



רשי
RASHI
SCHOOL



Sukkat Shalom Mosaic: A Community Project

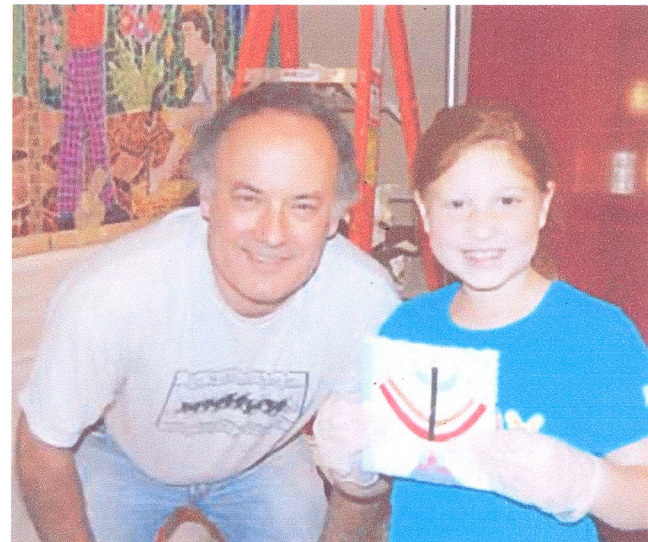
ופרוש עלינו סוכת שלומך

"Ufros Aleinu Sukkat Shlomecha, Spread Over Us the Shelter of Your Peace."

From small pieces of colored glass and clay, the Rashi community has created a magnificent piece of art for our Sukkat Shalom, our shelter of peace. Rashi's goal is that space be a place where students can learn about peace, engage in peaceful negotiation and quiet reflection, and honor Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's legacy and quest for peace.

To help us enhance this space, we worked this spring with artist Joshua Winer to produce a beautiful mural. Josh met with students, parents, and faculty to guide us as we brainstormed images and themes related to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). He then translated those ideas into a design concept and spent four weeks working with every class to add color and texture to the drawings. This was a real community effort. Parents and grandparents worked alongside children and teachers to put the tiles in place and add the grout.

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Artist Joshua Winer worked with each student, as well as with faculty and staff, to create images that reflected Rashi's values.

COMMUNITY

קהילה

Spirit/Ruach

Ruach was evident during the creation of this masterpiece. Shown with rich vibrant colors are so many joyful faces, dancing and singing.



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The result, both soothing and stimulating to the eyes, is a beautiful, colorful and tactile composite mosaic that reflects the essence and values, of The Rashi School.

Laurie Kallus, a Rashi parent who was instrumental in bringing Josh Winer to the school, describes the composition:

"A tallit serves as the canopy of the picture. Students' drawings have been re-created and placed on either side. The central image, a rainbow, arches upwards incorporating a dove with an olive branch; this shows us how the life of the school extends to the outer world, to Israel, and to the greater community."

Laurie wrote a description of the mosaic to show how it reflects each of Rashi's five core values:

Community/Kehillah

On the left side, we see our NewBridge neighbors passing a globe to Rashi students. This can be interpreted as one generation passing the future world on to the next (*L'Dor v'Dor*, from generation to generation), as well as showing the importance of global awareness. We see our kinder-

garten Martin Luther King, Jr. parade, and on the right, a sukkah, Israeli dancers, and children gathered together singing.

Justice/Tzedek

We see the aspirational song *Shir L'Shalom* that Yitzhak Rabin was planning to sing on the day his death. We also see a Tamchui jar and a bag for feeding the hungry, showing the importance of *Tikkun Olam*, repair of the world.

The idea of renewal is evident on both sides, with the galaxy and night sky on the right, and the sun with lights twinkling on the left, showing both the light created by God while shards come down and energize us to beautify and rebuild our world.

Learning/Limud

Learning is inherent in both the process (children learned how to use new tools and art techniques) and content of this project. There are images of many of the school's learning experiences: a student reading Torah, a rabbi holding a Torah, a mosaic hybrid compilation of inspiring women from past and present at Rashi, musical instruments, and the ten commandments. We see students at Kabbalat Shabbat with candles, challah and a cup of wine. The depiction of Jerusalem is a representation of the eighth grade trip to Israel – a culmination of the remarkable education that Rashi provides.

Respect/Kavod

A centerpiece of this work shows two students communicating, listening and sharing ideas. A core message that this piece of art is intended to impart is the importance of dialogue, and the desire to understand and embrace our differences of opinion, while at the same time ensuring that we uphold the value of respect for one another. (See above left for *Ruach/Spirit*.)

"Both the process and the result are inspirational in how they involved the entire community," stated Matt King, Head of School. Acknowledging Rashi parent Dan Snyder, who provided funding for the project in memory of his wife Wendy, Dr. King said: "We are delighted that all members of the Rashi community as well as visitors to the school will be able to enjoy this artwork for years to come."

Left: Students use shards of light to rebuild our world.

