

## Showing School Spirit for School Choice Week!



## Welcoming to Mrs. Ritson!

While our 4/5 girls loved having Mrs. Swanton as a teacher, we are thrilled to introduce their new general education teacher, Mrs. Mandy Ritson! Thankfully, Mrs. Swanton will continue teaching our middle school ELA classes. We are very excited to welcome Mrs. Ritson, a native of South Africa! Please give her a warm DHR welcome when you see her!

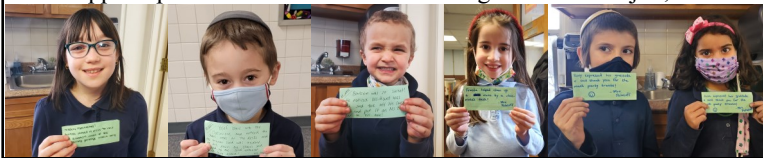


## Benching Superstars!

Eli Aranov	Hirshy Cohen	Dovi Shulman
Menachem Caro	Ruvy Dan	Areyeh Solomon
Chaim Chastain	Mordy Mammon	Mendel Vogel
Chana Cohen	Michal Polatoff	Mottel Vogel

## Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

**Fraida Y. (2nd)** - Fraida helped clean up a mess near a classmates desk.  
**Aviva K. and Ruvy D. (2nd)** - Both Aviva and Ruvy expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Polatoff and said thank you for all the math party treats that they received.  
**Bentzion S. (K)** - Bentzion was so sweet! He noticed Ms. Hunt was cold and took off his sweatshirt and put it on Ms. Hunt's lap!  
**Avital P. (4/5G)** - Avital stayed in class to help Mrs. Ribakow clean up an overflowing garbage can without being asked!  
**Yosef S. (K)** - Yosef came into the classroom and noticed the chairs were on the desk and the vacuum cord was undone. He took down all the chairs and wrapped up the vacuum cord without being asked! Great job, Yosef!



## Thank You to...

~ An anonymous donor for his \$100 donation "in honor of the wonderful new honor roll program"  
 ~ Mrs. Nancy Klein & Congregation Rosh Pinah for their ongoing donations to DHR.  
 ~ R' Yitzchak Gold for his donation in honor of the Berenstein family  
 ~ R' Ross Kosow for helping in the kitchen to make sure the honor roll food was hot and fresh!

## Calendar

~ Fri.-Mon. Feb. 12-15: February Break Weekend (no school)  
 ~ Thurs., Feb. 25th: Taanis Esther (1pm dismissal)  
 ~ Fri., Feb. 26th: Purim Break (no school)

## From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

As kids, when Mother's Day would approach, my mother would say, "every day is Mother's Day and Father's Day"! Of course, she was right (because mothers are always right, and because the American concept of choosing just one day to honor parents is misguided)!

The Gemara (Kiddushin, 31a) describes that the nations of the world came to appreciate the beauty of the Torah as a result of this mitzvah. The classic cases presented in the Talmud to demonstrate the lengths to which one must go in observing this mitzvah are those involving non-Jews. Even Eisav was praised for his performance of this mitzvah. Yet, the Talmud (Yerushalmi, Peah 1:1) regards it as one of the most difficult mitzvos to perform properly. What's so special and unique about the mitzvah to honor parents?

It's tempting to think that honoring parents is some kind of payback for all those years of changing diapers and paying tuition. However, this mitzvah was given to the generation who wandered in the desert for 40 years, where Hashem provided for everyone's needs. According to the Midrash Rabba (Shir HaShirim, 4:2), the parents didn't feed their children; they had the mann to eat. Parents didn't provide clothing; the clothes grew with them and never needed washing. Yet, it was precisely this generation that stood at Har Sinai and received the mitzvah to "Honor your father and mother."

We can derive a fascinating lesson from this: This mitzvah of honoring parents does not depend on what your parents do for you, or even if they are "good" parents. Rather, according to the Meshech Chachma (V'eschanan), we honor parents because we are forever indebted to them for giving us the gift of life!

The previous page of the Gemara listed above (Kiddushin, 30b) teaches that there are three partners in the formation of a person: father, mother, and Hashem. If we must show gratitude to our parents for the gift of life, how much more so should we be grateful to Hashem for creating and sustaining the entire world?!

The Sefer HaChinuch (33) points out that by honoring those who brought us into existence, we learn not to take things for granted and to develop an appreciation for the kindnesses that are done for us. As time marches on and society "progresses", there is a tendency for children to feel more advanced, more tech savvy or more capable than their parents. But in Jewish consciousness, parents are to be respected because they are the source of our mesorah, our tradition. In other words, parents not only give us life in this world, but, according to the Abarbanel (Yisro, 20:12) they are the link that connects us to eternity.

Excerpted from: Aish.com: ABCs of Honoring Parents by Rabbi Shraga Simmons and Yitro: Honouring Parents, Teaching Children, February 2, 2018 By: Rabbi Jay Kelman

## Mazel Tov! Great News!

~ Dr. & Mrs. Isaac Kuyunov on the birth of a son!  
 ~ Chana Noble (DHR Class of 2013) and Moshe Gettinger upon the occasion of their marriage!

## MAZEL TOV!! Metzuyamin Honor Roll for January

Sara Leah Abrahamson	Nachi Flink	Chanoch Max
Shneur Zalman Caro	Adina Goldstein	Avital Polatoff
Chana Blima Caro	Ariel Kuyunov	Malka Shulman
Hadassah Chastain	Yaakov Lagunov	Rena Sloviter
Ella Cohen	Batsheva Max	Nosson Yaras
		Shlomo Hanson

They enjoyed steak, hot dogs, burgers, fries, fresh fruit, veggies, Gatorade, and soda! Delicious!

