

V'ahavta... ואהבת



"Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child"

Dec. 9, 2016 9 Kislev, 5777

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Candle Lighting

Friday, Dec. 9
4:33 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10
Shabbat ends
5:36 p.m.



Saturday, Dec. 10

PCL Program 6:45 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 12

Soccer 3:40 - 4:55 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Chanukah Carnival
12:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Chess Club 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Chanukah Happening
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 14

6th Grade Trip to Gayton
Terrace 1:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 15

Mishmar 3:45 - 6:00 p.m.

Run-A-Latke

This past Sunday, 200 participants turned out for our annual Run-A-Latke. The runners were cheered on by a strong fan-base of families and friends, as well as Mr. Latke, the race's official mascot, designed by Mrs. Heather Dinkin and expertly played by Zach Snyder. Rich Lehman, always the delightful MC, kicked off the event with a great rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

The winners were Grant Hewitt and Amelie Wykes for the one-miler and Jarrett Gouldin and Shawn Ralston for the 5K. Chris Evertson, Michael Baldwin, Rebecca Hayes, Jenna Hanson, Sebastian Snetkov, Doni Plotnick, Charlotte Lande and Lily Snyder rounded out the winner's podium.



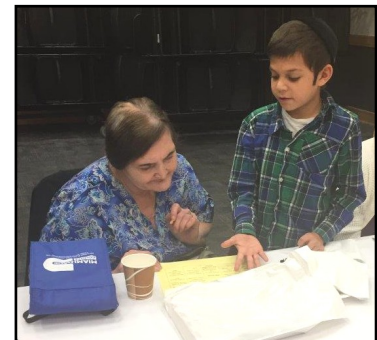
For refreshments, everyone enjoyed donuts, hot dogs and of course delicious latkes with apple sauce! It was a great communal festival, made possible with the support of many, most significantly the Habib Family, Avery Lynn's Designer Deliveries and the Lessin family's Jerusalem Connection.

We look forward to seeing you all next year!

(more photos on pages 5-7...)

Midor L'dor Program

The fourth graders enjoyed connecting with the seniors for their second out of five trips to the JCC with the Midor L'dor program. The program began with lunch. Both the seniors and the fourth graders had a great time sitting and eating together, and for dessert they ate delicious doughnuts in honor of the upcoming holiday of Chanukah.



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Health & Wellness Department

Dear Parents:

As the seasons change, we generally note an increase in normal childhood illnesses and infections. Safety and health are always primary concerns at RTA, and we therefore ask that routine precautions be taken to help minimize the spread of illness when it does occur.

These include reminding the children to take care and cover coughs or sneezes, hand-washing with soap and water, and most importantly, staying home to properly recuperate when ill.

We also ask that everyone abide by the following from our Parent Handbook:

Please inform the school office if your child has a contagious disease. If your child has a fever we ask that you do not send him/her back to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our children (and staff!) healthy.

Student Council Fundraiser - Thank You

RTA would like to thank all of the students who worked so hard and all of the parents who supported the Student Council cookie dough fundraiser.

We would like to recognize this year's top sellers. Tied for first place were **Izabella & Emory Bender and Lily & Reuven Lusk**. In second place were **Tziporah, Basya, Daniel, Yehoshua and Noa Gunzburg**. These families each sold 20 or more boxes of cookie dough. WOW! What an amazing effort!!



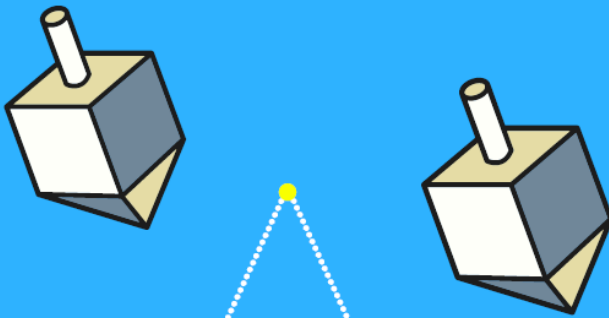
We are very proud and appreciative of our top sellers as are we proud of every student who sold. Thank you again for your participation.

Mazel tov to the Reinke family on Esther celebrating her bat mitzvah.

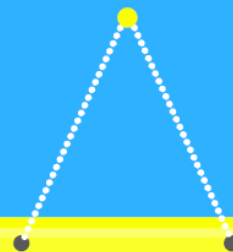
Mazel tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef Skaist on the birth of a grandson, to Tzipora & Shmuli Modes.

RTA Chanukah Happening 2016

December 13th - 6:30PM @ RTA



Latkes & Donuts!



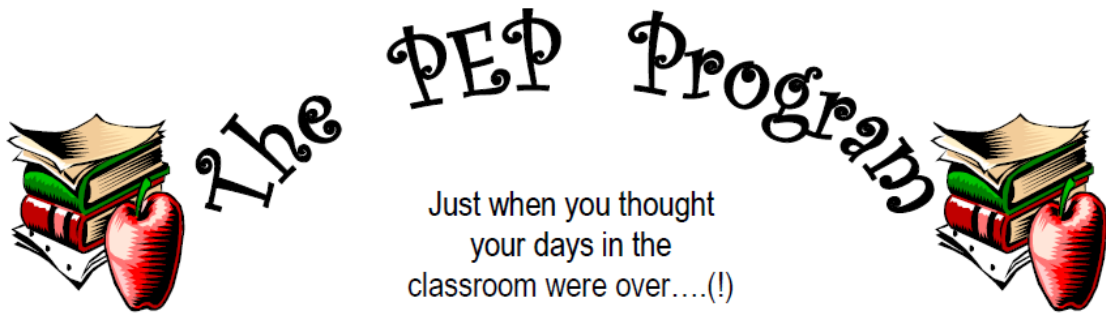
Menorah Lighting!!



Free Admission!

Sponsored by RTA PVA





Just when you thought
your days in the
classroom were over....(!)

WHAT IS IT?

The PEP (Parallel Education for Parents) Program is a nationally acclaimed program piloted by RTA in 1993. PEP is designed for parents of all ages to come together with their children and their Jewish studies teachers for an exciting evening of learning and fun!

The evening will be followed by tasty refreshments (including our traditional PEP M&M's).

WHY IS IT?

There is little that we as parents value more than our children's education, growth, and happiness. You know how excited children are when they come and share with you something they learned at school. Now you have a unique opportunity to have your children actually share their school, their classroom, and their learning experiences with you as they happen.

WHEN IS IT?

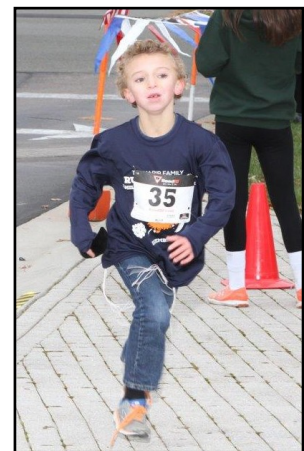
Tuesdays

January 10, 6:15-7:30 p.m.: Kindergarten - Morah Perel
 January 17, 6:15-7:30 p.m.: First Grade - Morah Joan
 January 24, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Second Grade - Morah Aronowitz
 January 31, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Third Grade - Rabbi Sherman
 February 7, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Fourth Grade - Rabbi Skaist
 February 14, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Fifth Grade - Rabbi M. Sherman
 February 21, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Sixth Grade - Rabbi Sherman
 February 28, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Seventh/Eighth Grade - Rabbi M. Sherman

Come with your child and experience an unforgettable evening of learning and fun!!

Run-a-Latke

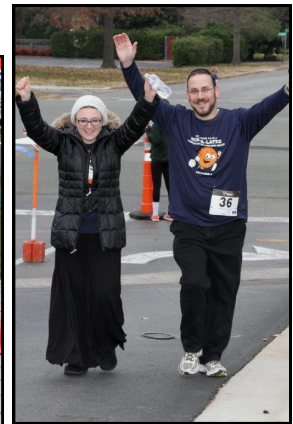
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Run-A-Latke

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Run-A-Latke

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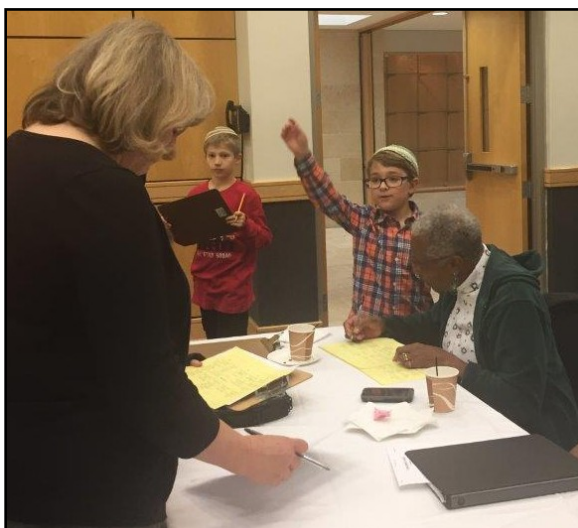
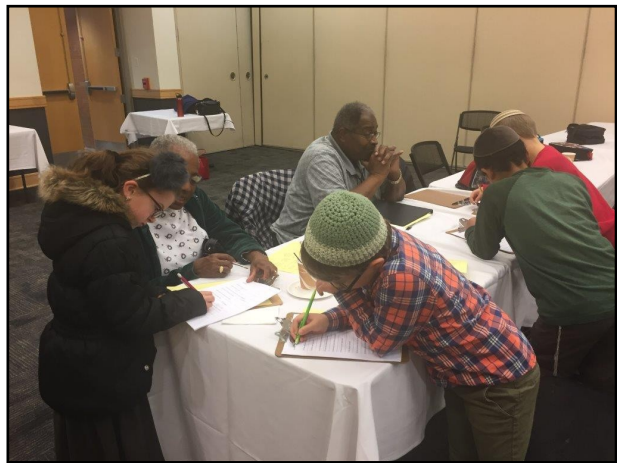
Midor L'dor Program

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After lunch they played walking bingo. The students walked around and found someone in the room who could sign off on the questions on the bingo sheet. Miriam David was our winner for being the first to get one line across.

After bingo, the fourth graders interviewed the seniors about their lives. They asked many different questions including: Where were the seniors born? How long they have lived in Richmond? And what was invented in their lifetime?

A very big thank you to Mrs. Lessin and Mrs. Sheldon for driving and assisting with the program.





Chinese Dragons by the Third and Fourth Grade

In Chinese art, dragons are typically portrayed as long scaled, serpentine creatures with four legs. Where European dragons are considered evil, Chinese dragons are a symbol of power, strength and good luck. Their powers are said to have domain over water, rainfall and floods. Their origin is said to have come from snakes, fish or crocodiles which can sense changes in air pressure and be able to sense coming rain. Hence the mythical attributes of controlling weather.

There are nine resemblances to animals in every dragon. Horns of a stag, head of a camel, eyes of a demon, neck of a snake, belly of a clam, scales of a carp, claws of an eagle, soles of a tiger, and ears of a cow. The large lump on the head is the Chimu. Without this, the dragon cannot ascend to the sky.

Today, dragons are used for decorations and various ceremonies. Dragon boats are used for races, and on the Chinese New Year, life-sized cloth and wood puppets are paraded through the streets with drums and music.

The third and fourth grade created these amazing, colorful dragons, that can be seen in the RTA hallway, out of paint, glitter and foil streamers.



Amalya Weinberger



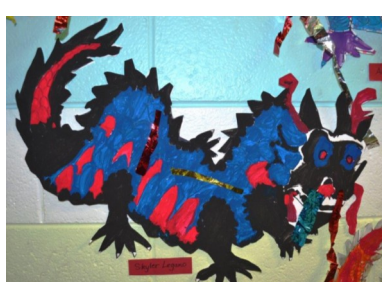
Theo Hirsch



Eliyahu Francis



Angelina Klein



Skyler Legano



Miri David



Avraham Tzvi Chandler



Liam Sheldon



Daneel Olihenco

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Chinese Dragons by the Third and Fourth Grade

(...continued from page 9)



Katie Holi



Alexander Klestzick



Maya Yadin



Tzophia Francis



Ezra Holi



Nathaniel Rakofsky



Doni Plotnick



Eliyahu Aronowitz



Akiva Chandler



Avi Gruber



Yehoshua Gunzburg



Art Auction

Event to benefit
RTA Richmond Hebrew Day School

on
Sunday, January 29, 2017

at the Weinstein JCC

5403 Monument Avenue, Richmond VA 23226

Preview: 6:00 p.m. Auction: 7:00 p.m.

Admission: \$18.00 per person

Wine, Hors D'oeuvres and Dessert

For tickets or more information, please email:

Yali Klestzick at yalicb@gmail.com

Send check payable to: RTA PVA, 3809 Patterson Ave, Richmond, VA 23221

Major credit cards accepted for art purchases

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Marlin Art Inc., 920 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, New York 11729 (631) 242-3344



Parsha Points

Each week we feature an article on the weekly Torah portion.

Vayetzei (Genesis 28:10-32:3) The Morality Business

In this week's Torah portion, Yaakov arrives in Charan and meets some shepherds. He notices that they are sitting around chatting and immediately admonishes them: If you are working for someone, then you are being paid to tend that person's sheep, not to sit and talk. And if you are self-employed, you should get on with life. Either way, you shouldn't be sitting around doing nothing.

It turns out that these men were waiting to water their sheep, and could not do so until there were enough of them to remove a rock from over the well. Yaakov single-handedly moves the rock and allows them to get on with shepherding.

It seems more than a little strange that Yaakov, for whom these shepherds are complete strangers, immediately launches into a critique of their values. Surely this is none of his business. They are not his sheep, not his shepherds, and this is not even his country. Who is he to show up and tell them how to behave?

The Sages elucidate from this a fundamental Jewish idea.

We live in a world whose motto is: Live and let live. The way another person conducts himself is his own business. As long as he's not bothering you, let him get on with it. It's none of your business to tell others what to do.

This is not at all a Jewish value. Judaism says: Live, and also help others to live more meaningful, fulfilled and happy lives. 'Live and let live' is an attitude without concern for others. "Let people destroy their own lives, as long as they don't bother me in the process!" Someone who cares about other people, will not 'let live,' if that living is self-destructive or harmful to anyone. In the same way as no one would allow someone to jump off a building without trying to talk him down, so too, Judaism says, that no one should allow another person to waste his life without trying to educate him to perhaps choose and live differently.

Far from being "none of his business," the men at the well were precisely Yaakov's business. Infusing society with ethics and values was the "family business" that Yaakov had inherited from his father, Yitzchak, and grandfather, Avraham. It may not have been a public company, but nonetheless it was a business that eventually changed the way the world thinks. (The world's two largest religions eventually became its major shareholders!)

For the Jewish people, morality is still very much the family business. It's not enough to be moral ourselves. When we see immorality, it is also our business to try to educate - as Yaakov did 4,000 years ago with the shepherds of Charan.

Adapted with permission from the award winning website, www.aish.com.