



400 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04103  
Phone: (207) 774-7676  
Fax: (207) 699-2780  
leveydayschool.org  
info@leveydayschool.org

October 10, 2017

Dear parents, alumni, and friends of Levey Day School,

Gerri Chizeck  
*Head of School*

I am thrilled to announce that Jeffrey Tremblay will be the next head of Levey Day School, succeeding current head Gerri Chizeck in July. Jeff brings to this position over two decades of experience as a teacher and administrator, most recently as Head of Lower School at Renbrook School in West Hartford. Our search committee and board were especially impressed by Jeff's track record of success in student recruitment, parent engagement, and teacher mentorship.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

David Freidenreich  
*President/Treasurer*

Larissa Crockett  
*Vice President*

Jane Frederick  
*Secretary*

Karl Schatz  
*Immediate Past President*

Reuben P. Bell  
Ben Bornstein  
David Handwerker  
Barbara Merson

Levey exists to provide a nurturing community and a challenging, personalized curriculum infused with Jewish values and Hebrew language. Students of all backgrounds become lifelong learners committed to *tikkun olam* (improving our world). Jeff shares our passion for Jewish education and our commitment to serving Jewish and non-Jewish families alike. Although not himself Jewish, Jeff served with great success as principal of Hillel Hebrew Academy in Beverly Hills. The rabbi of that Orthodox school describes Jeff as a caring, compassionate, creative, and inspirational leader with a deep Jewish sensibility and a strong command of Jewish culture. While at Hillel, Jeff initiated a successful marketing strategy built on the principle of *kehillah* (community), established a transformative "Be a Mensch" student ethics and leadership campaign, developed an innovative school-wide arts program, and implemented new curricula in math, writing, and project-based learning. Jeff has demonstrated his ability to advance each of Levey's core values.

Our trustees and teachers are excited to work with Jeff as we build on our school's great strengths. Top priorities include growing the student body and creating a new staff position at Levey. Our Director of Jewish Life and Learning will create school-wide and multigenerational programs and will work with teachers to more fully integrate our Hebrew & Judaics, general studies, and arts curricula. To reach these goals, we also need your support. I hope that you will contribute generously to this year's annual appeal as we capitalize on an incredible triple-match opportunity to raise money for these and other long-term strategic initiatives.

I am grateful to the members of the search committee—Kathryn Barr, Morah Kim Berry, Larissa Crockett, and Alisha Goldblatt—for their diligent work recruiting and evaluating a strong applicant pool. Most of all, I am grateful to Gerri Chizeck for her leadership over the past 3+ years: she has strengthened our school in so many ways and laid the foundations for many years of future success.

Later this week, we will complete our annual reading of the Torah and begin again. The words accompanying that transition and renewal apply as well to this moment in Levey's history: *Hazak, hazak, venithazek*—be strong, be strong, let us be strengthened together!

On behalf of the board of trustees,

David Freidenreich, president@leveydayschool.org

*"Cultivating the mind, body, and spirit, in a nurturing Jewish environment"*



400 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04103  
Phone: (207) 774-7676  
Fax: (207) 699-2780  
leveydayschool.org  
info@leveydayschool.org

October 10, 2017  
20th of Tishrei 5778

Gerri Chizeck  
*Head of School*

Dear Friends of Levey Day School,

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

David Freidenreich  
*President/Treasurer*

Larissa Crockett  
*Vice President*

Jane Frederick  
*Secretary*

Karl Schatz  
*Immediate Past President*

Reuben P. Bell  
Ben Bornstein  
David Handwerker  
Barbara Merson

I am both humbled and honored to be your next Head of School. My wife, Tracey, and son, Kelan, are happy and excited as well, and we are all looking forward to our move to the Portland area. Just as Levey's logo depicts, each of us is ready to reach for the stars that lie ahead of us on this new journey in our lives.

In all my conversations with the Levey Day School community I have encountered a deep, abiding love for the school, a respect for all its students and families, a strong and shared vision of the school's mission, and an atmosphere of collegiality and purpose. Levey is much more than a Jewish day school by name in the heart of Portland. It is a place of love and nurturing that celebrates the myriad of transitions in growth from early childhood to preadolescence. Levey provides its students a vast array of academic and personal growth experiences that cultivate the mind, body, and spirit. It is strongly committed to each student's authentic growth. The strong and dedicated faculty stand firmly behind the mission of the school to provide all students a sense of *kavod* and a challenging, multi-faceted curriculum. I am excited to work alongside them each day and learn from them. Although its population is small, the students are diverse, talented and unique. I was impressed with their poise and dedication to their own learning. Levey's students become the future leaders in their middle schools and high schools, and go on to be successful in college and in life. That was on full display during my visit to campus. I am eager to once again work in a Jewish day school where studies have shown that the students are more likely to demonstrate a stronger sense of responsibility towards addressing the needs of the larger society by influencing social values, helping those in need, and volunteering time to social change efforts.

In the coming months I hope to write you again so that we can keep in touch and begin to build the connections that will serve us as the strong foundation we will need to grow Levey together. This includes my plans for building a stronger, more vibrant, and far-reaching Levey Day School. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone (310.422.4724 or [jatremblay1@gmail.com](mailto:jatremblay1@gmail.com)) if you wish to speak or if you have a question or a story to share. I'm here for you.

I want to personally thank David Freidenreich, who continues to work tirelessly to answer all my questions. He has been so helpful and kind to me and my family, and deserves kudos. Along

*"Cultivating the mind, body, and spirit, in a nurturing Jewish environment"*

with the board, we are building a robust framework for a fruitful, long-lasting, and impactful relationship on behalf of the school. I also want to thank all of the members of the Head of School Search Committee who gave a lot of their time and energy in this process, as well as each of those I met over the course of my visit. Every constituent I spoke with gave me their greatest gift: a sense of pride and devotion to the school, and hope for its future. A special thanks to Gerri Chizeck, who embodies the intelligence of Levey, and who very warmly embraced me during my visit. Good luck to you in the future, and I look forward to our partnership in this important transition.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. Each person associated with Levey I met has a story that needs telling. I am thrilled to be that ambassador to share these stories, reach out to the community in the hopes of building student enrollment, and lead Levey to new heights. My family and I are thrilled to join Levey's *kehillah*, and I look forward to meeting with each of you soon. *Todah*, in advance, for welcoming my family into yours.

Much peace,

Jeff



*“Cultivating the mind, body, and spirit, in a nurturing Jewish environment”*