



# Derech HaTorah of Rochester

The Path of Respect and Excellence

3"02

May 8, 2020

י"ד אייר, תש"פ

## Lag Ba'Omer Parade!!



SAVE THE DATE! Make sure to come outside in front of your homes (in masks, of course) this Tuesday, May 12th from 12pm to 1pm! In honor of Lag Ba'Omer, we will be canceling all classes after 11:30am that day. Then starting at 12pm, DHR faculty and staff, accompanied by the Brighton Police, Brighton Ambulance, Spike (the Red Wings mascot) and other special guests will do a Lag Ba'Omer Car Parade around Brighton. We will be driving around with music, sirens, waving, honking and distance-visiting with all of our students. Please have your children wait outside (weather permitting) on your property to celebrate with us! Finally, if you live outside of Brighton, feel free to either join the car parade (call Mrs. Goldstein for details) or find a location (like one of the empty grassy islands in Brighton) to allow you to see the parade while maintaining social distancing. We are all looking forward to seeing the children. We miss them so much!

## Personal Item Pick Up

Now that we know that we are going to be in shelter-in-place, distance-learning mode for the rest of the year, we have scheduled this Sunday, 5/10/20, for pick-up of students' personal items that are still at school. Rabbi Chastain will be on the DHR campus this Sunday from 10am to 1pm so families can come to pick up their children's printed material for the upcoming week, as well as their children's workbooks, locker contents, and personal belongings. In order to keep everyone apart, we will allow one family to buzz in and collect their items at a time. Please be considerate of others who are waiting and encourage your children to not loiter. Thanks! If you cannot pick up your weekly printed materials during those hours, Rabbi Chastain will be bringing the box back to Brighton and will be leaving the box on his front steps.

## Thank You!

...On behalf of the Derech HaTorah family, we would like to express our incredible gratitude to the Board of Trustees, CEO Megan Bell, Executive Director Holli Budd, and the administrators of the Max & Marian Farash Charitable Foundation for their remarkable generosity and vision. We are inspired by their strong commitment to ensuring the continuity of Jewish education and Jewish identity in our community. The Farash Foundation has consistently sought out - and discovered - ways to bring about "game-changing", innovative improvements to our city. The Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation's generous grant enables DHR to continue to operate and provide a high-quality Jewish and general education for our community's children. On behalf of the entire DHR family, we say "Thank you!!"



...We would like to express our hakaras hatov, our sincere appreciation to our local Jewish Community Federation. They recently gave DHR a significant grant to assist our school through these difficult financial times. Part of the grant was designated to purchase new tablets for student use because many of our families did not have the devices necessary for their children to be able to simultaneously attend online classes. As a result of this very generous grant, we were able to purchase 35 "Kosher" tablets (with access to curricular apps and resources including Zoom, Google Classroom, etc.) which are already on loan to our students.



We are extremely grateful to the Jewish Community Federation, its President, Julie Nussbaum, its Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, and particularly to CEO Meredith Dragon. Since her arrival in Rochester, Meredith has worked tirelessly to reach out to all segments of the community, and we applaud her impressive efforts and results. Thank you!

## From the Principal

Mrs. Lea Goldstein

Over the last two months, we have been experiencing a unique, completely unanticipated situation. If anyone would have suggested this as an even remote possibility during the past winter, we would have all laughed. Yet, here we are, almost two months in. We have (hopefully) spent much more quality time with our children than ever before.

We've been tackling projects that we thought we'd never get to. We've been cooking and baking and taking long walks.

Your children's teachers have all become tech-savvy. They have learned to teach and reach out remotely. They have left their comfort zone (the classroom) and ventured into virtual classrooms. We are very proud of our staff and impressed with their talents and flexibility.

Your children are incredible, resilient and inspirational. Their worlds have been turned upside down, but they are tuning in every day - and listening, responding, laughing and learning.

Administratively, we have been hard at work keeping our wonderful school operating financially and technologically. We have already started actively planning for the fall, although we, too, don't know what the future will hold.

Wishing you a wonderful, healthy and inspiring Shabbos!

## Technology Update

**Tablets** - The Kosher Amazon Fire 8 Tablets and cases arrived, and were distributed this week on loan from DHR and sponsored through a generous grant from the Jewish Community Federation of Rochester. The devices are set up to enable DHR students to use Google Classroom (see below for more information), Zoom, the camera (to take pictures of their hard-copy homeworks), email and Google Drive, if students want it. Just a reminder, please don't set up any passwords, pins, etc. If you did not receive a device and would like to borrow one for your child, please call Mrs. Goldstein ASAP since there are a few left.



**Google Classroom** - Yay!! We were finally approved for Google Classroom! We truly appreciate getting approved and the extra time and effort that both Rabbi Chastain and Ms. Amanda invested in making this happen. Google Classroom helps students and teachers organize assignments, boost collaboration, and foster better communication. We are hopeful that this platform will facilitate paperless communication between teachers and students (and parents!) and streamline the educational workflow. It allows teachers to create classes, post assignments, organize folders, and view work in real-time.

To make the most of this quarantine, stay-at-home situation, we are hoping to take advantage of everyone becoming more tech-savvy and we are hopeful that we will continue using Google Classroom in the future. It will help us limit the quantity of emails that we send, and will create a single platform that can be used to host all school work and homework.



## Middos Menchen Star of the Week

**Yerucham Dahari** was having fun on his roller blades when he saw the wind blow the neighbors garbage and recycling into the street. He collected and put it all back so it was neat and ready for collection.

What a beautiful kiddush Hashem!

*Send us pictures of your children distance learning and let us know if/why they should be recognized for a Middos Menschen.*

## Calendar

- Tuesday, May 12 - **Lag Ba'Omer Car Parade through Brighton neighborhoods** - 12-1pm

- Friday, May 15 - **Special Guest Speaker for Middle School Boys in the morning**

