Dear Families,

We would like to share with you the launching of a new program at our school, the Intergenerational Program.

For almost a year Michael Lavin, Sheila Schlaggar a JCC member, and I have been dreaming with this new program. After many months of meetings, developing the vision, the goals and the structure of the program, we have officially launched it.

The Intergenerational Program brings Volunteer Grandparents into the preschool classrooms on a regular weekly basis to provide the children with another layer of adult interaction.  Interaction between the generations helps the children thrive in an environment enriched by the presence of committed volunteers willing to share their life experiences.

The goals of the program are as follows:

* Enrich the experience of our children by involving people of different ages who have lived through different historical experiences
* Reach out beyond our school families in order to strengthen our community
* Create and provide meaningful opportunities for retired men and women in our community
* Connect families beyond the walls of the school

The Ilanot and Shorashim classrooms have already a “volunteer grandparent.” Sheila Schlaggar has been visiting the Shorashim classroom for already a few months. Michael Lavin began yesterday morning his journey in the Ilanot classroom. The Shorashim children have already a close bond with Miss Sheila while the Ilanot children welcomed Michael with much curiosity and enthusiasm.

If you would like to learn more about the Intergenerational Program please ask me; I will be happy to share all about it. At the same time, if you know a “grandparent age” community member who might be interested in becoming a volunteer grandparent, please put me in touch with him/her. We are looking for five more members at this time. Just be aware that, in order to be considered for the program, the community member cannot be a current grandparent of the school.

We look forward to sharing with you all the enriching experiences that are beginning to unfold.