



**\$15,000 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION JEWISH EDUCATOR AWARD
AWARDED TO PASADENA'S WEIZMANN DAY SCHOOL HEAD, LISA FELDMAN**
Milken Family Foundation continues tradition of honoring excellence in education

PASADENA, CA (Oct. 6) – Weizmann Day School is thrilled to announce that one of four 2011 Milken Jewish Educator Awards was presented to our own Head of School, Lisa Feldman today in recognition of her significant contributions to education. Feldman, who was not aware that she would receive the prestigious award, reacted in stunned surprise when she was presented with the \$15,000 award at what she was told would be a school-wide playground safety meeting.

Milken Family Foundation Executive Vice President Richard Sandler, who also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, announced her award before cheering students and staff at the school-wide assembly. Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) Executive Director Dr. Gil Graff also officiated the ceremony. Feldman's husband Brian Greene (Head of the Westside JCC) and son Sam Feldman Greene were in attendance. Also present were Miriam Prum Hess, BJE Director of Centers for Excellence in Day School Education and Educational Engagement, Dahlia Geilman, Program Administrator from the Milken Family Foundation, Eitan Trabin, Executive Director of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Jason Moss, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys along with school board members and other community members.

"I am absolutely speechless!" said Feldman immediately after being announced as one of this year's winners. "I am so privileged to be able to do this work that I love, surrounded by such wonderful staff, teachers, students, family and community members. Weizmann Day School is truly a second family to me and I am incredibly proud to be honored and to be a part of this excellent school."

The Milken Family Jewish Educator Awards are presented annually to give public recognition and financial awards of \$15,000 to four teachers, administrators and other education professionals who have made significant contributions to excellence in education in day schools affiliated with BJE. "Jewish tradition places great honor on the role of teachers," said Lowell Milken, chairman and co-founder of the Milken Family Foundation. "For it is through the knowledge, faith and values they impart that the next

generation of Jewish men and women will be guided and inspired toward a life of learning and ethical action.”

Despite a challenging economy, **Lisa Feldman’s** leadership at Weizmann Day School has produced a 50 percent growth in enrollment over the last few years; little surprise given a recent parent survey showing a 97 percent school satisfaction rate. As Head of School and instructional leader, Ms. Feldman developed the school’s curriculum, which educates the whole child and integrates core academic subjects with Hebrew and Judaic Studies, the arts, science, technology and physical education. High student achievement levels are illustrated by the Educational Record Bureau CTP III tests, on which 70 percent of Weizmann 5th and 6th graders routinely score at or above the 97th percentile.

A proponent of building strong relationships among diverse schools, synagogues and community organizations, Ms. Feldman organizes events such as the upcoming annual Daniel Pearl concert where students from local Christian and Muslim schools share the stage to sing songs of peace to honor the legacy of slain Wall Street Journal reporter, Daniel Pearl. Her expertise as an educator reaches beyond Weizmann Day School. Last year she became lay chair of BJE’s Head of School Council, leading professional development that has included a focus on value-added evaluation. In addition, she is currently serving as Clinical Faculty Mentor at the Rhea Hirsch School of Education of Hebrew Union College and last year served as On Site Supervisor at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information.

Award recipients are selected by a committee of educators, professional and lay leaders from the Jewish community who have a long-standing concern for and involvement with education in Jewish schools. To be eligible for consideration, educators must teach a minimum of 15 hours per week at the kindergarten through 12th grade level; they must have been teaching for a minimum of seven years in a BJE-affiliated school; and they must hold a class "A" or higher scale rating (for Judaic teachers) or a state teaching credential (for general studies teachers).

The criteria considered for the selection of Jewish Educator Award recipients include:

- Exceptional educational talent and promise, as demonstrated by outstanding practices in the classroom, school and community.
- Evidence of originality, dedication and capacity for leadership and self-direction.
- Commitment to influencing policies that affect children, their families and schools.
- Strong long-range potential for even greater contribution to children, the profession and society.
- Distinguished achievement in developing innovative educational curricula, programs and/or teaching methods.
- Outstanding ability to instill in students character and self-confidence.

- Outstanding ability to develop Jewish children's understanding of the connections between their religion, their classroom activities, and their activities beyond the classroom.
- Commitment to professional development and excellence and the continuing Judaic and/or secular study necessary for it.
- Personal involvement in responding to the needs of the Jewish and secular communities.
- Criteria for administrators also include outstanding ability to attract, support and motivate committed education professionals.

Recipients, together with their families and community leaders, will be honored during an awards luncheon in Los Angeles on December 15th.

For more information about Weizmann Day School, please visit www.weizmann.net or call the School Office at (626) 797-0204 or office@weizmann.net.

About Weizmann Day School

Established in 1983, Weizmann Day School is a non-profit, independent co-educational school (Kindergarten-8th grade) offering outstanding academic education enriched by Judaic principles and values. The school is committed to maintaining small class sizes with differentiated teaching strategies to fit individual students' educational and social development. They believe academic achievement goes hand-in-hand with tikkun olam (finding ways to improve society) and welcome students from a wide variety of Jewish, interfaith and diverse backgrounds. (www.weizmann.net)

For more information about the Milken Jewish Educator Awards, visit <http://mff.org/jea/jea.taf>.

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