# Derech HaTorah of Rochester The Path of Respect and Excellence

י"ז סיון, פרשת בהעלותך, תשפ"א

May 28th, 2021

## 8th Grade Girls' Trip to Florida!

Wow! What an epic, once-in-a-lifetime adventure! The girls flew to Orlando, shopped, swam in their own private pool, went out to dinner, then braved THE Wheel and 450 foot high swings. They even went parasailing, and of course, out for lunch and dinner again, then to Seaworld on their third day in Orlando! So much fun! This class has really come together and has been displaying some impressive middos and leadership skills during the second half of this year. Great job, girls! A special THANK YOU to Rabbi Avi & Mrs. Miriam Mammon for chaperoning this trip! Thanks also to Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Springut & Mr. James Sawers for helping underwrite the cost of the trip.



### 8th Grade Boys' Trip!

Although the boys' trip wasn't actually centered around food, they certainly ate a LOT of great food in all different places!! Oh, they also had a blast at Hershey Park, toured Washington, DC, and visited Baltimore and Monsey! We are so proud of these amazing boys. They are masmidim and leaders! They would like to express their thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Springut, who helped underwrite the cost of the trip through the Gavi Springut Fund and to Mr. James Sawers for contributing generously. Finally, a major THANK YOU to the patient, indefatigable Rabbi Dov Chastain who chaperoned the guys on this fabulous trip!



## 6/7 Girls Kayaking Trip!

The 6/7 Girls used their DHR dollars that they earned to "buy" a kayaking trip on the Genesee River! Special thanks to Mrs. Devorah Shulman for organizing the trip and chaperoning, along with Mrs. Esther Caro! And thank you to Mrs. Adina Dan for driving.



## Middos Menchen Stars of the Week

~ Yosef S., Shmuel W., and Meir Leib S. (K) - All three boys helped to clean the classroom, vacuum and take care of our school!

~ **Zecharia A. (2nd)** - Zysh has amazing concentration during davening and works on saying every word properly.



## Thank you to...

- ~ Atara Kosow, Avital Polatoff, and Ella Cohen (4th & 5th grade girls) for donating part of the proceeds of their lemonade stand to DHR.
- ~ Miss Lexi for filling up the water balloons for our catapult experiments!
- $\sim$  Rabbi & Mrs. Nosson Fromowitz for their generous donation in loving memory of שמואל מאיר בן מנשה אפרים  $\,$

#### Benching Superstars!

Shira Chastain Leora Diskind Aryeh Solomon Hirshy Cohen Dovi Shulman Mottel Vogel

### From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein 🧖

We're in the final stretch! Within the last few weeks, we ran our very successful fundraising campaign, had a fabulous Color War, kept up the pace with learning despite the summer-like weather, sent both the 8th grade girls and the 8th grade boys on their respective trips, gave out teacher employment contracts for next year, and collected lots of survey responses from both the Principal's Survey for Parents (36 responses already) and the Principal's Survey for Teachers...thank you to those who completed surveys!

With just 17 days left, we are looking forward to more learning, our annual Teacher Appreciation Picnic (see attached flyer), the MSG's Production, Science Live Zoom presentations, our Kindergarten graduation & First Grade Chumash Presentation, the 8th Grade graduation, special trips, surprises and lots of fun!

There's a great, positive ruach at DHR - and we truly appreciate the efforts of our teachers to not just teach, but make learning exciting and interactive. I would like to add one more thought - and note of appreciation: Thank you to the parents who have already taken the time to point out this fact to their children and have helped them express their hakaras hatov to their teachers through sweet cards and small gifts.

When we, as parents, model genuine recognition of good, we convey to our children the importance of expressing gratitude. Because, while we work to instill knowledge and skills, we must also teach positivity and hakaras hatov, as an antidote to the frequent negativity to which some children are exposed.

Finally, since I love great quotes, I thought that I would share these, about gratitude:

- Gratitude is defined as "a felt sense of wonder, thankfulness and appreciation for life" (Emmons & Shelton, 2002, p. 460)
- The punishment for being an ingrate is described in Mishlei (Proverbs 17:13): "He who repays evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house."
- Rabbi Yehuda HeChasid (1140–1217) stated that "there is no worse trait than being ungrateful" (Sefer Hasidim 665).

"Gratitude is related to self-esteem, optimism, positive affect, life satisfaction, reduced stress, and many other aspects of well-being" (Wood, Froh, & Geraghty, 2010).

### Fire Away!

As part of our 4/5 girls' class, Adina Goldstein was working on a class project focusing on simple machines and how they function. Being the innovative young lady that she is, she built a HUGE medieval war machine - a catapult/trebuchet (with her brother's help) that was not only used by her class, but also, the 4/5 boys and both 6/7 classes used it for a science experiment! They launched water balloons using the catapult to help cool off during this very warm and sunny week! Next week, we will feature other

simple machine creations developed by our 4/5 girls.



## Mazel Tov to...

- ~ Sruli and Faigy Mochkin (DHR class of 2011) on the birth of their daughter, Reitza Malka.
- $\sim Y$ israel and Reena (Davidowitz DHR class of 2006) Kramer on the birth of their son.

#### Calendar

- ~ Mon., May 31st: Memorial Day (no school)
- ~ Mon., June 7th: Science Testing (4th & 8th grades)
- ~ Fri., June 18th: RCSD WILL NOT be providing transportation
- ~ Mon., June 21st: K Graduation & 1st grade Chumash Celebration (beginning at 9 a.m.)
- ~ Mon., June 21st: 8th Grade Graduation
- ~ Tues., June 22nd: Last day of School (11:30 a.m. dismissal)