

KOLENU | THE VOICE OF SHA



SEATTLE
HEBREW
ACADEMY



OFFICERS

Karen Naggar
President

Jamison Russ
First Vice President

Ilana Segal
Second Vice President

Jason Shindler
Treasurer

Janna Harel
Secretary

Ben Lipman
Member-at-Large

Naomi Newman
Immediate Past President

TRUSTEES

Etan Basseri

Jared Brown

David Barak

Hanoch Feit

Rebecca Angel-Feuer

Cynthia Gamel

Li-or Holtzman

Liz Roth

Elizabeth Sytman

Rabbi Avi Rosenfeld
Ex-Officio

Rabbi Ben Hassan
Ex-Officio

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Rabbi Benjy Owen

KOLENU | SHA 2023-24

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present our 5784 edition of *Kolenu* | *The Voice of SHA*.

Since October 7th, the Jewish People have encountered great pain and sadness, but the everlasting beauty of *Am Yisrael* is our focus on communal strength and hope for our future. Since that day, SHA has reinforced our commitment to our core values, including providing a safe and secure campus, creating immersive learning opportunities for all our students, engaging our students in Torah study and deeply connecting them with Israel. Through *tefillah*, *chesed*, *tzedakah*, and activism, our school community, together with Jews in Seattle, Israel, and all over the world, have built an incredible sense of *achdut* (unity).

Our community recently celebrated SHA's storied history. For 75 years, SHA has provided an excellent Judaic and General Studies education, creating a lasting impact on our alumni and the greater Jewish community. Our alumni are proud to be Jewish, to call Israel their home, to hold our values and traditions close, and to engage in building a bright Jewish future in Seattle and across the world.

The SHA campus is vibrant. In addition to our rigorous program of Judaic and General Studies, we have launched new initiatives this year to better serve our families. The *Gesher Program for Learning Support* offers enrichment and remediation through Learning Specialists, Speech, Language and Occupational Therapy and Behavioral Services. Our new *After School Enrichment* and *Camp Shemesh* programs offer educational and play opportunities outside of the regular school day. Connected with our 75th Anniversary, we launched the *Live.Learn.Play Campaign* to renew, refresh and re-imagine many shared spaces.

To further strengthen our connection to Israel, SHA is thrilled to welcome the Yoavs, a *shaliach* family from Israel. Moreh Shahar and Morah Haggit Yoav and their children have made an incredible impact since their arrival in August.

SHA is also hosting another dedicated Shinshinit this year, Hallel Cohen. The Yoavs and Shinshinit Hallel, working together with our Judaic Studies and Hebrew language teachers, are building deep awareness of Israel and strong connection to the land and its people.

A strong school community augments all of our work and parent engagement is a major priority. Our PTO is flourishing with new and improved programming and parent volunteerism is increasing. This year, we offer regular Torah learning programs for parents including at *Monthly Mifgash* before Rosh Chodesh and as part of the quarterly *EC Hop* programs.

As we reflect on this year's achievements and on our school's remarkable journey, we are filled with gratitude for all our supporters. We are thankful to our generous donors including our critical partner, *Samis Foundation*, as well as the *J-Z Greenberg Education Foundation*. Your commitment has been instrumental to our success, and we look forward to our continued growth and the accomplishments that lie ahead.

*May we continue to go
from strength to strength!*

Yours truly,
RABBI BENJY OWEN
HEAD OF SCHOOL



RABBI OWEN WITH THE
EAGLES AND EIGHTH
GRADE CLASS



MISSION STATEMENT

Seattle Hebrew Academy is an Early Childhood through 8th grade Modern Orthodox Jewish day school. We provide our students, families, and community a school of excellence, founded on love of God and Torah, and inspiring academics within an atmosphere of k'vod hatalmid, student dignity.

We develop students of character and integrity through pursuing Torah knowledge and secular studies, connection to the State of Israel, and commitment to our Ashkenazic and Sephardic heritage. We prepare future generations to lead lives of service and mitzvot and to perpetuate our Torah and traditions in Seattle, Israel, and worldwide.

SHA BY THE NUMBERS



Celebrating our **75th Year**

.....
Total enrollment: **173**

.....
Growth since 2022: **17%**

.....
Zip Codes represented: **23**

.....
Current students of alumni: **53**

.....
New families since 2022: **45**

.....
Building age: **115 years**
(listed on the historical registry)

.....
Number of challahs baked
by EC this year: **1190**

.....
100% SHA family participation in our
Light the Way Campaign

.....
Alumni faculty: **15**

.....
Middle School Truman Scholars: **5**

.....
Annual budget: **\$5.2 Million**

.....
2023 Total Funds Raised for
Operations: **\$715,000**



**DR. ARI
AND LI-OR
HOLTZMAN**

“

*Seattle Hebrew Academy
has exceeded our
expectations in every
way. Each of our
children is appropriately
challenged through
excellent academics
and interactive
programming.*

**RABBI
RAPHAEL AND
DR. SHIRA
KATSMAN**

“

*As parents of five SHA
alumni, we are so
grateful for the excellent
Judaic and General
education our children
received and for the
teachers, administration
and staff who educate
and instill Jewish values
while modeling midot
tovot, inspiring our
children to learn and
give back to the Jewish
community.*

NEW INITIATIVES



GESHER PROGRAM

In consultation with the University of Washington's Haring Center for Educational Inclusion and building on the foundation of our Learning Center Team, SHA launched the **Gesher Program** – our Student Services Department. As the name describes, this initiative creates bridges of support for our students and families to have successful educational experiences.

ISRAELI SHLICHIM

We are privileged to host our *shlichim*, **Moreh Shahar**, **Morah Haggit** and their four children. The Yoavs significantly contribute to our community by teaching Torah, instilling a profound love for the State of Israel, and expanding the reach of Hebrew and Judaic Studies education at SHA.



AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

This program caters to students from Early Childhood to 8th Grade. The wide array of classes includes Hebrew reading support, coding, robotics, art, science, homework assistance, study hall, and more.

CAMP SHEMESH – EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMP

In June 2023, SHA launched **Camp Shemesh**. EC Students had a blast on the SHA campus with a flurry of developmentally appropriate camp activities and exciting weekly themes.



LIVE.LEARN.PLAY CAMPAIGN

In honor of our 75th year, SHA launched the **Live.Learn.Play Campaign** to revitalize our shared spaces. These enhancements to security, playgrounds, and the Newman Salon, will provide our students with increased opportunities to learn and grow in spaces that better promote creativity, connection, and collaboration.

2023-24 SPOTLIGHTS

PROJECT SHALOM

SHA's Project SHAlom is the integration of two nationally recognized programs: **Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)** and **Responsibility-Centered Discipline (RCD)**.

The goal of Project SHAlom is to reinforce our core values:

- Being ready, respectful and responsible
- Acting with empathy and kindness
- Building community

Through Project SHAlom, SHA provides a nurturing environment that promotes spiritual development, academic achievement and emotional well-being.



TEFILAH



5TH GRADE ISLANDWOOD TRIP



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEAKER SERIES



EC-8TH GRADE BUDDIES

JOIN US FOR SCHOOL TOUR

Contact Sharon Mezistrano, Director of Admissions
206.323.5750, Ext. 203 | smezistrano@sha613.org

8TH GRADE ISRAEL CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE



SCIENCE



TZEDAKAH



EC MINDFUL MOVEMENT



IVRIT



ATHLETICS

RABBI AVI AND RACHEL ROSENFELD

“

We moved to Seattle from New York in 2011, three days before the school year started. Seattle Hebrew Academy quickly became our community and the main institution representing our family, welcoming us, guiding us, and helping raise our children.

LESLIE ROSEN

“

SHA has been a warm and welcoming environment for both me and my son. I know that when I drop him off each morning, he will be having fun, learning, cared for, and thriving.

1617 Interlaken Drive East
Seattle, WA 98112
seattlehebrewacademy.org



SEATTLE
HEBREW
ACADEMY



SCAN HERE TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT SHA



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

SAVE THE DATES | 2024

STEM FAIR

Thursday, March 14



GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDFRIENDS DAY

Friday, May 10



EIGHTH GRADE COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, June 9

