



For Immediate Release

For school information:

Emma Sandler, JCDS, Boston's Jewish Community Day School

617-972-1733 / emmas@jcdsboston.org

For program information:

Lisa Inberg, RAVSAK

212-665-1320 / linberg@ravsak.org

JCDS: Art and Text study coming together in the RAVSAK Network

Tevet 6, 5774 / December 9, 2013: This semester, JCDS along with 28 other schools from across North America, participated in the RAVSAK Art Contest. As a RAVSAK member school, our student artists had the opportunity to relate their creative expression to rich Jewish content and to reflect deeply on the meaning and possibilities of Jewish art.

In partnership with the Aleph Society's Global Day of Jewish Learning, RAVSAK presents a prestigious and impressive contest that allows our students to compete and share their works with students across the country and beyond.

This year, our students studied Jewish text on the theme Creation and Creativity, engaging them in Jewish text learning and reflection that empowered them to build upon the teachings and insights of Jewish tradition. The program engages students in a multidisciplinary study of Jewish studies and art combining intensive text interpretation leading into the production of visual art. Finally, our students produced an artist's statement explaining how their work grew out of their interpretation of sacred text. The student entries are judged by artists and art teachers, who have been struck both by the maturity of Jewish expression and by the facility in various artistic media.

Reading and seeing the student's interpretations of Jewish sources attest to the positive impact of studying Jewish texts on student's lives. This year our students work will be judged by renowned and distinguished individuals including, Jason Hutt, digital media artist and director, Tirtzah Bassel, visual artist and a member of the visual arts faculty at the Brandeis Institute for Music and Art and Professor Judah Cohen, associate professor of musicology and professor of Jewish Culture at Indiana University.

Student artworks:



Creation Mural - Gan Nitzan (Kindergarten)

The students in Gan Nitzan completed a cumulative mural of creation. Over the course of a week, the students added new elements to the mural through different media to represent what they learned about each day of creation. The final product expresses the emergence of *seder* (order) from *tovu va'vohu* (chaos).



B'reishit Museum - Kitat Oren (First Grade)

The students in Kitat Oren made individual collages of different parts of creation, including details that came directly from the Hebrew text. This museum display also includes watercolor speech bubbles to convey the idea that HaShem created the world through speech.



The Image of HaShem - Kitat Oren (First Grade)

"And G-d created the Adam in His image." The students in Kitat Oren had many questions about this verse, "If HaShem is invisible, how can we be created in His image?" "If every person is different, how can we all be in the same image?" Recognizing that we can never see HaShem, students wrote and drew about how their actions - not their appearance - can reflect the spark of HaShem that is inside each one of us. A small mirror is next to each student's name to remind us that every human being is a reflection of HaShem.

Our students are not only studying, interpreting and creating pieces of artwork from the text, but are also finding ways to make Jewish learning a relevant and meaningful part of their lives. The RAVSAK Art Contest engages students both by studying Jewish texts and inviting students to think critically and act creatively, with the freedom to explore what these texts might mean for them personally and in the wider world.

About RAVSAK: RAVSAK is a 21st century network of 130 Jewish day schools throughout North America and internationally. RAVSAK creates and manages high quality, cutting-edge opportunities fostering learning and professional growth for administrative leaders, teachers and students and works to strengthen and sustain the life, leadership and learning of Jewish community day schools, ensuring a vibrant Jewish future.

About JCDS: JCDS combines scholastic excellence and joyful learning in an intentionally pluralist K-8 school community that fosters Jewish values, Hebrew, innovation, curiosity, and respect.