

Hi,

As this is the last of my updates before winter break I will share thoughts on New Year's resolutions along with news and notes. I thank all families for partnering with our school during this first half of the year. We have had a good five months of high quality care and education. I look forward to continued learning and nurturing the second half of the year.

Resolutions should be very difficult to keep. I know, I just lost half of the people reading this as who wants to end 2018 and start 2019 with a hard task. Spoiler alert, I am going to lose another group of people as I think we should make resolutions that are political in nature. I am not saying that personal resolutions, like leading a healthier life, are not important but it feels in these times that we should make resolutions that go beyond the personal to those of public affairs (hence, political).

There are cases where I disagree with the very definition of resolution. One meaning of the word is to solve a problem, dispute, or reconcile a conflict. I think there are some issues that we should not try to reconcile, find a middle ground, or see another person's perspective. There are clear imperative rights and wrongs. Racism is wrong, anti-Semitism is wrong, sexism is wrong, etc. I can imagine people saying, wait we all agree to those sentiments. While I am hopeful that most of us do not make anti-Jewish comments, or use racial slurs, or make sexist statements, I do not think this is enough.

We live in a world where there are more and more people who skirt the edge or outright deny the dignity of groups of people. One resolution that we should consider is not to be silent when we hear such comments. For instance, I recently found myself in a conversation with someone who was against affirmative action and they quickly moved to stereotyping groups of people. I decided, in that moment, to continue to challenge the person's world view. There was a time I would have tried to make a comment that would diffuse the situation. However, I believe that silence is seen as agreement and we should challenge all statements that oppress or demean groups of people. As Elie Wiesel wrote, "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." I recognize that this is not easy especially with family and friends. However, resolutions are not meant to be easy. I wish all CJDS families a year that is full of successful personal and political resolutions.

Upcoming Events:

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| December 17 th | Ms. Kelly and Mr. Brent will host a coffee drop in the big room from 7:45-9:30 |
| December 20 th | We will continue to collect canned goods through January |
| December 21 | Frist day of winter break |

News and Notes:

Slow down – Please drive slowly through the parking lot. We all know this is a busy time of the year so please take it slow in the parking lot!

Registration – Please try to hand in registration forms next week.

Next week we will have a “Lost and found” table in the big room. Please check it prior to winter break as the items will be donated to charity during break.

Health Update

Each week I will supply a list of illnesses experienced by children and staff. This list is a compilation of the week as collected on Friday morning. I cannot guarantee that the list is comprehensive but we do our best.

- During this time of the year as illness increases I would like to remind you of some of our health policies that would exclude children from attending school.
 - A child who has not been fever free for twenty-four hours without the aid of a fever reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Advil.
 - Diarrhea in the previous 24 hours
 - Vomiting more than two times in the previous 24 hours
 - Abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours
 - Rash not due to allergies
 - A child cannot participate comfortably in school activities
- Our state supplies guidelines for exclusion at <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-011634.pdf>

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| Infants | One with a fever. |
| Ones | All well. |
| Twos | Several out with fevers. |
| Threes | One with a fever. |
| Fours | One with a fever. |
| K | All well. |
| 1st | One with a fever. |
| 2nd | All well. |
| 3rd | All well. |
| 4 th /5th | Two out with stomach virus and one with respiratory infection. |

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Meir