



HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2016
ADAR 5776

727 E Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020 / Tel 602-266-1213 / office@azyeshiva.org / www.azyeshiva.org

MENAHIEL'S MESSAGE

An Unexpected Gift; A KIDDUSH HASHEM STORY

A few weeks ago, as I walked out of the YHSA door to watch the boys playing outside on their modest basketball court, a man walked up to me, introduced himself as a Havasupai Indian and commented, "I go to Julioberto's Mexican restaurant next door to your school every day for lunch. I see the boys playing basketball, content and happy, even without a proper basketball court. I know they are Jewish and are part of a special nation. Can I give a gift to the school?" He said he would return.

The bell rang. We went back into class and I used the opportunity to tell the boys to recognize how we may not realize anyone is looking, but we can make a Kiddush Hashem at any time and anywhere. By simply playing basketball in a positive and respectful way, they acted as ambassadors of the Jewish people. As I was speaking, the gentleman's car pulled up to Yeshiva to drop off a cashier's check for one thousand dollars!

Rabbi Gavriel Goetz



YHSA welcomed our newest staff member, Rabbi Daniel Gewirtz, 12th grade rebbi. Originally from South Bend, IN, Rabbi Gewirtz exudes a wonderful energy that infuses our talmidim with a love of learning. He studied in Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim, where he received his bachelor's degree, and in the Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He received Semicha in Lakewood's Beth Medrash Govoha. A graduate of Ner Lelef Leadership Program, Rabbi Gewirtz led a Kollel Boker in Lakewood.



ALUMNI UPDATE

First Alumni Class visits with Rabbi Semel in Israel

Save the Date

SIYUM
BANQUET

June 15, 2016
Scottsdale Hilton

TORAH STUDIES

GEMARA IYUN/BEKIUS

All grades are studying Maseches Bava Metzia in depth. In Bekius, 9th and 10th grades are both learning Maseches Taanis, the 11th grade is tackling Maseches Makos, while the 12th grade is working on mastering Maseches Sukkah.

HALACHA

The 9th grade Halacha class, with **Rabbi Yossie Semel**, is currently working through the intricate guidelines of Berachos. **Rabbi Yonah Wohlgelemer** led the Sefer Chofetz Chaim optional learning, where a group of students gave up time during breakfast to review the laws of Lashon Hara/negative speech.

MUSSAR

In **Rabbi Ariel Shoshan's** Mussar chaburah, the 11th and 12th grades are studying Nesivos Shalom, authored by the late Slonimer Rebbe zt"l, which challenges the students to consider life's decisions through the lens of Avodas Hashem/Divine Service. **Rabbi Shraga Yankelewitz** and the 10th graders have worked on researching a specific topic using classic mussar works.



NAVI

Rabbi Blotner and the 9th graders are learning Sefer Shmuel Aleph. The 10th graders are studying Sefer Shmuel Beis with **Rabbi Yakov Bronsteyn**. They have explored the exploits of Dovid Hamelech. In **Rabbi Daniel Gewirtz's** 11th grade Navi Shoftim class, the students wrote essays on the first four Shoftim.

CHUMASH

Rabbi Semel's 9th and 10th graders are developing skills to read classic Hebrew texts and prepare a Dvar Torah on the Parsha.

JEWISH HISTORY

Students have studied in depth a unit on Sephardic Rishonim during the Golden Age of Spain.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

In **Rabbi Gavriel Goetz's** Hebrew Language class, the students focused on translating sentences from English to Modern Hebrew and vice versa.



GENERAL STUDIES

THE SAT EXAM IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS OUR STUDENTS' COLLEGE PREPARATION.

Our 9th grade took the PSAT 8/9, and 10th and 11th grades took the PSAT/NMSQT. The 11th and 12th grades took the SAT Exam.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

In **Mrs. Cyndi O'Brien's** AP English class the 11th and 12th grades read the play *Twelve Angry Men* and the book *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

WORLD HISTORY

Mr. Eric Pawlak's 9th graders completed the units on World War I and World War II.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Mr. Richard Edwards' 10th and 11th graders are studying a unit on the revolutionary war.

ALGEBRA

Mr. Darren Schwartz's 9th grade Algebra 1-2 class are studying linear equations, functions and quadratics.

GEOMETRY

Mr. Darren Schwartz's 10th graders covered basic geometry concepts, transformations, logical reasoning and problem solving.

ALGEBRA 2

In **Dr. Olena Robur's** 11th grade class, the students have developed knowledge of real numbers, order of operation, expressions, linear equations and inequalities, and linear functions.

PRE-CALCULUS

Dr. Olena Robur's 12th grade class has covered rational expression, polynomial, rational functions, trigonometry and matrices.

BIOLOGY

Mr. Ari Parkhurst's 9th graders are studying molecular and cellular biology.

CHEMISTRY

The 10th grade class has been exploring the foundations of chemical reactions and their mathematical principles.

COMPUTERS

In **Mr. Mark Einhorn's** "Learning to Code" computer programming class, the 11th and 12th graders have been introduced to real programming concepts using Scratch and Javascript.

The students are enjoying the benefits of our new Chromebooks, donated by **Mr. Les Rubinstein**, which are available for use in the classroom and allow the teachers to use multimedia to enhance their lessons.



WORKING ON THE NEW CHROMEBOOKS

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

YHSA students enjoy a wide variety of special activities. Some activities are offered in recognition of various achievements, others are team building opportunities, and other activities were a bonding experience between students and teachers. It is always a pleasure to see smiling faces of students as they enjoy time outside of the classroom and then bring that enthusiasm back to school.



BROOMBALL AT ARCADIA ICE RINK



CHANUKA MESIBA AT THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. SHAYA SCHIMEL

MUSIC

Each Sunday evening Rabbi Elimelech Adler teaches a guitar class. Students have been learning how to tune their guitars, play basic chords, and are building up the speed necessary to play a few songs.



ENJOYING THE SCENERY ON SQUAW PEAK MOUNTAIN

IN THE COMMUNITY



STUDENTS FROM YHSA OFFERED ONE-ON-ONE SMARTPHONE TUTORING FOR SENIORS ON SUNDAY, OCT. 18, AT THE JCC. THEY PROVIDED TECH SAVVY ADVICE ON TEXTING, TAKING AND SENDING PHOTOS, LISTENING TO MUSIC, ADDING CONTACTS, AND USING APPS.



“Thank you for changing my life for the better.”

- A SENIOR

YHSA 9TH GRADE STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST THE FEDERATION PHONATHON. YHSA TIED FOR THE MOST VOLUNTEERS.



LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Leadership Forum is an opportunity for students to interact with and be inspired by community leaders, guest speakers, and activists in both Torah and secular forums. Local rabbis as well have spoken to the students, including Rabbi Yisroel Issacs, Associate Rabbi of Cong. Beth Joseph, and Rabbi Shmuel Field, Principal of Torah Day School of Phoenix. The students have been privileged to hear from the following guests:



Rabbi Shaul Shimon Deutsch, founder of the Living Torah Museum in Brooklyn, told a fascinating story about an ancient coin in his collection and inspired the students by bringing history alive.



Rabbi Yerachmiel Milstein, senior lecturer for Discovery Productions, told a story that captured our students' interest.



Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst, Dayan for Agudath Israel of Illinois, presented a halacha/Jewish Law question and answer session and answered the students' queries on a wide range of subjects.



Rabbi Tzvi Yaakov Stein, posek/halachik authority in the Far Rockaway and Five Towns communities, talked about the growth of his daily halacha tweet and inspired the students' to advance their knowledge of Jewish Law.

Q&A SESSION



Dr. Melvin Bottner, Rodney Mollen Esq., and Rabbi Rob Glazer Esq. spoke collectively to the students in a leadership panel discussion forum.

Moderated by **Mr. Dan Zupnick**, each spoke about their personal life journeys and shared insights into their professions and community involvement.



BIKEATHON

Yeshiva High School hosted the second annual Community Bike-A-Thon at Mountain View Park in Scottsdale. Over 110 riders came out to enjoy the fun and challenging rides. Of special note was the new 63 mile expert ride with fourteen riders who rode from Phoenix through Fountain Hills until they arrived at Mountain View park where they were welcomed by a barbecue with the community. The seven expert riders who came from California enjoyed a Shabbaton with the Scottsdale community, hosted at Ahavas Torah. Most cyclists did the 24 mile ride on the scenic Greenbelt Trail from Mountain View Park to Tempe Town Lake. Families and children challenged themselves on shorter rides. Over \$30,000 was raised for the YHSA Building Fund.

SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's Bikeathon is Feb. 14, 2017



PANEL DISCUSSION: Beis Medrash and College Programs

Members of our community led a panel discussion addressing questions about Beis Medrash and College. The goal of the panel was to provide information to the 11th and 12th grade students and their parents about planning for post-high school, how to balance post-high school yeshiva learning with college, earning credits through Beis Medrash, and creative options for earning a degree. Panelists were **Mrs. Elianna Ickovic** - Financial Aid, National Paralegal College, **Rabbi Yonah Wohlgelemer** - Rebbe in YHSA, NIRC and John Hopkins University, **Mr. Zalmy Wainhaus** - Graduate of Westwood College and Graphic Designer, **Dr. Dovid Abramowitz** - DMD and MPHd Candidate ASDOH Class of 2017, and **Mrs. Rachel Wainhaus** - Advisor at South Mountain Community College.

