

Ilan Ramon Day School

Shalom Bayit

שלום בית

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Post Fire Reflection from Gina Socher

I went up to the school this morning for the first time since the fires that swept through our lovely neighborhoods.

I was initially overwhelmed with the damage but then COMPLETELY overwhelmed with what was left untouched, EXACTLY how we had left it at the end of that Thursday afternoon. And I felt blessed, just blessed.

I walked around towards our door, through the mess that the winds had made and started up the steps when I noticed the amaryllis. We've planted an amaryllis bulb every year that I can remember being at IRDS. It's one of those small miracles, to stick an ugly brown bulb in the soil and watch in amazement as it pushes their amazing thick green shoots up up up.

We love to say the word, clap the syllables, and measure the growth, sometimes actually seeing that it had grown an inch or more just over the weekend. And then when it finally BLOOMS!!!? There's nothing like it and the kids are blown away by it, or maybe by my reaction to it? Hmmm.....

The one I'm referring to today is a bulb that's been left out in a pot since LAST winter. A few weeks ago, before



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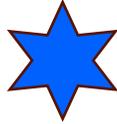
Please note this is a restricted account and only our current families and alumni will be allowed to follow.



ILAN RAMON
DAY SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ilan Ramon Calendar



December 2:

1st Candle

December 3:

Homework Club - grades 2-5, 3:30-4:45

December 5:

E4-5th Grade Chanukah Celebration

December 7:

Parent/Teacher Conferences, postponed
REGULAR SCHOOL DAY

December 10:

8th Candle

December 21:

12:00 p.m. dismissal for all students

December 24-January 7:

Winter Break

January 8:

School resumes

January 16:

Science Discovery Day

January 18:

Tu B'shvat Celebrated at School

the fires, I walked by and saw it looked like yet again, it was coming to life. So I moved it closer to the door and wanted to see when one of the children would notice it. Somehow today, to see the bulb in the dirty old pot that's been cast aside for a year with new life, it did something to me. And I knew we'd would come back even stronger in our school, literally our home away from home.

I lugged it to my house where I'll enjoy watching the miracle, as we can't use anything that hasn't been thoroughly sanitized when we return to our classrooms. But we will again plant a new amaryllis bulb on our first day back 'home', where our hearts are. We'll laugh at the sound of the word, we'll clap the syllables, we'll measure the growth, and be amazed when it blooms.

Feeling Thankful,

Gina

We are beyond grateful to David Brook, Debbie Blumenthal, and Temple Etz Chaim for their warm welcome to our community. They have gone over and above to make our transition to our new "home away from home" as seamless as possible. We are so grateful for this space where we can all be together under one roof.



Challah orders are due each Tuesday by 3:00 pm.
for Friday delivery.

Each challah is only \$7.00

Order a delicious pretzel or plain challah for Shabbat dinner. Why not get an extra Chocolate Chip or Cinnamon challah for french toast this weekend? Wildflour Bakery serves non GMO and Kosher certified challah.

[Click HERE for an order form](#)

Dear Parents,

Some like to refer to Chanukkah as a “Tradition of Innovation” – Why you might ask? One reason is that it is the first holiday that was added to Jewish practice without originating in the Bible. After their victory over the Greeks, The Maccabees decided to declare the 25th of the Hebrew month Kislev as a new holiday of rededication. There are historians who will argue that the reason this celebration took eight days, was because the Maccabees were determined to celebrate Sukkot and Sh’mini Atzeret (an 8-day holiday) in Kislev, instead of Tishrei when they were banned from doing so for three years. The Maccabees rededicated the beloved Holy Temple after years of desecration by the Greeks. Destruction, chaos, and hardship were all pushed aside by the miraculous relit light of the golden Menorah.

In the spirit of Maccabees, innovation and rededication, our beloved IRDS community gathered this morning to reopen our school doors to a new reality. How appropriate it is to come together with resiliency, persistence, perseverance and lots of faith while we rededicate our temporary learning space with innovative educational ideas, and spread lots of golden light all around. How suitable it is to push aside the hardships and chaos from the past two weeks, by welcoming this Sunday evening the festival of lights, filled with stories of grit and miracles from our Jewish history.

On the Shabbat of Hanukkah we read a *haftarah* from the Book of Zechariah which our sages chose because of its fitting message. The ancient rabbis believed that what is truly needed in order to overcome challenging times is one’s spirit inspired by G-d’s spirit. Our spirit keeps us strong, our spirit keeps us focused, our spirit keeps us united.

"...לא בחיל ולא בכח כי אם ברוחי אמר יי צבאות..."

*"... Not by might nor by power but by My Spirit, says Adonai Tzva’ot,
the Lord of Hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)*

So let our focus and strength come from the spirit of rededicating ourselves to our common shared value – The importance of educating the next generation. A generation that has the knowledge, the confidence, the grit and lots of faith in order to build an innovative future for us all.

Here’s to a very happy Hanukkah beginning this coming Sunday, and looking forward to celebrating with all of you next week. **For those of you who are interested in trying some innovative latkes recipes this holiday season, you are welcome to click on the *Holidaf* link. In this issue, you will also find some ideas for celebrating the holiday around Los Angeles. Enjoy!**

Best,

Bat-hen

[CHANUKAH HOLIDAF](#)





Chanukkah Celebration

December 5th, 5:30 PM
Sanctuary, Temple Etz Chaim

E4-5th Grade will be performing

Each family is encouraged to bring their own hannukiah
with candles for a communal lighting

Pop-up Teen Retreat: *Where's the Blessing?*

After the weeks we've just had, we're all in need of a pop-up weekend to be with friends.

Come hang out at Camp Alonim in Simi Valley with your teen friends. For the entire Jewish community, led by Congregation Or Ami. Come escape, chill out, and enjoy some much needed time away. Bring Jewish friends!

DEPARTURE: November 30
from Or Ami at 3:45 p.m.

RETURN: December 2
to Or Ami at 11 a.m.

REGISTRATION:
<https://orami.org/triple-t/>

