

February 1, 2012
8 Shevat 5772

Dear Cardin Parents and Students,

I am happy to announce that Interim Week 2012 is just a few weeks away! Under the creative leadership of our Dean of General Studies, Leslie Smith Rosen, and the assistance of our wonderful faculty, "*islAM in the AM, Purim in the PM*" promises to be a memorable week indeed. (For newcomers to the school, Interim Week is the week between the second and third trimesters which is devoted to learning and experiences in a multi-modal way that goes beyond what we can do during the regular academic year. For example, last year we had "A Capital Week" – in which we traveled to the District of Columbia each day and saw sights there – from museums to the White House). This year is a first for us – two themes: learning about Islam in the mornings, and, because Purim occurs that week, "Purim Pandemonium" in the afternoon (students have already been imagining and writing their competitive schpiels for a production on Shushan Purim, while doing an in-depth study of the Megillah featuring a number of different scholars in our area – and then enjoying the "Hamentaschen Bake-Off").

To give you an idea of the program (and also to let you know of some timing adjustments to the normal school day), please see the schedule below. Also, we would like to invite families to share in these festivities: see the related attachment in this email.

I am also pleased to tell you that, thanks to a grant from the Blaustein Foundation, the fee for Interim Week is far lower than it has ever been - **\$50 per student**. This includes speakers, scholars, artists, a trip to see an IMAX ("Journey to Mecca"), a trip to a mosque, an elaborate kosher banquet in the style of the Golden Age of Spain, snacks, a project to help needy families through Chana and My Sister's Place, and materials and supplies for the Purim schpiel.

Please sign the attached form that acknowledges you understand the schedule adjustments and gives us permission to transport your child on the field trips. We also ask that you enclose a \$50 check (made payable to the school) no later than February 16.

Sincerely,

Barbie B. Prince
Head of School

OVERVIEW OF INTERIM WEEK 2012

(Throughout the month of February, Wednesday minyanim will be devoted to an in-depth study of Megillat Esther – and fun with Hamentaschen)

Monday, March 5 (slightly later in the morning, but then regular school hours):

8:15-9:00 Minyan
9:00-9:45 Lecture: *Speaker: Historian on Islam from Beginnings (including split of Sunni, Shi'ite, and Sufism) to Today (including split between Arabic and non-Arabic speaking worlds)*
9:45-10:00 Break
10:00 – 11:00 Lecture: *Speakers Judaism & Islam's Theology and Philosophy*
11:00 – 11:15 Break
11:15-12:00 Story-telling: *1,001 Nights*
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 4:15 Writing Schpiels

Tuesday, March 6 (slightly later in the morning, but otherwise regular school hours):

8:15-9:00 Minyan
9:00-9:45 Lecture: *Speaker: The Golden Age: 711 to 1492*
9:45-10:00 Break
10:00-11:30 Art of Islam – from arabesques to henna
11:30-12:00 Making sandwiches for My Sister's Helper & mishloach manot for Chana
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-4:00 "Set building" and rehearsing of Purim Schpiels

Wednesday, March 7 (Taanit Esther) NOTE TIME CHANGES:

8:15-9:00 Minyan
9:00-11:00 IMAX ("Journey to Mecca") at Maryland Science Center
11:00-1:00 Visit to a Mosque (includes travel time)
EARLY DISMISSAL FOR TAANIT ESTHER

Thursday, March 8 (Purim) NOTE TIME CHANGES:

10:00-12:00 Minyan & Megillah Reading & Costume Contest
12:00-2:00 Early "Seudah" – Banquet in the style of the Golden Age of Spain
EARLY DISMISSAL FOR PURIM AFTERNOON

Friday, March 9 NOTE TIME CHANGES:

9:00-9:45 Minyan
10:00 – 12:30 Rehearsal of schpiels
12:30-1:15 Lunch
1:15-2:30 Presentation of schpiels