Derech HaTorah of Rochester The Path of Respect and Excellence From the Principal

February 21, 2020

כ"ו שבט, פרשת משפטים, תש"פ

Kindergarten Happenings...



Late last week, Kindergarten celebrated a "triple-siyum" and had a fun science lesson about plants. Racheli was very excited to share about her pet rabbit for "R" show and tell!

This Week at D. HR



Middle School girls had a Hawaiian dance party for G.O. Thank you to our G.O. heads - Simha Elmaleh, Devora Max and Tziporah Abrahamson. They had a blast!

Kindergarten used DHR "dollars" that they earned to "purchase" a class trip to Family Dollar, where they each chose an item to buy!





To celebrate the completion of their Opinion Writing project, Mrs. Polatoff's second graders enjoyed (pas yisrael) "oreos"! (Ask a second grader WHY we celebrated with that particular type of cookie!) The students also read their paragraphs aloud to the class!

Box Tops for Education

We will be submitting Box Tops next week, so please send in any that you might have at home on Monday or Tuesday. Every little bit helps earn money for our school!



Refuah Shelaima to...

...our beloved middle school Rebbe, Rabbi Dovid Roness.

Benching Superstars! Dovi Shulman Aron Dov Vogel

Shira Chastain Malka Shulman Hirshy Cohen Mottel Vogel Shmuel Hanson Shevy Sloviter

Drivers Meeded!

We are excited to have our Kindergartners and 1st graders experience the Chabad Matzah Bakery on Wednesday, March 18th. We will be leaving DHR at 12:45 and are in need of drivers to get our students to and from the bakery (held at the JCC). If you are available to help drive, please contact the office (585-266-2920)



Middes Focus

The first graders worked so nicely on their "My Feelings" workbooks!



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Rosh Chodesh Adar is coming! At DHR, we've already started celebrating! At 11:30am this morning, we started our February Fun Day and had all sorts of fun for about two hours!

However, while Adar is soon approaching, we also pointed out to our students two other important and timely connections to this week. Earlier in the day, our students had Parsha classes, where they learned that in this week's Parsha, Mishpatim, our people were given a succession of new civil laws and mitzyos. The Parsha starts with the words "ביהם" אשר תשים לפניהם "- "And these are the laws that you shall place before them." (Shemos 21:1). Rashi explains that the extra, unexpected letter "vav" – which means "and" – at the beginning of the parsha establishes the connection between Mishpatim and Yisro, last week's parsha, where we learned about Matan Torah, the giving of the Torah at Har Sinai. The link teaches us that just as the Aseres Hadibros, the 10 Commandments, were divinely gifted to us at Har Sinai, so too, the mitzvos listed in Parshat Mishpatim were given to us at Har Sinai.

On that note, Rabbi Ozer Alport points out that this week was also the yahrtzeit of Rabbi Yisroel Salanter (25 Shevat, 1883), the founder of the Mussar/Ethics movement. He shares a beautiful insight into this non-coincidental connection based on the Rashi mentioned above. While Parshas Yisro contains the 10 Commandments, fundamental laws that people are naturally meticulous to perform, Parshas Mishpatim contains mostly mitzvos concerning the conduct between us and our fellow man; laws that are often viewed as inconsequential and unimportant. It is for this reason that the Torah connects the parshios, to emphasize the Divine origin and importance of all of the mitzvos.

Rabbi Salanter labored tirelessly to convince Jews to recognize that the mitzvos pertaining to our interpersonal interactions are just as important as those pertaining to our relationship with Hashem, and we must be equally scrupulous in their performance. It is fitting that the founder of the Mussar movement's yahrtzeit occurs this weekend, as learning this Rashi is a tribute to his great legacy.

Ice Skating Field Trip!

Our 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade classes used DHR "dollars" that they earned to "purchase" an ice skating trip to RIT's Frank Ritter Ice Arena this past Wednesday. A HUGE thank you to Mr. Tom Hyman for scheduling and underwriting the cost for our ice skating field trip bus! Special thanks also to R' Yitzy Cohen for organizing the trip and to chaperones - R' Chastain, Mrs. Polatoff, Mrs. Nguyen and R' Cohen!



Thank You to ...

..anonymous donor for sponsoring the fruit for our school-wide Tu B'Shvat party!

...the Dan family for their contribution of library books, as well as Mrs. Adina Dan's continuing work to update and upgrade our library!