



27 Tevet 5769 / January 23, 2009 Erev Shabbat Va'era: Candle Lighting 4:42 pm

Upcoming Events

January 2009

Fri-Sat: 1/23-24: 7th Grade Shabbaton in New Rochelle / YINR

Mon. 1/26: Rosh Chodesh / Shevat
PAPAS present The Disorganized Students: Strategies for Parents and Teachers - 7:30pm/WDS Shul RSVP: hwalisev@optonline.net

Thurs. 1/29: Gr.1 Chag Hasidur/9:30am

February 2009

Mon 2/2 & Thurs. 2/5: Parents of Students in Gr. 5-8: Special presentation by Mrs. Rachel Pill, LCSW on "How To Talk To Your Children About Sex." 8:00PM Castle Shul Parents are urged to attend one of the two sessions. Thank you.

Sun. 2/8: WDS Annual Dinner 6:00 pm

Mon. 2/9: Tu B'Shevat

Fri.-Tues: 2/13- 2/17: No Sessions

President's Break

Wed. 2/18: Sessions Resume

**WESTCHESTER DAY SCHOOL'S
61ST Anniversary Dinner
Sunday Evening
Feb.8, 2009 - 6:00 PM
Greentree Country Club
New Rochelle, NY**

4th & 5th Grade Choir: If you have not already done so, please send in your permission slips for the Dinner. Thank you!

REMINDER 2009/2010:

Registration for children returning to Ganon, Kindergarten and/or First Grade for the 2009-2010 school year is due on Monday, January 26th. Thank You!

On The Road...

Thurs, Jan. 22nd. the third grade students visited the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY to see a planetarium show called "The Planets". This show introduces students to the development and structure of the Solar System and the individual characteristics of the various worlds within it. It was a wonderful supplement to the third grade science curriculum. The students had a great time. Thank you to all the third grade teachers and to the parent chaperones.

Mazel Tov To:

... Morah Miriam Dollman on the engagement of her son, Baruch, to Sarah Peer.

... Dr. Sharon Benoff & family on her son, Ephraim, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

... Jodi Stern on becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Professional Development Day:

Monday - Jan. 19th: Evaluating ones frame of mind was the theme of the talk presented to the WDS faculty by Dr. Michele Brody as part of the school's professional development. She advised us to communicate with our students through inquiry, asking for and seeking more information as to the motivation behind a student's action. When we approach a situation with a positive frame of mind, we will select from a pool of data, a more positive interpretation of the action, and draw appropriate conclusions. These conclusions, derived through communication and positive interpretation, will lead us to take proper actions. She also counseled us to see a specific behavior as a part of a larger context, which we need to move slowly to explore, attempting to discover a commonality in the student's behavior, to which we should respond thoughtfully. The session concluded with a role play of a parent teacher conference. It was a very information session.

Clips from the Classroom

Library - Classroom Links

One of the most important functions of the library is to provide resources that enrich the curriculum in the classroom. Towards that aim, I have begun to provide book bags to teachers on particular units of study. Last week, the 2nd grade received a "Black History Month" bag filled with poetry, biographies, and picture books featuring prominent individuals from the civil rights movement. First grade received a "Winter" library bag with folktales, science books, and stories related to the season. In this way, the students have additional exposure to print materials, and supplement their knowledge of a particular subject. Library bags for older grades on their topics of study will be forthcoming. Library materials are also being used in the classroom for research and book reports. Last week, the 2nd grade received books on water animals to support their research on this topic. The eight volume encyclopedia Life in the Oceans was loaned to the classroom for use as a reference tool. Earlier this year, the 4th grade made a special trip to the library to find materials on topics pertaining to the environment. Seventh graders visited the library before winter break to find biographies on pre-civil war leaders for reports. The 5th grade is scheduled for a library visit this Friday morning to choose books for their science fiction/fantasy book reports. Library materials will continue to be added to the collection to support these areas of study. It is wonderful to see learning opportunities increased as the classroom and library become more interconnected!

Submitted by: Mrs. Laurie Popiel, Librarian



27 Tevet 5769 / January 23, 2009 Erev Shabbat Va'era: Candle Lighting 4:42 pm

Ganon Aleph's News

We are continuing our study of the human body and the five senses. Last week we learned the names of our external body parts. This week, we studied many of the internal parts of the body and their functions. We focused on the sense of sight and learned about the pupil, iris and the optic nerve. We then used our sight and our minds to see how we view ourselves and the world around us. We painted self portraits while looking in a mirror and painted the view from our classroom window. After reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?, we spooned and smushed finger paint onto paper and then described what we saw.

We used a magnifying glass and our sight to examine our thumbs. We learned that no two people have the same fingerprints. Then, we took each child's thumbprints and printed them in their body books. We also learned that no two snowflakes are alike, either. Then, we did snowflake stamping and made paper snowflakes. We studied Parshat Vaera, going over Moshe's role as a leader. We discussed how at first he was scared to do what Hashem asked and how he was able to find a way around his speech impediment with the help of his brother, Aharon. We spoke about Paroh and how he was a stubborn leader, bringing up examples of how we can be stubborn at times, too. We asked the children which type of leader they thought was the better one: Moshe, who wasn't sure about how to perform his role and sought guidance from Hashem and help from others or Paroh, who thought he knew everything and wouldn't listen to anybody? Shabbat Shalom!

Morah Angelica and Morah Aliza

Grade 2: What an exciting week this has been in second grade. We watched our new President being sworn into office on Tuesday on the SmartBoard. We also had our first lesson on the SmartBoard where we studied the President's Oath of Office,

and were then able to write it in our own words. The children have also been studying important African American figures who have helped change the way they were treated in this country. We have read about Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. We are looking forward to learning about Ruby Bridges next week. We have started our first research project this year. Each child is studying a water animal. They are learning how to find important information in a book, and then put it into a paragraph. Come and see our final copies hanging outside our room in a few weeks.

Submitted: Dina Lehon and Erica Yadlovker

Notes From The Nurse...

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

Ganon - 8th Grade: In the event that your child(ren) will be arriving late or not be in school, for any reason, please call ext. 500 and leave a clear, detailed message stating: date, student name, grade, and reason for absence. Thank you.

Inclement Weather Information

In the event of a school closing or delay, please:

- Check your e-mail or the WDS website www.westchesterday.org,
- Call WDS, ext. 100 after 6:00 a.m.
- Listen to radio stations: WFAS, WVOX, or your local cable station.

PTA NEWS....

Kabbalat Shabbat DVD orders are still being accepted. Send orders to office/ or contact tinabetho@aol.com. First Grade Chag Hassidur DVD's are also being accepted. Cost for DVD is \$25.00.



Basketball News...

The 7th & 8th girls team defeated Bi-Cultural Day School 47-29 to capture their ninth straight win this year and continue to remain undefeated with one regular season game left. Co-Captain Amanda Povman was injured in practice and could only contribute a few minutes to her team. Co-Captain Nina Leibowitz was able to lead the team by switching to a guard position, while Arlyn Goldberg handled the middle. Michele Bengualid, Amy Robbins, Michelle Kleiman, and Sophia Levinson helped handling and distributing the ball, and played outstanding defense. Edith Chess and Ellie Bonime also helped insure this win. The team plays its last game against Yavneh on Wed., Jan. 28 at Yavneh.

The 7th & 8th boys lost to Ramaz in a crushing defeat. Our boys tried to put in their best possible effort, remained poised, showed outstanding sportsmanship, and conducted themselves in a very positive way at a difficult time for them. The boys were able to bounce back with a victory over Bi-Cultural Day School by the score of 35-31, who they previously had lost to in their first game of the season. WDS got off to an early lead but Bi-Cultural Day School closed the gap and took a 2 point lead. Lead by Daniel Oppenheimer, Jeremy Wilson, Daniel Schub, Akiva Marder, Josh Goldschmidt and Ezra Mannis the boys regained the lead in a very exciting game. The score remained very close for the remainder of the game, but our boys were able to get some key rebounds and hit some important shots down the stretch. Daniel Oppenheimer played the entire second half with 4 fouls, he did not foul out of the game and was able to lead his team to victory. The boys play their final game against M.D.S. on Monday, Feb. 2 at W.D.S. at 7:45.



27 Tevet 5769 / January 23, 2009 Erev Shabbat Va'era: Candle Lighting 4:42 pm

Sunday Sports League

Softball Sign Up

1st - 3rd Grade Coed League
4th - 6th Grade Boys League
4th - 7th Grade Girls League

Sunday, January 25th or
Sunday, February 1st

9am - 11am at WDS

\$125/child in 1st - 3rd grade
150/ child in 4th - 6th grade
(payable to SSL)

For more info please contact

Daniel Katz at (914) 722-9095 or

Michael Muss at (914) 636-6492 or

Len Schwarzbaum at (914) 723-4712

Children must be registered in person.

Please bring a mitt to sign up.



Community News...

Jan. 29. - Thursday: 8:30PM at
Westchester Hebrew High School.

The Westchester Community Family & Friends are invited to attend a memorial tribute to Rabbi Jacob & Deborah Rubenstein, Z"l that will open the Yeshiva H.S. JV Basketball tournament. All proceeds will benefit the Rubenstein Memorial Fund for the children who live at Emunah's Bet Elazraki Children's Home in Netanya, Israel.

Feb. 10: Young Israel of White Plains is selling tickets for The Harlem Globetrotters Performing at The Westchester County Center Tuesday 2-10-09 7pm
Tickets \$20 To order contact
Joseph Orlian JIOESQ@aol.com