

**LAUDER JAVNE JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL,
KINDERGARTEN AND MUSIC SCHOOL
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
2014-2015
February**

Lauder School turns 25

With games, competitions and creative tasks that have become a tradition, the Lauder Javne School once again celebrated its birthday. This year: the 25th!

Twenty-five years in 25 minutes: made all the more exciting by a giant stopwatch, the group presentation tried to conjure up the past quarter century of our school. Previous heads of our school, Dr. György Lipner, Dr. Anna Szeszler and current head, Gábor Horányi tried as best they could to compress all that has happened since 1990 into those twenty-five minutes. So many possible anecdotes presented themselves, but the seconds and minutes moved relentlessly on.

Of course, not only our grown-ups celebrated this special birthday, but the children as well. With amazing feats, dances and music, the students stormed the scene at our “The Stage is Ours!” program. The traditional birthday challenges were once again fun for both teachers and students.

In the past twenty-five years, we have developed, expanded, learned a lot from and about each other, but one thing has not changed: from the very beginning we have been and will always be: a community.



EDUCATION

February open day

120 families were curious to see our school on our open day on 25 February. Many stayed for the open discussions, where our faculty answered the questions along with our middle and high school whose input was greatly appreciated. It was a joy to hear the students speak so honestly, authentically and kindly of their school.

JEWISH OUTREACH

Tu BiShvat, the New Year of the Trees

On Tu BiShvat (the 15th day of the month of Shevat), we celebrate the trees, nature, and our connection to the Land of Israel. This year we celebrated together with our second graders in the assembly hall, led by teachers Bianka Dankó, Ágnes Fenyő and Mike Fülöp. A wonderful table of bounty was waiting for us after we had listened to Ágnes Fenyő's rendition of The Tree and the Boy, also known as The Giving Tree, which speaks to us about the importance of respecting and loving trees, which they repay in kind. Finally, we danced the hora to a traditional Israeli song.



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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Turkish guests visiting our school

The Dialogue Platform Association has been working in Hungary since 2005, focusing on facilitating communication across cultures and religions. Within the framework of one of their projects, a group of fourteen students from Turkey visited the Lauder School on the 25th of February. The group consisted of



teachers and final year students of the Bursa Imam-Hatip imam-training high school. The project includes getting to know schools of different culture, identity and religion. The one-and-a-half hour interactive discussion saw many questions asked and answered, helped along by a Turkish interpreter. After the discussion the group was our guest to fruits and tea, and a guided tour around our school where the biggest success, of course, was our garden and soccer field. We were very happy to have them as our guests, and were pleased to see that they enjoyed themselves.

SUCCESS STORIES

The Budapest semifinals of the “When was it? Where was it?” (Régen volt? Hol is volt?) competition

On 23 February our school was home to Budapest semifinals of the “When was it? Where was it?” competition, organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Association. Of the six schools that took part, Szerb Antal Secondary school was the winner, getting a chance to compete for first place in the finals. Members of the jury were assembled from representatives of the Wallenberg Association, Wallenberg Secondary School, the Holocaust Memorial Center, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Lauder Javne School. The 12th district local government also contributed to the prizes given.



As hosts, we spent an exciting day with our guests, getting to know teachers and students for whom the memory of the holocaust is just as important as for us.

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MITZVAH

DRESS IN RED

Once again this year we joined the fifth annual “Dress in Red” charity campaign organized by the Light of My Eyes Foundation who runs the Dóri House, Hungary’s first child hospice service. Our 3rd grade “Kulcs” and 5th grade “Bárka” classes, as well as our kindergarteners were at the heart of the effort, reaching out to the entire school. The school was flooded with children in red attire and accessories, symbolizing their donation and support. Many others also supported the Dóri House with their generous donations. This year we collected 145.100 Forints, nearly double that of last year’s collection.

