



ADVERTORIAL



## COVID: A Success Story

This past August, 302 students and 62 teachers arrived at **SAN DIEGO HEBREW DAY** for school. They looked at one another suspiciously. “Will we really be able to learn together safely?” they wondered. So much about Covid-19 was still unknown then. The media reports made everyone fearful.

Now, 9 months later, the routine of completing an online questionnaire upon arrival, having your temperature taken, securing your mask and staying within a given cohort is firmly established. It has proven effective. And joyful.

“As a San Diego Hebrew Day leader, I certainly had my doubts back then,” commented Giovanna Reinking, Director of Education. “Little ones wearing masks? Will middle schoolers comply? Have we missed some health detail no one is considering?”

Each courageous San Diego Hebrew Day educator is a tried and tested community hero. Teaching in-person required bravery and devotion above and beyond the call of duty. It is not only the students who are thriving, but their parents as well.

“I am thankful every school day,” said a parent of two Hebrew Day students.

“We worked so hard to make remote learning work last year. It was OK, but no comparison to the full benefit of being with friends and interacting personally with teachers.”

“Educators talk so much about collaborative learning and students practicing the social skills that make true collaboration take place,” noted Danielle Arya, Second grade classroom teacher. “Students only flourish and learn to become more emotionally intelligent by being in school each day.”

San Diego Hebrew Day will honor its faculty at its Gala on May 23, with the theme “Remarkable Year/Remarkable Teachers.” The program will bring together everyone who values Jewish learning and cares about creating a vibrant future for our Jewish community.

In addition, there are many learning milestones to celebrate. At the recent County Science and Engineering Fair, a record total of 13 awards were presented to Hebrew Day students. “This deep probing of scientific topics and the opportunity to collaborate could only happen because we were on campus,” commented Stephen Jones, science teacher at San Diego Hebrew Day.

Challenges resulting from the great Covid-19 disruption are being robustly addressed throughout this school year. An example includes a special reading intervention program to address gaps in student progress from last year’s remote learning that were diagnosed and a reading lab that works with small groupings of children throughout the day.

“Great teachers make all the difference,” commented **Head of School Rabbi Simcha Weiser**. “This year, teachers had to not only be great, but also courageous, resilient and deeply committed to the well being of their students. This is a remarkable group of teachers, a collection of heroes.”

To learn how you can participate in honoring the men and women who make up the San Diego Hebrew Day faculty and staff, please contact **JOYCE AROVAS** at [jarovas@ssdhds.org](mailto:jarovas@ssdhds.org) or log on to [www.wizevents.com/ssdhds2021](http://www.wizevents.com/ssdhds2021). As a community, this tribute expresses our highest aspirations for achieving continuity and Tikun Olam.