

Calendar

Fri., Feb. 18th & Mon., Feb. 21: **Presidents Weekend - No School**

Fun & Learning at DHR



Benching Superstars!

Yosef Brea
Ruvy Dan
Baruch Ber Herman
Aviva Kuyunov
Rikki Lagunov



Liba Mittel
Michal Polatoff
Yosef Shulman
Shmuel Winograd

Middos Mentions!



Racheli pushed in all of the chairs in the classroom, even though she was missing her recess time!



Ethan cleaned up the lunch room and picked up garbage on his own without being asked. Great job!



Mazel Tov to ...

...the 5/6 girls for completing Perek Bais in Navi!



Thank you to...

... Dr. Alan Entenberg for his donation in honor of the Akkerman family.

From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

In this week's Parsha, the Torah says (שמות כ"ה, י"א): "You shall cover it with pure gold, from inside and from outside, you shall cover it...". Rashi quotes the Gemara (ירמא ע"ב) that the Aron was not really solid gold even though it appeared that way. In actuality, it was made of wood with gold on the outside and gold on the inside. We know that Bnei Yisrael donated a fortune in gold, so there was plenty available for Betzalel to use, and other keilim like the massive Menorah were made of pure gold. So why wasn't the Aron made of solid gold? What is the reason for the wooden interior of this magnificent box?

Rabbi Yissocher Frand (Tape #802) quotes Rav Simcha Schepps, z"l, who explains that there is a major difference between gold and wood. Gold is an extremely soft, malleable metal. The purest, softest form of gold is 24k gold. Less pure is 18k (which is mixed with metal alloys to strengthen it), then 14k and 10k. A 14k necklace is much stronger than a 24k gold necklace because it has a larger percentage of non-gold alloys mixed in to give it strength.

He answers that the Aron represents Torah. Wood is solid and does not easily bend. The reason that the Aron was strengthened with a wooden core is to emphasize that we should not try to mold the Torah to meet our own needs. Pure gold can be formed and twisted in any way, but we are not allowed to do that with Torah.

Unfortunately, we have been witness to different movements that have tried to shape and change the Torah. If they cannot fit their lives to the Torah, they twist the Torah to match their lives. This is what the Torah wants us to avoid and this is the message taught by the solid and firm wood inside of the Aron between the two layers of gold.

According to the Kli Yakar, this mitzvah, of how to construct the Aron, teaches us that that a person should be the same, inside and out. His/her behavior should be consistently good and appropriate, wherever the individual is, whether at school, at home, at a friend's house, on the playground, or at Shul.

And what is the true test of good middos - character traits? It's not just how we behave in public; it's how we act with our closest family members! They deserve our best. And how do we daven or make berachos when no one is watching us? As carefully as when we are in public? We need to remember the importance of being great - both when we are inside and when we are out!

This newsletter is sponsored in memory of Sara bas Tzvi Aryeh, Mrs. Sydell Rennert, ז"ל, great grandmother of Benny and Leora Diskind. "Morah Rennert" was a renowned Pre 1a teacher and kriah specialist at YBH in Passaic for 58 years. She taught multiple generations and thousands of children. She left a lasting impression on each and every student.

