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It was an exciting fall soccer season, which had WFHA competing against schools throughout Fairfield and Westchester counties. School spirit soared as parents, teachers and fellow students spent many autumn afternoons cheering on the sidelines for the WFHA Hawks. The school finished the season with four wins and one tie game.

Having a 'Ball' Celebrating Inauguration

There were a whopping 10 Inaugural Balls in our nation's capital, but there was only one in Connecticut — at Westchester Fairfield Hebrew Academy.

Dressed in suits, ties, and their prettiest dresses, WFHA's third graders came to school on Inauguration Day, ready not only to witness the swearing in of our 44th President, but to also celebrate with their own Inaugural Ball.

"We watched as all the living past presidents arrived, we sat silently as Obama took the oath of office, and we listened intently to Obama's Inaugural Address," said third grade general studies teacher Hilary Machlis. "On his way to the parade route, Obama made a guest appearance at 270 Lake Avenue, and we seized the opportunity to give him some advice from many famous presidents of the past. Then we

celebrated with a beautiful flag cake, learned to tango, and played Presidential Jeopardy."

Once Obama officially became president, each of the third graders pretended to be a representative of a past president and spoke directly to a life-size, and very life-like, cut out of Obama.

They offered some sage advice. As a representative of Bill Clinton, Jennifer Steinmetz said, Be nice and honest to your family and your country. He was very embarrassed in front of the American people and he would not want to see any other president be so embarrassed."

Eliana Safer, representing Herbert Hoover, warned, "People might blame you for what is happening to the economy now. Herbert Hoover would tell you, in a strong voice, that you should do what you think is right to help the economy, not what other people think."

Inauguration Day was festive throughout WFHA, as the campus proudly displayed its red, white and blue with streamers and flags. Teachers and staff gathered at satellite locations throughout campus to watch the events live and to witness history unfold.

WFHA Brings MLK's Vision Alive

Grasping placards and their favorite stuffed animals, WFHA's kindergarteners donned winter jackets and excitedly waited to walk outside into the softly falling snow.

"We are going to rally," yelled out excited kindergartener, Eli Brennan, whose placard read, "Save the Polar Bears." After learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the powerful impact peaceful protesting had on the civil rights movement, kindergarteners staged their own protest and voted to take on the cause of endangered animals.

About 40 strong, the group of tiny demonstrators sang, "We Shall Save the Animals," to the tune of the 60's protest anthem, "We Shall Overcome." Their voices filled the air, as they marched proudly around campus with their message.

The kindergarten protest was one of many activities taking place on WFHA's campus throughout the Martin Luther King holiday, a day in which the school remained open for a day of learning about this important historical figure.

In the Middle School, each eighth grader took on the persona of a famous civil rights activist including Jessie Jackson, Linda Brown, Rosa Parks and Ruby Bridges. Sixth and seventh graders rotated from room to room where each of the "activists" spoke to them about the impact they had on history.

"Without Martin Luther King, people would still be segregated. We have to be very thank-

ful. This world would never have become what it is today," said eighth grader Rachel Kwan, who represented King.

The Middle School also gathered to watch Israeli hip-hop violinist Miri Ben-Ari's video, "Symphony of Brotherhood." Ben-Ari uses MLK's "I Have a Dream Speech" as a backdrop to her electrifying performance. Then, the students each contributed to a large civil rights era timeline and wrote their own lyrics to the Beatles ballad, "Imagine."

The group spent the afternoon at the Greenwich Bruce Museum where they watched

pel Choir perform, and wrapped up the busy day with King's "I See the Promised Land" speech.

Meanwhile, numerous activities were taking place elsewhere around campus, including a performance of "The Montgomery Bus Boycott" by the PALS fourth and fifth grade class.

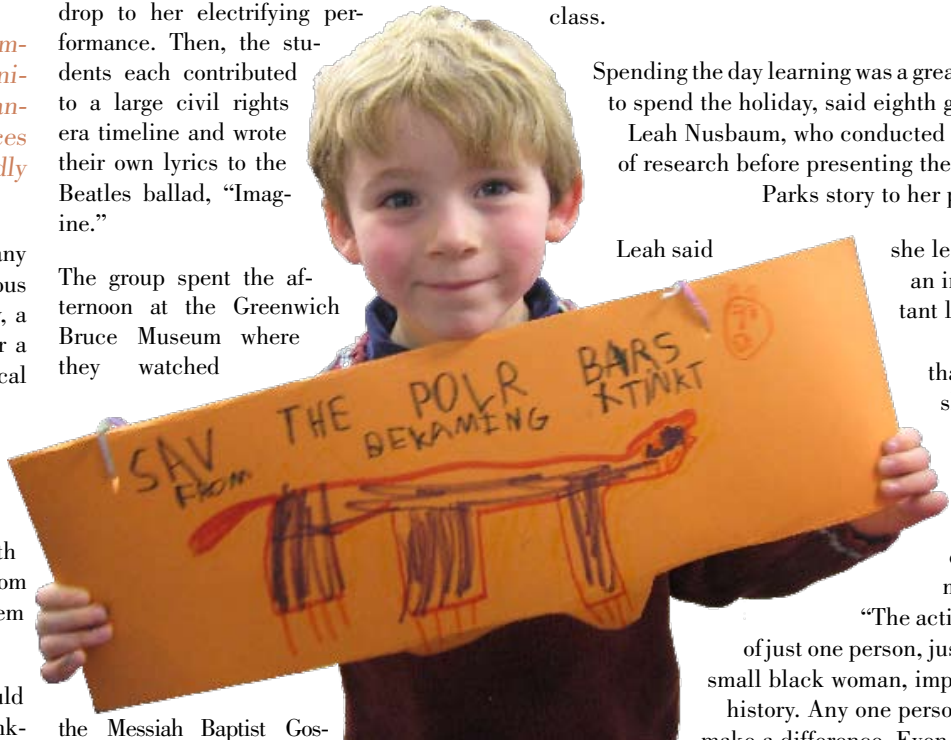
Spending the day learning was a great way to spend the holiday, said eighth grader Leah Nusbaum, who conducted hours of research before presenting the Rosa Parks story to her peers.

Leah said

she learned an important lesson — one that she shared with her

classmates.

"The activities of just one person, just one small black woman, impacted history. Any one person can make a difference. Even you."



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Shabbat Shalom



Kindergarteners Shabbat

Kindergarteners welcomed their families to Kabbalat Shabbat. Parents and grandparents toured the kindergarten's

Bresheet Museum, viewing exhibits that drew upon the students' study of the days of creation. The children created an artistic representation of their idea of God's most challenging day. They then delighted their guests with song and dance, which was followed with a festive brachot. The children created their own decorative challah covers, teachers created whimsical Kiddush cups, and each parent created colorful candlesticks. Kabbalat Shabbat gave families a delightful window into the warmth and joy the kindergarten shares together as it welcomes Shabbat

WFHA's Hoops for Heart Fundraiser a Slam Dunk

A recent effort to raise money for the American Heart Association was a slam dunk for WFHA's students.

The student body raised almost \$3,000 for Hoops For Heart, a fundraiser that culminated in a fun-filled event where the young athletes got to show off their basketball skills.

"It brought our school together as a community to raise awareness for an important health issue," said Coach Brian Rosa. "The kids showed a tremendous amount of school spirit."

The money raised supports heart and stroke research, as well as educational programs. At the same time, Hoops for Heart encourages children to learn more about the disease and become physically active, said Rosa, adding that this is WFHA's second year participating in the event.

After three weeks collecting donations, the students honored those contributions by taking to the basketball court. More than 60 students gathered in the gymnasium to rotate through stations that challenged their dribbling, passing and shooting skills. They also competed in a knockout tournament and a shootout competition.

The aspiring basketball stars were also treated to a special visitor — BB, the mascot of the Bridgeport Bluefish. "When I found out how much money we raised, I thought 'Yikes!'" said fifth-grader Michael Moerdler-Green. "I would like to raise even more money next year."

"It made me feel good to know I helped raise money for research," said fifth-grader Meira Gilbert. "I know it's really important to help other people. And it was fun because Coach Brian set up a lot of fun activities for us."

March '09

- 04 Math night
- 10 School-wide Purim Celebration
- 15 Erev Tor Dinner Dance
- 17 First Grade Publishing Party
- 18 3rd Grade Bresheet Ceremony
- 19 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 20 Staff Day - School Closed
- 25 2nd Grade Chumash Ceremony
- 25 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 29 Science Fair

April '09

- 01 5th Grade Greek Symposium
- 07 8th Grade Israel Sendoff
- 08 WFHA Closed for Passover
Resumes April 20th
- 21 Yom HaShoah Commemoration
- 28 Yom HaZikaron Memorial
- 29 Yom HaAtzmaut Celebrations

E2K Team takes First Place in International Science Contest

It has been a banner year for WFHA's Excellence 2000 team, which won first place in a challenging international science competition early this month.

The team, made up of sixth, seventh and eighth graders, competed against their peers from all over the world in a two-hour contest that tested their knowledge of color and light, buoyancy and density.

"None of the answers were obvious. They each took deep scientific knowledge to answer," said Rhonda Ginsberg, who heads E2K at WFHA and guides the students to use logic, analysis, creativity and team work to approach science and math problems.

The students really worked together as a team, conducting the experiments and debating their final answers, Morah Rhonda said.

E2K, a program developed in Israel as a method to teach math and science to gifted students, is administered through the Gruss Foundation in

the United States. Three times a year the foundation runs contests for participating schools.

"I didn't think we would win, but when we started to answer every question right I thought we had a chance," said sixth-grader Shara Safer, adding that she and her teammates spent the weeks leading up to the contest researching the scientific concepts that would be tested.

When the two-hour competition was finished, waiting to hear the results was a nail-biting experience, said sixth-grader Eitan Barkow.

"When they announced the winners and I heard we didn't get second place, I thought, 'At least we tried,' he said. "Then, they announced that we won first place. Everyone started to shriek



Photo credit: WFHA

and jump up and down, even Morah Rhonda started to bounce off the walls. It was hilarious."

This is the second international E2K contest WFHA students have placed in. A team of WFHA students received a trophy from the Gruss Foundation in November, recognizing their second place win in an international E2K math competition last school year.

THE PHOTO GALLERY



From upper left to lower right: MLK; Kabbalat Shabbat; Soccer game; Girls Soccer; Kindergarten's Noah and the Ark; Obama Inauguration Day