

A Wonderful Week of Learning!



From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

Although Noach is paid the highest of compliments as a righteous person, Rashi makes a point that the name Noach should not be construed as a derivative of the Hebrew word "nacheim" – meaning to comfort or console – but rather "noach" – meaning, rest, leisure; comfort but not consolation. Rashi attributes this understanding of Noach's name to the fact that he was the father of modern agricultural technological advancement and progress. The iron plow, the great essential tool for farming that enabled settlers to abandon a nomadic existence, was invented by Noach. This was his great contribution towards the advancement of human technology. Noach became the first source of human technological progress, which grants us leisure, eases our physical workload and gives us many physical comforts in life. However, technology alone with all of its attendant blessings does not guarantee us any sort of mental, spiritual or social comfort. If Noach could have achieved those goals, then Rashi points out that his name would have been Menachem – the one who brings true consolation and comfort to troubled souls. Hence, Noach is viewed in tradition as being incomplete – technologically advanced but spiritually wanting – a startlingly accurate depiction of our current society.

Judaism has no basic argument against the advance of technology. We are an inventive, innovative nation that can lay claim to life-saving, world-changing achievements in technology, medicine, physics, space, literature and language. Despite comprising only a quarter of 1% of the world population, Jews have won 23% of all Nobel Prizes since 1901. Jews invented the cardiac pacemaker, polio vaccine, chemotherapy, the kidney dialysis machine, cellular technology, the microchip, lasers, Google and much more.

Clearly, we are not willing to be consigned a back seat in the drive to physically improve the human condition of life on this planet. Yet Judaism realizes that true psychological and spiritual comfort can not be found in the latest version of the ipod.

Noach's technology can be enormously beneficial in a society that adopts Avraham's values and beliefs. But, bereft of any spiritual focus or restraint, technology can make our world a fearful place to inhabit. Noach's grand technology could not save the world from the ravages of evil that brought upon humankind the great flood described in this week's parsha. Avraham's grand values and holy behavior almost saved the seat of world evil, Sodom. The world is Noach's world but its survival is dependent upon the endurance and eventual triumph of Avraham's children, ideas and beliefs.

This excerpt is from an article by Rabbi Berel Wein (5770) from Torah.org (<https://torah.org/torah-portion/rabbiwein-5770-noach/>) with additional information provided by Aish.com's We Jews: Little Known Jewish Inventions (<https://www.aish.com/j/TWE-JEWS-Little-Known-Jewish-Inventions.html>)

Second Grade Learns about Population Density

As part of their Social Studies curriculum, Mrs. Polatoff's second graders learned about "population density" (how many people there are living in an area) in urban, suburban and rural communities and demonstrated the concept using... themselves! Notice how the "density" changes from picture to picture!



Urban



Suburban



Rural

Benching Superstars

Shneur Zalman Caro Yaakov Lagunov Nosson Yaras
Atara Kosow Malka Shulman

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Attached to the printed newsletter you will find a confirmation slip for your child(ren)'s time slot. If you don't receive a slip, it is because we have not received your parent-teacher conference form. Attached is a form with the remaining empty slots. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on **November 11, 2019**.

Calendar

Friday, Nov. 8th - **No Cholent for Lunch**
Monday, Nov. 11th - **No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences**
Wednesday, Nov. 27th - **No School - P.D. Day**
Thurs., - Friday, Nov. 28th-29th - **No School - Thanksgiving Break**

Mazel Tov to...

...Binyomin and Tovie Weiner on their birth of their baby girl - Ayala Hinda!

Cutlery Reminder



This is a reminder of the policy that if your child has a snack or lunch that requires silverware, we ask that you please send the proper utensils with them to school. Please note that we are out of our back-up supply of forks and spoons so we cannot supply forks, spoons and knives to the students.

Thank You to...

...A **huge** thank you to Mr. James Sawers for his significant long-term commitment to sponsor the next 5 years of the Rosh Chodesh project! He also sponsored this year's special Rosh Chodesh treats for our students.

...Rabbi & Mrs. Michael Abrahamson for their \$72 Yom Kippur Appeal donation!

...Thank you to Mr. Gennadiy Mirochnik who not only donated three different aquariums to our school, but also comes in to help us maintain them. Mr. Mirochnik is also helping us plan a hydroponics lab! We are very excited about everything he has done to foster learning about nature and sustainability in our school. To purchase an aquarium or pet for your home or business, please contact him at ABC Aquarium <http://RochesterAquarium.com>.

...Thank you to Ephraim and Laura Cheron for donating the Navi Illustrated comic book series to the DHR library!

...Continued thanks to Mrs. Adina Dan and her student helpers (Simcha Hanson, Shmuel Rosenzweig, Chanoch Abrahamson, Tehila Lehrer, Ahuva Katz) for their work in updating our library!

...Thank you to the following for their tzedaka box donations: Dan family (\$160.39), Kosow family (\$40.87) and Kindergarten (\$7.08)!



Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

Shmuel Meir did השבת אבדה when he found a classmate's lost ring.
Elisheva was so helpful to a teacher who left something downstairs; she went and got it for her!

