

Mevakar B'Bayit (A Visit Home)

We were so fortunate to have Max Manasevit ('03) visit our students on September 26, 2016! Max spoke to our fourth-graders about his recent work in Mongolia as a Peace Corps volunteer, where he taught English to Mongolian schoolchildren. This was a one-of-a-kind opportunity for our fourth-grade classes to have an insider's look at globalization versus isolationism, their focus area for JPDS-NC's school-wide Election Day project this fall.

Max discussed the terrain and climate of Mongolia, as well as its currency, nomadic culture, architecture, clothing, and the effects of globalization on Mongolian culture. (He notably mentioned that English is now Mongolia's second official language.) He compared traditional Mongolian life to the culture of the Jewish people, noting that both have struggled to adhere to their respective traditions despite outside pressure of assimilation. Max also stressed the importance of Peace Corps, which allows Americans to work overseas to help other people and to develop international cooperation. Max shared several Mongolian objects such as handcrafted dolls, camel wool socks, and a leather harness he himself helped create.

We are so grateful to Max for his continued commitment to JPDS-NC and his willingness to share his travels with our students and staff. If you're interested in participating in the alumni speakers series, please email Vered Asta at alumni@jpds.org.