

Ready for Chanuka!



Thank You to...

- ~ All those "attending" this Sunday's Chanuka Dinner & Shows!
- ~ All those who purchased raffle tickets to win the Silver Menorah! Drawing is this Sunday...you can still buy tickets until Friday morning at 10 a.m.
- ~ Mrs. Karen Kessler for her generous donation made in loving memory of her mother Joan Keenan Atvell.
- ~ Our fabulous volunteer chef Mr. Yoni Dahari, sous chef R' Ross Kosow and all the parent volunteers who will be helping in the kitchen and making deliveries.

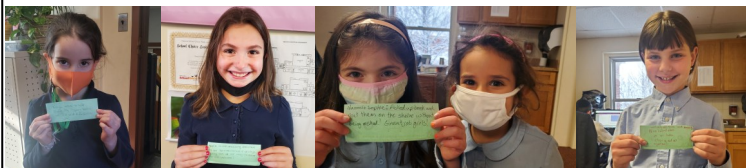
Busing Update

- ~ **Brighton** will **not** be providing busing on Dec. 24th or 31st and Jan. 1st & 18th.
- ~ **Rush Henrietta & Pittsford** will **not** be providing busing from Dec. 23rd - Jan. 1st and Jan. 18th.
- ~ **RCSD** will **not** be providing transportation from Dec. 24th - Jan. 1st and Jan. 18th.



Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

- Adina G. (4/5 Girls)** - Not only did Adina work beautifully, Adina helped others at her table clean up and get organized
- Naomi D. & Sophie N. (K)** - These girls picked up books and put them away on the shelves without being asked. Great job, girls!
- Atara K. (4/5 Girls)** - Atara has been an amazing seatmate to our newest classmate. She is always going out of her way to make her feel welcome!
- Fraida Y. (2nd)** - Fraida offered to help shelve the library books and did a fantastic job.



From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

First, a bracha to all of our DHR families: May Hashem keep all of you healthy and may COVID-19 never interrupt your simcha/holiday plans ever again! We truly appreciate how careful and sensitive our parents and teachers have been in dealing with this pandemic and its far-reaching effects.

I recently read a dvar Torah from R' Mordy Friedman in which he points out that usually, the Rambam starts each holiday section with the basic laws pertaining to that holiday. However, Hilchos Chanukah begins in a way that is unique and unusual.

Instead, the Rambam opens Hilchos Chanukah with a detailed description of the history of the second Bais HaMikdash leading up to the revolt of the Chashmonaim. All of the historical details are included: Hellenism, the decrees, the rebellion of the Macabees, and the miracle of the oil. At the end of the extensive overview, the Rambam discusses the halachos of candle lighting.

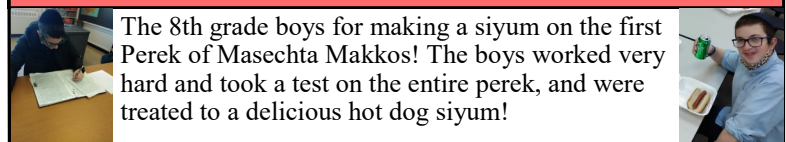
As we know, the Rambam's Mishna Torah is a corpus of laws, books of practical halacha – not stories. What place does the thrilling Chanuka story have in a law book? The Rambam doesn't even tell the Purim or Pesach stories!

It seems that the Rambam is coming to teach us a very important halacha through the Chanuka story: "He is telling us that when a Jew has to act, he or she has to do everything possible. This message emerges from every aspect of the Chashmonaim's story. First, as we say in Al Hanisim, they waged a war of "few against many," they were the "weak against the strong," etc. Yet, they fought and battled bravely, doing everything humanly possible to defeat the Syrian-Greeks despite the odds. Second, after the war, when they returned to the Bais HaMikdash, they searched frantically to find pure oil. They refused to compromise and use impure oil, and did everything humanly possible to find pure oil.

The Chashmonaim did anything and everything humanly possible. Then, once the Chashmonaim did all they could, Hashem responded and helped them. When they fought their hardest against the enemies, Hashem made them victorious. When they searched frantically for pure oil, they found oil. And when they ran out of oil, the oil miraculously lasted for eight days."

As we celebrate Chanuka, we are, once again, in the shadow of the "Substantial Equivalency" issue being decided by New York State's Education Department. I was invited and participated in a meeting with the Commissioner and Board of Regents on this issue, and they will be reaching out to several of our parents and students for input. Hopefully, they will not try to again overstep their bounds and impose their draconian anti-Torah standards (which are significantly lower than what we currently offer to our students) upon our schools. At this point, they are still holding meetings with stakeholders, but we will keep you informed when we hear of any additional developments and if parental involvement is needed.

Mazel Tov to...



The 8th grade boys for making a siyum on the first Perek of Masechta Makkos! The boys worked very hard and took a test on the entire perek, and were treated to a delicious hot dog siyum!

Calendar

- ~ Thurs., Dec. 10th - 4/5, 6/7, & 8 Boys' Farhers
- ~ Fri., Dec. 11th - Thurs. Dec. 17th: Chanuka Break (**no school**)
- ~ Fri. Dec. 18th: Chanuka Fun Day
- ~ Fri., Dec. 25th: Asara Be'Taives (**no school**)
- ~ Fri., Jan. 1st: Shiur for 4-8 Boys (**no school for K-3 & 4-8G**)
- ~ Mon., Jan. 18th: Martin Luther King Day (**we will be having school**)

