



בס"ד

5 Cheshvan 5770 / Oct. 23, 2009 Erev Shabbat Parshat Noach Candle Lighting 5:46 pm

**Dates to Remember:**

- 10/25 WDS Open House
- 11/1 Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall Back)
- 11/3\* P/T Conferences Gr. 1-8 5:45 - 8:45 pm



**No Bus Service for:**

**New Rochelle & Scarsdale**

- 11/4: WHHS Open House
- 11/9: Krystallnacht assembly PAPAS meeting 7:30PM
- 11/10 -11 WDS/PTA Book Fair
- 11/11: \* **No Sessions** - Veterans' Day Book Fair

Parent/Teacher Conferences Gr. 1-8 2:00-5:00 & 5:45 - 8:45

11/23 School Photo Re-Take Day  
11/25: **NOTE: CHANGE IN DISMISSAL DISMISSAL TIME WILL BE AT 1:40PM**

**No Bus Service for New Rochelle District**

11/26 & 27: **No Sessions** - Thanksgiving

\*Please Note: Grades 1-5: You can now register for your Parent/Teacher Conference on-line, by going to: <http://www.virtualparagon.com/westchesterday/conference/>. A letter was emailed to all parents explaining this new procedure in more detail. If you need assistance, please email: schooloffice@westchesterday.org

**WESTCHESTER DAY SCHOOL**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD - GRADE 8**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

Please join us if you have a child ready to enter Ganon, Kindergarten or Grade 1. If you know of any families who don't yet have children at WDS, please invite them to come on Sunday for a very informative program. If you would like to be a "Parent Ambassador" at the Open House, please contact Baila Weiss on Ext. 134 or [bweiss@westchesterday.org](mailto:bweiss@westchesterday.org)

**WDS Roving Reporter!**

By Ezra Mannis (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

This week the lower school started some of their weekly activities. Ganon and First grade are learning about Fall and the changing leaves. In KH they connected the parasha (Parshat Noach) with math and science by building *teyvo*t (arks) out of straw and then painted them. The Second grade continued their virtual classroom with Morah Rossler from the First grade with the new Hebrew program called Tal-Am. On Monday the Third grade had a field trip to the Bronx Zoo.

The Middle School started their new seating charts in the shul in hopes of further improving *tefillah*, which is off to a great start. It's been another productive week at Westchester Day School!

**"REMEMBER THE CHILDREN:**

**ONE CRAYON AT A TIME"**

1.5 million children perished in the Holocaust. We are asking our middle school students to donate new boxes of crayons to honor their memory. The project, initiated by a synagogue in Fairlawn, New Jersey, has set as its goal the collection of 1.5 million crayons. The crayons will be distributed to children from low income educational and healthcare facilities. By participating in this program, our students will be performing the mitzvah of giving to those in need while honoring the memory of those children who perished.

See attached flyer for details.

**Mazal Tov To...**

...Sammy Horowitz on becoming a Bar Mitzvah!

...Mrs. Arlene Lewis and her husband on their granddaughter becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

**Clips from the Classroom**

**Ganon Gime!**

This week we took out our Torah and read about Noach. We built *teyvah*s, pretended

to be animals and sang songs about the *keshet* (rainbow). We walked 2 by 2, jumped 2 by 2, sang 2 by 2, ate 2 by 2 and made necklaces 2 by 2.

On Thursday, a naturalist from Greenburgh Nature Center, brought Robert the Box Turtle, Chi Chi the Chinchilla, Shadow the Ball Python and Velcro the Bearded Dragon Lizard to visit us. All of the children, well, not ALL, but most of the children held or petted the animals. Everyone laughed as Robert the Box Turtle popped his head out of his shell to say hello!

Submitted by: Morah Lynn and Morah Joanie

**Mr. Lefrak's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In **history**, we began our year carefully exploring how we know history, and the need to get as many points-of-view as possible in order to truly know that history. Students took on the roles of a more primitive culture or a more technologically advanced culture. They then considered events as the advanced culture 'helped' the primitive culture by absorbing them into the more advanced civilization. How would the primitive people remember that history? How would the advanced civilization remember it? This opened our minds to fresh ideas about the explorers to the "New World" and the possible impact their efforts had on the indigenous peoples of North America.

In **science**, we have delved into a wonderful unit on Chemistry, carefully identifying the elements found in nature, as well as the complex ways these elements interact to make everything we know of in the world around us. Students got to build their own atoms, interpret chemical formulas, identify matter as compounds or mixtures,





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and identify a variety of mixtures, categorizing them as solutions, heterogeneous mixtures or colloids. Through experimentation, we discovered how to more quickly speed up the process by which a solute dissolves into a solvent, and students even got to eat samples of colloids!

In **writing**, we read a variety of poems, coming to understand that a poem must include three attributes: it must offer a message, touch us emotionally, and be set to some sort of rhythm. Students also learned how to identify and formulate simple, compound and complex sentences, and then we used the structure of the complex sentence to create some wonderful Haiku. Students were then instructed how to use Microsoft Word to create and save their Haiku as a document to a memory stick, and to open the document, later, for further editing. These skills will be implemented repeatedly throughout our fifth grade Creative Writing program.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

We began our year with an intense focus on *Dinim*, getting ready for the holidays. Additionally, we devoted much time preparing for our learning of *Gemara* by taking a step back and engaging in two introductions. First we conducted an introduction into our *Gemara* for the year, *Pesachim* and then we spent much time on an introduction to *Torah she b'al Peh* in general. In that context we discussed fundamental ideas to Judaism such as the need for a *Torah she b'al Peh*, the mitzvah to listen to the Rabbis, and the power of the Rabbis to institute different type of laws. We discussed the notion that the *Torah she b'al Peh* is a process that is alive and well today in our classrooms as we continue to develop new ideas with our own questions and answers. Finally we began learning *Gemara* starting in the first *perek* focusing on the obligation of *Bedikat Chametz*, searching for

*chametz*. Be prepared for your children to come home this year excited about learning *Gemara* and with many new insights into the *Pesach Seder*.

Submitted by: Rabbi Knapp

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are well on their way to completing the first *Perek* in Parshat Kedoshim. This *Perek* has more Mitzvot than any *Perek* in the Torah. Some of the Mitzvot that we focused on and discussed in depth are; what is considered proper respect and awe for parents, what parts of the field must be left for the poor, and laws of Shabbat. In *Gemara*, we completed the first page in *Hamafkid*. The students had an oral quiz where they had to read randomly selected passages from the *Gemara*. Everyone read their parts beautifully.

Submitted by: Rabbi Rosenwasser

### School Happenings

#### Bronx Zoo

As a culmination to the third grade study on rainforests, the class took a trip this past Monday to the Bronx Zoo. The students have been studying the layers of the rainforest (floor, understory, canopy, emergent layers), and learning about the animals, people and plants that live there. In preparation for the trip, the class worked in cooperative groups, writing a research report on the gorilla. Monday they had the chance to explore exhibits of those areas and each child filled out information on what he/she saw at the exhibit. The class visited the monkeys of the rainforest and the Congo- the gorillas! It was so cold that the gorillas were not even outside when we arrived, but eventually it warmed up enough that the gorillas came out, to the delight of all. A great time was had by parents, teachers, and-of course- the children. Thank you, thank you, to all the parents who joined us on this wonderful trip.

Submitted by: Morah Debby Epstein

### LEARNING TO LOOK

Last chance to volunteer for Learning to Look. Classes for parents start Wed., Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested or would like more info, please contact Laurie Lebowitz at [lelebowitz@aol.com](mailto:lelebowitz@aol.com) or call 654-0181.. No prior art or teaching experience necessary

### PTA News:

#### SCHOOL PHOTO RETAKE DAY

Picture retakes will be Monday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Any child may have their photo retaken due to an absence, missing individual photos or simply because you are not satisfied with your photos. Please return your photo package to the PTA box in the school office and send an email to [nancyweinberger@msn.com](mailto:nancyweinberger@msn.com) for this or any other photo issues. Please keep your group photo as this will not be retaken. Thanks!

### Condolences To...

Mr. Jeremy Singer and family on the passing of his brother, Jonathan Singer, uncle of Jacob (grade 4) and Edward (Kindergarten).

### Community Events

There will be a blood drive on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Young Israel of Scarsdale- 1313 Weaver Street, Scarsdale. For more information please contact Barbara Simon at 472-8335 or [BarbaraRsimon@aol.com](mailto:BarbaraRsimon@aol.com).

By now every WDS family should have received their 2009/10 Family Directory. Many thanks to **Vicky Turek** and **Ilana Englander** for their efforts in soliciting ads for the Business Directory section. Yasher Koach to both of them.