



16 Cheshvan 5769 / November 14, 2008 Erev Shabbat Vayera: 4:19 p.m.

Upcoming Events

November

Sun: 11/23: BJE Exam for 8th graders

Wed: 11/26: 1:40 Dismissal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN NEW ROCHELLE DISTRICT: WDS will be providing bus service for all students in the New Rochelle District on Wed. 11/26.

More information to follow.

Thur. & Fri: 11/27 & 28: Thanksgiving Break

December

Wed. 12/03: P/T Conferences Ganon & K

Tues. 12/09: P/T Conferences Ganon & K

Fri. 12/12: End of 1st Trimester: Gr. 1-8

Sat. 12/13: Gr. 4 Melave Malka Presentation
7:30 pm - WDS

WDS Open House Was A Huge Success!!

Our Open House for Prospective Parents held last Sunday was very successful. Thanks to all the parent volunteers who came to help set up, greet the prospective families, and join us on the tours. If you know of any families who have recently moved in to the Westchester area please call Baila Weiss (Ext. 134.) Thanks also to all of the wonderful teachers here at WDS who joined us on Sunday and gave such wonderful presentations. Special thanks to those teachers who just moved back into their classrooms and made them look extraordinarily beautiful to greet our guests last Sunday. You all did an outstanding job!

Condolences To

...Mr. Maury Bonime & family on the passing of his father, Mr. Harold Bonime, grandfather to Ellie, Jack and Maya.

**School Happenings:
Torah Bowl at WDS...**



On Wednesday, the halls of WDS were filled with Torah Bowl. As the buses started to role in, the excitement was building. First came Manhattan Day School then came Ramaz, SAR, and finally Shulamith. Both the boys and girls team fought hard and a good time was had by all. The following students represented WDS in the Torah Bowl: Michael Kesselman, Josh Blustein, Josh Eagle, Aaron Reich, Jonathan Herman, Jack Bonime, Molly C. Heller, Rachel Aboodi, Shira Greenberg, Michelle Kleinman, Stephanie Weinstein, and Amy Robbins. We must not forget to thank Chris for the delicious lunch during halftime. Thanks to Rabbi Weiss and Rabbi Mahler for making sure that things ran smoothly.

**GRUSS LIFE MONUMENT FUNDS
GALA DINNER - Nov. 9, 2008**



The Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education and the Gruss Life Monument Funds held their Annual Gala Dinner at Terrace on the Park in Queens on Sunday evening, November 9th. On behalf of WDS Mrs. Lippman, Mrs. Secular and Mrs. Pogostin accepted the trophy for winning Third Place in the 2008 Virtual Competition in Science. Westchester Day School was proud to accept this trophy in front of over 900 Principals from the Metropolitan area, as well as the Board of Directors from the Gruss Foundation. Congratulations to all.



**JOIN US AT THE WDS AUCTION
"NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"
DECEMBER 6, 2008
BE SURE TO SEND IN YOUR
SPONSORSHIP TO GET A FREE
JACKPOT RAFFLE TICKET.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
RACHEL ROSENFELD (914) 725-2262
Check out WDS website
for Grand Raffles!**

Save The Date!
*WDS 61st
Anniversary Dinner
Sunday Evening, Feb. 8, 2009
Guests of Honor
Suzanne & Stuart Beretz
Lisa & Joey Bernstein

Suzie Marder
Aishet Chayil Award

Nurse Pat Arias
Faculty Award*



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Staff Professional Day: 11/11/08

...General Studies teachers from kindergarten through eighth grade met with Dr. Benoff and Mrs. Greenberg on Tuesday for a discussion of the process of writing quality report card comments that encourage student success and reflect areas of growth. It was decided that writing these comments gives the teachers the opportunity to be reflective about a student's progress. The comments are meant to offer parents and children further explanation on the grade a student receives. They also provide guidance on how to make improvements in specific academic or behavioral areas. Following the meeting, the middle school staff gathered to talk about the progress being made by each student, and the different strategies being used to reinforce certain skills for those students who need support.

... Judaic studies staff participated in a seminar at WDS on "Developing the Chumash Curriculum in the Dynamic Classroom" presented by our guest speaker, Mrs. Chani Winter. Mrs. Winter is well known and has been trained through The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education. The sessions were very informative and presented our staff with challenging ways to reevaluate and update our program.

... Kindergarten through fifth grade G/S teachers met in our library with Laurie Popiel to discuss ways to integrate new picture books into the elementary reading and writing curriculum. Teachers brainstormed about ways to use books with imaginative themes to encourage creative writing and reading prediction in their classrooms. Teachers were exposed to new books that deal with social and emotional topics (i.e. teasing, bullying, and friendship issues) that can be used in the classroom as jumping off points for discussions of *menchlekeit*. Finally, teachers discussed further ways to promote cooperation between the library and the classroom to

enhance their science and social studies curriculum. Many thanks to Ms. Popiel for a wonderful and informative session.

Clips from the Classroom

News from Ganon Aleph ... We studied Parshat Lech Lecha and realized that every time we say Shma we are acting like Avraham. We put the Shma prayer into our beautiful frames decorated with sand and stars. Also, since Avraham had to travel across the desert on a camel, we focused on the various types of transportation we use today. We divided them into groups based on whether they were for air, land, or water transportation. We have been working on our calendar skills and graphing the weather. As a beginning math skill, we compare how many more/ less sunny, cloudy or rainy days there have been thus far in November. We continue to work on our alphabet recognition skills while paying close attention to the order of the alphabet. In science we are using a variety of objects and observing which sink or float. Since "density" is a concept beyond a preschooler's comprehension level, we simplified our explanation of what makes something sink vs. float by using the terms "heavy" and "light".

Submitted by: Morah Angelica Schanzer and Morah Aliza Weitzman

Grade 3: I would like to thank all the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to speak with me about their children at P/T Conferences. It means a lot to your child to see that you care how their progress.

...Our wonderful 3rd graders are moving along nicely in *chumash*. Many children have perfected their ability to read fluently and translate beautifully many *pesukim* in *perek 18*. We are about to learn the terrible result of bad behavior. In addition, we are learning how much one person, Avraham cared for every single human being. In

shoroshim we are now up to list 7- that means 42 *shoroshim*. Over 90% of the children are mastering all the *shoroshim*. Be proud!! It takes a lot of effort from the children (and parents). We are ready to begin learning about Chanukah - the story along with the Halachot. I don't have much left to teach, since the children learned so much about all the different kind of Menorot at "meet the author".
Submitted by Rabbi Dovid Leiman

Middle School Math:

...Our 6th graders have been very busy. The year began by working with decimals, focusing on understanding the relationship of numbers in our place value system such as the patterns involved in multiplying and dividing by powers of ten. In our next unit, the 6th graders were introduced to the new language of algebra, focusing on writing and evaluating variable expressions and solving algebraic equations. More recently they learned the meaning of powers and exponents and how to use the order of operations (PEMDAS!) to simplify numerical expressions. The students can now apply the order of operations to multi-operation expressions! Currently, the 6th graders are learning topics in number theory, such as divisibility rules and the prime factorization of numbers, gearing up for their work with fractions.

Submitted by: Mrs. Barbara Seader

... The 7th grade students began their second year of middle school math by working with decimals and integers. Computations have involved the use of estimation strategies, the four operations, the order of operations, and the distributive property. Measures of central tendency now incorporated integers and decimals. The students then continued with the exploration of equations and inequalities. Their next stop is the world of exponents, factors, and fractions.



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...Our **Advanced 7th grade** have begun exploring integers and algebraic expressions. Topics have included integers, absolute values, powers and exponents, and properties of numbers. They then delved into the world of equations and inequalities. Our current stop is the world of graphing. Slope, equations with two variables, translations, reflections, symmetry, and rotations will be studied.
Submitted by: Mrs. Secular
(Look for 8th grade math news in next week's Tidings!)

8th Grade Yearbook Fundraiser

For Students in Grades 1-8:

Continuing our tradition, the 8th graders will sell ice cream on Fridays to students in grades 1- 8, (also on Wed. Nov. 26th and Thurs., June 18th) as a fundraiser for the 2009 yearbook. We are offering a pre-pay option to all parents who are interested. Please do not feel obligated to participate; this is simply a plan that seems to work very well. The cost for all ice cream is \$1.50. Those that do not select the pre-pay option can have their children bring the money to school on the Fridays when they would like an ice cream treat. Ice cream sales will begin on Fri., Nov. 21st and will continue through June 18th. The pre-pay price for 30 weeks of ice cream will be \$35.00 per child, a savings of \$2.50! If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, please send in your check or contact Shmarya Gasner ext. 153, by Mon., Nov. 17th. Thank you, in advance, for supporting the yearbook!

Hockey News...

Opening Night for the WDS Wild's 2008/09 season took place Monday in Great Neck. Led by Captain Jacob Aboodi and Alternate Captains, Jon Herman, Jon Klaristenfeld, and David Wildes, the reigning League Champions continued in their winning ways by defeating North Shore Hebrew Academy (NSHA) 6-1 in a spirited game which was attended by many WDS loyal fans. Sammy Smigel led the Wild off with the team's first goal of the season which was followed by a Jake Aboodi goal for a WDS 2-0 lead at the end of the 1st period. The 2nd period featured a power play goal from Captain Aboodi, a NSHA goal, some physical play and excellent goaltending by both teams. The scoring for the Wild was rounded out in the 3rd period by 2 more power play goals by Captain Aboodi (one of them on a nifty fake in front of the NSHA goalie) and then a breakaway goal by David Zucker, his first career goal with The Wild. The Wild's next game will be this Wed. night 11/19 @ 7 pm vs. ASHAR in the WDS gym. Be there to cheer our team on and **LET'S GO WILD !!!**



Notes From The Nurse...

...Please remember to call ext. 500 if your child is going to be absent for any reason. This line is available 24/7!



...All students go outdoors daily for recess, kindly be sure your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor weather. Thanks.

PTA NEWS...

... **PHOTO MAKE UP: Monday - Nov. 24** For all absentees and retakes. Thank You,

... **Felt Kippot:** The PTA is once again, selling the enormously popular WDS Felt Kippot. They are available in: royal, navy, black, red and white. \$5.00 each, or 5 for \$20.00.

... **Class Parents:** The PTA is looking for more class parents- anyone interested in being a class parent please contact Jennifer Lorber or Amy Kirshenbaum as soon as possible. You can also let us know by email: jennlorb@aol.com Thank you in advance for volunteering for this important task!

Community News...

The National Council of Young Israel will be honoring WDS parents, **Jennifer Lorber and Karen Kosowsky** as "Nshei Chayil" (Women of Valor) for their many contributions to our community. The **luncheon will be held on: Sunday, Nov. 23** Great Neck Synagogue 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 10:00 boutique 11:00 luncheon and Program For more information: Contact: jsteinig@youngisrael.org or 212-727-9526