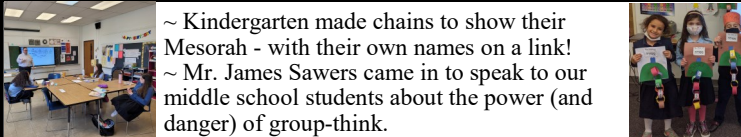


## 4/5 Boys Science Project!

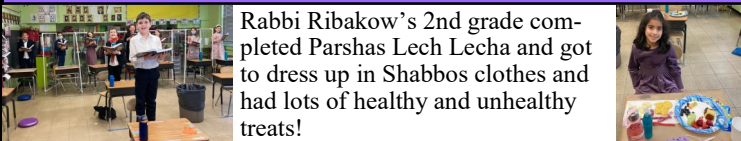


## Let's Learn Something New!



~ Kindergarten made chains to show their Mesorah - with their own names on a link!  
~ Mr. James Sawers came in to speak to our middle school students about the power (and danger) of group-think.

## 2nd Grade had a Siyum



Rabbi Ribakow's 2nd grade completed Parshas Lech Lecha and got to dress up in Shabbos clothes and had lots of healthy and unhealthy treats!

## Thank you to...

~ R' & Mrs. Michoel Abrahamson for their Yizkor donation.  
~ Mr. Dave Rogachefsky for his donation in honor of Mrs. Malkie Noble's kindness.  
~ Binyomin & Tovi Weiner for their donation.  
~ Aryeh Solomon (3rd grade) for his \$30 donation!  
~ Mr. James Sawers for his generous gifts of \$500 for our DHR dollar trips, \$500 for the 8th grade girls' trip, and \$500 for the 8th grade boys' trip.

## Benching Superstars!

Shira Chastain  
Hirshy Cohen  
Naomi Dahari  
Ruvy Dan



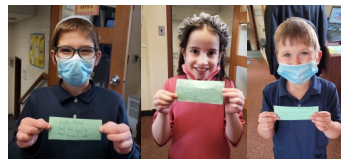
Leora Mirochnik  
Shevy Sloviter  
Fraida Yaras

## Mazel Tov to...

~ Esther Stein upon the occasion of her becoming a Bas Mitzvah.  
~ The 6/7 boys on finishing their tefillin and Bar Mitzvah unit with Rabbi Chastain.  
~ The middle school boys on finishing Megilas Esther.

## Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

**Shmuel W. (K)** - When a friend's balloon popped, Shmuel immediately offered to give his balloon to her!  
**Fraida Y. (2nd)** - Fraida is always so helpful with cleaning up the library!  
**Dovid B. (4/5B)** - Dovid helped his friend organize his cubby.



## Calendar

~ Thurs., May 13th: Post Lag Ba'Omer TIUNY/DHR BBQ & fun at Hamlin Beach State Park  
~ Mon., May 17th - Tues., May 18th: Shavuot Break (no school)  
~ Mon., May 31st: Memorial Day (no school)

## From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

בן בג אומר, הַפֶּךָ בָּה וְהַפֶּךָ בָּה, דְּלֵכְלָא בָּהּ. וְיָבֵה תְּחִנּוּי, וְיָסִיב וּבְלָה בָּהּ, וּמְנַה לֹא תוֹעֵב, שְׂאִינן לָךְ מְדָה טוֹבָה הִמְנָה:  
"Ben (son of) Bag Bag said: Turn the Torah over and over for everything is in it. Look into it, grow old and worn over it, and never move away from it, for you will find no better portion than it" (Pirkei Avos, 5:22).

### - THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING -

One of the most mesmerizing aspects of Torah learning is that it is a subject that we never "complete". As Rabbi Berel Wein observes, in general studies, a student will typically complete a course and then advance to the next level. For example, after a student passes Calculus I, he's done – and, if needed, he moves on to Calculus II. Yet, it doesn't work that way with Torah. Year after year, we return to the same parshios and stories— each year hopefully understanding just a little bit more. The Torah was created to be studied in this manner. Young children are spell-bound by the fascinating and inspiring stories of our Avos and Imahos, while the greatest talmid chacham probes the great depths and wisdom inherent in each pasuk. The Torah is infinite.

We must keep this profound message in mind as we approach Torah study throughout our lives. According to R' Dovid Rosenfeld (Torah.org), "Torah study is an ongoing and never-ending process. We must approach it with the same sense of freshness and challenge as we grow and mature — never feeling we've 'mastered' it already or know what it has to offer".

So, too, and lehavdil, education is a never-ending process, especially at DHR. It doesn't stop for our teachers after they earn their degrees and start teaching. Through continuing education, we work on improving our skills, with the purpose of ensuring the best learning outcomes for our students. In research that we found to be obvious, the U.S. Dept. of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (2007) showed that student achievement can improve by as much as 21% as a result of teachers' participation in well-designed professional development programs.

Professional development nurtures the talents of teachers – and certainly benefits students, as well. Therefore, at DHR, we try to have meaningful professional development opportunities at several points throughout the year. This year, due to having to close down for a week during our community's COVID outbreak, we cancelled our scheduled staff development day to add an extra school day on to our calendar. To make up for it, we had a professional development training after school on Wednesday for our entire staff, focused on Backward Design.

As Stephen Covey describes in his "7 Habits of Highly Effective People", habit #2 is "Begin with the end in mind", suggesting that the most successful people are those who create a vision of the future in their minds.

Backward design is beneficial to teachers because it encourages intentionality during the design process. It continually pushes the instructor to establish the purpose of doing something before implementing it into the curriculum.

The goal of Wednesday's training? We focused on the critical differences between traditional planning and backward planning. Traditional planning is focused on the teaching aspect of standards...in other words, what do I need to teach? In contrast, backwards planning is focused on student learning...in other words, what do my students need to learn or be able to do? Similar to a GPS navigation system, educators plan with students' needs and interests in mind by considering multiple pathways for arriving at end goals. Bottom Line: Giving an extra meta-level of foresight to the goals of a unit can yield greater impacts.

One more note...a nachas note: It was such a joy to see our wonderful, resourceful teachers collaborating and then sharing their inspired units that they created during the workshop!

## NYS Testing Dates

This year, due to the challenges of the pandemic, NYS tests will be only one day each and there will be no performance components.  
~ Wed., May 5th: Math Testing (grades 3rd-8th)  
~ Mon., June 7th: Science Testing (4th & 8th)

