

Dear families,

We have had a busy week at CJDS. The fifth grade went on a three day overnight, the entire school celebrated Israeli Independence Day, and this newsletter will feature the first and second grade's civics project. In other news, we are getting ready for the fifth grade graduation which is in school on the evening of May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. All families are invited to the graduation.

This week the first and second graders appeared before Columbia City Council to see how their social studies work facilitated the dedication of an honorary street sign for civil rights leader, Modjeska Simkins. The signage comes after the children spent the fall with University of South Carolina social studies buddies, learning about Modjeska Simkins. Children discussed how Simkins was a leader in African American public health and social reform, and also discussed issues of racism and equity. The children wanted to know why Modjeska Simkins is not better known, and came up with ideas to celebrate her accomplishments. These included writing books about her life and culminated with the children making a formal request to the city council to honor Simkins with a street marker. Many months went by without hearing whether their request would be granted. The children were thrilled to be notified in late spring that City Council approved their request. About 15-20 of the children watched civics in action as they appeared at the City Council, met the mayor, took photos with the street sign and had the thrill of meeting Dr. Henrie Monteith Treadwell, Simkins' niece, the first African American student to attend the University of South Carolina since reconstruction. The event was featured on multiple group's websites and one of the photos of the children is being requested for a book about Columbia. This is another example of the amazing abilities of young children to understand complex ideas such as racism, use higher order thinking skills, and advocate for justice.

**Dates:**

May 30<sup>th</sup> Fifth grade graduation at 6:00pm – we encourage fourth grade families to attend graduation to be part of our traditional “passing of the torch” and invite all other families to attend.

**News and Notes:**

Beth has started rolling over tuition payment plans with Facts Management reflecting the 2019/2020 tuition rates. If you want to make changes on your payment plan, please contact her.

**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.

Infants	One out with a virus.
Ones	One out with an ear infection.
Twos	Two out with a virus.
Threes	All well.
Fours	All well.
K	All well.
1st	One out with pneumonia

2nd	All well.
3rd	All well.
4 <sup>th</sup>	All well.
5 <sup>th</sup>	One out with a virus.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Meir