



The Spark

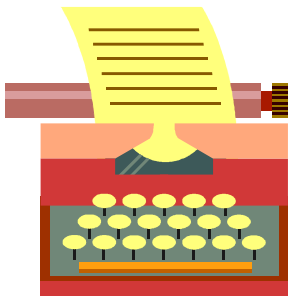
The Newspaper for the Lower School

Principal's Principles by Principal Gloria Kron

I am delighted to introduce the first issue of **The Spark**, the new Lower School newspaper. We debuted **The Spark** this fall and the response from our students has been tremendous. The hardworking staff, which currently includes more than 50 students in the fourth and fifth grades, has worked through many recess and lunch periods to bring you the best interviews, comics, puzzles and photographs that they can offer. I am very proud of **The Spark** staff and how hard they are working.

This year, Solomon Schechter students have been discussing several essential virtues. Our Middat HaChodesh for October was "Behave Honestly"

and we talked about being truthful in our words and deeds. Being committed to the truth enables us to resolve conflicts, live with courage and to realize our potential as moral beings. Being truthful is also essential to our **Spark** reporters. Several of the **Spark** reporters worked on exit polling during our Schechter election day, and I was pleased by their fair and honest reporting. In November, we discussed our need to show thoughtfulness, consideration and appreciation for others. These values are also necessary for such a large staff to work together on a group pro-



ject like **The Spark**. We are very excited about our new paper, and we expect **The Spark** to serve our community with integrity and thoughtfulness for many years to come.

Volume 1, Issue 1
December 2008



Our principal, Mrs. Kron, with fifth grade students Matt Blum and Zach Gordon.

Photo credit: Max Bruch

Welcome to the Spark by the Staff

We started **The Spark** this year with a great sense of adventure. We met in the library, the science room, the computer lab, and in the hallways. We've even skipped lunch in the pursuit of journalistic excellence. Our terrific staff deserves front-page credit. As for the salmon paper — we're following in the great tradition of the **Financial Times** and the **New York Observer**. Plus, the salmon paper was free!

Design

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Max Bruch, Solomon Zitter, Yonatan Rekem

Election Coverage

Ben Soudry, Shelly Tsurulik, Harrison Kusnierz, Matt Blum

Puzzles, Games and Comics

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Buddyographies by Annie Cannon, Emma Maiman-Stadtmauer, and Haylee Mevorah

Samara Elster

Samara Elster, a student in Gan A, loves her fifth grade buddy Sara Hessdorf very much. Samara's favorite specials are Art and Gym. She has Morah Shelly for English and Morah Miriam for Hebrew. This is Samara's first year at Schechter Lower School and she has made many new friends. Samara loves being read to during class. There are so many new things for Samara this year like sitting with people at lunch and having a buddy. She is so excited to be in Gan.

Sara Hessdorf

Sara Hessdorf, a student in 5Z, loves her Gan buddy Samara Elster very much. Sara's favorite specials are Art and Gym. She has Ms. Schwarzwald for English and Morah Bat Sheva for Hebrew. This is Sara's last year at Schechter Lower School and she has

made one new friend. Sara loves to listen to music whenever she can. There are a few brand new things for Sara this year like being in the oldest grade in the lower school and having a buddy. She is excited to be in the fifth grade.



Max Bruch with his Pre-K buddy Oren Ramer.

Photo credit: Solomon Zitter



Our fifth graders with their buddies. Here are Matt Blum, Jordan Broder and their Pre-K buddy Ilan Brauns.

Photo credit: Solomon Zitter

A Little Light on ... First Grade by Gabi Solomon

The first graders are geniuses. They are reading, writing, doing math, doing experiments and playing with words. They can't wait for Thanksgiving because they are going to get a packet on the Pilgrims. The first graders in Mrs. Bonder's class are doing great math games. In one of the games, they added and subtracted kids in their class. In Mrs. Friedman's class, the students are making words and unscrambling words. Morah Sharon's class is working hard on math and they are reading lots of great books. The whole first grade is doing interesting science experiments that

involve air and motion. The first graders and their teachers loved going to the Museum of Natural History and can't wait to go on more field trips. The first graders are enjoying their school year. They are truly amazing!



Have you seen this Gan A cutie? She is my buddy, Lilly Berman. Lilly loves to play, to draw, and the color pink and in my opinion, she is the cutest kindergartener.

Photo and text: Rebecca Cooper

Pre-K Buddy Interviews by Lauren Yagoda

The Spark: Let's hear what the Pre-K has to say about their buddies. Hi, what is your name?

Buddy: Isabella.

The Spark: What is your buddy's name?

Isabella: Lauren Yagoda.

The Spark: Is your buddy nice?

Isabella: Yes.

The Spark: Why?

Isabella: She is nice because she visits me a lot.

The Spark: Thanks, Isabella.

The Spark: Let's hear from another buddy. Hi, what is your name and what are your

buddies' names?

Buddy: My name is Oren and my buddies' names are Max and Andrew.

The Spark: Do you like your buddies a lot?

Oren: Yes.

The Spark: Why?

Oren: Because they are really nice to me.

The Spark: Thanks, Oren. Let's hear from one more buddy. Hi!

Buddy: Hi.



Some of our Gan buddies eating lunch.

Photo credit: Solomon Zitter

The Spark: What is your name?

Buddy: Danielle.

The Spark: Who is your buddy?

Danielle: Veronica.

The Spark: Is she nice?

Danielle: Yes.

The Spark: Why?

Danielle: Yes, because she visits me and is nice.

The Spark: You just heard from the buddies and they really like the fifth graders.

Sticky Situations by Lauren Yagoda

In English class, Joley can pick one partner for the mummy report. Molly asks Joley to work with her, but Joley responds that she wanted to work alone. After Molly leaves, Casey asks Joley to work with her. Joley is really good friends with Casey and wants to work with her, but she already told Molly that she was working alone. What should Joley do?

A: Work alone.

B: Tell Casey that Molly asked first, then work with Molly.

C: Work with someone else.

In gym class, Jill is chosen to be the girl's captain for the kickball game.



It's hard to know what to do in a Sticky Situation. Lauren Yagoda can help.

Jill sees her friend Nicole giving her a "pick me" look. Jill wants to pick Nicole, but Nicole is not good at sports and is always chosen last. While Jill feels bad for Nicole, she really wants to pick Lacey, an amazing kickball player who could win the game. Jill knows Nicole would be really happy if she was picked first. But Jill knows if she picks Nicole last, Nicole will be mad at her. But if Jill does not pick Lacey soon, she will not get her at all and lose the game. What should Jill do?

How should Jill solve her situation???

A: Pick Nicole first. Who cares if you win? It's just a game.

B: Pick Lacey first and pick Nicole

Fall Beauties by Rebecca Cooper

When I walk outside I see a beautiful red tree

Two other trees are just starting to turn red at the tips.

I feel the beautiful clear fall air on my face.

I hear the wind wiping the trees

and the leaves rustling in the grass. I taste fresh air running through my lungs,

and when it gets too cold, warm hot chocolate running down my throat.

I see the beauty of fall every-



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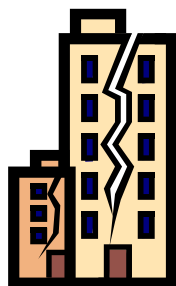
Earthquake by Rachel Wilf

I am an earthquake
Look at me

I make cracks in the
ground

People are usually
afraid of me

I flip houses
and make rum-



bling sounds

So if you like earthquakes,
live underground

Highways, roads and drive-
ways get damaged

so get out of the way be-
fore someone gets
hurt

I'm an Earthquake;



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Art by Kim Robins

SPORTS QUIZ

by Talia Cohen and Rebecca Gelman

- 1: How many outs are in an inning?
 A: 3 C: 6
 B: 5 D: 10
- 2: How many sets are in a men's tennis game?
 A: 3 C: 5
 B: 4 D: All of the above
- 3: How old do you have to be to play in most of the sports in the Olympics?
 A: 10 C: 35
 B: 16 D: What are the Olympics?
- 4: How many points is a field goal worth in football?
 A: 3 C: 8
 B: 5 D: 10
- 5: In swimming, what does Medley mean?
 A: Each person on a team does 25 laps of a different stroke
 B: Each person on a team does 100 laps of a different stroke
 C: Each person on a team does 50 laps of a different stroke
 D: All of the above
- 6: When did the 2008 Olympics start in Beijing?
 A: August 8, 2008 C: June 32, 2008
 B: September 5, 2007 D: July 18, 2008

(1) C, (2) D, (3) B, (4) A, (5) D, (6) A

School Days

by Jonah Platovsky and Nadav Aronoff

V F V C R Y E K Q S C D K V Y
 D H Y F R U F I I Q B F R G N
 P G M E A G U N N D L T O E X
 A D B I S E T D R E O S W E B
 U U T X O X S E N P P K E K A
 O K D X B T S R E T U P M O C
 A B S L D S F G G C G O O Y N
 R B E A C H D A Y C N W H R T
 X Q I O E Z A R S M I E V T A
 F A D G L Q A T B G V S I E G
 B E D C S R P E D R O P U C I
 E C U V B H K N H A M X K M S
 Y H B I R N T X B D W R M T P
 B U L S J E S Q V E S X M Z C
 K G E I N M Z R M D W V T F B

ART BEACHDAY BUDDIES
 COMPUTERS DRESSCODE GYM
 HOMEWORK KINDERGARTEN LIBRARY
 MOVINGUP MUSIC SCIENCE

Earthquake

by Matt White

I am an earthquake
 I'm very rumbling and shaky.
 You should go to the basement and cover
 your head so you don't get a dent.
 I could be dangerous, so be very careful
 and not playful.
 I usually come in California so know all
 the rules,
 Or else you're a fool.

Fall

by David Gonzales

I love fall.
 I love to watch the blue fall like sky.
 When I look out of my window I am shocked all the
 leaves are gone.
 Dogs are always sleeping by the heater on very cold
 days.
 And always hearing the wind blowing.
 Also hearing a lot of rain.

Do you follow the dress code? A Quiz by Talia Ramer and Sara Hessdorf

1. You get up in the morning. What shirt do you put on?

A: A cute top that says: "What are you looking at" with a bunch of big question marks in the back

B: A blue tank top with a yellow peace sign in the middle

C: A long-sleeved striped purple T

2. When you're cold, what sweater do you wear?

A: A hoodie with a big number on the front

B: A zipper down with a pink heart in the middle

C: A short sleeved polka-dot jacket

3. What do you wear on your head?

A: A green baseball cap that



What to wear?

you'll wear at recess

B: A purple beanie

C: A new white hat that you'll never take off

4. It's the beginning of October. What shoes do you put on?

A: flip flops

B: winter cross

Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?

by Rebecca Gelman, Eliana Sirkin, and Becky Barber

Here's the true story of Becky Barber vs. Morah Becky. It all happened in the Lower School library.

Question #1 (worth 50 points): What is 0.25×3 ?

Becky Barber buzzes in and gets the answer correct. Morah Becky buzzed in too slow. She claims she was eating her yogurt.

Question #2 (worth 100 points): How many permutations are there in sport?

Becky Barber buzzes in for the sec-

ond time and gets the answer correct. Morah Becky confesses she does not know the answer.

Question #3 (worth 50 points): What are three other names for Rosh Hashana in English or in Hebrew?

Becky Barber is on a roll. She buzzes in and is right again.

Question #4 (worth 50 points): Spell penultimate.

Will Becky Barber ever lose? She buzzes in and gets the answer correct *again*. Morah Becky defines the

word, but it is too late.

Question #5 (worth 20 points): What are three of the Jewish holidays in October?

Finally!! Morah Becky buzzes in and gets the answer correct!

Question #6 (worth 50 points): What does quotient mean?

Oh no!! Morah Becky buzzes in and gets the answer wrong!! Then, Becky Barber buzzes in and gets the answer correct.

Question #7 (worth 50 points): Is

Answer Key

Answer key (test yourself!!)

#1: 0.75 is the answer.

#2: 120. Morah Becky asked Mrs. Schwarzwald to



explain "permutation" to her. We think Morah Becky understands it now.

#3: Yom Truah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Hadeen.

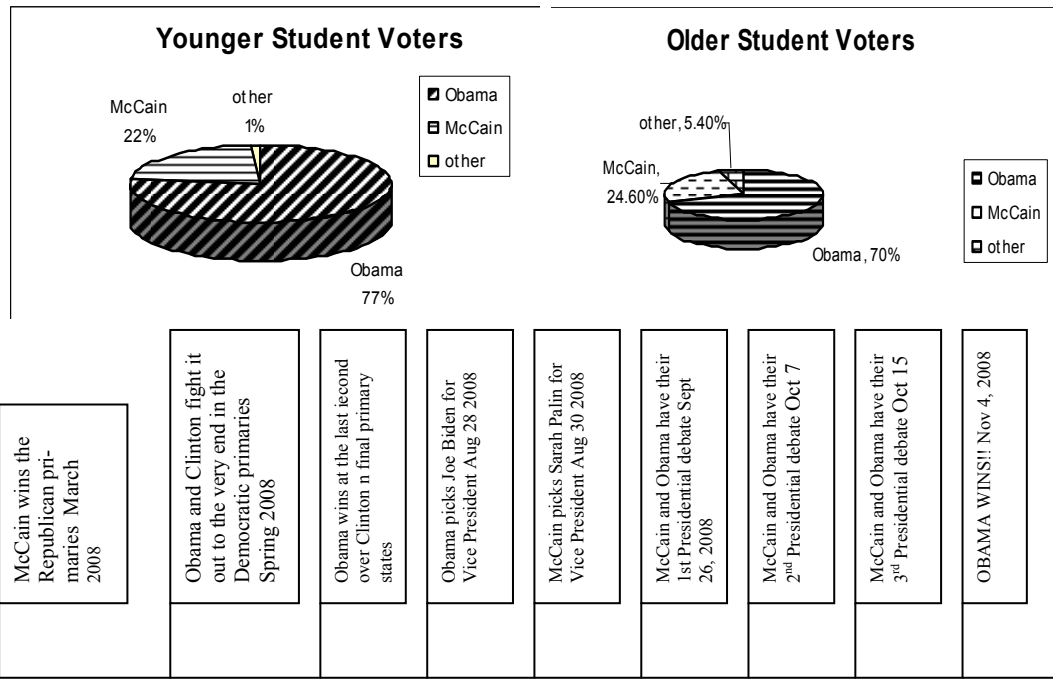
#4: p-e-n-u-l-t-i-m-a-t-e. Extra credit: It means next to last.

#5: Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah

#6: the number obtained by dividing one quantity by another. Morah Becky said it was a portion, but a fifth grader knows that definition is not accurate enough.

#7: Why, yes! The word is Pseudop-

Election Special Poll Results by Ben Soudry



Our analysis showed that younger kids voted in greater numbers for Obama and other, but older students voted divided between McCain and Obama. We did not see significant differences by gender. Additional reporting by Jacob Gutstein, Harrison Kusnierz, Jordan Bialik and Matt Blum.

The timeline to the left was created by Shelly Tsirulik.

Election Timeline by Shelly Tsirulik

Spring 2008: Obama and Clinton fight it out to the very end in the Democratic primaries – Obama and Clinton are battling in every state. Obama wins, Clinton wins, Obama, Clinton. You get the picture.

June 4, 2008: Obama wins at the last second over Clinton – through the help of superdelegates, Obama beats Clinton by an inch. What is a superdelegate? It means someone who has been chosen to attend the Democratic National Convention in order to select the Presidential nominee. A Democratic candidate needs 2,118 superdelegate votes. During the spring, many superdelegates switched their votes to Obama. On

June 4, Obama reached that number and became the nominee. Republicans don't use superdelegates.

August 28, 2008: Obama picks Joe Biden for Vice President – Senator Biden of Delaware is chosen by Obama to be the Vice President nominee.

August 30, 2008: McCain picks Sarah Palin for Vice President – McCain picks Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska for his Vice President.

McCain and Obama have their 1st 2nd and 3rd debates – All of the debates were thought as very dull. They didn't sway

many people to vote one way or another. Viewers and reporters found the debates boring, especially because there were no "surprise" moments. Many people, including myself, fast forwarded through much of them.

OBAMA WINS!!!—In a landslide, Obama wins it all. While McCain wins many states, they have few electoral votes. Obama gives a moving victory speech and reaches across party lines. This historic night draws tears from many African-Americans. At least one million people attended President-Elect Obama's rally in Chicago.

In Other Election News..... by Greg Irwin

This election year, there were many state elections besides the election for the President. In Minnesota, a Senate race has ended in a statistical tie with 2.9 million votes cast. Senator Norm Coleman received about 42% of the vote, and his challenger Al Franken also received about 42% of the vote. Now there has to be a recount of

all the votes. The recount starts December 5 and it will take a few weeks to finish. Both Senator Coleman and Franken are challenging many ballots across the state.

In our next issue, The Spark will update the results of this fascinating race.



Andrew Schwartz helps a voter. Photo credit: Yonatan Rekem

Endangered Animals by Hannah Drill

Golden Monkey by Hannah Kramer

Sea turtles are endangered because of air pollution, accidental capture in fisheries, and pollution of the ocean.

We can help these sea turtles by donating money to the WWF organization <http://www.worldwildlife.org>. Please try to help!

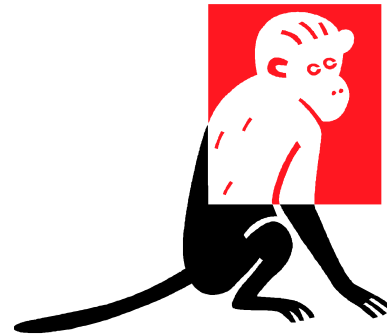
Whales are brave and big sea animals but they are in big need of help because people are killing them. They are killing them for their blubber (whale fat), to make lamp oil and to make soap and candles. Isn't that disturbing? To help them you can donate money to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society at <http://www.seashepherd.org>. Please help them! Tigers are beautiful big cats. We have to help them. They are in a lot of danger.

People are killing tigers to make trophies out of them and to trade and sell their organs for money. This is very important. Help the tigers!



Many animals are endangered, like this beautiful whale.

The Golden Lion Tamarin is reddish orange to golden brown in color. Its hair is longer around the throat and darker around the face, creating a mane on top of its head, cheeks and throat. The Golden Lion Tamarin is endangered mainly because of logging and agriculture. It is one of the rarest animals in the world. There are only about 490 individuals in zoos and an estimated 1000 living in the wild.



Have You Heard of Fat Cat Comics? by Rebecca Cooper

Have you heard of Fat Cat comics? It is the latest and greatest comic on earth. It is about a fat cat and fat dog and they make fat fun and hilarious. Have you even heard about the fat cat fan club? It's the fan club all about fat cat and fat dog. If you want to sign up, do it fast because it's the club everyone wants to be in. Fat cat maker Talia Ramer has had an excellent start to the series with her first 3 issues. Be sure to read and sign up for the fat cat fan club.

Now we go to Talia to ask her about her life. "Talia, what inspired you to write a comic

about a fat cat and fat dog?" asks Spark. "I was never good at drawing cats or dogs and I found a cute way to draw them and it turned out they were fat." You'll see some Fat Cat comics in future issues of The Spark.



Join The Spark!

The Spark is a newspaper where kids write and illustrate **EVERYTHING!!** All you have to do to get your article is: Put your ideas on blank white paper. Give it to a Spark member or to Mrs. Kurson.

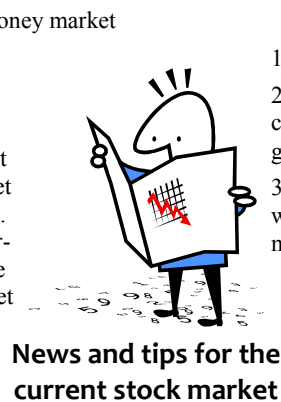
Look for your article in the Spark! Better yet, participate in our meetings!

The Economic Crisis by Andrew Schwartz

The current economic crisis is the worst since the Great Depression. The crisis of 2008 started when many banks went bankrupt because banks lent money to people with poor credit and the borrowers couldn't pay it back. It's also a time where many people are losing their jobs because companies are struggling. The price of food and other material goods are going way up, which is causing more people to go bankrupt. The price of material goods are going up from inflation which is when money buys less than it did. The housing market is crashing because people are not repaying their loans.

Because of the crisis, the government has decided to give 700 billion dollars to the banks that are going bankrupt. The government will

give 540 billion dollars to help money market mutual funds. Even though the government is coming up with many ways to solve the crisis it could take months or years to get out of the crisis because in the last nine months the worldwide market appears to be entering a recession. But since the American stock market is down so much, it is the time to buy not sell. Because the market is close to the bottom, you can get stocks cheap and in a few years you could sell the stock for a lot more.



Tips

1. Buy, don't sell
2. Don't be afraid to buy because eventually the market will go back up
3. Don't sell because if you just wait a year you could get a lot more for selling the same thing.



Spark reporter Ben Soudry does exit polling with voter Fanya Hoffman
Photo credit: Yonatan Rekem



Exit pollers Jacob Gutstein and Matt Blum, above
Exit pollers Shelly Tsirulik and Harrison Kusnierz, below
Photo credit: Yonatan Rekem



Art by Yael Bloom



David Goes to School

(A Preview)

Art and text by David Gonzales. Inspired by David Gonzales and Greg Irwin.

