



Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

ואהבת... וואהבת

Jan. 18, 2019 12 Shevat, 5779

- Second Grade Shabbaton 1
- JCFR Visit 3
- Student Food Festival Performance Information 4
- Mishloach Manot Info 5
- 8th Grade Popcorn Café Information 9
- Bagel Lunch 10
- Iron Blue Lions Visit U of R 11
- Art at RTA 12
- Parsha 15

Second Grade Shabbaton

The second graders have been learning about Shabbos in school and, to celebrate the culmination of the unit, they had their very own exciting Shabbaton.

The shabbaton started with preparations on Thursday. The children each got to make their own special challah for Shabbos. On Friday afternoon the students were dropped off at their hosts and then came to Morah Aronowitz's house for the Friday night meal.



(continued on page 2. . .)



Candle Lighting

Friday, Jan. 18
5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19
Shabbat ends
6:04 p.m.

2nd & 4th Grade Parents: Please see important information on page 4 regarding the class performance at the Richmond Jewish Food Festival.



Saturday, Jan. 19
No PCL Program

Sunday, Jan. 20
2nd & 4th Grades Perform
at Jewish Food Festival
11:45 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 21
Professional Development
No Classes

RTA vs. Waldorf School
6:00 pm @ WJCC

Tuesday, Jan. 22
What's Cooking?!
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24
8th Grade Popcorn Cafe
(Please see flyer on page 9)

Computer Coding
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Soccer
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

RTA @ Waldorf School
4:00 pm

Second Grade Shabbaton

(. . .continued from front page)

At the meal, each student got to enjoy their own challah that they baked at school. The meal was followed by more delicious food, songs, parsha questions, games and dessert.

Shabbos day was loads of fun. The students had a great time at the KBI groups where they davened and played lots of fun games. After shul the boys went to Morah Aronowitz's house and the girls went to the Gunzburgs for a great lunch. After lunch they all met at Mrs. Plotnick's house for a very delicious dessert. Dessert was followed with more fun in the park. When the parents came to pick up their cuties they found very happy children!!

Here are some of the quotes from the second grade parents:

" Thank you so much, Morah Aronowitz and Mrs. Plotnick, for a wonderful Shabbos and experience for our kids. This is something they will always remember." - Sarah Ciment

" We all had a great Shabbos." - Hallie Weinstein

" You have left such an impression on little Sarah! You have all given Sarah her first full Shabbat experience." - Irena Korshin

" We are so lucky to be part of this RTA family and so very grateful." - Yulia Habib

This shabbaton would not have happened without many amazing hosts and helpers. A big thank you to Avi & Dina Gunzburg for hosting for sleeping and hosting lunch, to the Rakofsky family and Deena & Yitzi Klestzick for hosting, Malka Bart for her help during the Friday night meal, Hudi Bart for supervising the second graders at shul on Friday night, and Rabbi & Mrs. Plotnick for their help with planning and for the delicious dessert.



JCFR Visit

Our middle school students met with representatives of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond last week, as part of JCFR's annual Youth Campaign. Mrs. Susie Adolf and Mrs. Lynn Schwartz led the special presentation and explained how Federation works as an umbrella organization for our community and supports Jews and Jewish agencies in Richmond, Israel, and all over the world. They also showed the very latest video highlighting Federation's invaluable work.

As part of this special youth campaign, RTA students will be joining other Jewish youth in our community on a special fundraising project for Jewish families in Zaporozhye -JCFR's partnership city. We are proud to participate in this huge mitzvah and kiddush Hashem!



Jewish Community Federation
OF RICHMOND

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY THE TALENTED RTA 2nd & 4th GRADERS
 at the Richmond Jewish Food Festival
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**

All students should arrive by 11:45 a.m. with performance to follow.

Students should wear their most recent RTA shirt (navy and white).

12th Annual
The Richmond Jewish Food Festival



Weinstein JCC

5403 Monument Ave
 Richmond, VA

SUNDAY January 20

MONDAY January 21

11:30a - 7:30p

Food
Live Music ✨
Family-Friendly

Vendors
Raffle ✨
Food Delivery

Free

Parking Shuttle



SPONSORED BY
WEINSTEIN properties[®]



DIAMONDS DIRECT



Jewish Community Federation
 OF RICHMOND



Party Perfect

FOR MORE INFORMATION



(804) 288-7953



RichmondJewishFoodFestival.com

RTA - PVA

PRESENTS



Brunch Style

PURIM



MISHLOACH MANOT

- Bagels.....INCLUDED
- Pastries.....INCLUDED
- Coffee.....INCLUDED
- More.....INCLUDED

ORDER FORMS

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Visit <http://rudlin.com/> to find the form online

PVA Purim Project Frequently Asked Questions

The PVA Purim Project is the major PVA fundraiser of the year. The current format is in its 32nd year.

What are Mishloach Manot? In Megillat Esther, Chapter 9:20-22, it says "These were to be days of feasting and joy, and *sending portions one to another*, and gifts to the poor." These "portions" are known as *Mishloach Manot*. Therefore, we send gift boxes including treats such as hamentaschen, candies, and other specialty items. In order to fulfill the mitzvah of giving Mishloach Manot, we encourage you to personally deliver one of your own.

How does it work? Orders are received by our wonderful office staff. The orders are then entered into a database. Once all orders are entered, hours of verification take place to ensure that the orders were entered correctly and are being sent to the correct addresses. As each address is entered, a map page number and grid are assigned. This is used to group the orders into routes. Once the routes are sorted, they must be reviewed for manageability. If one route is too large, it must be split into two or more routes.

While all of this is taking place, RTA shoppers are scouring the stores for delicacies to include in the Mishloach Manot boxes. At last, assembly day arrives. The entire gym becomes an assembly line with volunteers doing everything from assembling boxes, to putting items in the boxes, to carrying out the garbage. Cards are printed at this time and cards for out-of-town recipients are addressed and mailed. Then the fun begins — the distribution and delivery of about 800 boxes in just a few days.

What needs to be done? The PVA Purim Project has a job for everyone. The many jobs include shopping, assembly, and delivery. There is also a need at dismissal time to distribute the RTA/ST/YVA children and family Mishloach Manot. It takes the efforts of many volunteers. For example, last year there were 56 delivery routes!

How many Mishloach Manot boxes are made? This year's total won't be known until after the deadline. In the past it has been as high as 1200 Mishloach Manot boxes — 250 children's and 950 family size. We also mail greetings to approximately 100 families each year, including Israel and Canada!

What are the delivery areas? Our area of delivery includes zip codes 23059, 23060, 23103, 23112–23114, 23220, 23221, 23225, 23226, 23227, 23228, 23229, 23230, 23233, 23235, 23238, and 23294. For your friends outside our delivery area, we will send a lovely Purim greeting card.

(continued on next page. . .)

(. . .continued from page 6)

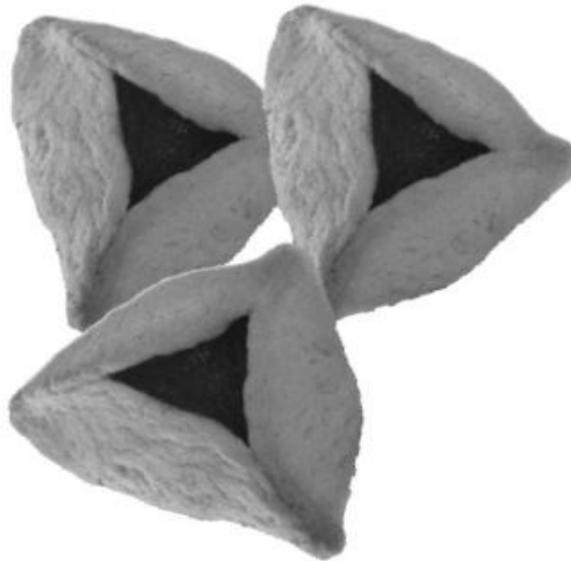
How much does it cost? Nine dollars (\$9) a name. A special package is offered, in which you may send Mishloach Manot greetings to every RTA/STOR/YVA parent, faculty, and board member for the low price of **\$125**.

What is Auto-Reciprocity? If you want to make sure you haven't forgotten someone, auto-reciprocity is the answer for you. We will check your order to ensure that you are sending Mishloach Manot to everyone sending Mishloach Manot to you. We do require credit card payment for this feature. Nine dollars (\$9) for each name added to your list will be included in the amount charged to your credit card.

Who do I call to volunteer or if I have questions? Please call the RTA office (353-1110).

DEADLINE: February 8!

פורים שמח!



Happy Purim!

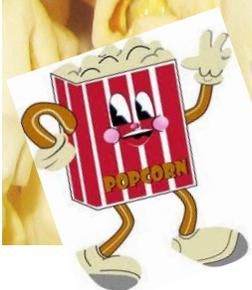
Popcorn PALOOZA

**8th grade Café
Thursday, January 24th**

\$1.00 per bag

**Fresh popcorn from our cool new
popcorn popper!**

Popcorn is Cholev Yisroel!



Bagel Lunch

8th Grade Bagel Lunch Fundraiser A Huge Success

Last Wednesday was Bagel Day at RTA.

For the low price of \$4, students were able to purchase a lunch consisting of a bagel (with or without cream cheese), tuna fish, cucumbers, carrots, potato chips, a brownie, and lemonade. What a deal!!

Many students enjoyed the freshly prepared food and the novelty of being served by the eighth graders. First grader, Nachman, said that the tuna fish was "the best tuna I have ever had."

Thanks go out to Mrs. Bender for leading this endeavor. Thank you as well, Ms. Esther Merel for shopping, Mr. Keith Rakofsky for assisting at the event, Rebbetzin Nechomi Kranz for baking the brownies, Ms. Wendy Rosen for getting the chips, and all the 8th graders for setting up, serving, and helping to clean up.

The 8th grade hosts various fundraisers throughout the year to help finance their graduation trip. Be on the lookout for new and exciting events in the near future.



Iron Blue Lions Visit U of R

On Wednesday, January 16th, our basketball team, along with some parents and siblings, attended a basketball game to see the University of Richmond Spiders host the Duquesne Dukes.

Coach Avi made all the arrangements. Everyone had a great time, though the Spiders let their lead slip away as they lost a close one. A few RTA students made it on to the giant video screens by showing off their dance moves.

While you're at the Richmond Jewish Food Festival this coming Monday night, grab some dinner and come watch the Iron Blue Lions play at 6 pm at the JCC.





Salt and Texture Collage

by the Art Club

The Art Club created these wonderful, free paintings using stamps, bubble wrap, netting and Kosher salt.

They cut the painting into shapes and arranged them into an attractive design.



Yehoshua A.



Rachelli A.



Liana W.



Kayla G.



Danielle H.



Yali P.



Katie H.



Malky G.



Isaac N.



Shayna C.



Eliana R.



Avi F.

(continued on next page . . .)



Salt and Texture Collage

by the Art Club

(continued from page 12)



Aaron G.



Moshe G.



Sabrina G.



Abe S.



Elana A.



Lilah K.

Native American Medical Shields

by the Second Grade

When Indian tribes fought battles or hunted, they always took their medicine shields with them. The famous Western painter, George Catlin, lived with Indians and painted many scenes of Native American life. He wrote that he witnessed bullets being deflected off the shields! They were made to protect their riders.

The second grade made these from crumpled and painted grocery bags. They decorated them with beads, feathers and fur.



(more art on next page . . .)



A Color of His Own by the First Grade

The first grade listened to “A Color of His Own” by Leo Lionni.

The chameleon in the story wanted to have his own color, not the color of everything he stood on or in front of.

These watercolor chameleons are so colorful, they would cheer up any chameleon!

Come inside and take an “up close” look at this magnificent project.



Parsha Points

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

Beshalach **(Exodus 13:17-17:16)**

Pharaoh had finally agreed to let the Jewish people leave Egypt. God then led the Jews to Israel on the longest route out of Egypt. God knew that if He took them out on the shortest route, the Jews would encounter a war along the way. And God said...

"Perhaps the people will reconsider when they see a war, and they will return to Egypt" (Exodus, 13:17).

A Life Lesson

Even though the Jewish people had just personally witnessed an awesome series of miracles, God knew that at the first sign of trouble they would want to return to Egypt and back to their lives of slavery.

How many times have you set a goal for yourself and the moment something didn't go as smoothly as you had planned, you immediately experienced self-doubt and seriously questioned your ability, worthiness, and even the goal itself? And the dream that you were so certain you wanted ends up slowly drifting into the large sea of the other unaccomplished goals and dreams you had in the past. Isn't it amazing that on Monday you knew exactly what you wanted with crystal clear clarity and had a solid game plan to achieve it, and by Wednesday you're about to give up?

The reason for all of this is due to two internal, distinct and powerful drives that God gave as a gift to all of us. One drive wants to change the world, climb the highest mountains, and leave the planet in a radically and more improved place than it now exists. The other drive will then challenge, question, and doubt every part of this journey and try with all its might to prevent you from never accomplishing anything.

Why would God, who loves us more than words could ever express, give us a desire not to grow, succeed, or experience the pleasure of great accomplishments?

The answer is simple: Only through struggle and fighting the burning desire to quit can we ever have the unbelievable joy and ecstasy that comes from achievement. If God knew the Jews would want to run back to slavery at the first challenge they encountered after just witnessing all of the miracles that He preformed for them, then clearly the drive to quit and retreat is alive and well within all of us. It doesn't matter how big, great, or strong you are -- this force will always be there.

Knowledge is power and by knowing that this "drive to quit" was designed by God to actually make you great will now give you the ability to see it for what it is: A test. Will you recognize that this drive's only purpose is to get you NOT to change the world and then fight through the urge to run away, or do you stop in your tracks and question your very existence?

(continued on next page. . .)

Parsha Points

(. . .continued from page 15)

Every time you begin a project, start an exercise program, want to launch a new career, or go towards any meaningful goal, you must know that you will encounter a war. This war might be disguised as the people who tell you that cannot succeed, or the rejection you face, or the obstacles you'll inevitably encounter. Remember, you were "pre-designed" by God to have a burning urge to retreat to Egypt. Make no mistake about it, you will be tested.

Great men and women have all faced the exact same tests and they have doubted themselves and all had the urge to quit. But for them, going back to Egypt was not an option. So they instead kept their eye on the ball and kicked away their self-doubt and went on to greatness. And people look at their great success stories and bemoan to all who'll listen that they too would have achieved greatest if they had the same circumstances. And that's the great irony -- their circumstances aren't just the same, but identical. The circumstance was the desire to quit. Great men and women blast through it, while others reconsider when they see a war and return to Egypt.

So, while having a good plan is important, not giving up on it is everything. And sometimes even after you choose to fight the war, you might not win. But take much comfort in knowing that it's completely up to God whether or not you'll have the strength and ability to win the war. But that was never the point. Because the purpose of the test was to just fight the war and refuse to retreat to Egypt. And since we're all designed for greatness, it's only through choosing to fight and march on that we'll inevitably experience the ecstasy of success. So the next time you want to become better in some way tomorrow than you are today, know that the great men and women of history who've achieved so much are no different than you and I. They just hung around for the war.

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