

Press Release – February 22

The Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy Early Childhood Department will be having a Purim Puppet Show on Thursday, February 25, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., in the school auditorium located at 2400 Pine Tree Drive in Miami Beach. This fun-filled activity for Hebrew Academy Early Childhood students is a great example of our integrated, thematic and experiential curriculum.

Students at the Hebrew Academy are encouraged to literally put their hands into their learning and for early childhood this often feels like play, but this is play with a purpose. This week early childhood students will watch a puppet show about the upcoming Jewish holiday Purim. Students have been learning about Purim all week and will experience a festive puppet show that will lock in their learning through entertainment. As a part of the Living Legacy Program the school has invested in this year through the Chabad Youth Network of Florida, students from infancy through Grade One, will be dazzled by the puppeteering of "Rabbi G" (Rabbi Shmuli Gutnick). During this program children will be transported back to ancient Persia and will relive the story of Purim while meeting Achashveirosh, Haman, Queen Esther and Mordechai. This wonderful program will be an amazing photo opportunity for you. For more information about the puppet show please contact Mrs. Marla Rosenstein, Hebrew Academy Early Childhood Director at (305) 532-6421 ext. 118 or at mrosenstein@rasg.org

Additionally, on Friday, February 26, 2010, beginning at 10:00 am, on the Hebrew Academy campus located at 2400 Pine Tree Drive on Miami Beach, Hebrew Academy students from infants through Grade 8, and their parents, will enjoy a festive Purim Carnival complete with rides, food, fun and costume contests. This annual carnival is another wonderful example of learning through experience. As with the early childhood program, our older students have also been learning, discussing, reading and writing about Purim in their daily lessons. This carnival will allow students to live the joy of a Purim celebration safely on our campus along with their parents who are our partners in education. This activity will also be a lovely photo opportunity for you. For more information about the Purim carnival please contact Norma Reiz at (305) 532-6421 ext. 114 or nreiz@rasg.org

A brief explanation of Purim: Purim is a Jewish festival that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to annihilate them. Purim is celebrated annually according to the Hebrew calendar on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar (Adar II in leap years), the day following the victory of the Jews over their enemies. Purim is characterized by public recitation of the Book of Esther (*keriat ha-megilla*), giving mutual gifts of food and drink (*mishloach manot*), giving charity to the poor (*mattanot la-evyonim*), and a celebratory meal (*se'udat Purim*). Other customs include wearing of masks and costumes, and public celebration. For more information about the specifics of the Purim holiday please feel free to contact Rabbi Shifman, our Rav bet Sefer (The Rabbi of the School) and High School Principal at (305) 532-6421 ext 215 or mshifman@rasg.org