



THE BILLBOARD THAT CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION

*A FIRST - THING - THAT - COMES - TO - MIND CONVERSATION
WITH ADAM TILOVE, JCDS RHODE ISLAND HEAD OF SCHOOL.*



THE YU SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

SPRING QUARTERLY UPDATE

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5 NEW THINGS THAT JCDSRI TRIED THIS YEAR:

1. Creating a 3 month theater partnership with the Islamic School of Rhode Island.
2. Putting up our bright pink "Too Jewish?" ad on I-95.
3. Writing our new TikkunXDesign curriculum to explore the overlap in Human Centered Design and Jewish values.
4. Adopting some of the protocols of Holacracy to make our meetings more effective.
5. Implementing a peer coaching and mentoring program to support teachers and explore other ways to build a partnership between the teachers and administration.



TOP THREE PEOPLE/BOOKS THAT INSPIRED YOU TO INTRODUCE MORE INNOVATION IN YOUR SCHOOL :

1. "Reinventing Organizations" by Fredric LaLoux
2. "Switch" by Chip and Dan Heath
3. "An Ethic of Excellence" by Rob Berger

THE KEY TO OFFERING A WARM ENVIRONMENT IS ...

to lead with curiosity, ask lots of questions, and listen to the answers. I'm still not great at it, but I'm working hard to get better!

THE KEY TO CHALLENGING YOUR STUDENTS IS ...

get them involved in a project in which they have authentic voice and choice, and then have high expectations that students will create beautiful work.

I THINK SCHOOLS SHOULD INNOVATE BECAUSE ...

Innovation is not a goal in and of itself. Innovation is only valuable if somehow brings the organization closer to fulfilling its mission and values. Innovation for the sake of innovation can end up deconstructing things that work, and may be beloved, and it can be jarring and unnerving to the people who work in the organization. Innovation with clear motives and vision is easy to get behind, but the innovation junkie should remember, all change is loss.



ANY DEEP THOUGHTS YOU'D LIKE TO CLOSE WITH?

Schools have two, sometimes contradictory, goals:

1. to make kids independent, critical thinkers.
2. to pass on the values from one generation to the next.

In the case of Jewish Day Schools, we want our children to be critical thinkers, but also want them to be committed, knowledgeable Jews. We can ensure these Jewish values through classes, prayer, holiday celebrations, etc. But there are other values we hold dear that are harder to pass on. For example, anti-racism, or what I call 'xenophilia'. How does a fairly homogenous JDS teach loving the other as commanded in "V'ahavta l'reyeach cmocha?" We are looking for active ways to build relationships with 'the other' so our children learn to see people as people - not as stereotypes. Schools need to think about ALL the values they hold dear, and then look for opportunities to live those values.

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