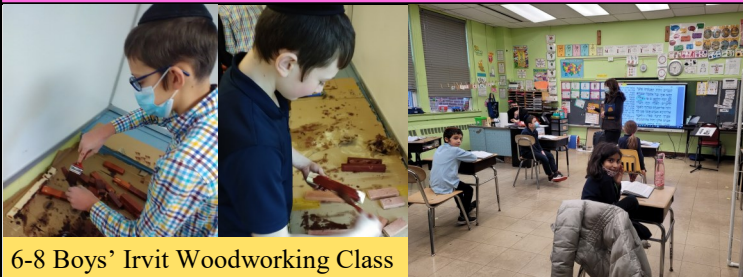


## Strong End to a Great Semester!



6-8 Boys' Irvit Woodworking Class



## 7/8 Grade Boys Hanging our New Flag!

Thank you to Mr. Tom Hyman for donating two new American flags to fly proudly in front of our school building. He taught our 7th and 8th grade boys how to properly care for a flag, fold a flag, and raise and lower a flag.



## Benching Superstars!

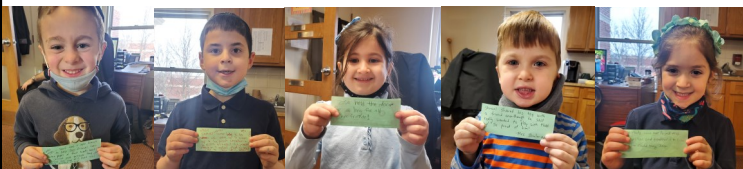
Menachem Caro  
Chana Cohen  
Ruvy Dan  
Ahuva Katz  
Mordy Mammon



Leora Mirochnik  
Ethan Nussbaum  
Tova Serebrowski  
Mendel Vogel  
Mottel Vogel

## Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

**Shmuel W. (K)** - Shmuel shared his toy with a friend even though he still really wanted to play with it. So proud of him!  
**Zeesa A. (K)** - Zeesa held the door for all her friends!  
**Michal P. (1st)** - Michal saw her friend drop a dollar and returned it to him so he could still buy soup.  
**Shmuel L. (2nd)** - When it was time for clean up in art Shmuel didn't complain or sit and wait. Instead, he jumped right up and asked what he could do to help! Amazing!  
**Yosef S. (K)** - Yosef took it upon himself to help two friends turn the pages of their math books to the correct page, because they joined the class late and Miss Hunt was helping another friend.



## Thank you to...

~ Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Shulman, and Mrs. Mammon for driving/chaperoning the girls' G.O. trip to Hotshots.

## 6/7 Girls Cantata & 6-8 Girls Hotshots Trip



## From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

First, a shout-out to all of the DHR parents! We know that you invest so much time, love and energy in your precious children. Here at school, we are honored to operate in *loco parentis* – acting on your behalf to educate your children.

A most successful partnership happens when both parties are positive, supportive and open. When parents support teachers and teachers support parents, everyone wins. Not surprisingly, research has shown that parent engagement and successful parent-teacher partnerships result in improved educational outcomes for students (Ministry of Education, Ontario, 2010).

In Pirkei Avos (1:7), Nitai HaArbeli says, "Distance yourself from a bad neighbor and do not join with an evil person." The fundamental concept expressed by this teaching is that people are essentially and profoundly good, which is why, for self-improvement, we must distance ourselves from negative influences. Avoiding negative influences, including the negative impulses from within ourselves, the yeitzer hara, brings out our innate goodness.

We believe that children are good and that they desire to do the right thing. When we set them up for success, through loving and positive interactions and respect, they grow into happy, confident people. How do we set them up for success both at home and at school?

1. Put in place consistent and predictable environments that make children feel safe and comfortable. They crave structure and routine.
2. Be clear about rules and expectations, but also be kind, compassionate and caring – when children feel loved and accepted, they want to do what is right.
3. Teach and model expected behavior – to prevent unexpected, unacceptable behavior. Children are sponges and if they see us lose our tempers, they will assume that it's acceptable to lose one's temper.
4. Behaviors (both positive and negative) that get our attention, get repeated. So, try to notice when a child does the right thing and say something about each success: "I noticed you stopped to pick up that thumbtack on the floor. Thanks for helping us keep the room safe and clean. The most effective way to change a behavior is to point out what a child does right! Make sure that there are many more positive interactions than negative interactions.
5. When parents display a positive attitude towards school, their children will also be positive about school. It's so important for parents to be careful to address school concerns out of the earshot of their child. If parents display a negative attitude toward school or the child's teachers, their child will, most likely, adopt that identical negative attitude towards school and will start to spiral downward.

6. Abraham Ibn Hasdai, the great 13th century poet and philosopher, pointed out (in Ben HaMelech VeHa'Nazir, p. 170) that: "People are endowed with two ears and only one tongue, so we might listen more than speak". Only after really listening should we respond to another person, and perhaps we should listen with one ear to the words that are said, and with the second, listen to what is not said but can be discerned.

7. The great Reb Shimshon Raphael Hirsch comments on Hashem's directive to Avraham "Shemah b'kolah" (Bereishis, 21:12) to listen to Sarah's voice: Don't only listen to her words, her demands; listen to her anguish, her fear, the tone of pleading in her voice. Imagine for a moment that you are in her place. When we do that for our children, they feel heard, cared about and secure...even if we can't fix the problem. So, let's continue working together to be positive, supportive partners in chinuch. (Some content excerpted from [aju.edu/listen-when-i-speak](http://aju.edu/listen-when-i-speak))

## Mazel Tov to...

- ~ Benny Diskind on putting on tefillin for the first time this week!
- ~ The 6/7 girls for learning Parshas Bamidbar. They celebrated with a pizza & smoothie siyum.
- ~ R' Chastain's middle school boys' Tuesday night shiur on finishing Maseches Brachos.
- ~ The 8th Grade girls on finishing Parshas Vayeitzai! They celebrated with a fun home-made sushi party! Ask them how sushi connects to that Parsha!



## Calendar

- ~ Fri., Jan. 22nd: End of First Semester
- ~ Mon. Jan. 25th: **Gefen Soups will increase to \$2 each.**
- ~ Fri.-Mon. Feb. 12-15: February Break Weekend (no school)
- ~ Thurs., Feb. 25th: Taanis Esther (1pm dismissal)
- ~ Fri., Feb. 26th: Purim Break (no school)

