



# WHAT'S NU?

## SCHECHTER UPDATES

[www.ssdsabq.org](http://www.ssdsabq.org)

December 5, 2008

8 Kislev 5769

**A beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico**

### Dr. Weil's Corner

I have been reading and hearing about how the current recession is affecting the financial situations at many public and non-public schools. Many schools are finding ways to cut back spending without touching the bottom-line services to students. And, I know families are also being affected by this fall's financial downturn. With all of this information in the media, I wanted to share Schechter's financial situation with our community.

Schechter's income relies on tuition and fundraising/contributions. Our small endowment accounts for only about 1.5% of the school's income, down by half from last year. Because of Schechter's commitment to educate any Jewish child, no matter the family's ability to pay, tuition currently covers a little over 52% of expenses. Fundraising and contributions cover the remainder. The Schechter Swing was successful again this year; in addition the school is in the midst of its annual Friends of Schechter fundraising drive. The response has been heartening with some very generous gifts. And, **good news:** this week we learned that Schechter has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. This income goes a long way toward helping reach this year's fundraising goal of \$150,000. With so much good news it is hard for me to follow up by telling our community that Schechter is feeling the effects of the economy and we are tightening our belts. We have put a spending freeze on all non-essential items. Luckily we purchase most of the classroom supplies and books during the summer and we have plenty for the remainder of the year. One of the things that happens at school is that we frequently provide non-essential items for the students. Here are a few things that parents can do to help Schechter during this tight time:

Purchase kippah clips for your child – or even a larger supply for the school;  
When packing a lunch, include plates, napkins, forks, etc. for your child - if the lunch needs to be microwaved, send an appropriate container (not foil); our students love cough drops – send a package to school for Jessica to distribute;  
Send a snack with your child if he/she stays for after care – we provide a snack, but some students are really hungry and need more;  
As you review your end-of-year charitable contributions, please remember to include Solomon Schechter Day School.

The Board of Trustees has already determined tuition for the 2009 – 2010 school year. The decision was difficult because they needed to balance the school's need for additional income with knowledge of how the economy is affecting our families. The tuition increase will be 5.4%. I will be sending more information about next year's tuition in the near future.

One more reminder: next Wednesday and Thursday, December 10 & 11, is Schechter's North Central Association (NCA) accreditation visit. If you would like to participate in the parent interview, please call the school or email me directly. They will conduct student interviews on Wednesday afternoon – if you do not want your child to participate, please call the school or email me directly.  
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Parents do so much for our school, we appreciate the many ways you help and support Schechter. Have a great weekend. Tell your friends about our Open House on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

## Kid's Expo: Fun and Fitness!

Matt, our PE teacher will be taking ALL our students over to the JCC on Wednesday, Dec. 10 (2:30-3:30) for this event.

Please send your student to school with his/her PE clothes on!

PE classes on Mon, Tues & Thurs will remain the same!

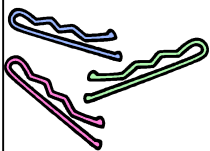


## Health Fair: 2008

Wednesday, December 10  
10 am - 7 pm  
At the JCC

Health Screenings!  
Lectures!  
Fitness Demos!  
Kids Expo!

## We have run out of "Kippah Klips"!



If you'd like to donate, please bring to the office...

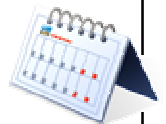
Students are responsible for having their **own** clips or bobby pins

Thank you!

Free & Open  
to the  
public!



## Mark your Calendar



Dec. 7	<b>SSDS Open House!</b> 1:30-3:30pm
Dec. 10 & 11	<b>NCA Accreditation visit</b>
Dec. 14	<b>Chanukah Festival - JCC</b> 12-5 pm
Dec. 17	<b>Spelling Bee</b> 9 am; Oolam
Dec. 19	<b>SSDS Chanukah Celebration</b>
Dec. 22	<b>Winter Break</b> (classes resume Jan. 5)

## Does the office have your current contact information?



Not sure?  
Check in the office!

The school needs to be able to contact parents quickly & accurately should the unexpected happen.



**SOLOMON SCHECHTER**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

**Dec. 7**  
**Sunday**  
**1:30-3:30 pm**

Please invite families who  
are interested in providing  
their child with a  
**GREAT**  
Jewish education!



**Chanukah Celebration  
at SSDS!  
Friday, December 19**

8:15 - 11:45 Regular class activities

11:45 - 12:30 Lunch:  
Latkes ( Veg & Fruit)\*

\*Note: All parents and siblings are welcome to join us for lunch, **reservations required! (must have names & payment no later than 12/16)** If your student didn't sign up for Hot lunch on 12/19, they may do so now. The cost of this special lunch will only be \$4.50 per person!

12:30 - 3 games, treats & fun!!

3 - 3:30 Kabbalat Shabbat

**Community Chanukah  
Festival**

December 14  
JCC  
Noon-5 pm



**We need some volunteers,  
one hour slots...**

Please sign up in the office for:

Arts & crafts room (Oolam)  
Jumper structures  
SSDS Information table

A wonderful time for the whole family,  
lots of free activities for the kids!



Student Performance Night

Good job, everyone!!