

שבת קודש פרשת וארא



B'CHADREI CHADORIM

Your inside view in and around Clifton Cheder

כ"ה טבת תשע"ה

January 16, 2015

הדלקת נרות: 4:36

Volume II, Issue 7

Rabbi Yonah G. Lazar, Dean

Mrs. Rivkah Isaacs, Early Childhood Director

Mrs. Odelia Schlisser, General Studies Principal

Clifton Cheder's Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons Salute the Shomrei Shviis

"What an amazing evening!" is what everyone was saying following Clifton Cheder's *כל השביעין חביבין* Grandfather/Father/Son *מלווה מלכה* arranged by our Extra Curricular Coordinator, Rabbi Elchanan Erlanger.

Passaic's Tifereth Israel Ballroom looked beautiful with *שמיטה* themed tables of fruit and vegetable centerpieces, matching paper goods, and even bales of



Photo Credits: Mr. Mark Shapiro

(continued on pages 10-14)

CALENDAR

Monday, January 19th
Staff Development Day
Legal Holiday
12:30 p.m. dismissal
No after care

Wednesday, January 21st
Rosh Chodesh Assembly
Elementary

Sunday, January 25th
Limudei Kodesh In-service
10:00 a.m. opening

Thursday-Tuesday
January 29th-February 3rd
Mid Winter Break
All Programs
no sessions

Sunday, February 8th
Hascholas Gemara
Celebration
Grade 5

CHEDER | חדר

CLIFTON CHEDER
123 INDUSTRIAL EAST
CLIFTON, NJ 07012
(973) 472-0011
ADMIN@CLIFTONCHEDER.ORG

Connection and Creativity

On Tuesday Dec 31st, the Early Childhood Moros came together in an evening of creativity and connection at "Not 2 Shabby," Abbie Wolin's new hot-spot in town!

The evening began with words of chizuk given over by Mrs. Shoshana Hexter, one of Passaic's popular speakers. This was followed with creative and beautiful projects that the staff were able to make. The evening ended with an amazing dinner, catered by our very own staff!

Mrs. Hexter started her divrei chizuk by telling us about when she was going to a hospital in NY to see a child of hers and was desperately looking for a ride. She finally managed to get a ride with someone she did not know. In the course of the ride the woman who was driving took that opportunity to share some of the burden

of a child who was not doing well in school. The woman was in such pain and sorrow and felt that the teachers involved did not really share in the educational "burden" of her child. Mrs. Hexter was reminded of the vital role that a teacher plays and how much responsibility rides on that teacher's shoulders.

Moshe Rabbeinu was a shepherd when he saw a lamb run away from the flock. Moshe chased after this poor little animal, and when he caught it he realized it was very thirsty. He felt bad that he had not

realized that the sheep was thirsty. After the sheep was done drinking, he picked it up and carried it back to the flock. This is why Hashem chose Moshe to lead His flock of sheep, Bnei Yisroel. Moshe's care and concern for each of his sheep went above and beyond. The comparison to early childhood teachers could not be more appropriate.

We, too, are like Moshe Rabbeinu



in that we care for each shepsalah in our flock. We hold such responsibility for impacting the life of each child! This is no small thing and can be very far reaching in a child's life.

We support our little lambs: sometimes by giving the extra time to find out what is going on and why, sometimes carrying them some of the way. It's this charge and responsibility that makes us teachers and makes us better educators.

Mrs. Goldfarb attested, both as school employee and a Cheder mother, how this really describes our preschool staff who go above

and beyond to care and nurture our preschool children. Teachers really care about each and every student. They make sure they are part of the flock and reach out to anyone who might need to be carried for a bit.

"Not 2 Shabby" has various art activities which can be arranged for different classes. Our teachers were invited to paint on glass. Each lady chose a glass project: a mug, a pitcher, a bowl, platter or vase. Mrs. Wolin presented ideas of what and how to decorate each chosen item. She showed us many of her own pieces that were on display. It was great fun as everyone tried to decide what to choose, how to decorate and what their own personal style was.

We found that this was an opportunity to connect on a more personal

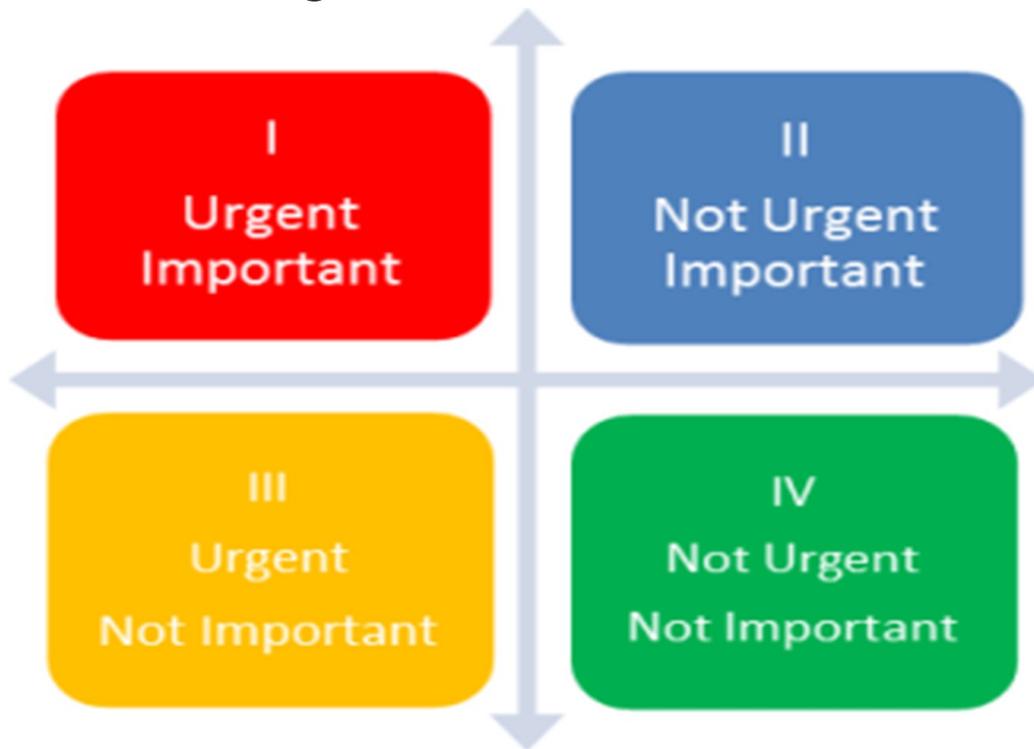
level; stories and anecdotes were shared, along with plenty of praise, support and mutual admiration of each other's works.

The next day the Moros were asking when the next time we were getting together was!

Lastly, we were treated to dinner: drinks, vegetable soup, fettuccini alfredo, salad & dressing & dips, fruit salad, brownies and cookies (gluten-free, but not necessarily guilt free!) for dessert.

B"H, everyone left refreshed and satisfied in every way: physically spiritually and emotionally!

Put First Things First



This month our Rebbeim spent an early Sunday morning focusing on prioritizing and doing the most important things first.

In our 7 Habits work, we studied about being Proactive - taking responsibility for ones life and Beginning with the End in Mind - defining the missions and goals of our lives.

In this latest In-Service Workshop, Rabbi Lazar first worked with the Limudei Kodesh Staff on חשיבות הזמן, i. e., how our lived are made up of small chunks of time. Each moment is a piece of life.

Dr. Covey divides a person's activities into four quadrants, Urgent, Not Urgent, Important and Not Important. A task can be, for example, important and yet not urgent, such as many of the phone calls we answer. Tasks can

be important and clearly urgent like taking a sick child to the doctor. At times things we spend our time on are neither important nor urgent like reading junk mail/ emails.

The most significant one of the quadrants is important but not urgent tasks, These include goal setting, planning, prevention, relationship building, true recreation, etc. These are very important but often pushed aside because of the thought that they have no deadlines or person insisting that they are completed.

Rabbi Lazar titled his session זמן נק"ט, the acronym usually associ-

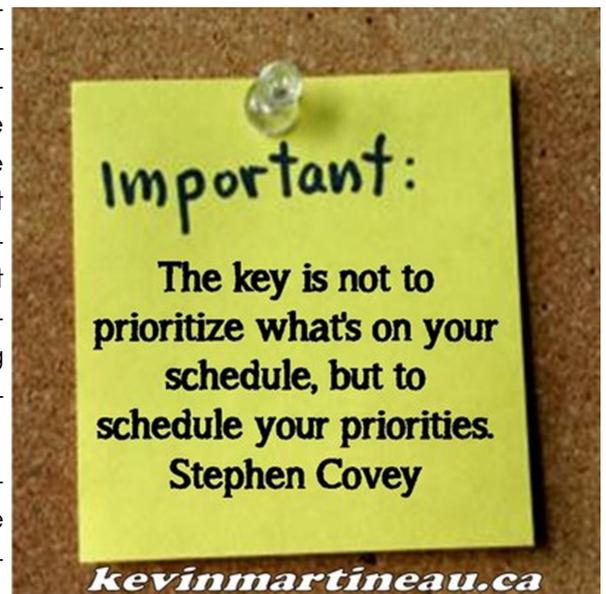
ated with the names of the ששה סדרי משנה. In this context, using the Hebrew translation for זמן and the Aramaic one for נקט, the words mean "Taking Time."

The באר משה says, I take control of my time, not that time controls me.

The Rebbeim analyzed Covey's ideas of "Big Rocks and Small Rocks," the importance of scheduling your priorities and putting them in your schedule first and then adding the pebbles and sand of your life around

them. If you allow your "Jar of Life" to first be filled with sand and pebbles, the large rocks will not fit in.

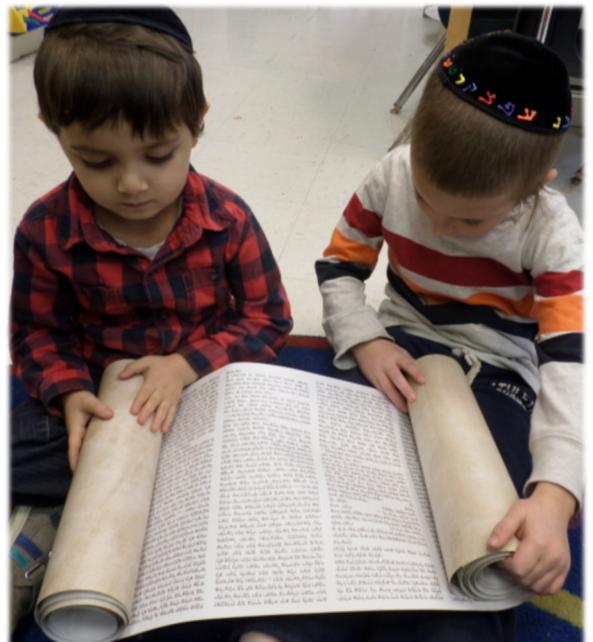
Once again the Rebbeim responded with great interest as these sessions have the ability to impact their own lives and the lives of their talmidim.



Our Early Childhood Students Hard at "Work"



Our Early Childhood Students Hard at "Work"



Book Clubs

Last week the second and third grade embarked on a fascinating literary journey. The classes were divided into three reading groups with second and third grade participants in each one. The groups are reading Children's Classics such as, *Chalk box Kid* by Clyde Robert Bula, and



Newberry Winners such as *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard Atwater and *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. The children are exuberant about this new program.

Each group is lead by a teacher. Skills such as reading fluency and reading with expression are practiced in a guided fashion. Two of the benefits of this program are enhancing both reading and reading comprehension skills. Some of the skills learned include vocabulary from context clues, and relating to the characters in the story.

The reading levels chosen allow the boys to "stretch" their ability with the help of the teacher, and often times other students, as guides.

When books are learned and analyzed in this fashion, students are able to read and comprehend more than they can on their own. They are able to build confidence with their advancing skills, and then stretch again.

Perhaps the most encouraging factors of this entire endeavor are the theatrical renditions as students "got into role" while reading, as well as the lively literature discussions that ensued.

Our E-x-p-a-n-d-i-n-g N'shei

Thanks to all the Cheder mothers that joined us at our recent N'shei Meeting. The night combined a social evening with great refreshments (thank you Rabbi Lazar for sushi and Mrs. Kagan for home-baked goods!) and a chance to put our **נשות** together for an institution that we love.

We spent the evening addressing a wide range of topics, spanning marketing our wonderful school to the broader community, planning school-wide activities and events, and brainstorming fundraisers to raise needed funds as well as develop a greater aware-

ness of what our school has to offer.

It was refreshing to hear about all the talents the parent body possesses as well as the many mothers who are willing to give of themselves – both their talents as well as their time – in order to help the school and work to achieve important financial goals.

For those who were not able to join – we sincerely missed you, and encourage you to join our team and look in future issues of B'Chadrei Chadorim for more N'shei news.

Quotable Quotes



Morah to Nursery children: Its time to say, say....

Nursery child: ...

NO! I don't want to say shema!!

Morah: Why not? We need to say it every day...

Nursery child: If I say it then I will need to go to bed and I don't want to go to bed!!



Mazel Tov To..

- Rabbi and Mrs. Gidon Lane on the marriage of their daughter, Michla.

- the Gedzelman family on the Bar Mitzvah of Nossan Tzvi.

- Rabbi and Mrs. Daniel and Morah Rivkah Isaacs on the birth of a grandson.

We're So Proud!

Shmita fever is in the air! Each week, our talmidim grades 4-7 spend their own *time*, after school, studying and mastering הלכות ועניני שמיטה.

We are very proud of the hard work so many of our students have chosen to invest. The prizes and incentives that they receive are only a small part of what they are gaining. יגיע, התמדה and seeing the fruits of your labor are keeping the Cheder-Shmita partnership movement going.

Special thanks to Rabbi Erlanger for overseeing the many details of this project.

With three tests behind us, and another two to go א"י, the classes are battling each other for the top averages. Currently, our 5th grade is averaging a 72%, our 6th graders a

74%, and 81% in our Grade 4. Our 7th grade is in the lead with an 87% class average.

Mazal tov to Yehuda Biser, Hershy Friedman, Azarya Kramer, Binyomin Lazar, and Shlomo Schneider who received a perfect score on one or more of their Shmita tests! And Mazel Tov to our 90% and above Weekly Raffle Winners: Yehuda Biser, Binyomin Lazar and Meir Zarkhin - whose tickets were NOT drawn by Rabbi Lazar. 😊



Week #1 Raffle Winner



Week #2 Raffle Winners



Week #3 Raffle Winner



Traveling the World of Middos

Have you ever dreamed of traveling the world? Of checking out country after country, staying in each one just long enough to get a taste of its culture and learn from its people before taking off to your next destination?

Our Kitah Gimel has embarked on a journey in Middos Tovos which is taking them around the world! As the name of the program they are mastering - קוּנֵי עוֹלָם - indicates, they not only check out the places of interest in each country, they also acquire a new appreciation for מַדּוּת there.

The travels began with meeting "Yoni," a friendly boy whose travel diary is read every Sunday. He

stays in each country for a month and each week heads to a new city.



Some - times his excitement to see new sights

lead him to behave in a way he later regrets and other times he realizes how his actions and good behavior make a קידוש ה'. The talmidim discuss the lesson he learned and apply it to our own situations. For each day of the week there is another activity or story that reinforces the concept learned that week. At the end of the week each boy writes an application of that week's lesson in his special Konei Olam Passport. He then receives a glossy picture sticker to "stamp" his passport. We have already been to France, England, and are currently enjoying Canada - though I'd rather be in Florida right now!! Bon Voyage!

Creative Writing Samples

SNOWFLAKE

By: Moshe Mittel, 1st Grade

Snowflake

White as clouds.

Shiny as ice.

Soft as frosted flakes.

Icy as a skating rink.

SNOWFLAKE

By: Baruch Gavriel Kushnir, 1st Grade

Snowflake

Tiny as a mouse.

Cold as ice.

White as paper.

Sparkly as gold.

Fluffy as a sheep.



BEING A TURTLE

By: Binyomin Biser, 4th Grade

One day, I was climbing on the rock that leads to my home.

Suddenly I slipped and fell on my back. Ouch! That really hurt.

I really wished I had made my home somewhere else. Then, I saw this big bear coming right up to me.

I froze in fright, but luckily a deer passed by and it distracted the bear. After two hours of laying on my back, the bear came back

and kicked me very high. I landed on a tree and a monkey took a catapult and catapulted me very far away. I landed on my feet, but how was I going to get back home?

Just then, a human came by and picked me up. This had never happened to me before, so I was very scared. Then, I realized that humans are actually very nice. The human took me to a place with a lot of grass and a pond. Every day the human would bring me food. This is the best life a turtle can ever dream of.

Debunking the “I’m Stupid” Myth

One of the most painful things a parent can hear is their child cry out in frustration “I’m stupid.”

Often times this occurs in the immediate aftermath of a test or assignment that the child felt he did not get a good grade on. Instead of interpreting the grade as a reflection of the number of questions

answered correctly, the child internalizes the message as representative of his intelligence. This in turn can lead to decreased motivation, and frustration with schoolwork.

Assessments (i.e. tests and other graded assignments) serve as an important tool for teachers, stu-

dents and parents. Teachers use these to ascertain what each child has learned and that the class assimilated the knowledge and acquired the targeted skills. Students receive feedback regarding their study habits, and parents see what their children have learned.

So how does a useful tool turn into a menacing bully? How do we protect our children from misinterpreting valuable work feedback as crippling self assessment?

The answer to the shift from a helpless pattern to a mastery pattern lies in the language we use, and the behaviors we model for our children.

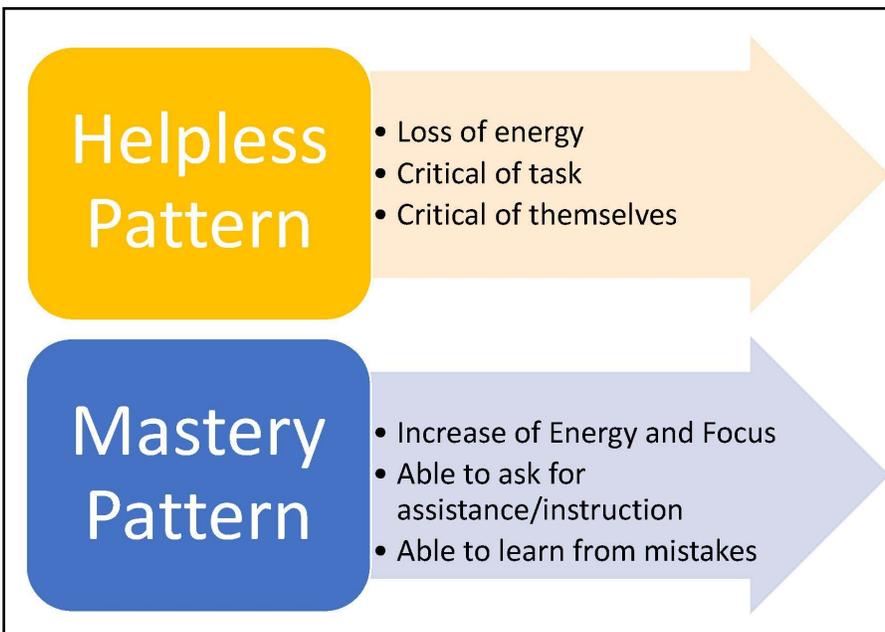
When we tell our children that they are smart, we create a limiting beliefs of intelligence for our child. This may seem counterintuitive, but our children should not be told that they are smart. Actually telling children that they are smart – Is not smart! Research shows that these children are afraid to make

mistakes, undertake challenges, or disrupt our external view that was superimposed on them.

Children that are complimented on the effort they employed, do not experience anxiety about disappointing us. They know they will not lose their status in our eyes, when they make mistakes.

They even learn that mistakes are often times a necessary part of the learning process.

Most importantly, children learn to do as we do. Modeling graceful & meaningful learning from our errors teaches our children comfort and humility .



Beliefs About Intelligence

Limiting Belief

- “Smart students must get every answer right”
- “I need to finish first”
- “If I ask questions, or need help than I must not be so smart”
- “I can not make mistakes”

Expansive Belief

- “If I work hard and keep trying new ways, I can achieve”
- “It is OK to have questions, and to need the teacher to explain it again”
- “I can learn from my mistakes”
- “Persistently applying myself pays off”

Clifton Cheder's Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons Salute the Shomrei Shviis (continued from page 1)



Clifton Cheder's Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons Salute the Shomrei Shviis

hay.

The food was delicious, with a full Chinese Fleishig buffet down to the fortune cookies. The spirited dancing to the live music of three דורות of families added to a spectacular event. Special thanks to Mrs. N. Wilk, her father, Mr. Shlomo Barber; and her boys Itiel & Yoni for the beautiful set up and catering arrangements, year after year. תזכו למצוות. Thank you too, to Yosef Bayaz; Elazar, Pinny and Meir Kagan and Alter Baruchov for their assistance in setting up and to Yosef for the videography.

The מלוח מלכה program began with a touching 2nd and 3rd grade choir led by our very own Rabbi Shmuel Chaim Reischer. As the boys sang "One Peaceful Shmita Year" to the well-known beautiful tune of מקולות מים רבים the message of מסירת נפש

and שומרי שביעית of גבורה of the שומרי שביעית farmers began to penetrate. Farmer hats worn by each Jr. performer added just the right touch.

Torah Umesorah's informative PowerPoint Shmita presentation was shown to the standing room only gathered guests, providing the necessary background to the evening's theme.

Clifton Cheder's dean, Rabbi Yonah G. Lazar, introduced the spe-

cial guest speaker, עוסק בציבור, באמונה par excellence, Harav Shmuel Bloom שליט"א, former Executive Vice President of Agudath Israel of America, who made time in his busy schedule for the important מלוח מלכה. Rabbi Bloom has been traveling through the country promoting



the חשיבות of שמיטה and assisting the גיבורי כח who leave their jobs for an entire year to keep מצות שמיטה in its highest form.

Rabbi Bloom amazed the crowd, young and old alike, with stories that he himself witnessed, or heard directly from the Israeli שומרי שמיטה farmers, where Rabbi Bloom lives.

The amazing miracles that Mr. Bookie (Baruch) Adiri began see-

ing each שנה השישית on his farm after he started keeping שמיטה were amazing to hear about. They were almost as amazing as the ניסים Mr. Adiri witnessed during the Six Day War that led him to be חוזר בתשובה, keeping שומרי שמיטה even before he was a שבת!

The גבורה of Mr. Rafi Mor-Yosef who refused to sell an Arab businessman his lemon crop during שמיטה despite the potential buyer putting down 300,000 שקלים in cash was incredible! "They are not mine to sell," he said, "This year they belong to 'ה."

As the Rebbeim and guests enjoyed Rabbi Bloom's דברי חיזוק, the Cheder took pride that Rabbi Bloom שליט"א is a Clifton Cheder grandparent.

Next on the program were seven raffles, where in order to receive a raffle ticket, תלמידים of the Cheder had to bring שמיטה related items to the מלוח מלכה. Boys brought tractors made from Clicks, fruit and vegetable סוכה decorations, shovels and rakes, hoes and wagons, to name a few.

The smiles as one boy from each grade held up his age appropriate shmita raffle prize said it all.

(text continued on page 14)

Clifton Cheder's Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons Salute the Shomrei Shviis



Clifton Cheder's Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons Salute the Shomrei Shviis



Clifton Cheder's Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons Salute the Shomrei Shviis (continued from page 11)

Following dessert and bentching, the tables were moved and lebedik dancing filled the room as boys danced alongside their friends, fathers, zaydes, and Rebbeim. That final שאו שערים really hit the spot!

As the older grades of the Cheder are busy studying הלכות שמיטה on their own from the comprehensive and beautifully laid out Student Guide to the Laws of שמיטה written by Rav Shimon Grama שליט"א, and the 2nd of five tests was set for the next morning, we knew that as fun as the מלוה מלכה was, it could not go on forever.

But the night was not complete before three lucky boys won the Grand Shmita Raffle of a snow tube, a giant remote control toy truck, and a even a brand new bike! Thank you Rabbi Kagan for purchasing the bike along with so many other details of the event's arrangements.

Although only three boys won the grand prizes, all the boys are winners because they have the opportunity to be a part of Clifton Cheder each and every day!

Meet & Greet

CHEDER | מדר

SCHOOL CHOICE: Please join our Administrators, Rebbeim, Moros, and Teachers at our *Meet and Greet* 2015-16

AND SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT CLIFTON CHEDER HAS BECOME!

LEARN WHY — *Yiddishkeit is alive in the hearts of our Talmidim.* — *the educational expertise of our staff is valued & utilized.* — *a remarkable synergy exists between our parent body & staff.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH
ליל כ"א טבת תשע"ה 7-4:45 PM

123 Industrial East - Clifton, NJ
973.472.0011 - cliftoncheder.org

Boys and Girls Early Childhood Program
Boys Elementary Program through 8th Grade

RABBI YONAH G. LAZAR, Dean
MRS. RIVKAH ISAACS, Early Childhood Director
MRS. ODELLA SCHLISSEK, General Studies Principal

"The 'meet and greet' was a very successful event. The children were very happy to see their parents and teachers. The staff was very professional and helpful. The event was a great success and we look forward to the next one."

"I have been a parent for almost 17 years, and it is nice that I can see all of my kids' social and academic life in one place. The staff is very professional and helpful. The event was a great success and we look forward to the next one."

"Our daughter has been at the Cheder since she was 3. She has learned so much and is very happy. The staff is very professional and helpful. The event was a great success and we look forward to the next one."

"I have been a parent for almost 17 years, and it is nice that I can see all of my kids' social and academic life in one place. The staff is very professional and helpful. The event was a great success and we look forward to the next one."

What a beautiful turnout we had "Meeting & Greeting" so many new potential faces for Clifton Cheder.

The evening was exciting, with powerful presentations from teachers, Rebbeim, and administrators, highlighting the attributes that make our school so special.

The dedicated staff representatives spent time following the group meetings in one on one discussions with the eager guests.

The beautifully done Many Smiles of Clifton Cheder Power-Point presentation, produced by Miss Tziporah Strauss, was a super hit!

Interested new families should call our office for an appointment and tour, so they too can put a happy face on their child.



Rabbi Shlomo Goldberg שליט"א, esteemed Menahel of Yeshiva Aharon Yaakov Ohr Eliyahu in Los Angeles and Zayde of Batshevy, Meir, Pinny and Elazar Kagan שיחיו, visiting our Cheder classrooms.

A past participant parent said "I found this group beneficial on so many levels: my children learned skills, I was able to continue coaching them on the skills at home and I made strong connections with other parents."

Multi-Family Social Skills Group FOR BOYS



About the group:

- A Multi-Family Group is where a child comes accompanied by at least one parent or caregiver.
- Group will include discussion, family activities, skits and art activities to help children develop better social skills.
- Parents are key to helping their child develop these skills as they are the experts on their child and the child's social skills coach.
- The group experience provides support for parents and children.
- Topics covered include: self-esteem, anger management, conversation skills, tolerance, handling difficult situations such as teasing, non-verbal language, and self-awareness.

Call Anne Marie Ramos at **973-777-7638 x143** if you have any further questions about this program.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
and Children's Center of Clifton-Passaic

*Supporting and Strengthening Family Life and the
Mental Health Needs of Children*

925 Allwood Road • Clifton, NJ 07012
www.jfscifton.org

Who:

Boys ages 7-13
and at least 1 parent/caregiver

When:

Boys Age 10-13
starts Monday February 2nd at 7:00 PM
for 6 weeks

Boys Age 7-9

starts Tuesday February 3rd at 6:00 PM
for 6 weeks

Where:

Jewish Family Service
925 Allwood Avenue, Clifton, NJ

To Apply:

Call Sharon Zwickler at
973-777-7638 x151

Cost:

\$30.00/session or copay if
insurance covers the service.
(Whatever amount is less.)

*Scholarships are available for families
who qualify who are unable to pay.*

A CHEDER CHILD IS A HAPPY CHILD!



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CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

Boys & Girls

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Boys

ELEMENTARY GRADES 1 - 8

TO PUT A SMILE
ON THE FACE OF

YOUR CHILD

CALL FOR AN

APPLICATION & TOUR

SCHOOL CHOICE: "The 'school choice movement' refers to the concept that students and their parents should have the opportunity to attend school where they choose. As the shape of education shifts over time, parents are interested in finding alternative educational opportunities;" *(21st Century Charter Schools)*

The Cheder accepts 4C'S & QUALIFIES FOR DEPENDENT CARE FSA.

Ask about our SPECIAL \$4,800 TODDLER & NURSERY RATES!

See why THE CHEDER HAS BECOME the talk of the town!

CHEDER

Rabbi Yonah G. Lazary
DEAN

Mrs. Rivkah Isaacs
EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

Mrs. Odellia Schlisser
GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL

EARLY CARE AVAILABLE FROM 7:30 A.M. **AFTER CARE** AVAILABLE UNTIL 5:00 P.M.