



IT'S ELEMENTARY!

JEC – Yeshiva of Elizabeth Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1

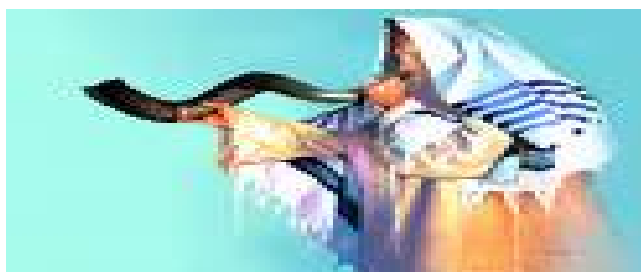
Musings from the Menahel – Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz

With the advent of the new school term and a new year on our *luach*, we reflect on what we have accomplished and achieved since last *Rosh HaShana*. In our society of instant gratification, people have largely lost the skill of introspection; even when people do take the time to consider past experiences, they often tend to judge things over the short term only. Yet, this limited tunnel vision is the antithesis of what human nature necessitates. As we all know from personal experience, life is an undulating series of peaks and valleys. Judging any series of events narrowly runs the risk of incompletely sizing up situations, as we may only focus on one dip or rise in the proverbial graph. As we stand before Hashem in judgment during the *Yemei HaDin*, can any of us feel confident that HaKadosh Baruch Hu would view us favorably were He to consider only factoid-like snapshots of our lives? Rather, we beseech Hashem to consider the totality of our experiences, actions, and relationships over the course of our entire lives; when we are judged over a longer scope of time, the admirable qualities we have displayed and the meaningful accomplishments we have accrued come to light and advocate for us before the Heavenly Court. And so must we judge others: by considering the totality of nearly any person, community, or institution, we will surely see the multitude of excellence that resides in each one of them, and appreciate the good qualities with which all are imbued. By judging others favorably, we can surely create a more unified, positive environment for our families, communities, and Yeshiva. *Kesivah vaChasimah Tovah!*

ברוכים הבאים

We are pleased to welcome several new members to the Yeshiva team:

- Mrs. Elissa Chanales, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Tzippy Bree, Nursery Head Morah
- Mrs. Claire Hughes, 5th Grade Boys General Studies
- Ms. Michael-Anne Regan, Learning Lab
- Ms. Fraidy Yablonsky, Nursery Assistant & 3rd Grade Girls



REMINDER:



We are in the midst of transitioning our main method of communication with parents from “snail mail” to e-mail. We hope to ensure more rapid, reliable and efficient delivery of information to you in the most timely manner possible. To that end, please contact the Yeshiva Office to verify that your e-mail address is correct. You can update us either by e-mailing yeshiva@thejec.org or calling Rabbi Schochet at ext. 125.

Transportation@thejec.org is set up for parents to alert us to changes in students’ daily transportation plans. This e-mail address will be checked by 1:00 p.m. each school day. For all non-urgent, non-academic administrative questions please e-mail yeshiva@thejec.org. This dedicated e-mail address will be checked within 48 hours by a member of the office, and then directed to the proper parties for resolution.

PTA BBQ: A Great Hit!

The inaugural Yeshiva of Elizabeth barbecue, sponsored and organized by our Parent-Teacher Association, was held on Sunday, August 30, 2009. Although the morning weather didn't look promising, by event time the weather was picture perfect. Nearly 150 parents, students, faculty and friends of the Yeshiva of Elizabeth enjoyed a family atmosphere of camaraderie and fun. All enjoyed the foods, the inflatable rides and the new JEC Store, featuring shirts, skirts, t-shirts and sweatshirts with a fashionable JEC logo emblazoned on them. The barbecue was the talk of the town, and kicked off the new school year with a beautiful display of unity and school spirit.

We thank PTA President Shanie Cillo and her team for their indefatigable efforts in overseeing this rousing success from conception through completion. Please contact Mrs. Cillo to volunteer your time and efforts toward various PTA initiatives throughout the year.

Shofar Factory

On September 9, our entire student body attended "The *Shofar* Factory", a workshop presented by Rabbi Yisroel Rosenblum of Living Legacy. Living Legacy creates "hands-on" programs that involve students in creating *mitzvah* artifacts, thereby giving them a new appreciation for our Jewish heritage. During the *shofar* workshop, the students enjoyed a fascinating audio-visual presentation explaining many new facts about the *shofar*. A few volunteers were invited to use special power tools in front of their peers, and each and every student had a chance to sand the sides of a newly-produced *shofar*, making it smooth. After the smoothing process, the students shellacked the *shofar* to give it a nice polish. We look forward to Rabbi Rosenblum's return later this year for a *Sefer Torah* presentation.



Yeshiva Remembers 9/11

At 10:05 a.m. on Friday, September 11, quiet reigned in the hallways and classrooms of the Yeshiva of Elizabeth, as students and faculty observed a moment of silence to commemorate the horrific tragedies that occurred 8 years ago. Students in Grades 1-6 gathered for a short assembly, at which Rabbi Schwartz encouraged the students to remember those who gave of themselves to help others. The students closed their eyes and contemplated how they can help make the world a better place by helping people in their own lives. We were privileged to hear a thoughtful piece of writing by a talented 5th Grader. We thank her for reminding us of the brave firefighters who worked so tirelessly and selflessly on that day, thereby inspiring us to prioritize the needs of others.