



WISE SCHOOL

MAKING GREAT HAPPEN SINCE 1977

WISE SCHOOL
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Wise School is to inspire and empower our students and their families to learn deeply about our world and Jewish heritage, to be creative, and to experience wholeness so that we can make great happen in our community, our nation, Israel, and the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

At Wise School, through depth, complexity and differentiation, our students learn how to learn. Children build knowledge as they ask questions, research, solve problems, and add layers to their understanding.

Through the application of creativity, children voice their independence, expand their minds, and work towards achieving their greatest potential. Students become creators instead of consumers; they focus more on the process than the product. Students maximize their opportunity to stand out in a competitive world by looking at life through innovative lenses.

Our students experience wholeness (שלימות - *shleimut*), by making interdisciplinary connections through development of mind, body, and soul. We acknowledge and appreciate moments of Shalom. We recognize each student's strengths and contributions as we build an inclusive community. We honor our Jewish faith as a living heritage, begin to develop a deep understanding of and commitment to Israel, and develop proficiency in and appreciation of the Hebrew language.

At Wise School, thoughtful people inspire meaningful actions in order to make great happen through acts of *Tikkun Olam* (תיקון עולם - repair of the world).

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Head of School

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Elementary School Principal

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Early Childhood Director

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Vice Principal/Student Support Services

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Samantha Powell
Business Manager

Rabbi Josh Knobel
Dean of Student & Family Life

Nicole Mevorakh
Parenting Center Coordinator

A Time of Renewal, Creation and Innovation

Renewal and innovation are intrinsic to Judaism. As part of our morning prayers, we traditionally praise God as – **המחדש בכל יום תמיד מעשה בראשית** – *the One who each day continuously renews the work of creation*. Every day provides a new opportunity to reimagine and grow.

We share this annual report with you to take stock of what we have accomplished this year and to acknowledge our community's collective and generous investment in our children.

This year has been a time of renewal, creation, and innovation for Wise School. We have instituted new programs, renovated and reimagined learning spaces, welcomed new members to our team, invested in the professional development of our teachers, and rebranded our school (unveiling a new name, logo and design). We have enhanced and enriched our learning opportunities with new technology for teaching computer programming and robotics, cameras to encourage creativity through the Jewish Lens Project, and a 3D printer to make real virtually anything we can imagine. Grade level socials, Wise Clubs, and just reaching out to one another have contributed to the warm and loving community that is Wise School.

All of this has been made possible through our collective efforts. Our broader community (parents, grandparents, teachers, and administrators) has invested in our children at record levels both in terms of numbers of participants and dollars invested. Our investment extends beyond the financial to the generosity of spirit and heart with which our volunteers give so graciously of their time and talents. Every day at Wise, I am privileged to witness love and kindness and goodness in our classrooms and on our fields, between our students, our teachers, and our staff and throughout our parent community.

The pages that follow provide a snapshot of what we have accomplished together. They offer a window into our cutting-edge approach to gifted education which inspires us to be a school where every child can learn deeply, be creative, experience wholeness, and make great happen.

The amazing thing about a world in which creation is renewed day by day is that this exciting process never ends. Each day offers a fresh opportunity for exploration and discovery, for new friendships and joy, for growing and sharing.

Just imagine what the New Year will bring.

L'shalom,



Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Wise School Community,



Lori Tyberg

WPA PRESIDENT, 2012-2014

It's an honor for me to write to you wearing many different Wise School and Temple hats. As a mother of two Wise School students, I couldn't be happier with the wonderful Jewish education my children are receiving. As a spouse of a Wise School Alum, I love seeing the way our school continues to transform and evolve over the years both through my own eyes and through the eyes of my husband. As the outgoing Wise Parents Association President and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Temple, it is with pride and gratitude that I share some thoughts about the 2013-2014 Wise School year.

Inspired in part by the results of our parent survey from June of 2013, we focused our efforts this past year on building a deeper sense of community throughout our school. Through the rich and varied programs of the WPA including Family Fun Day, the Wise Boutique, M'dor L'dor, the Book Fair, the Purim Carnival, grade level and Party Book get-togethers, we worked hard to bring our community together while at the same time raising funds for our school and having a blast with one another.

Together we have strengthened our community, come to know and appreciate one another more deeply, and contributed meaningfully to the financial health of our school.

It has been a privilege and an honor to have served as your WPA President over the last two years. I am grateful to you all for your support and to my incredible team of partners who formed the WPA Executive Board. We are lucky to be part of this School and this Temple community and we should all take pride in our accomplishments even as we continuously strive to strengthen Wise School so that we can truly make great happen for our children, our teachers, our community, and—ultimately—our world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Tyberg'.



Performing ARTS

The vibrant performing arts program at Wise School continues to play a central role in the broader education of the whole child, encouraging students to pursue their passions, inspiring their creativity and developing their self-confidence. Starting in Kindergarten, students have the opportunity to “take the stage”, building oratorical, musical, dramatic and vocal skills through the famed Spring Musical, our Choral and Vocal Ensemble Program, Beginning Instrumental Music Program, Jazz Band and Orchestra. These enrichment opportunities cultivate in Wise students a deep appreciation for the power of music and love of theater.





The JEWISH Lens

Thanks to the generosity of our WPA, our 5th grade students were introduced to the world of photography through a pilot program based on The Jewish Lens. We purchased photography and video equipment, and our art, Project Studio, and technology specialists, together with our Judaic and General Studies teachers, adapted this innovative curriculum. Students experienced an exciting inter-disciplinary program with an intersection of art, art history, culture and technology by creating their unique photo essays.



ATHLETICS

Supported by our generous Coaches' Circle, our Wildcat athletes completed another successful year. We celebrated two San Fernando Valley League championships along with five finalist teams! We are also proud of the 145 4th-6th grade students who demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship while competing for the Wildcats against our independent school rivals. Almost 90% of our 4th-6th grade students participated in our competitive athletic program, which contributed to their development of mind, body and soul. This year we also expanded our aquatics program, so that 3rd-6th grade students have the opportunity to swim as part of their PE instructional day. In addition, we utilize our pool with a vibrant after school swim program.





Early Childhood USC CURRICULUM

This past fall, we extended our highly successful partnership with the USC Rossier School of Education to our Early Childhood program. Building on years of research in early childhood, this innovative curriculum strengthens the educational bridge to Kindergarten with sound social, emotional, and academic foundations for confidence and success. It teaches foundational behaviors such as perseverance, curiosity, academic risk taking, and practice, while bringing developmentally appropriate critical and creative thinking skills to the forefront.

HEBREW

Immersion

Wise School will be expanding our unique Hebrew Immersion Program from our N2 to the Pre-K (N3) class in the upcoming school year. All content is taught exclusively in Hebrew by native speakers. Studies show that children who learn a second language before the age of 5 are more successful in learning and internalizing that language, as well as other languages, mathematics, and music. We've been amazed to watch their progress and witness how quickly they have adapted to an exclusively Hebrew speaking environment.





COMMUNITY

Our strong sense of community is the heart of our school, and the connections formed at an early age truly last a lifetime. Through Shabbat dinners, grade level coffees and socials, and party book events, our families have opportunities to come together both on and off campus. These connections go deep, including multi-generational programs such as M'dor L'dor, where grandparents and family members share our sense of community. Our dedicated parent body, teachers, and administrators form the bonds that make great happen.





STEM

Our science program received generous attention this year which has put us on an exciting path to 21st century curriculum. We renovated our lab (generously funded by the Moradi Family) and purchased new interactive engineering and physical science materials, as well as hired a co-teacher and collaborator for our resident Science expert. The team has begun the process of developing and writing units in Physical, Earth and Life Science based on the Next Generation Science Standards, which include environmental science and engineering, disciplines that are essential to contemporary dilemmas in our world.

In order to be competitive in the technologically rich, problem solving world of the future, we need innovative ways to reach our students' needs and challenge them academically. To this end, our Director of Curriculum & Instruction and three teachers attended the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual conference this spring to explore and collaborate on cutting edge techniques and curriculum for the 2014-15 school year.

PROJECT Studio



This year, through the generosity of a core group of Temple families who do not currently have students in Wise School but continue to support our innovative programs, we renovated our Project Studio space. By converting two rooms into one large workspace, with garage doors allowing for learning to take place indoors and outdoors, we have created an area for collaborative group work and design. It's exciting to watch the students in action as they extend their Social Studies curriculum with hands-on, project based inquiry learning.





MUSIC

Innovation Lab

Walking into our new Music Innovation Lab, you are immediately struck by the sense of a place where tradition meets the future in music instruction. One half of the room is technology based, with keyboard, computers and a state-of-the-art listening bar. Here students listen to great pieces of music from all genres, and then have the opportunity to compose their own works and learn music theory in a highly differentiated way. The other side of the room is our Earth Room, where students have the opportunity to participate in a drum circle and singing.





Campus UPGRADES

With targeted individual family donations to fund specific projects, as well as our overall Annual Giving campaign, we were able to make capital improvements to our Wise School campus this year. Classrooms were renovated with new projectors and idea walls, and Faber Field was updated with colorful and engaging banners. When you walk on the campus and see signs that say “Compose Wise”, “Celebrate Wise”, “Create Wise” and “Compete Wise”, we have a constant visual reminder of our school vision and mission.



Wise School

By the Numbers

70% overall increase in Annual Giving,
100% teacher participation, **30%**
increase in School families' participation,
and **60%** brand new EC participation

156

students participating
in Choir, Vocal
Ensemble, Spring
Musical, and
Instrumental Music

27,000

pounds of food donated
to Sova. **\$8,401**
collected for *Tzedakah*

20

hosted Party
Book events
representing over **600**
happy party goers

24

Spheros rolling around the campus, **422** times
one particular sphero went missing!

60%

of upper grade students
increased their ERB Verbal
Reasoning scores, and **47%**
increased their Quantitative
Reasoning scores

340

speed bumps
driven over by
a School parent,
on average,
per week

145

students in Wildcat Athletics,
with **89** students participating
in all **3** sports seasons

1,346

times *Hamotzi* said before
a meal

Countless number of
friends made at Wise School

Wise School Year in Review



1



2



3

1 Democratic principles go from textbook to reality as our students share their leadership skills by running for Wise School Student Council office. **2** As a culmination of a unit on architecture, students showed their understanding of scale, utility and community needs by designing the ideal Wise School buildings. **3** 1st Grade students celebrate love of literature at their annual Literary Tea.



4

Year in Review

4 Students create, compose, curate and collaborate with new technology in all content areas. **5** One of our N3 classes enjoying outdoor exploratory play on our new AstroTurf surface. **6** As part of our sustainability initiative, as well as healthy eating, Wise School created our very own Farmer's Market. **7** Kids are actively engaged in experiential education in our newly designed Project Studio Lab.



5



7



6



8

Year in Review

8 Students explore the areas of earth, life and physical science in our state of the art Science Lab. **9** Early Childhood students celebrate their love for Israel at Yom Ha'atzma'ut. **10** Our Kindergarten students demonstrate their gratitude for family, friends, food and America at their sumptuous Thanksgiving Feast.



9



10

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