

## Emunah Challenge

In "Living Emunah For Teens" class with Mrs. Mammon, we had an Emunah Challenge! For one week, the students had to think of a challenge they faced each day, and say: "I trust in You Hashem, that you can help me with this problem". The students who did this each day received a special treat.



We learned in class, that when we fill ourselves with thoughts of faith and trust in Hashem, he will fill our lives with blessings! Our students did this thought exercise daily and shared with us that it indeed worked! The week was filled with extra good!  
Kol Hakovod, 6/7 girls!

## The Secret Garden Field Trip



Upon completion of The Secret Garden unit, Mrs. Colombo & Mrs. Elich, our title I teacher, took the 4/5 girls to the Lamberton Conservatory, located in Highland Park. The girls were able to see all kinds of flowers and plants and even participated in a scavenger hunt! It was very informative and fun.

## Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

**Benny Diskind & Asher Lehrer**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade - Benny & Asher participate beautifully in our Gedolim class and are both wonderful role models! Mrs. Mammon

**Shoshi Hirshfeld**, 1<sup>st</sup> grade - Shoshi is so polite and helpful during Middos Class! What a pleasure! - Mrs. Mammon

**Yossi Mochkin**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade - Yossi is kind to others, always respects the teacher and provides extra help at clean-up time. - Ms. McDonnell

**Yaakov Ulloa**, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - By mistake, a coat was left on the floor in the middle of a busy hallway. Yaakov did not just walk by, he stopped, picked it up and put it on the side. Caring for others belongings is a beautiful midda! - Mrs. Davidowitz

## Benching Superstars!

Chaim Chastain	Batsheva Max	Malka Shulman
Meira Dan	Shmuel Mochkin	Aron Dov Vogel
Ariel Kuyunov	Dovi Shulman	Mottel Vogel

## Thank You to...

...Margie & Earl Stone for their very generous Chanuka donation in honor of their nieces and nephews, the Dan & Bashary children.  
...All those who have already donated to the Sharon Polatoff DHR Memorial Fund... which will be officially inaugurated at the upcoming TIUNY dinner in NYC on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Mazel Tov to...

...Nomi Bensoussan (DHR alumna) and Shlomo Zanjirian upon their engagement.

## From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

**THE IMPORTANCE OF READING TO AND WITH OUR CHILDREN**  
Educators have long said that reading makes people smarter, and now there's research to back them up. A recent study<sup>1</sup> conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that reading to children of any age awakens a number of regions in the left part of the brain - the areas that are involved in understanding the meaning of words and concepts tied to memory.

Children develop literacy skills and an awareness of language long before they are able to read. Since language development is fundamental to all areas of learning, skills developed early in life help set the stage for later success in school. In an international study, children whose parents read books with them regularly during kindergarten scored significantly higher on a comprehensive reading assessment<sup>2</sup>. If children lack a strong foundation of language awareness and literacy skills early in life, they are more likely to fall behind in school<sup>3</sup>.

Young children who are read to regularly have a larger vocabulary, higher levels of phonological, letter name, and sound awareness and are more successful at decoding words. It is widely accepted that reading aloud is the single most important researched activity leading to language development. It promotes early literacy skills, such as understanding how stories work, recognition of sounds and letters, knowledge of a broad range of vocabulary and an ability to listen. It builds curiosity and memory. It takes the child to places and times they have never been, which enlarges and enhances their world and imagination. It creates a positive association with books and reading.

The same applies with kria. Having your child practice Hebrew reading to you makes a world of difference. If our children fail to master kria, they will fail to master everything - Chumash, Rashi, Mishnah, Gemara - because they will always be struggling with reading and deciphering<sup>4</sup>. At school, we focus mostly on instruction in accuracy, and there just isn't adequate time in the day to do enough fluency practice to ensure that all students become fluent readers, since some children need much more practice than others. The only real solution to improve reading fluency is practice, practice, practice.

Yet, despite all of the benefits of reading with your children, surveys show that only about 50% of parents read to their young children daily. At DHR, teachers report similar statistics. So, my question is, with this kind of very believable data out there, why wouldn't every parent read with every one of their children every night?! We aren't talking about hours of commitment. We are recommending 5 to 10 minutes of special reading time each night. It is SO worth it!

- <http://www.aapublications.org/content/early/2015/04/25/aapnews.20150425-4>
- [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/05\\_Reading\\_to\\_Young\\_Children.pdf](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/05_Reading_to_Young_Children.pdf)
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/literacy-rich-environments>
- <https://jewishaction.com/religion/education/rethinking-our-approach-to-kria-q-a-with-kria-specialist-rabbi-dr-aharon-fried>

## Busing Update

**Brighton** - No busing on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Pittsford** - No busing on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>  
**RCSD** - No busing on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Henrietta** - No busing on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>



## Calendar

**Please save the following important dates:**

- Tues. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - **No School** (K-3 & 4-8 G), Shiur for 4-8 Boys at DHR
  - Tue., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Torah Fair
  - Wed., Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Staff Development Day - **No School**
  - Sun., Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> - Scholarship Auction- new location & format this year
- Calendar Update** - The MSG Production has been changed to 3/11/19

