

## Science Fair Celebration & STEM Lab Dedication!



## Benching Superstars!

Bella Angelone	Adina Goldstein	Batsheva Max
Chana Blima Caro	Atara Kosow	Ella Nussbaum
Shneur Caro	Benyamin Kozadyev	Esther Schon

## Mazel Tov to...

- ...Rabbi & Mrs. Dani Schon upon the birth of a baby girl!
- ...Raphael Chilungu (grade 7) on the occasion of his bar mitzvah this Shabbos!
- ...Akiva Diskind (grade 7) upon the occasion of his bar mitzvah last Shabbos!

## Middos Menschen

- Mindy Akkerman**, 4th grade - After lunch Mindy stayed behind and made sure the lunch room was properly cleaned. - R' Chastain
- Tzvi Hirsch Caro & Aharon Tzvi Lomner**, 7th grade - While checking out at the Family Dollar, these boys realized that the cashier mischarged them. They politely corrected her and paid her more money than she initially requested. Tremendous honesty! - R' Chastain
- Chayala Hanson**, 5th grade - Chayala saw a friend in need and went out of her way to offer help. - Mrs. London
- Pessa London**, 5th grade - Pessa very calmly and maturely avoided an argument with another student. I am so impressed! -Mrs. Mammon
- Naama Roness**, 2nd grade - Naama congratulated the winners of a competition at the end of gym class. - Mr. Lonca

## From the Principal Mrs. Lea Goldstein

I recently read a fascinating article in Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' Covenant & Conversation. He points out that the major theme of the parshios of Tazria-Metzora is the skin disease known as *tsaraas*. Why, he asked, does the Torah focus at such length on what appears to be a medical condition? It is, after all, not a book of medicine, but of law, morality and spirituality.

He quotes our sages that *tsaraas* was a punishment for *lashon hara*: evil, hateful or derogatory speech. The chachomim spoke more dramatically about *lashon hara* than any other offense; that it is as bad as committing all three cardinal sins. It kills three people: the one who says it, the one who is spoken about, and the one who listens to it. And, in connection with Tazria-Metzora, we learn that it's *midda-kineged-midda* - the punishment fits the sin. One who speaks *lashon hara* creates dissension within the camp. Therefore, his punishment as a *metzora* (a person stricken with *tsaraas*) was to be temporarily banished from the camp.

He continues: "So far, so clear. Don't gossip (Lev. 19:16). Don't slander. Don't speak badly about people. Judaism has a rigorous and detailed ethics of speech because it believes that "Life and death are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21). G-d created the natural world with words and we create or damage the social world with words. We do not say, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never harm me." To the contrary, words can cause emotional injuries that are as painful as physical ones, perhaps more so. So common is *lashon hara* that one of the giants of modern Jewry, Rabbi Yisrael Meir haCohen (the Chofetz Chaim) devoted much of his life to combatting it. Yet it persists, as anyone who has ever been part of a human group knows from personal experience. They know it is wrong, yet they do it anyway.

Praise is the opposite of *lashon hara*. It is *lashon hatov*: good, positive, encouraging speech. It is one of the most powerful antidotes to *lashon hara* ever invented. If you learn to praise, daily, specifically and sincerely, you will change lives. You will be cured of *lashon hara*. It is the most effective antidote I know. It heals what *lashon hara* harms. Evil speech destroys relationships. Good speech mends them."

## Thank You to...

- ...all of our V.I.P. STEM Lab donors and many guests who joined us for the Science Fair Celebration & STEM Lab Dedication. We also appreciate the hard work of Dr. Podewils, our students and the judges!
- ...Yitzchak Gold for his ongoing donations in honor of the Berenstein family.
- ...Yudi & Sharon Polatoff for their generous donation of \$150 for the Yetta Pearl Simcha Fund in honor of their son Baruch's engagement.
- ...Mrs. Rachel Sherman for her donation in memory of Dr. Sandee Eiduson.
- ...Sue & Gerry Segelman for their donation in memory of Dr. Sandee Eiduson.
- ...all of the DHR families who donated to the Brighton Food Cupboard. We collected 60 lbs. of assorted food items!
- ...our students and their families from Od Yosef Chai for their "skip the uniform and donate to Aniai Eretz Yisrael for Purim!" donations.

## Calendar

- **Mon., April 30 - Wed., May 2** - School Safety Days at DHR
- **Wed., May 2 - Thurs., May 3** - Math NYS Testing
- **Fri., May 18 - Tues., May 22** - Shavuot Break
- **Mon., May 28** - Memorial Day - No School

