

Calendar

Fri., Jan.12- End of 1st Semester - Regular Schedule
Sun., Jan. 14- Yeshiva dinner in NYC, Jan. 14 at VIP Country Club. To reserve your spot or place an ad, call Rabbi Shmuel Herman right away or visit: <https://www.rayze.it/rochester49/>
Mon., Jan. 15 - DHR OPEN - No Busing
Wed., Jan. 24 - 2nd Grade Fieldtrip to Planetarium
Fri., Jan. 26- Mon., Jan. 29-Midwinter Weekend Break - **No School**



From the Principal

Dr. Lea E. Goldstein

Finally, to our students' delight, we are up to the parshios of the Makkos – the 10 Plagues. Did you ever wonder, why were ten plagues necessary – wouldn't a single, mighty plague have done the trick? Hashem says (ibid. 7:3), "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart and I will increase my signs and wonders in Egypt." Why did Hashem have to go out of His way, so to speak, to harden Pharaoh's heart and prolong the process of redemption? An alternative approach that solves these issues is that Hashem's intention with the Ten Plagues was, as expressed in the aforementioned verse, to increase His signs and wonders, so that, as Rashi comments on that verse, Bnai Yisrael would see and recognize Hashem's might. The Ramban similarly discusses how the Ten Plagues serve to affirm that Hashem presides over every detail in our world and to debunk any misconception regarding Hashem's power and existence. In addition, these plagues serve as a cornerstone of our belief that we transmit to future generations.

Based on these meforshim, it seems that there were two reason for the Makkos: 1) To force Pharaoh to free the Jews from slavery. 2) To exhibit to the entire world that Hashem is all-powerful, omnipresent and omniscient. These two reasons seem to be independent of each other, but perhaps they are really one and the same. Our Chachamim tell us that Hashem took out Bnai Yisrael due to the merit of their emuna (faith). This seems to indicate that emuna was necessary to merit redemption. Indeed, the Vilna Gaon made such a comment in his work on prayer, Avnei Eliyahu. Commenting on the words in Shemoneh Esrei that Hashem is a "משען ומבטח לצדיקים" - a "support and assurance for the righteous", the Vilna Gaon explains that Hashem helps the righteous keep their faith while they are still awaiting their salvation.

To illustrate, he notes that Hashem instilled emuna in the Bnai Yisrael by bringing the Makkos in order to enable them to attain the merit needed to be redeemed. The role the Makkos played in instilling the Jewish People with emuna was actually pivotal in their meriting redemption! Hashem brought the Makkos as a means to free Bnai Yisrael from their Egyptian slavery, but in order to merit redemption, they needed to have emuna in Hashem.

Partially excerpted from: <https://www.denverkollel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Vaera.pdf>

Fun & Learning at DHR



Middos Mention...

...Naama ran with zizus to clean up a puzzle right when the timer rang!
 ...Meira noticed that her friend didn't have a brown crayon, and Meira had 2 crayons - and with much kindness -gave one to her friend to keep!

Mazel Tov to...

...Mr. & Mrs. Yisroel Levinson upon the birth of their new daughter yesterday!



Benching Superstars....

Yehudis Balgley	Ephraim Burger	Rochie Dan
Baruch Ber Herman	Zecharia Kuyunov	Rikki Lagunov
Russi Max	Levi Yaras	



Brought to you by the letter Ches!

The kindergartners celebrated the letter "ח" yesterday with a chasuna (wedding), a chupa (wedding canopy), chassanim (grooms)...and of course, beautiful, elegant kallahs (brides)! Such fun!! Thank you to Morah Rivka Leah Balgley and Morah Shira Twersky for making kriah so immersive and exciting!



Rosh Chodesh ...

In honor of Rosh Chodesh Shevat, we provided fresh delicious fruits, "Hashem's Candy", for our students on Thursday!



Thank you to Mrs. Ribakow and the month of Shevat heads Adina Goldstein and Dassi Stein for "the Power of the Klal" event! Girls in 4th - 8th really enjoyed it!



Nimi'ipuu Native Americans Crafts

Our 4th grade girls made bags with sewn beads in the style of the Nimi'ipuu Native Americans with their creative teacher, Mrs. Kathy Clarke. Shells and beads (earned for class work, tests, and citizenship) are being collected in the bags to purchase prizes at the end of the month!!! Fun and functional!



7th/8th Grade Girls Science Fun!

The 7th/8th grade girls are working on their investigative skills- they learned to harvest DNA from cheek cells.

