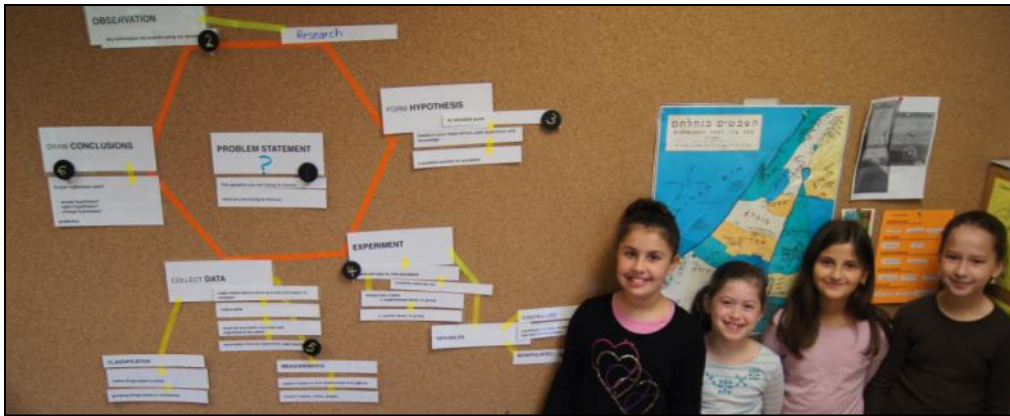


Maimonides Community

BH. Tishrei 26, 5776 / Oct 9, 2015

Community Newsletter of the Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District
 404 Partridge Street Albany NY 12208 (518) 453-9363/3434 www.maimonidesschool.org
 produced by Rabbi Mendel Rubin & students in the TNT (Torah 'n Technology) Program
 Maimonides is accredited by the NYS Board of Regents & is a beneficiary of UJF-NENY maimonidesschool@gmail.com

Candle-Lighting:
 6:05
 Shabbos Ends:
 7:04



CHARTING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Mrs. Dubarry's 4/5 graders spent a lot of time on Wednesday of this week learning about and charting (see their board above) the six steps of scientific method: (1) Observation (2) Research (3) Hypothesis (4) Experiment (5) Data (6) Conclusions - and the order of steps is important. Interesting, because at the same time 4/5 graders are learning in Mishna class about the specific order and structure of the Amidah. (We love cross-curricular connections!) To easily remember the steps here's an acronym: Old Red Hens Eat Dried Corn, or here's an alternate the students came up with: On Rosh Hashanah Everyone Davens Carefully!

*This newsletter is sponsored
 in loving memory of
Esty (Rubin) Cohen
 on occasion of her 5th Yartzzeit
 on the 25th of Tishrei
 by her siblings, parents & family
 May her memory be a blessing*



HAPPY SUKKOT!
 This is a wonderful picture of Rabbi Ruben and Noah L. during the Sukkah Mobile's visit to Albany High over Sukkot.

MORGENBESSER CONDOLENCE

Condolences to Maxine Morgenbesser and family on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Rebecca Amann over the Sukkot holiday. Maxine will be sitting most of the Shiva at her children in New York and Lakewood, and will be sitting Shiva in Albany for one day, this Sunday 10/11 at Shabbos House.

BACKMAN MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to MHDS alumnus Maishe and Malkie Backman on the birth of Mushka. Mazal Tov to grandparents Avremi & Sharona Backman, aunt Esti at Maimonides High and all the Backman family.

MAZAL TOV MARZOUKS

Mazal Tov to UAlbany alumni Dan and Atara Marzouk on the Bar-Mitzvah celebration this weekend of their twin sons Noach and Binyamin, who were born in Albany. The Marzouks lived here for a few years after their wedding, and after Pittsburgh, and then NJ, they live now in Plainview, Long Island.

THE ESTY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Esty's yartzzeit was yesterday (Thursday) and the annual memorial lecture will hopefully be later this month, details soon to be announced.

MAZAL TOV SIMONS

MHDS alumnus Rabbi Sruly and Esti Simon of Ottawa had a baby boy this week. Mazal Tov to the grandparents Rabbi Nachman and Clara, aunt Chaya Simon in our HS, and all the Simon family.

MAZAL TOV AUERBACHS

MHDS alumnus Adam and Jill Auerbach had a newborn son named Aharon Leiv. Mazal Tov to the grandparents Alan and Edie Auerbach. It's quite incredible that Adam A., Shmuly R. and Sruly S. were all in the same Maimonides class years ago and all had newborn sons within a few weeks of each other this year!

VOCAB WORDS AND SUKKOT

One of the 6/7 graders vocab words was "crescendo" (a gradual increase in loudness or intensity) - very appropriate for Sukkot which builds up to the joyous dancing and (very loud) celebration of Simchat Torah!

AGAIN A VERY SHORT WEEK

Most students report for newsletter on Thurs, and school started up again on Wednesday this week. That's not a lot of time to work with, yet our TNT students did a great job!



MAIMONIDES
 404 Partridge Street
 Albany NY 12208

A MISSING CALCULATOR



We're missing one of the brand new white graphing calculators. If anyone borrowed it, please bring the calculator and the charging cord back. These calculators aren't meant to be taken out of the math classroom and we need it back. (Pictured is not the exact model)



THE "GOOD CHOICE, BAD CHOICE" GAME

Kindergarten learned about the choice that Adam and Chava made in the Garden of Eden. They played this game to learn about choices. The two columns are two teams. Each front row got asked questions like: Should you go outside to play without telling your parents? Is it OK to walk away if someone wants to start a fight with you? Can you take a friend's pencil or markers without asking? If you think that's a good choice you go to the chair with the smiley face. If you think it's a bad choice you go to the chair without the smile. Then the group discussed each question. The rows kept moving forward with new questions. It was a great game, and thought-provoking, too!



CREATION PROJECTS

Morah Rivka's Nursery students are pictured using playdough to shape the orb of the sun and its rays, and using tweezers to "fish" marbles out of a bowl to place on suction-cups atop fish cutouts. These are hands-on ways to learn about the Days of Creation, and at the same time work on their fine motor skills. The tweezer thing was quite the challenge!

THE "MAASER" CONNECTION

3rd graders were excited to report in TNT that they found a connection between two subjects they are learning. In Chumash they learned how Avraham was the first person to give away Maaser 10% of his possessions. In Mishna Rosh Hashanah they learned about the fiscal year for the Maaser given from a flock. They were so excited to learn the same idea in two different texts on the same day!

10%



BAKE SALE IS BACK!

This year on Tuesdays, during the morning recess. 8th grade girls are running the sale as they fundraise for their year-end trip. They will be continuing the "Tab" option for parents who would like to send money ahead, allocating an amount per week. Most items are 25 cents each.

ALUMNI REGARDS

It's nice to catch up with visiting alumni back in town to be home for the holidays:

- Eli W. now in WITS in Milwaukee happens to be learning the very same chapter of Talmud (HaShutfin, Bava Basra) that our boys are learning here!
- Chaim K. is back from Postville IA, and strummed up a lively storm on his electric guitar at the Sukkot Rally.
- Motti is back from Australia after two years in Melbourne (with visits to Perth, Brisbane and other places) and drove the Sukkah-Mobile and led the Sukkot Rally...
- Eli O. is back from Israel and added a lot to the liveliness on Simchat Torah, including cute and creative names for things.

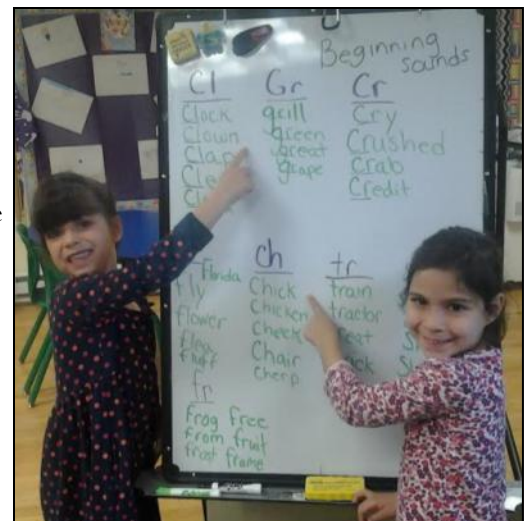
THE LUNAR ECLIPSE

The unusual redmoon supermoon lunar eclipse happened after the first dinner in the Sukkah this year. Many of our students said that they watched part or all of the eclipse. A few things students shared about it:

- A few Jewish families celebrated the first night in the Sukkah together. They watched the eclipse from one front yard, but then hopped over the fence to a neighbor's backyard and saw it from there, too. As the student put it: It was nice to stand together and watch it as a group of Jewish families.
- One family was a little disappointed that the moon didn't appear as red as expected, but then they stepped away from the light outside their home into a dark spot, and they saw the redder coloring.
- It was amazing to watch the moon go through its entire monthly cycle in a very short time, and then go through that cycle backwards again. It was worth staying up!

NEW READS IN 4/5 GRADE

4/5 has many avid readers. In addition to the books in the Esty Library, Mrs. Dubarry has restocked their classroom shelves with many previously loved books so our students can read and love them, too. "Thanks for supporting reading and keeping it exciting!"



BEGINNING SOUNDS

Ms. Ford's 1st graders are happily working on two-letter sounds like CL (clock or clown), GR (grill or green), CR (cry or crushed). And then the CH words (chicken, cheek, or chair) and TR words (train, tractor or treat).



THE STAMPER SET

Mrs. Hoffman brought in a letter stamping set with easy to use stampers and stamp-pads which the Nursery students enjoyed using to fill their alphabet tree pages with all kinds of alphabetical fruit.

START OF GEMORAH SUKKAH

6/7 grade boys are learning Gemorah Sukkah with Rabbi Mendel. They learned the opening Mishna and Gemorah's first question about a wording contrast between Mishnas of Sukkah & Movuy (and Gemorah's 2 answers: policy and practical). They are now onto the question of what is wrong with a Sukkah that is taller than 20 Amos. Stay tuned for 3 answers to that question! They have worksheets to help with understanding, clarity & review.

MIRIAM BAS BILGAH

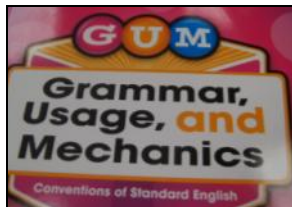
Speaking of Gemorah Sukkah, 8th grade girls learned a very sad story about Miriam bas Bilgah at the very end of the tractate. They first read it inside the Talmud text and then watched an 8-minute video (English subtitles) of the Lubavitcher Rebbe finding positive notes of inspiration from the story. Look it up by searching: Wolf Wolf, Miriam bas Bilgah.

Give a Giggle!

Why was the Queen upset with her husband?
Because he was the lion (lying) king!

Why was Brontosaurus so eager to discover the factory?
Because he was a plant eater!

How do we know that Hashem is into baseball?
Because the Torah starts with the Big Inning!



NEW GUM BOOKS

These new gum books are kind of chewy. No, just kidding. GUM isn't chewing gum. It stands for Grammer, Usage & Mechanics. There are pages of worksheets inside that 3rd graders work on most days of the week with Mrs. Maher.



KERIAH METER

Morah Dini's 3rd graders reached their first Keriah-Meter goal of 1,000 lines of practice Hebrew reading at home. They are looking forward to their Siyum Party to celebrate this milestone and then starting a new Keriah-Meter chart with a more ambitious goal of 2,000 or maybe even 2,500 lines! To qualify, you need to read at least ten lines per night and have it signed by a

parent. It can be any Hebrew text that you are not familiar with: Tehillim, a story book, a Hebrew bulletin or newspaper (with vowels), a unfamiliar part of the Siddur, some Chumash from a Parsha you didn't learn yet...

NEW: GIRLS RUNNING CLUB

Calling all girls, grades 3 and up! Want to get more active at recess? Come join the Girls Running Club Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch recess. All you'll need are sneakers and a "Can Do" attitude. We'll be using the entire 30 minutes of recess to stretch, warm-up and do fun running exercises through the neighborhood. Mrs. Levin will hand out permission slips at Art Class next week.

MONDAY NIGHT SLEEPOVERS

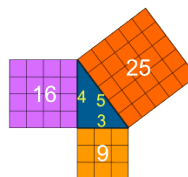
New for this year: HS boys will begin weekly Monday Night sleepovers at Shabbos House, for additional learning, quality time together bonding as a group and fun activities. Permission slips to go home today. We will need assistance with transportation, especially back to Shteeble on Tuesday mornings.



SHERLOCK HOLMES

In English class with Mrs. Crawford, after reading two Poe

stories, 8th graders are reading the Sherlock Holmes story "The Adventure of The Speckled Band" by Arthur Conan Doyle.



PYTHAGOREAN THEOREM

Mrs. Roland's class learned an ancient mathematical formula regarding the square of a hypotenuse (longest side) of a triangle: $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$. It works!



OCTOBER OUTDOORS

1	NATURE WALKS: It's getting colder but still not too cold so we can still enjoy going outside, taking nature walks, or even a drive out into the countryside, to see the beautiful leaf colors, take nice photos...
2	PICKING APPLES AND PUMPKINS Some orchards still have apple varieties you can pick, and many farms have pumpkins to pick. There are many pumpkin recipes, you can even roast and salt the seeds!
3	FIRES There are lots of fallen twigs and branches around this time of year. Collect them for a firepit (only with constant adult supervision, of course) to roast some marshmallows and tell stories. Or you can do it indoor if you have a fireplace.
4	OUTDOOR CLEANUP Winter is coming. Yards can use cleaning up, gardens have to be cleaned up, too, so they can be most productive next spring.
5	LEAVES They are not falling yet, but they are changing colors and will start falling soon. Raking leaves is not only a chore, but can also be fun, especially jumping into big fluffy piles or making projects with the most colorful leaves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

at Maimonides and in the Community

10/10: SHABBOS BREISHIS

and Mevorchim HaChodesh Mar-Cheshvan! We are transitioning away from the rich season of Tishrei holidays, hopefully translating that spiritual energy into the year to come.

10/10: NOAH'S B.M. ANNIVERSARY

It's Noah's Bar-Mitzvah anniversary, he will read Torah and the Levins are sponsoring Kiddush at Shomray Torah. It is also dedicated for a Refuah Shlayma for a dynamic Rabbi Aharon Eliezer (ben Rivka) Ceitlin who is battling a rare cancer.

10/10: CBAJ TORAH365 LAUNCH

at a special Kiddush this Shabbos morning at CBAJ, to start weekly regimen of Pirkei Avot study.

10/11: MORGENBESSER SHIVA

Maxine will be sitting shiva for her mother only one day in Albany, Sunday at Shabbos House.

10/11: 37TH CARROT FESTIVAL

Longstanding annual festival at Agudat Achim on Rt 7 in Schenectady. 10am to 4:30pm. Admission is free. In addition to prepared foods (Kashruth varies) and the overall carrot theme, there's a rock-climbing wall, pony rides, petting zoo, inflatable play structure, farm produce and various vendors.

10/11: AUSTERLITZ IN AUTUMN

An annual festival on the Sunday before Columbus Day with sheep-shearing, people dressed in 1830's costume, vendors, craftsmen and entertainment. Cost \$6pp, kids under 12 are free. 11am-4pm in Old Austerlitz Village: 11550 State Route 22 in the town of Austerlitz NY not far from the MA border.

10/11: SAGE SOCCER GAMES

Sage College soccer coaches have been very good to our school. They're inviting kids to this Sunday's games (12pm Womens, 3pm Mens) at the Albany College of Pharmacy Athletic Complex. There will be photo-ops with their Gator mascot, and walk-ons with the players during the introductions.

10/12: MHDS OPEN HOUSE NIGHT

Please note: The Maimonides Open House Night has been cancelled for this Monday 10/12 and will be on Wednesday 10/21 instead.

10/12: ALBANY INSTITUTE FREE

Free admission on Columbus Day to the Albany Institute of History and Art on Washington Ave. The trick is that the museum closes at 5pm, so if you plan to go with the kids, it would have to be for an hour right after school pickup.

10/12: THE KHAZAR KINGDOM

UAlbany Judaic Studies hosts Gerald Mako, a PhD candidate from Cambridge, 1pm in the Standish Room of the Science Library to discuss the Khazar Kingdom which converted to Judaism and whether they are ancestors of Ashkenasic Jews.

10/13-14: ROSH CHODESH

Two days of Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan. Minyan will be at Maimonides 8am on the first day, Tuesday.

10/19-20: DR GIL TROY ON CAMPUS

Jewish Federation is bringing Dr. Gil Troy to speak at Union College on Monday 10/19 & at UAlbany on Tuesday 10/20 about Israel, Zionism & History co-sponsored by the respective college Hillels. He is also speaking at the Federation, separately for school teachers, especially Social Studies/History.

10/21: MHDS OPEN HOUSE NIGHT

7-8pm at school. Meet teachers, discuss curriculum plans and expectations for the school year.

10/31: ESTY LECTURE TBA

Sat Night Oct 31st is a tentative date for the annual Esty Memorial Lecture. Check back soon to confirm date, topic and speaker.

11/1: KIDS STUFF GARAGE SALE

9am-1pm at Albany JCC. Clothes, books, toys.

11/3: HOWARD GARDNER SPEAKS

Gardner is considered the father of the multiple intelligences theory, especially important in the educational field and approach. He's speaking at Union College at the Feigenbaum Forum. Some of our Maimonides teachers will be attending.

11/9: HOLOCAUST FILM AT C.P.

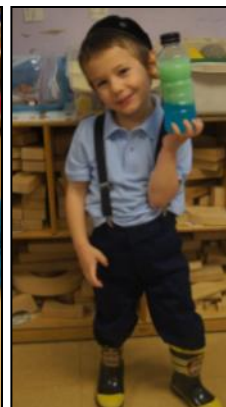
Clifton Park Chabad presents an annual film relating to the Holocaust (or survivor stories) at the Clifton Park Library. Stay tuned for details!

12/4: "SHABBAT 360" UALBANY

A joint effort is being made to have a mega Shabbat dinner in the UAlbany Campus Center Ballroom on this Shabbat. Area college students are welcome to join! Stay tuned for more info.

12/14: MHDS RAFFLE-AUCTION

and Chanukah Dinner, at the very last moments of the 8th day of Chanukah, Monday 5-7pm. Save the date, and also please consider donating or soliciting prizes as we have to finalize the packages before the last week of October.



BREISHIS PARSHA CENTERS

Kindergarteners enjoyed 5 hands-on creative centers today that connected with specific aspects in this week's Parsha Breishis about Creation. They drew on blank puzzles to show that every "piece" of creation serves a purpose, they made Adam and Chava out of playdough (indeed, they were made of earth!), mixed oil and powerade and watched it settle and separate, and using their breath through straws moved cotton balls into a bowl, plus there was a counting station, too.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE PARSHA

Kitah Bet finished the first chapter of Breishis, their very first chapter of Chumash ever! They are excited for this accomplishment, looking forward to a Siyum celebration, but already on to Chapter Two. Parents, keep practicing the verses with them at home, the more familiar and comfortable they are with the text, the better!!



MAIMONIDES SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

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