

LAUDER JAVNE JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL,  
KINDERGARTEN AND MUSIC SCHOOL  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

2015-2016

February

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**The Lauder School is 26 years old this year**

This year's birthday was special, for the founders were also all invited to the celebration. We wish to create a lasting tradition with this special invitation, just like the communal cake-eating, which a favorite of all ages in Lauder. The classes had a lot of fun and did great on the birthday competitions. One of the KreActivity tasks was for students to get on live broadcast and wish the school a happy birthday – and, wow, did they ever! Happy birthday, Lauder School!



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## EDUCATION

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### XI. Lauder Arts Festival

The 9th annual Lauder Arts Festival saw guests from Szeged and from Budapest's "Zöld Kakas" (Green Rooster) High School. Both the Deák Ferenc High School of Szeged and the "Zöld Kakas" High School of Budapest are renowned nationwide for their arts and media education. The LauderSzem (LauderEye), our in-school photography long standing relationship the product of which projects through the "It could happen to you" Kakas, while "Our cities a joint project with the school. Since the start Festival, the LauderSzem celebration, and this year, our guests. We sit down and photos of the previ- our work together.



and film group has a with both schools, has been numerous years. In the 2015, was created with Zöld in different light" was Szeged based high of the Lauder Arts invites guests to the our two partners were and look at the films ous year, and evaluate

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### CHESS CHAMPS

#### District team student olympics

On the district team student chess olympics of 8 February, we entered teams in five of the possible six categories (our high school girls are sadly not avid chess players). In the 1st and 2nd categories, we even had enough players to enter two boy teams. As we had hoped and expected, all gold medals were won by our teams. At the Budapest finals on 27 February, our teams won two first and one third place (and a truly unlucky 13th place), making us the most successful school in Budapest.



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## Spectacular successes at the student chess olympics

Our younger grade girls (Gabriella Csikós, Anna Koltai, Flóra Dudás) were unlucky on the draw and started with much worse odds than last year, but outdid themselves beyond any expectation, and took lead immediately in the first round, beating last year's national champions, and confidently marched to victory. This is an amazing success; one that team coherence played a huge part in.

Our older grade girls (Dóra Koltai, Anna Dán, Panni Horányi, Flóra Balogh), who were 6th in last year's national championships due to a stroke of bad luck, mustered their forces this year, and with Dóri as a new addition to the team, sat down to play a winning streak, all the way to gold.

The younger grade boys (David Radó, Dániel Horváth-Borsiczky, Dániel Király, Bálint Dobák) were overjoyed to play a 2-2 draw with the leading team, which not only meant third place and their best results so far, but also qualification for the national finals.

Our older boys' team (Jánis Wallis, Boldizsár Varga, Bende Kánai, Szonja Ruszkai, Csaba Csikós) was faced with the toughest challenge, as they had to face the select teams of elite high schools. They weren't able to qualify for the national finals by only one place, but looking at their perseverance and how they play, next year we will see



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## Children's Rights presentation in our 7th grade



UNICEF volunteers held a special informative, interactive presentation about children's rights in our 7th grade "Hullám" class.



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## SUCCESS STORIES

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### Z'mirim in Germany



Our school's Klezmer band, Z'mirim was in Germany, where they gave concerts in Düsseldorf and Schermbeck.

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### Z'mirim played at the premier of Son of Saul

On the eve of 24 February, our school's Z'mirim band played at the Copenhagen grand premier of the Academy Award-winning Hungarian film, Son of Saul.



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### Visual Transformation



Our school renews itself year after year. This year, we painted the stair landings white, and soon we will decorate the walls with interesting and fun pictures all through the school. The assembly hall is also beginning to change, becoming the new home of the bronze Menorah, and the blue Star of David replacing the parachute.



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## **MOST – Lauder students set up a charity foundation to help children in need**

Students of our school have set up a charity organisation to help children living in poverty. Their activities caught the eye of France 24, who wrote an article on them:

Hungarian teens get their kicks with charity work

TOMOR (HUNGARY) (AFP) -

With his dyed blonde hair, wristbands and ripped jeans, 17-year-old Domonkos Sera -- Domi for short -- looks more like a typical teenage punk rocker than a crusading do-gooder running his own charity.

But belying the common stereotype of the 21st-century adolescent -- selfish, glued to a phone -- the Hungarian devotes his spare time bringing aid to poor villages, homeless shelters and orphanages.

"Helping people is my hobby, that'sa what makes me feel good," he told AFP on what has become a typical weekend activity, packing supplies into a van in a wintry supermarket carpark miles from home.

His burning ambition, he says, is to devote his life to charity work and -- no less -- by 30 to consign poverty to the history books in this central European country of 10 million people.

"Our work is a drop in the ocean now, but you have to start somewhere," he says. "We've grown to over 20 kids now."

Domi got his idea after getting involved last year helping some of the thousands of migrants who passed through Hungary bound for northern Europe before Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government sealed the borders.

"After the refugees stopped coming I didn't want to drop everything, there was such a good spirit, so I decided to set up a charity and ask my pals to join," he says.

Contacts made during the migrant surge pitched in with free legal and accounting advice on how to start his non-profit company "Most" ("Now" in Hungarian). Others offered office and storage space.

- Not our puppies -

Studies have shown that altruism not only makes us happier and healthier, and that in fact it is common among teenagers. A US government report in 2014 showed that 26.1 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds volunteer, higher than the national rate.

In Hungary, however, Domi has sometimes found volunteering a hard sell outside his school. Last year, while helping the migrants, he was even sworn at in the street wearing a volunteer organisation's armband.

"Altruism among Hungarian kids is not typical," says Mihaly Csako, a sociologist who has conducted studies into youth attitudes in Hungary since 2005.

Social solidarity and helping others, particularly minorities, consistently rank low in the priorities of teens, who prefer to simply hang out together in malls or surf the Internet, he says.

"It's partly a historical hangover from Hungary's communist period when the parents of today's teenagers were cautious about dealing with anyone outside the family," Csako said.

"As the Hungarian saying goes: 'They're not puppies of our dog'. At most you might help the next-door granny," he said.

- Poverty close up -

Meanwhile in the remote Cserhat region near the Slovakian and Ukrainian borders, the group's van -- driven by one of their dads -- has pulled up outside a community centre in the village of Tomor after an hour's drive along potholed roads.

The supplies -- flour, rice, oil, sugar as well as second-hand clothes sent by Domi's contacts in Germany -- are destined for 30 mostly ethnic Roma families in nearby Szakacsi, statistically Hungary's poorest village.

"We go to where the need is greatest," Mark Takats, 17, an aspiring poet friend of Domi's sporting a man bun hairstyle, says after unloading the pallets. "I'd only seen such poverty on TV before, never so close up."

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Cserchat lies some 200 kilometres (120 miles) northeast of the Hungarian capital, but feels a million miles away from the teenagers' base, a high school in a leafy suburb of Buda, the richest part of the city.

"We believe in positive peer pressure, that we can show it is cool to volunteer," said Takats as he put up posters he designed himself on the corridor asking for donations.

"It's also fun, that's the magic of it," says another member, Dani Lakatos.

"We're just ordinary teenagers who happen to like helping, as well as football, computer games and partying."

by Peter Murphy

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## PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### Our head principal, Gábor Horányi spoke in Klub radio station's talkshow on 14 February 2016



In the half an hour spot, he talked about gravitational waves, relationships between individuals and communities as well as networks.

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## MICVAH

### Dress in Red!



Lauder students supported the sick children of the Dori House in February. As part of the Dress in Red campaign, everybody wore something red on the 19th of February, and many gave the 200 HUF or many times that into the donation box at reception.

This year, we are able to support the Dori House with 190.000 HUF-



## VI. Öltözz Pirosba

Öltözz Pirosba és mutasd ki a szereteted!



Február 19-én csatlakozz te is a Szemem Fénye Alapítvány Öltözz Pirosba kezdeményezéséhez és 200 ft-tal támogasd a Dóri Ház súlyosan beteg gyermekeit.

Helyszín, időpont:

Bővebb információ: [www.szememfenyehu/legy-reszese/jotekonyisagi-rendezvenyek/vi-oltozz-pirosba/](http://www.szememfenyehu/legy-reszese/jotekonyisagi-rendezvenyek/vi-oltozz-pirosba/)



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