

Our Friends from Modiin



We were honored to welcome new friends from Modiin, Israel on the last day of Chanuka. Our guests were brought to Rochester as part of the Jewish Community Federation's Modiin Sister City program. For the third year in a row, educators from Modiin toured our school. We had a wonderful time with them! They visited each classroom and received Chanuka gifts, were serenaded with Chanuka songs from several classes and enjoyed a mini-concert featuring Rabbi Danny Goldstein and Michael Miller.

STEM Lab Fun!



Middos Menchen & Middos Class Update

Ariel Kuyunov, 2nd grade - Ariel showed good sportsmanship and consideration for his friend during a tic-tac-toe centers game! When someone took his friend's turn and made a "bad move", he allowed his friend to undo that turn when he rejoined the game. Nice job, Ariel! - Mrs. Polatoff

Yossi Mochkin, 6th grade - Yossi lent his sneakers to his sister (right off of his feet) for her to use during gym class. - Ms. Kat

We have been really busy in Middos Class! In grades K-3, we just finished a unit on regulating our emotions and a sub-unit on Ka'as (Anger). We learned how to detect our anger signs and triggers (ask your children about "Soda pop kids vs Water bottle kids") and how to rate our anger, allowing us to give the appropriate response. Most importantly, we learned different techniques and strategies to deal with angry feelings or situations. Attached is our Ka'as Song (tune: Shwekey's Yishtabach Shemo) and a Problem Solving Wheel. I hope you can implement these concepts at home, and look forward to hearing your feedback! I'm enjoying learning and growing with your precious children! ~ Mrs. Mammon, Middos teacher

Benching Superstars!

Chaim Chastain	Batsheva Hein	Malka Shulman
Shneur Caro	Ariel Kuyunov	Aryeh Solomon
Meira Dan	Yaakov Lagunov	Mottel Vogel

Thank You to...

...Mrs. Esther Vogel for soliciting items for our upcoming Scholarship Auction.

...DHR's Kindergarten class for their \$3.24 Tzedakah donation!

...Rabbi Dovid Roness for, once again, donating the proceeds of his Chanuka Store sale to DHR! The most recent donation totaled over \$350!

...R' Nechemia Vogel for his annual visit to DHR to give gifts of dreidels and Chanuka gelt for our students.



From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

A few weeks ago, the NYS Education Department shocked us all by releasing VERY detailed regulations regarding "Equivalency of Instruction". The new demands are outrageous, and there are numerous efforts underway to try to change the new policies. I personally wrote a detailed email to the commissioner on November 30 about this issue.

According to Torah Umesorah's statement released yesterday, the NYS Department of Education's new guidelines, if allowed to go into effect, will achieve the goal of "להשכיחם תורתך ולהעבירם מחוקי רצונך". The Novominsker Rebbe, shlita, has stated that since Klal Yisroel has been in the United States, there has never been such a serious threat to our spiritual existence.

According to the new regulations, it seems that private and religious schools that don't provide very specific instruction "substantially equivalent" to New York state's public schools will be threatened with loss of funding for textbooks, transportation, and other services under new state Education Department rules. It goes so far as to threaten that if a school is found to be non-equivalent, parents will be given 30-45 days to transfer their children to a different school. After 30-45 days, the parents will be in violation of truancy laws. The Commissioner also directed that all private schools must be inspected by their local districts to enforce the new regulations. The new requirements also include that all private school teachers will be evaluated by the State and must present lesson plans to be inspected. Most offensive of all is that the state is imposing the amount of time each course must be taught - requiring at least 5 hours of secular studies per day for k-4 and a total of 7 hours a day of secular studies in grades 5-8. In fact, public schools are only required to provide 5 hours a day of instruction.

The NYS Education Department's new guidelines and threats, attempting to impose uniformity on almost 1,800 non-public schools in the state, is a grave threat. Beyond the inconceivable (and possibly illegal) overreach, NYSED is attacking our successful system of education.

Influential Rabbonim, including Rav Elya Brudy and Rav Yisroel Reisman have spoken out publicly about this decree, and have expressed their concerns in a letter to the editor published in today's Wall Street Journal. Agudath Israel, Torah Umesorah, and numerous other organizations representing non-public schools have communicated to the Commissioner, NYSED officials and the Governor's office that these guidelines are unacceptable. Torah Umesorah has also started a petition to communicate the degree of outrage to this new grave threat. Please help this effort by clicking on the link below to sign the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/500-000-students-vs-state-education-department>

We vehemently oppose this massive overreach into non-public schools. We have high standards and have no need for the state's tool kits, checklists and district interference. However, we graciously informed the Commissioner that we would welcome visits from state education officials and would eagerly share our achievements to help the NYSED's efforts at improving public schools.

Mazel Tov to...

-DHR "Wings" (DHR Journal matchers) Bill & Missy Berlin upon the birth of their first grandson, Yehuda Avraham, to Jeremy & Leah (Berlin) Glickman.

-Laivy Mochkin (DHR alumnus) on his engagement to Goldie Simpson!

-DHR parents Yoni & Hindy Dahari upon the birth of a baby girl, Batya!

-4/5 girls for completing the 3rd perek in sefer Shemos!

-Mr. & Mrs. Chezsky Serebrowski upon the birth of their son, Zev!

-Shoshana Cheron on her engagement to Gershon Beznosov!

Calendar Update

4-8 boys' Sunday Calendar amendment: Sun., Jan. 6th - **No School**

