through the years with their significant support and by sending their own children to Einstein. Elly is also credited with helping the school survive at a critical time in its history. In 2011, the head of school, Michal Cherrin, had a health issue that forced her to step away from Einstein. Elly rallied the parents to stick with the school and became the acting co-head of school. Elly has been an integral part of Einstein, and her enthusiasm and expertise will be missed.

On behalf of all of us Einstein, we want to wish both Sima and Elly all the best in their future endeavors.



Indoors or outdoors, we stay active and have fun!

## FIRSTEIN'S FIRSTEIN'S CAMPAIGN

Something truly wonderful happened for 51 hours beginning March 16th at 5 p.m. Our community came together virtually to celebrate Einstein's 51st anniversary by posting, commenting, and sharing on social media and donating at record levels!

We had hoped to raise \$51,000 in 51 hours by doubling every donation, and thanks to our very



The Rairdan Family, one of many families who shared a video entry to help spread our message and raise money!

generous donors, including our incredibly committed and generous matching gift families, we not only met our ambitious goal, we far exceeded it!

We are so grateful to have received such generous support from our leadership, current families, alumni and their families, faculty, friends, and past donors.

Thank you to all who participated in any way, and join us on our journey for the next 51 years!

# SIE

### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Thanks to a matching gift from Jewish Federation of Delaware's Human Services Relief Matching Fund (HSRMF), aimed at helping to relieve the stress and anxiety among our students and faculty during COVID 19, Einstein was able to purchase a social and emotional learning program to benefit our students. Studies show that schools which implement SEL programs score higher in terms of both student engagement and learning progress. Incidents of problem behavior are also greatly reduced.

This summer, with the Second Step program, our teachers are learning to integrate Jewish values and Torah learning to create empathy, emotion management, respect and responsibility, relationship building, and decision making. While Einstein has always been a loving community, SEL teaches children skills and techniques to build character and *Derech Eretz*. We are so grateful for the grant and the opportunity to enrich our program.



We began the school year spending as much time outside as possible including a meaningful hike for Taschlisch!



We showcased our students' work again this year for the Curriculum Showcase!



Our students received their own personal Siddurs during our annual Siddur Ceremony!



It snowed and our students wasted no time enjoying the chance to be outdoors, no matter the weather.



Students took part in their own election to elect a school mascot — the Eagle won!



We continued our annual Spring Play tradition with an outdoor production of Charlotte's Web, which was a terrific success!



Cindy Alderton & Sabrina Bringuier Judy Dolinger Eleanor and Frederick Alexander Amazon Smile Sarah and Brian Andrus Judith Feinson and Michael Bailey Ruth and Judith Balick Elissa Green & Rabbi Michael Beals Benjamin Berger & Orly Katz Berger Harris, LLP Rabbi Ellen and Steven Bernhardt Steven Biener and Frances Ratner Kathy and Seth Bloom Barbara and David Blumberg Lib Hembree & Samuel Blumberg Ben Blumberg Jack Blumenfeld and Karen Jacobs Jennifer and Walter Borders Box Tops for Education Karen and Paul Bradley Mona and Michael Brassloff Nancy and Jim Brock Melissa and Evan Brodsky Bucholtz Family Trust (JFF) Florence Budovitch Rona Budovitch Caplan Elaine Schmerling and Warren Butt Rachel and Brian Gottesman Elana Brandes-Caplan Carpet Mart Julie and Scott Cashon Gerri Chizeck Barbara Citron Heather Hansen and Daniel Citron Paul and Harriet Cohen Evelyn Meltzer and Howard Cohen Jodi and Benji Cohen Barbara and Neil Cohn Marla and Ross Cooper Bob and Arlene Davis z"l

Melissa Donimirski Jill and Ralph Downard Lisa and David Driban Anika and James Dzwilewski Lena and John Elzufon Robin Karol-Eng & Gerald Eng Susan and David Epstein Lucy Fasulo Deborah and Robert Feinson Shirley Fisch Judith Gabai Elizabeth and Yaron Gabai Elana Gaier Cindi and Jared Gellert Carolann and Jerry George Donna and David Gicker Katie and Michael Glazier Michelle and Brad Glazier Amy Glazier Judith and Richard Goldbaum Sheila and Perry Goldlust Jan and Rob Goodman Mara Goodman Helen Gorden Suzanne and Stuart Grant Suzy and Rabbi Peter Grumbacher Evnat and Eliezer Gutman Jay Halio and Diane Isaacs Marion & Lawrence Hamermesh Debora Hansen Rachel and Todd Harad Donna and Ivy Harley Julie and Christopher Hsu Pheobe Hu

Joan Kuo and Ming-Chi Hu

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Wendy and Philip Shlossman

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Ellen & Steven Bernhardt

Seth Bloom

Karen Jacobs & Jack Blumenfeld Jodi & Benjamin Cohen

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