

## Calendar

Weekend of Jan. 13 & 14 - **MSG DHR Shabbaton!!**  
 Mon., Jan. 16 - MLK Jr. Day - **School Open - NO BUSING**  
 Wed., Jan. 19 - End of Semester  
 Fri., Jan. 27 - Mon., Jan. 30 - Winter Break Weekend - **No School**  
 Tues., Feb. 7 - **Save the date: DHR's Winter Open House Celebration**  
 Tues., Feb. 14 - **School Picture Day (details to follow)**  
 Fri., Feb. 17 - Mon., Feb. 20 - **Presidents' Weekend - No School**  
 Mon., March 20 - **Save the date: Middle School Girls' Production!**

## From the Principal

*Dr. Lea E. Goldstein*

This week's newsletter is dedicated to a group of very special people. On this subject, mazel tov to Rabbi Avi & Rebbetzin Miriam (DHR Middos Coordinator) Mammon who were just inducted into this special fraternity. This week, we focus on the Bubbies and Zaidies, Grandmas and Grandpas or however your family refers to those fabulous people.

Not surprisingly, a University of Oxford study (2008) published in Science Daily showed that grandparents can be invaluable assets to the upbringing of younger children. Many are family-focused people; dedicated to values and principles refined through a lifetime of learning – and their roles can be of incalculable significance in the day-to-day life of a child. Grandparents can play a high-level role in the emotional and behavioral development of children. When they are present, children have fewer emotional problems, and they are less likely to engage in negative behaviors. They often help in the development of children's problem-solving skills and provide stability.

The relationship is codified in the Torah, as well. Grandparents are tasked with a religious obligation and are bequeathed with a sacred responsibility: to preserve and to transmit the mesorah that they received from their parents and grandparents to subsequent generations.

Specifically, when we are commanded to remember Matan Torah, we are instructed to convey this to future generations (Devarim 4:9-10): "... and make them known to your children and to your children's children..." From these words, we derive that there is an obligation for grandparents to not only teach their own children about the Jewish tradition but to teach their grandchildren as well. The Rambam counts it as an actual obligation to teach Torah to one's grandchildren (Hilchos Talmud Torah 1:2) and it's also included in the Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh Deah 245:3).

On the Talmud's phrase "the verse ascribes him credit as though he received it from Mount Sinai", Rabbi Shmuel Eliezer HaLevi Eidels, in his commentary Chiddushei Maharsha, suggests that it's referring to the grandchild. If one teaches Torah to a grandchild, it is as though the grandchild received the Torah at Har Sinai. Although we did not actually stand at Har Sinai ourselves, we rely solely on the testimony of our ancestors about that pivotal event. Thus, when a grandparent recounts the story of Har Sinai to a grandchild, the grandchild is able to connect to that moment, tapping into an unbroken chain of transmission.

In the words of Rabbi A. Fagin, executive VP of the OU, "sometimes, simply receiving a Jewish education from one's parents is insufficient to firmly instill within a child the depth, grandeur and historic dimension of our mesorah. It is the ability to connect with generations past that gives a child a more robust understanding of the longevity of our tradition and the unbroken chain of the mesorah that extends back to Sinai. Thus, Yaakov literally conquered time and space when he said to Yosef, 'Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt, before I came to you in Egypt, are mine. Ephraim and Menashe shall be mine, like Reuven and Shimon' (Bereishis 48:5)".

In this week's Parsha, Yaakov blesses his grandsons, Ephraim and Menashe. It is this unique and inspiring bracha that, throughout history, Jewish parents use to bless their sons. Chief Rabbi Lord Jakobovits, zt"l, asked why this is the blessing we use for our children, rather than other beautiful brachos from the Torah? His touching answer describes how the other brachos in Sefer Bereishis are from fathers to sons – and between fathers and sons there can sometimes be tension and a lack of close connection. Yaakov's brachos to Ephraim and Menashe, his grandchildren, are the only instance in the Torah of a grandparent blessing a grandchild. And between grandparents and grandchildren, there should be no stress, only pure love.

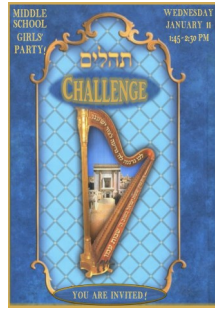
## Work & Fun at DHR!...



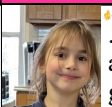
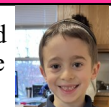
## Tehillim Challenge Party!

We are thrilled to report that 20 of our middle school girls successfully completed the Tehillim Challenge! So impressive!!

We will celebrate ה"א next Wednesday, January 11 from 1:45-2:30pm with a Tehillim Party (let's complete the entire sefer together), treats and a special presentation from Rebbetzin Davidowitz (which will include a new interlinear sefer Tehillim and \$75 per student who completed the challenge). Mothers are welcome to join this special party. Mazel tov!!!



## Middos Mentions...

 ...Nava gave a friend an icepack when she got injured in class!  
 ...Yosef helped clean up the art room without even being asked. What Zreizus! 🌟

## Mazel Tov to...

...Chaim and Chevi (DHR class of 2016) Slotchiver on the birth of their son and Rabbi and Mrs. Avi Mammon upon the birth of their grandson!

...the following amazing students have been added to this month's "DHR Distinguished Writer's Board" and they've received the "Distinguished Writer's Pen": Yerucham Dahari, Ariel Kuyunov, Gary Chilungu, Adina Goldstein, Naama Roness, Hadassah Stein, Leora Mirochnik, Batsheva Max and Tehila Lehrer! Congratulations!



## Benching Superstars

Zeesa Aranov	Rikki Lagunov	Hannah Ulloa
Yosef Brea	Russi Max	Rena Vatch
Rochie Dan	Michal Polatoff	Nosson Vogel
Zelda Deitch	Ahron Shulman	Levi Yaras
Baruch Ber Herman	Aliza Sloviter	Moshe Zargary
Zecharia Kuyunov	Tzipporah Twersky	

## Thank you ...

...Rabbi Winston and Congregation Beth Sholom for their generous donation of many sefarim for our talmidim and bais medrash.  
 ...Mr. Al Spanjer and Dr. Caroline Stern for their donation!  
 ...Dr. Baruch & Malkie Eisenberg for their very generous donation!!