



Derech HaTorah of Rochester

The Path of Respect and Excellence

ב' חנוכה

December 1, 2023
ח' כסלו, פרשת ויטלה, תשפ"ד

Calendar

Mon., Dec. 4 - 8:45 am - Lifetouch Picture Retake Day
 Fri., Dec. 8-Wed., Dec. 13 - Chanuka Break - **No School**
 Mon., Dec. 25 - Special Schedule - **11:30am dismissal**

Fun & Learning at DHR



Seudas Hodaya for Hostage Release

...Mrs. Mammon's 7th graders celebrated with a special seudah to thank Hashem for the release of "their hostage". They had "adopted" Erez Kalderon and said special tehillim for his safe return - and he finally was released!



Benching Superstars....

Binjamin Berzow	Baruch Ber Herman	Meir Vogel
Yosef Brea	Meira Herman	Nosson Vogel
Zechariah Chastain	Zecharia Kuyunov	Levi Yaras
Goldie Cohen	Esther Mittel	Zalman Yaras
Naomi Finegold	Tamar Noble	Batsheva Zargary
Zevi Gestetner	Rina Malka Ribakow	
Nosson Hein	Bassie Shulman	



Mazel Tov to...

... Rabbi Dovid & Esther Caro on the birth of their grandson and to parents Azriel & Sarah (DHR class of 2015) Wasser!

...Yaeli (Elmaleh - DHR class of 2013) & Shabtai Arakanchi on the birth of their twins Nir and Esther!

...4th grade girls on finishing the entire Sefer Tehillim together as a zechus for the safety of everyone in Eretz Yisroel! What a beautiful accomplishment!

...5/6 Girls for learning Parshas Shemos! Wow!

...Rabbi Balgley's 13 middle school boys who took on the daunting task of finishing Mishnayos Maakov in their free time. The boys spent many hours learning to help ensure the success of the soldiers fighting in Eretz Yisroel.



...the third and fourth grade boys, along with their older "counselors"- the winners of Benching Warriors Wednesday. The winner was the blue team!

Mazel tov! To celebrate, there was a bbq for all participants and a gift for the winners. BWW 2.0 has already begun. Stay tuned!

Middos Mention...



... Elka saw someone needed help cleaning up and she finished the job. Wonderful!

... Yisroel got off the bus and noticed a small stuffed animal that no one else was picking up. He brought it in and looked for the owner. How kind!



DHR's Distinguished Writers

The "Writing Treasury" Bulletin Board in the main hall is up and running again this year! Teachers will be choosing their students' best work and putting it up for all to see! The students will receive a fancy pen that says "Distinguished Writers"! This months



"Distinguished Writers": [Sara Katz](#), [Shneur Caro](#), [Rikki Lagunov](#), [Tzipporah Twersky](#), [Aryeh Solomon](#), [Sara Leah Abrahamson](#), [Naama Roness](#), [Fraida Yaras](#), [Aviva Kuyunov](#) and [Shoshana Hirschfeld](#).

From the Principal

Dr. Lea E. Goldstein

On this week's parsha and Yaakov's plans for how to survive Esav's impending attack, the Nachlas Moshe explains that Yaakov's tactics were designed to impart the importance of tefillah/prayer to future generations. With Yaakov Avinu, prayer for endurance and fortitude followed the delivery of gifts and preceded his least favored approach - war. Everything that we need and hope for should be accompanied by prayer, even if they seem to occur by natural means.

The Gemara (Rosh Hashana 18a) describes that Rabbi Meir used to say that if two people became ill with the same illness or two criminals were accused of the same crime, it is possible for only one to be saved; or for one to be acquitted and one convicted. One will live and one will die. How could that happen? The difference between them is that this one prayed and was answered, while that one prayed, but was not answered. Why was this one answered and that one not answered? Because the first one davened with his whole heart and, consequently, was answered, while the other did not daven with his whole heart and therefore was not answered.

When you think about it, we are talking about two people facing impending death. It is unlikely for a person's mind to wander when he is on his deathbed!! Clearly, the Gemara does not mean that one of them "spaced out" while praying and the other one did not.

Rav Elya Lopian explains that a "complete prayer" (tefillah shleimah) indicates that the person believes in Hashem's supremacy and the power of his own prayers. In the Gemara, the first person believed in the power of his tefilla, but the other did not have confidence that his prayer would be heard/answered. When we daven, our tefillos have a powerful impact, even if we do not realize it and even if we think that our prayers have gone unanswered. We do not always see the results, but we should be aware of their power!

Similarly, HaRav Henoch Leibowitz, ל"צ, on the issue of עיר מקלט (Cities of Refuge), said that although Hashem decreed that a certain person would fall off of a ladder and accidentally kill another person, if the Kohen Gadol had davened harder, the death would not have happened, despite the decree! The Rosh HaYeshiva shows from the Mesilas Yesharim (19) that this is true not only for a Kohen Gadol, but for each and every one of us. Every complete tefila has great power!

Partially excerpted from: <https://www.sawyoutsinai.com/jewish-singles-power-prayer.aspx>
<https://torah.org/torah-portion/ravfrand-5771-noach/>

Genesee Country Village & Museum visits DHR!

2nd Grade had a special visit from Miss Julie, from GCVM - to show them toys and games from long ago! The students rotated in groups to try out the different toys and games, including Jacob's Ladder, Limber Jack, ring toss, wooden tops, and more!! So much fun!! Special thank you to Mrs. Miriam Polatoff for arranging this special treat!



Thank you to...

.... Families who contributed to and prepared fancy Chanuka packages for US soldiers stationed overseas: Bakers included Levinson, Zargary, Ribakow, Barashi, (Shoshana) Noble and (Leah)Cohen. Special thanks to DHR students Leeba Mittel, Adina Herman & Leora Diskind for packing the boxes! Also a special thank you to the families that contributed financially, Goldstein, Barashi, Kuyunov, Eidelman & Cohen!



Condolences to ...

...Rabbi & Mrs. Dov Chastain on the passing of Rabbi Dov Chastain's mother, Mrs. Marlene Litoff Chastain.

...Rabbi & Mrs. Avi Mammon on the passing of Mrs. Miriam Mammon's grandmother, Rebbetzin June Cohen.

"המקום יחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלם"