



Dear parents,

Welcome to the first edition of the Hatikvah Newsletter! We are pleased to bring you up to date on all of the exciting happenings and events going on right now at Hatikvah.

We have scheduled a parent meeting on **Wednesday January 25th at 7:45PM** to discuss the following topics. We hope everyone can attend what is sure to be a highly informative event. Please RSVP Naomi Drewitz at [principal@hatikvahcharterschool.com](mailto:principal@hatikvahcharterschool.com).

### **Our New Building plans!!!**

Exciting news! We all know that Hatikvah's educational program is second to none, now we'll have a facility to boot! We have agreed to terms for a long term lease with a real estate investor who is in the process of purchasing a building which will be the permanent home of Hatikvah. The site was chosen for its convenient and secure location and is sure to afford Hatikvah the ability to grow over the years. The facility has plenty of space for bright, windowed classrooms and will include a gym, a lunchroom, a library and an art/music room. Future plans will include a science lab and multi-media rooms. The property offers large outdoor green space perfect for a playground and sports fields. We expect to occupy the building by September, 2012. The plans and mock-up will be presented at a special meeting by our architect within the next several weeks. Please contact Mark Spektor (facilities committee) at [mspektor@optonline.net](mailto:mspektor@optonline.net) should you have any questions or want further information. Mark will be at the meeting on Wednesday to answer any questions.

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[www.hatikvahcharterschool.com](http://www.hatikvahcharterschool.com)



### **Upcoming Events:**

**Taste of First Grade:** February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7PM. For parents of all children going into Hatikvah 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The first grade teachers will show you what makes Hatikvah the outstanding academic program that it is.

**Welcome to Kindergarten:** February 28<sup>th</sup> 7PM. For parents of all prospective children going into Hatikvah kindergarten.

**Open House:** March 20<sup>th</sup>. For prospective families with children in all grades to learn about Hatikvah. Invite your friends to register for the lottery. Current parents are also encouraged to attend and learn about your child's future grades!

**Open School Week:** February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Schedule to follow. Visit Hatikvah during the day to see classes in Action

### **In the News...**

There has been a lot in the news lately, but does any of it affect Hatikvah?

#### **East Brunswick asks to take its case to the New Jersey Supreme Court**

In December 2011 the NJ Appellate Court unanimously upheld the approval of Hatikvah's Charter, determining that our charter is 100% valid and that we have met every requirement to open, which was our 3<sup>rd</sup> straight court win.

Despite their 3<sup>rd</sup> loss, the East Brunswick Board of Education indicated that they would like to appeal their most recent defeat to the State Supreme Court.

Our attorneys have assured us that this challenge is totally without merit and that they have no legal leg to stand on. The Supreme Court will decide in the coming months if they will even hear the case. Historically the Supreme Court has not been willing to hear these types of cases. We are fully confident that this latest attempt by the EB Board of Ed will verify the lower court rulings and finally put an end to this fruitless litigation.

If you have any questions on this matter, please come to the upcoming Wednesday meeting.

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### **Hatikvah's Full Day Kindergarten program shines**

Hatikvah led the way in East Brunswick with, among other things, the first public option for full day kindergarten. The recent announcement that East Brunswick will now also be offering a full day kindergarten is a clear nod to the success of Hatikvah's program.

As all Hatikvah parents know, a full day is only one of the many reasons parents continue to choose Hatikvah for their children. Hatikvah will continue to be the only public school in East Brunswick offering:

- Unmatched student teacher ratio of 1/11
- Academically rigorous workshop model
- Child Centered/ Inquiry based learning curriculum
- Partial-immersion 2nd language
- Immediate and ongoing access to teachers and administration

These are just some of the reasons that we have an overflowing wait list for all grades in the upcoming 2012-2013 school year, *including* our incoming kindergarten, both from East Brunswick students and out of town applicants. There will never be a shortage of parents who recognize the incredible opportunity it is to send their kids to Hatikvah.

We are thriving and look forward to our next school year in a beautiful new space, and welcoming a new group of 44 youngsters to become part of the Hatikvah family. Here is a small look at what some of our current students have been up to...

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### **Academic Excellence**

We are very happy to report the analysis of the data from our 2nd grade students' last year standardized tests in both math and literacy. We took Hatikvah's scores and compared them to the results of East Brunswick's as well as Princeton's 3rd graders' standardized tests. The results illustrate the advantages of Hatikvah's educational philosophy and model.

1. In literacy we scored well above both East Brunswick and Princeton, with scores from Hatikvah at 28% Advanced Proficient compared with East Brunswick at 12% and Princeton at 13%
2. In Math scores, combining Proficient and Advanced Proficient, Hatikvah again out scored both East Brunswick and Princeton with 95% either proficient or advanced at Hatikvah, compared with only 90% in East Brunswick and 92% in Princeton

### **Martin Luther Day Recap!**

A special thanks to Michelle Golding and the PTO who planned an amazingly successful day. Here is Michelle's recap of the day:

At Hatikvah International Academy Charter School, Martin Luther King Day is "A day On, not a day Off." A function of the school's Parent-Teacher Organization, the Outreach Committee planned the 2nd annual MLK Day of Service, where over 50 students used their vacation day on Monday, January 16th to pack breakfast bags for Middlesex County crisis centers. Shop-Rite of East Brunswick joined in the effort by contributing its community space for bag-packing activities. Special guest Mayor David Stahl of East Brunswick stopped by to share a message of encouragement and his thoughts on the significance of the day. At the culmination of the event, parents and friends applauded the efforts of all the students/parents that volunteered their time and donated goods in support of the day, but most importantly, they applauded the 416 bags that were prepared for the less fortunate. After cleaning up and boxing all of the bags, a few of students were given the opportunity to deliver 308 of the prepared bags to Elijah's Promise. The remaining 108 were donated to Women Aware.

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All the food that was bagged was donated by the parents of Hatikvah students and the PTO

