

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



DECEMBER

Alumni art exhibition

Ildi Szarvas, art teacher, started an alumni art exhibition on the corridors, on the occasion of the 30th birthday of the school, with posters of artists and their artwork, of alumni of the school – with two new people each month.



Exchange programs

A group of 18 from our EL-IT year left for their exchange program in Israel on Thursday, with Kinga Mahr and Bori Panczel, to Shulam Tzor (near Acco), organized by Partnership2gether. They came back from their visit with full of great experiences.



“Hanukkah miracles”

The collection of presents for the “Hanukkah miracles” program ended. There were close to 70 families in need, in Budapest as well as on the countryside, for whom the school - classes together, or individual families - collected presents, to fulfill their wishes. The program, as usually, has been run and supervised by the Mitzvah-Group (Timea Nyerges and Agnes Kardos), with the help of Kehilla parents.

Humanities projects

The 9th graders spent 4 hours each week through 5 weeks before the winter holidays on a humanities project, on projects about heroes and anti-heroes, from the perspective of literature, history and Jewish studies – with the supervision and guidance of their subject teachers. They presented their projects to all related teachers and their classmates.



Within the newly initiated humanities project, the 7th graders went to see the Hungarian movie, Nagyi project (Granny project), and then they talked to the director. Some of their grandparents also joined the program.



Visitor from the Sztchlo Foundation

Andor Andrási from the Sztchlo Gabor Foundation was the guest of the 8th graders. This grade has been doing research on the Gaudiopolis project since September. As part of this project, they did interviews in October with him and children raised at the Sztchlo Home – who are already adults by now. The kids do presentations about the world of orphanages, the rescued children, and about that era. They also planted crocuses related to this project.

Hanukkah-boxes

The school is preparing for Hanukah on various levels. This year, our kindergarten, plus our 1st and 4th graders all receive a Hanukah-box with a tin hanukiah, candles, and the instructions in Hungarian, plus the blessings, including phonetic

transliteration and a QR code of the JS staff singing the blessings and songs. This explanation and instructions are also available to staff and parents online: <https://www.lauder.hu/hu/eportal/hanukaialdasok>. For the staff, the school has offered for many years the opportunity to buy Hanukkah-candles through the school.

Short news

- We held the traditional **ball for Tavlinim**, our finalist class. It was a very nice and touching ceremony, with dances of the 11th and 12th graders, organized by Ildi Szarvas.
- 9th graders went to the **International day of human rights**, organized at the Budapest European Youth Center.
- Elementary school had the monthly **communal Kabbalat Shabbat** in the aula, with performance of the children's choir involved in the CD project of the school, under the guidance of JS teacher Kata Rév and mother-singer Eszter Bíró.
- 5th graders did their **Havdalah in the mood for Hanukkah**, with donuts, songs and dances.
- 8th graders took donations to, and spent a day in the **homeless child shelter and kindergarten on Dankó Street**, were greeted by the organization's leader, the Rev. Gábor Iványi, who also wished Happy Hanukkah to our kids.
- We had our usual **Hanukkah party** for staff. Two of our 11th grade students (Virág Czakó and Manó Erdődi) played jazz music, Szonja spoke about the history and tradition of presents and charity on Hanukkah.
- Elementary school held a **Hanukkah fair**, with arts and crafts by children and their families.
- We have launched a **Hanukkah photo competition**: classes can compete with each other via our website, uploading pictures of their families lighting candles – the winning class in each division (elementary, middle school and high school) will receive a joint class program.