

Learning Torah Before Shavuos



Benching Superstars!

Sara Abrahamson Esther Schon Tehila Solomon
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Middos Menschen

Mindy Akkerman, 4th grade - Although Mindy is on crutches, whenever I ask her how she is feeling, she doesn't complain and always has a smile! Such a display of simcha! - Mrs. Mammon

Shlomo Mammon & Yehuda Schon, 6th grade - These boys were eager to lend a pen to their friends. - R' Chastain

Sima Rennert, 6th grade - Sima cleaned up the yogurt and milk that had spilled in the lunch room. - Mr. Loncao

Aryeh Solomon, K - Aryeh helped a friend when he got hurt. - Mr. Loncao

Mazel Tov to...

...the 7/8 girls upon their completion of Parshas Chukas with distinction!

...Morah Bracha London's kindergarten for learning all of their Alef-Bais letters and vowels!! What a celebration! Just in time for Shavuos!



...Ms. Nau's 3rd grade upon the birth of a ducky!!



From the Principal Mrs. Lea Goldstein

Judaism thinks the world of children. The Talmud shares numerous quotes about the importance of children and their learning, including: "The world exists only in the merit of children", "The world stands on the pure breath of innocent children learning Torah" and "children's Torah study supersedes the building of the Bais Hamikdash."

In fact, the giving of the Torah and the Shavuos holiday were contingent upon the existence and centrality of our nation's children. The Midrash relates that prior to giving the Torah to Bnai Yisrael, Hashem demanded that the Jews name a guarantor. Hashem wanted assurance that the Torah would not be short-lived; that it would be transmitted from generation to generation.

The first choice of Bnei Yisrael was the Avos, our forefathers. Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov were great men, but could not qualify as guarantors. "Yichus" (great ancestry) would not ensure that Judaism would live on in its descendants.

The Jewish people then offered the Neviim, the Prophets, as guarantors. But that was not an adequate offer, because although Yechezkel and Yishayahu were great, inspired visionaries, their lessons were not enough to assure the continuity of Jewish life.

Finally, the Jewish people got it right. We offered our nation's little children as guarantors to transmit the Torah, to keep Judaism alive from generation to generation. Only with this choice did Hashem consent and agree to give us the Torah.

Psychologists have discovered what the Torah has known all along: a person learns more in infancy and childhood than he will for the rest of his life. At a tender age, our attitudes and personality traits are shaped for adulthood. That is why the education of our young children is the highest priority of our survival. Only our children can ensure our continuity - a Jewish tomorrow. They are our key to the future.

Excerpted from an article by Rabbi Yisrael Rubin, principal of Maimonides Day School in Albany.

Thank You to...

...Mrs. Nancy Klein for her \$100 donation!

...the DHR Parents for sponsoring a surprise "Thank You Breakfast" for our teachers on Wednesday! Special thanks to organizers Mrs. Alya Akkerman and Mrs. Jessica Nussbaum.



Calendar

- Fri., May 18 - Tues., May 21 - Shavuos Break

* **Reminder** - May 22 has been added back on the calendar due to the number of sick days last week.

- Mon., May 28 - Memorial Day - No School

- Tues., June 12 - Teacher Appreciation Picnic, 11:45 - 12:30pm

- Sun., June 17 - 5/6 Girls Bas Mitzvah event at the Light of Israel

- Tues., June 19 - Kindergarten Siddur Presentation & 1st grade Chumash Celebration (beginning at 2pm) and 8th grade graduation (beginning at 7:30pm).

- Wed., June 20 - Last day of school - 11:30 am dismissal

