



# Making Day School Work for Working Parents

by LILLIAN HELLMAN, DIRECTOR, MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Making Day School work for working parents—so begins a recent article in *Forward* magazine, addressing the challenge facing working parents today who choose to enroll their children in Jewish Day Schools. Working parents struggle to seek out and provide quality education for their children, both Jewish and secular, while also pursuing the dual careers that enable them to pay their “hefty” tuition bill.

It is important to acknowledge the growing reality of parents working significant hours outside the home, accompanied by their desire to provide superior, enriched programming during the hours many children remain at school after 3:30. Nationally, Jewish Day Schools are working to devise schedules and

programs that address these issues and Mizel JCDS is joining the trend.

Mizel has always offered a basic after care program, but at an obligatory fee that caused financial difficulties for many working parents. And so the idea of offering enriched, academic and creative after school activities at a generously donor-subsidized, reduced fee was born. The brainchild of sisters Shirley Burger and Janet Dundee, parents of grown alumni of Heritage Academy (now Mizel Jewish Community Day School), will debut this fall when parents will have the opportunity to enroll their children in the following one-hour sessions for only \$6 each:

- “Kids Computer Coding” with Philip Burger, computer programmer and

data expert, alumni and parent of two Mizel students, 4–5 pm on Tuesdays

- “Calliope Youth Circus” with Anton Von Ostendorf and Jennifer Paxton, owners of Calliope Youth Circus Foundation and parents of two Mizel students, 4:00-5:00pm on Wednesday
- “Yoga for Kids” with Dana Morris, yoga instructor and owner of “Buddhafal Child Yoga,” 4:00-5:00pm on Thursdays
- Regular After Care will be available on Mondays and Fridays

While this program is envisioned as a pilot program, we are committed to it becoming a permanent component of Mizel’s scholastic and extra-curricular programming. Eventually it could be made available to the greater Tulsa community as an After School Enrichment Program for non-Mizel families, who would pay a fee to join.

We are excited to offer this innovative solution which fills the need for both full day care and enriched educational experiences and we look forward to expanding the course offerings in the future. For more information, please call the Mizel JCDS office at 918.494.0953. ■