

This Week at DHR...



Mazel Tov to the 5/6 girls for learning Parshas Beshalach. They celebrated with a delicious and healthy siyum.

From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

At DHR, a major, central focus of our educational philosophy is on teaching skills. While we prioritize supporting students in developing and refining their critical thinking abilities, character traits and many other important components of education, we allocate the most time and resources to ensure that our students develop the skills to become independent learners. Our students study morphology (word analysis) including gender, tense, parts of speech, sentence structure and vocabulary. These elements are essential for independent study of Chumash, Gemara and nearly all other disciplines.

On this week's parsha, Vayeira, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (from "Higher Than Angels" on Aish.com) points out a fascinating lesson on both dikduk and middos from the way that a few words are phrased. When Avraham saw the three anonymous passers-by, he didn't perceive them as Arab nomads; he sensed the Divine presence in them as human beings and offered hospitality. That was Abraham's greatness.

Rabbi Sacks then quotes an inspiring comment on this episode by R. Shalom of Belz, who noted that initially, the visitors are spoken of as "נכבים עליו" - "standing above him (Avraham)". Yet later, Avraham is described as "עומד עליהם" - "standing above them". The Belzer Rebbe explained that at first, the visitors were higher than Avraham because they were angels and he was merely a human being. However, when he provided them with food, drink and shelter, he stood even higher than the angels. We honor Hashem by honoring His image, humankind.

As parents and teachers, it is imperative that we impart this important lesson of valuing and appreciating all human beings, regardless of their religion, profession, etc. We need to teach our children to thank and respect their bus drivers, postal workers, police officers, veterans and so many others who toil on their behalf.

New Learning Program for Fathers

For fathers of DHR Boys in 5th - 8th grades:

Be on the same page as your son in Gemara shiur! Rabbi Avi Mammon will be giving a Gemara shiur Monday evenings from 8:15-9:00pm at Light of Israel on the same sugiyos that your boys are learning in shiur at DHR. Of course, this shiur is not limited only to fathers; anyone from the community can join!



Exciting JLab Update!

Last year at Derech HaTorah, we introduced "JLab" - the Jewish Learning and Skill Building Center. JLab is a new, innovative program that serves as an official Judaic Title I-like support service geared towards helping students solidify their core skills in חומש, חתיבה, קריאה, and דקדוק in one-on-one and small group settings. Since last year, Mrs. Esther Caro, a talented educator, has been staffing JLab for two half days a week. Now, we are excited to announce that, in addition to Mrs. Caro's JLab hours, and thanks to very generous donations in memory of Mrs. Sharon Polatoff, ע"ה, and Rabbi Philip Goldstein, ע"ה, we have been able to expand services to two more half-days during the school week. To accomplish that, we brought on Rabbi Avraham Berenstein, TIUNY's 9th grade Rebbe, who is an experienced educator and reading specialist. Special thanks to Tamar Barak for coordinating donations in memory of Sharon Polatoff on her first Yahrzeit, and to Mrs. Ruth Goldstein for her very generous donation in memory of Rabbi Philip Goldstein!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Some parent-teacher conferences were cancelled due to the winter weather this past Monday (Nov 11). If your appointment was affected by the cancellation, you should have received a call from your child(ren)'s teachers. If you did not hear from them, please reach out to them and set up a new time for a conference.

Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

 **Gali** did an amazing job cleaning up centers the first time that she was asked. Thanks for being a great example! **Aviva** pushed in all the chairs in the classroom without being asked! Great job! 

Auction Countdown!

The countdown has begun! DHR's Annual Scholarship Auction is a few weeks away! We have solicited all sorts of great packages - some very practical and some that are just fabulously fun! However, let's not lose sight of the fact that this is a major school fundraiser and we must make sure that there are lots of people there to buy tickets! Please talk it up and invite your friends and colleagues to the auction! Tell them that we have nearly 100 packages for this Chinese Auction! We have trips to Florida, NYC, Toronto, and Niagara Falls. There will be games, jewelry, waterpark trips, fencing lessons, golf packages, memberships, gift cards, free passes to attractions, goods and services, massage/spa visits, toys, and much more. Most importantly, all dollars raised will go to fund scholarships!



Benching Superstars!

Shira Chastain	Aviva Kuyunov	Mottel Vogel
Meira Tova Dan	Mordechai Mammon	Fraida Yaras
Shmuel Hanson	Dovi Shulman	
Pessi Hein	Malka Shulman	

Thank You

...Thank you so much to the families (Berenstein, Cohen, Nussbaum) who have replenished "Naomi's Snax" and supplies. This special emergency snack and supply gemach was created in memory of Naomi Houllou—לו"נ נעמי מלכה בת רחל.

Calendar & Save the Dates

Wednesday, Nov. 27th - No School - P.D. Day
Thurs., - Friday, Nov. 28th-29th - No School - Thanksgiving Break
Sunday, December 8th - DHR Scholarship Auction
Wednesday, January 29th - DHR Torah Fair (5:30 pm - 7:00 pm)
Sunday, May 3rd - DHR Annual Scholarship Dinner (6:00 pm)
Monday, May 18th - DHR Science Fair (5:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

