

How the Rashi Community Learned and Lived Tikkun Olam and Tzedek this Year 2010/11 – 5771

set a Rashi record for collecting and delivering over 200 cans of soup for the **Newton Food Pantry** (kindergarten)...raised \$800 to support the **Haifa Fire Department** following the fire in Israel (Rashi community)...helped lead *Kabbalat Shabbat* at **NewBridge** once a month in honor of his upcoming Bar Mitzvah (Zach B.- 6th grader)...dedicated a morning of volunteering with three of our community partners: **Dedham Food Pantry** (6th grade), **Cradles to Crayons** (7th gr.) and **Second Step** (8th grade)...hosted a delicious faculty/staff lunch to benefit **Team Samantha** (Yachad) and participated in the **Geared Up for Kids Bike Ride** to benefit *Team Samantha* and the **PLGA foundation** (Rashi faculty)...invited family and friends to make a donation to **JNF** (in lieu of birthday gifts) following the fire in Israel (Eli R. – 3rd grader)...played dreidel, lit candles, shared Chanukah memories and sang our hearts out with **NewBridge** residents (Rashi families)...wrote a moving prayer that expresses wishes and hopes for the people of Israel in honor of *Yom Ha'azmaut* (1st gr.)...collected shoes for children and adults in Uganda supported by **Connect Africa** (Sam C. and the 3rd gr.)...made beautiful winter hats for children that were donated to **Horizons for Homeless Children** in connection with their study of shelter and clothing as basic human needs (1st gr.)...welcomed Jim Sebenius and Nancy Buck, parents of Isaac S.- 8th grader, to learn about conflict resolution and peace, the mediation process and workshop techniques to bring disputing countries and individuals together. (8th grade)...explored the meaning of peace, peacemaking, teamwork, standing up for yourself and taking care of people in our community (kdg)...channeled their love for dancing into the **Mitzvah Dance Group** and performed for the residents of NewBridge (4th and 5th gr. students)...participated in the **Walk for Hunger** for our 16th year and raised over \$600.00 for **Project Bread** (Rashi community)... started a new fabulous **JCL partnership with the Curran Early Childhood Education Center** in Dedham as weekly literacy buddies in connection with **JCRC** (ms students)...participated in the **Purim Tamchui Consensus Meeting** to determine how middle school chips would be allocated to the five organizations (MS students)... did the **ALS Walk** and walked three miles with her friend, Marley, to show support to her mom who has the disease...(Yael B. – 2nd grader)...researched and taught their families about three important *Tzedakah* Heroes whose work involves water: **Ryan Hreljac/Ryan's Well**, **George Archibald/The International Crane Foundation** and **Amir Yechieli**/an Israeli teacher who devises systems to recycle rain water (2nd gr.)...designed and sold **Yemin Orde** bracelets to benefit the **Yemin Orde Foundation** in honor of his *Bar Mitzvah* (Zak S. –7th grader...transformed her new love for knitting into a special project called **Knots for Love** where she knitted bookmarks and bracelets to benefit *Team Samantha* (Shoshi C. – 4th gr.)...launched 3 nine week initiatives with the residents in **Memory Support at NewBridge** to build relationships, understanding and positive experiences with each middle school grade level group (6th,7th and 8th graders)...welcomed **Max Michaelson, a Holocaust survivor**, to share his powerful experiences as part of our observance of **Yom Hashoah** (5th – 8th graders) ...made and sold paper crane magnets out of beautiful origami paper and donated the proceeds to the **Jewish Coalition for Japan Relief** (Abby R. and Lila K – 5th graders)...volunteered with a classmate at **NewBridge** and helped out with Shabbat services and dinners in connection with her *Bat Mitzvah* (Sophia Korostoff – Larsson – 7th grader) ...brainstormed, discussed and voted on allocating their class *tzedakah* funds to buy cans of soup for the **Newton Food Pantry** (kdg. class)...Read and discussed thirty-three outstanding children's books (treasures) that each illuminated a

specific *mitzvah* and taught us something valuable about how we each could make the world a better place (1st gr.)...Spotlighted, learned about and honored an amazing group of organizations this year for our 16th annual **Purim Tamchui Project**(**Katie's Kroops, Little Red Wagon Foundation, Yemin Orde, Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute and More Than Words**)...Brainstormed, discussed, fundraised, shopped and delivered over 40 "goody bags" of stuffed animals and favorite children's books to **Dr. Deborah Frank** for the children of the **Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center (The Panzies 4th gr. Mitzvah Group)**...invited to be the FIRST youth representative to the **Bridge Builders of The Lenny Zakim Fund** for leading the MS student leaders in social justice initiatives and in helping organize different efforts to support programs connected to the LZF (Alex G. – 8th grader)...Highlighted and connected with two middle school aged children who have started their own organizations and are making a huge impact on the world around them (**Katie Stagliano and Zach Bonner**)...brainstormed, discussed and voted on allocating their class *tzedakah* funds to support **Israel** following the fires (kdg)...wrote cards and letters to the American troops overseas at *Pesach* time in connection with the **Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute** (2nd – 8th graders)...collected items for the **Animal Rescue League of Boston** in honor of his *Bar Mitzvah* (Adin I., 7th grader)...participated in the **Audubon bird-a-thon** that involved identifying over 100 species to raise money for the **Audubon sanctuary at Drumlin Farm** and help fund some of their programs at Rashi (Shoshana B.- 6th gr., Miriam B – 4th gr. and Jonah B. – 4th gr.)...collected food and toiletries to support the **Dedham Food Pantry, Family Table and the Women's Lunch Place** for our annual **Sukkot Mitzvah Bag Project** (Rashi community)...created **The Pencil Project** and collected used pencils in every grade to distribute to a school in Kenya where his family will be volunteering this summer (Zac G., kdg student)...celebrated its 16th year with the residents of *Hebrew Senior Life* (and its first year at *NewBridge*) creating joy, memorable moments and special friendships at the Health Care Center (**The Mitzvah Maker Program**)...read the Simon Wiesenthal's memoir, **The Sunflower**, and participated in a debate on whether or not a repentant Nazi soldier on his deathbed should have been forgiven for his crimes (8th graders)...brainstormed, discussed and voted on allocating their final class *tzedakah* collection to purchase *Pillow Pets* for children affected by the tornado and to support Israel (kdg)...launched a unique recycling project in connection with **Causes International** that turns electronic waste into funding for Rashi (Rashi community) ...educated and inspired her classmates to donate their class' *tzedakah* collection to a **Reform congregation in Joplin, MO** whose congregants were affected by the tornado (Izzy Klein and her 3rd grade class)...rode stationary bikes to support **Alyn Children's Hospital**, made toys for cats and dogs for the **Dedham Animal Shelter** and collected toiletries for **The Women's Lunch Place** during Rashi's Dedication Day (Rashi community)... promoted and sold fair trade products for five years and was placed on the **Jewish Fair Trade Honor Roll of Equal Exchange** (Yachad and The Rashi School)...reconnected with **Clean the World** and organized a drive to collect 300 bars of soap for the people of Haiti which would represent one bar per Rashi student (Jak H. - 6th grader)...created special bookmarks for children at **Yemin Orde** (3rd – 5th graders) and held a book drive to help re-build the library there that was destroyed by the fire (Rashi community)...harvested 4500 pounds of potatoes on a privately owned farm in connection with **Leket Israel**, a food rescue program in Israel, that provided for 200 families that week (8th graders)... **reached out to one another at school and in the greater community – in times of joy and great sadness - with compassion, kavod, ruach and kindness (Rashi community)...**

And our work continues...

B'kavod from the Social Justice Office