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**Schechter School
Office Hours
(Winter):**

**Monday-Thursday
8am -4pm**

Friday

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Bo

Candlelighting 4:32 pm

January 19, 2017

3 Shevat, 5778

A Message from Andrea

The Changing Landscape of Math Education

Over the next several weeks I will be exploring and discussing various areas in math education through Mabat. This is Part 1.

Education has made rapid strides in the last decade; while this progress is apparent in every area, it is possibly most evident in math education. The Common Core has moved math education quickly and shifted the emphasis in dramatic ways. What this means is that, more than ever, the math classroom looks different than it did when we were students ourselves. This shift has primarily taken place because as a country we have reflected on why our students don't score as well on international tests (PISA) and why our students are not choosing to continue their studies or careers in higher mathematics. This reflection has led educators to understand that there has been a profound lack of conceptual understanding among American students. In pursuing higher mathematics, students are often stymied because they lack the necessary depth of conceptual understanding, the relational nature of numbers, and the flexibility of thinking in complex problem solving.



The primary shift in math education is an emphasis on the "how" and "why." In the past, the traditional math class was spent drilling computations and memorizing formulas; there was virtually no emphasis on the concepts underlying the equations. Many

8am-2:30pm

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For Your Calendar:

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[Lower School](#)
[Report Card](#)
[Information](#)
[Meeting for](#)
[Parents](#)
[7pm](#)

-
[January 25](#)
[Parparim Shema](#)
[Program](#)

-
[Tallit Family](#)
[Program for 6th](#)
[grade families](#)

-
[February 1](#)
Talent Show Dress
Rehearsal

[February 4](#)
Student Talent
Show

[February 9](#)
Shabbat Share

[February 14](#)
Middle School
Science Fair

February 25
Hamentashen and
RELISH!
(bring your friends!)

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students left their math classes feeling that math was "magic;" only a small group of kids who were "good in math" truly understood. In today's classrooms, students are expected not only to study and master specific skills, but they are also expected to understand the concepts, to talk about them and even write about them. As such, the assessment of math has shifted to reflect these dual goals as well. All of a sudden, a correct answer is not enough to demonstrate mastery; students must also demonstrate their conceptual understanding. Another shift is in the focus on real-world application, moving math from the abstract realm and into the concrete. Educators are making a point of showing students how to apply their math skills to life outside of school, giving students opportunities to practice their skills in real life situations.

Finally, one of the most notable shifts in both math and broader education has been in the pedagogy, in how we are asking students to learn. Today's students are encouraged to explore ideas and experiment with various methods of inquiry. They are presented with a problem and asked to show a variety of math strategies to help develop their flexible thinking. Their learning is dynamic; it's no longer solely focused on the correct answer. Rather, it is on helping students ask the right sets of questions and understand how they might go about answering those questions so that they are able to apply a set of thinking skills to their problem solving.

It takes time to adjust to any changing landscape. I hope that over the next few weeks I will be able to help explain these changes.

Shabbat Shalom,
Andrea

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Follow Schechter on Twitter & Facebook!!!

To keep up with all the happenings at SSDS,
Follow us on Twitter [HERE](#) and on Facebook [HERE](#)

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Donate to the Makerspace!!

Do you have unused items around your house, basement, etc? The LowTech Makerspace would LOVE your used paint, tools, wood, or anything you can repurpose!

Please contact Ms.Van at rvanbindsbergen@ssds-hartford.org

with any questions or to schedule a pick up!

Condolences to...

Eleanor Caplan,
Dan and Arlene
Neiditz,
Schechter alumnus
Steven and Leslie
Neiditz
and their children,
Schechter alumni
Harlan and
Summer, and
Schechter alumni
Jennifer and Gary
Budlow,
Andrea and David
Silverstein and their
families,
on the loss of their
beloved
nephew and cousin,

Robert Neiditz

Eva Urtasun Sotil,
her husband,
Ira Potashner, and
their children,
Schechter student
Amaia (Rimonim)
and Eliana,
on the loss of their
beloved
father, father-in-law,
and grandfather,

Jesus Luis Urtasun Echeverria

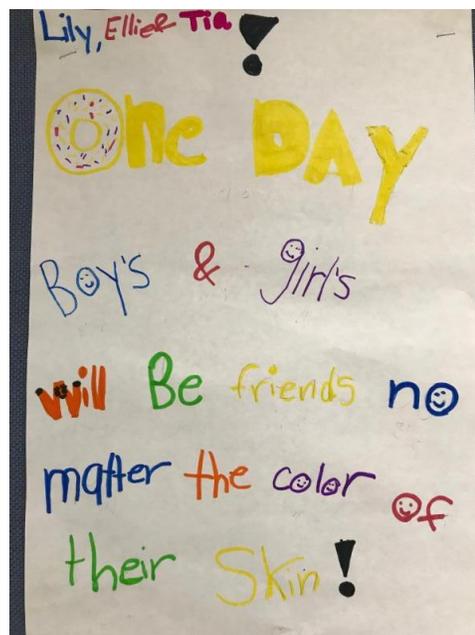
Anne Martha and
John Pitegoff and
their
children, Schechter
graduate Curtis
(2004) and Molly,
on the loss of their
beloved



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Gesher creates Found Poems from MLK's Big Words

On Monday, Gesher students learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and read the book *Martin's Big Words*.



The students first discussed what makes something a "big word," a word that shows strong meaning; then they made a list of all King's "big words" they read in the book.

Next, the students used this learning to find "big words" within excerpts of one of King's speeches.

Alex commented, "Martin Luther King was a very great leader and stood up for what

he believes in."

To culminate their activity, students created found poems with the words and phrases they had highlighted in his speech. **Found poetry** refers to poems that are made up of a collection of seemingly random words that are arranged (or rearranged) to have meaning.

mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother,

Rosalea Cohn

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Join Our List

Would you like a grandparent, relative, or friend to receive the Schechter newsletter? Email ASobel@ssds-hartford.org and include the name, email address, and relationship to Schechter and we will add them to our list!

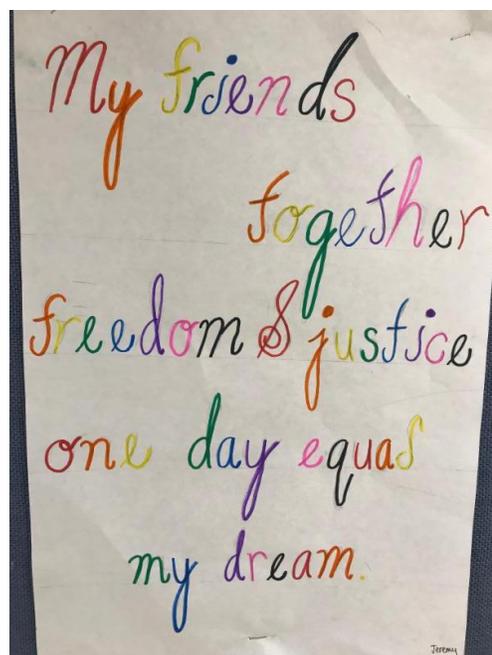


Inside the LowTech Makerspace

Making Music!



Anya stated, "I liked that the poems didn't have to rhyme."



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Humanities Honors Dr. King through deep examination of his words and his image.

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, students in grades 6 and 7 studied a copy of the iconic photo of Dr. King giving his "I Have a Dream" speech. The students were instructed to examine the photo and write what they saw, what they thought, and what they wondered about.

The responses were shared with the class by using **padlet**. Many students wondered why there were no women in the photograph, why were there police officers and why were all of the police officers white?





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One student wondered how Dr. King came up with the idea for the speech and why this speech compelled thousands of people to change their ways.

Noah wondered, "If slavery ended in 1865 how come African Americans weren't able to have the same rights in 1965?"



8th grade read an article about Dr. King's visit to Yale to accept an honorary doctorate. Yale had to bail Dr. King out of jail because he had sat in a "white" section of a hotel restaurant.

As part of their analysis of the article, students discussed if and when it is ever acceptable to break the law.



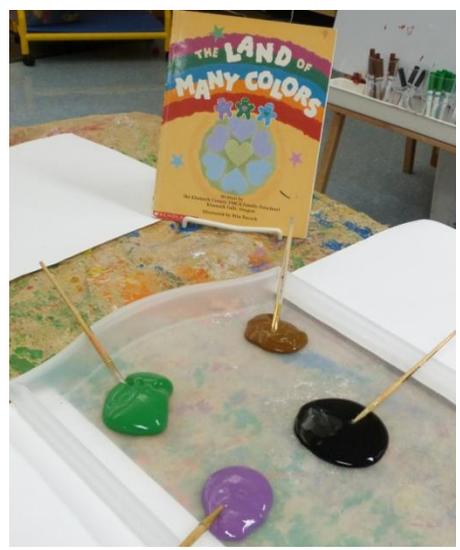
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EC3 Celebrates MLK Day with Peace, Respect and Many Colors!

EC 3 read the book *The Land of Many Colors* by the Klamath County YMCA Family Preschool Klamath Falls, Oregon.



The



simple message of peace and respect for difference is the theme of this book. The children then participated in an art activity and painted their hands with an array of paint colors and created hand print paintings!



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Student Council digs into some important questions about funding for education!

"What is a not for profit organization?"

"What are the ways our school gets income?"

These are just some of the questions Middle School Student Council members asked Schechter Controller Karen Berry when she attended their last meeting. Students are thinking about how to best use the revenue generated by weekly cocoa sales to benefit the school. "They started to have questions about fundraising, profit, expenses, and other financial matters that I thought were best answered by the Controller," said student council advisor, **Mona Teitelbaum**. For example, Council Member **Michael** (8th grade) asked, "Why did Schechter decide to be a non-profit organization?" After the meeting, Council Member **Matt**

(7th grade) noted, "That was really helpful!"



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MS students focus on Wisdom, Reverence, and Actions

This week, the Middle School students turned their attention to two mishnayot from Avot (3:11-12), focusing on a person's wisdom, reverence for God and actions.

"Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa taught: When one gives priority to reverence for God over wisdom, his wisdom will be enduring; but when one gives priority to wisdom over reverence, her wisdom will not be enduring.

This was a favorite teaching of his: When a person's

good deeds exceed her wisdom, her wisdom will be enduring; but when a person's wisdom exceeds his good deed, his wisdom will not be enduring.."



After studying the mishnayot and answering guiding questions in chevruata (study partners), the students came together to share their conclusions. It was fascinating to learn from the wide variety of responses, all indicative of serious consideration and deep thought.

What was most amazing was to hear two students share their insights on the mishna and, in the process, perfectly describe a Schechter education. Seventh grader, **Morissa**, stated the

following: "When you get wisdom from a text, you have to apply it to life. You don't just learn and memorize. You have to do something with it." **Lilian**, also a seventh grader, added to her classmate's comment: "You study a text in Torah. If you don't use the tools that you just learned, it's robotic, not spiritual. It's not going to get you far. It takes someone who has understanding to take the words and turn it into a lesson, something that you can do to make the world better."

We have no doubt that our students will make the world better through their actions AND their wisdom.

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EC4 brings their Friendship Promise and MLK together to celebrate Dr. King's day!

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., EC4 students read the story *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox. This wonderful book explains how people may look different on the outside but are all the same in inside. We all laugh and cry; we share joy and sadness. Our range of experienced feelings is the same all over the world.

Teachers Michelle and Bonnie talked with the students about how MLK wanted people to be friends and one another show love and kindness. Because this related directly to the EC4 class friendship promise, students felt that King would be proud of the work that they are doing. When students were asked how they can show love, Stella volunteered, "by hugging each other!" Eli suggested that sharing toys is another way of showing love. Albert said, "helping someone who they is sad" can demonstrate love too.



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Integrating Spanish and Art for un Proyecto Fantástico!

7th grade students integrated their Spanish writing and speaking skills with visual elements in Art by creating a Spanish superhero/villain project.

Each student worked with a partner to describe a superhero/villain pair. They wrote Spanish sentences describing their superhero/villain's name, alias, special powers, arch enemy, physical appearance, personality, location and feelings with the verbs "ser" and "estar" (to be). They created a storyboard illustrating their superhero/villain pair. And, finally, they presented their projects in Spanish to the class.



This successful Spanish/Art collaboration clearly demonstrated how students deepen their understanding when engaging hands on and creating their own learning.

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Save the Date for Ner Tamid!

Save the Date for Ner Tamid!

Evening of Sunday, April 29, 2018
at Beth El Temple

This year's honorees are Eric and Jessica Zachs and
their children,

Ben and Paige, Jacob, and Zoë.

The Zachs family exemplifies Schechter's core values of *Chochma* (Wisdom), *Klal Yisrael* (Community) and *Lev Tov* (Good Heart). We hope you will join us to celebrate Schechter and our honorees.



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HAMENTASHEN AND RELISH!

A community-wide Purim celebration for all ages,
bringing the warmth of Schechter's Friday morning
Shabbat RELISH to the joy of Purim.

Free and open to the public.



Bring your family and friends for Costumes,
Singing, Storytelling, and Delicious Hamantaschen

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2:30-4 pm

At Solomon Schechter Day School

26 Buena Vista Road

West Hartford, CT 06107

Kindly RSVP: rsvp@ssds-hartford.org

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



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Proudly Presents

Talent Show

SAVE THE DATE

When: Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm

Where: Schechter Auditorium

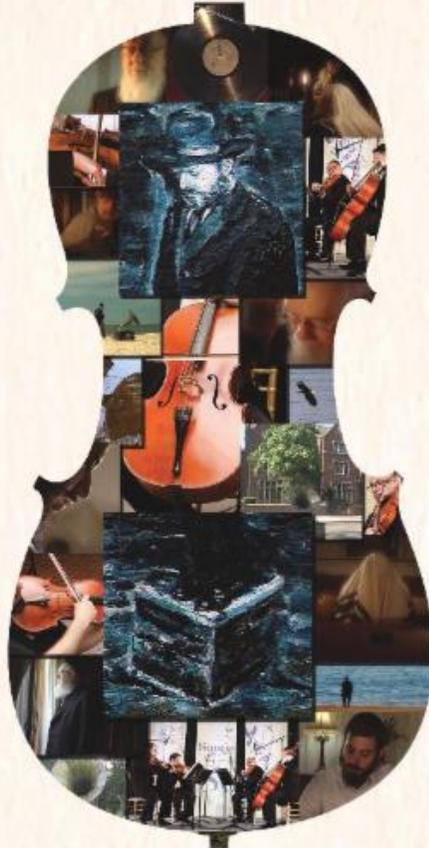
For questions, contact Bella Medvedovski
shnayder@hotmail.com

Showcasing the talented students of Solomon Schechter

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• AN EVENING OF FILM & MUSIC •

THE STIRRING STORY BEHIND THE HASSIDIC MELODIES
OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE.
TOLD THROUGH FILM AND A LIVE STRING QUARTET.



CHABAD HOUSE OF GREATER HARTFORD PRESENTS:

THE REBBE'S NIGGUNIM Songs of the Inspired Soul

SATURDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 | 8PM | CHABAD HOUSE 2352 ALBANY AVENUE
TICKET \$20 | ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED
BUY TICKETS: p. 860.232.1116 e. Info@ChabadHartford.com w. ChabadHartford.com



SALAD BAR & HOT SOUPS
TO WARM YOUR WINTER
SPIRITS!



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**Young Israel of
West Hartford
Presents**

Kidz Hebrew Immersion Club

Do you want your child to practice their Hebrew? Do you want them to gain confidence while also having a great time and meeting new children?

Beginning January 24, join our after-school Immersive Hebrew Language experience. Thursdays from 4:30-5:20 for grades 1-4. *Preregistration required.* Go to bit.ly/Heblm or email info@youngisraelwh.org for more information.

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JEWISH ACAPELLA WORKSHOP

FOR TEENS



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
10:30 AM-12:00 PM
THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

JOIN JTCONNECT FOR AN ACAPELLA
WORKSHOP WITH KASKESET, THE
CO-ED JEWISH ACAPELLA GROUP
FROM BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY!

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VOICES OF HOPE INVITES YOU TO A
DAIRY BRUNCH & THE 8TH ANNUAL



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018 | 12 - 2PM
THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE | WEST HARTFORD

BEN COOPER
2018 CHESED AWARD RECIPIENT



HONORING LOCAL HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



\$18 REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Free for Holocaust survivors, their families and for students.
For more information, to register or to learn about sponsorship
opportunities, visit us online at www.ctvoicesofhope.org,
call 860.470.5591 or email info@ctvoicesofhope.org

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Sunday, January 28 | 7 pm

Panera Bread, 2534 Albany Avenue, West Hartford

Are you part of an intermarried couple/family? How did you celebrate the December holidays? Did you do things differently this year than in the past? What went well? What didn't? Join others, share experiences and get new ideas!

RSVP: Elana MacGilpin, emacgilpin@mandelljcc.org, 860-231-6366



Zachs Campus | 335 Bloomfield Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06117
860-236-4571 | www.mandelljcc.org



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YOU'RE INVITED!

Join Solomon Schechter Day School for Havdallah and Hockey featuring Jewish A Capella Group Six13!

All children will receive a special Havdallah gift!

Following Havdallah, we will attend the Hartford Wolfpack game at the XL Center

Cost:

5:30pm Havdallah with Six13 Hilton Hartford - Free!!

7:30pm Hockey game XL Center - Tickets \$10 each

For more information and to reserve your space today, please use this

link. <https://form.jotform.com/73314196353153>

Ticket orders and RSVP are due January 7

Due to space limitations, walk ins are not permitted.

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



JANUARY 27, 2017

5:30PM • HILTON HOTEL, HARTFORD, CT



SPONSORED BY BBYO AND CAMP LAURELWOOD

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On Sunday, February 4, 2018,

celebrate the **World Wide Wrap**

at the Emanuel Synagogue

(160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford)

and join congregations from around the world performing the Mitzvah of wrapping Tefillin.

At **9:00am**, receive interactive Tefillin wrapping instructions.

At **10:00am**, experience a lively, musical, family-friendly, shortened morning service

10:30-11:30am, enjoy brunch prepared by the Emanuel Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Minyonaires, Religious School and Ritual Committee.

This Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs program is free

and open to the community, family and friends. No
RSVP required.

Contact tdbomzer@gmail.com for more info

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WEST HARTFORD YI CT Young Israel of West Hartford Movie Night
Saturday Night, January 20 at 8:00 p.m.

IN OUR HANDS: THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM



In Our Hands tells the story of the Battle of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War through the eyes of the IDF's 55th Paratrooper Brigade

Internet Movie Database Review
"Stirring, documentary of the famous six days war, in which Israel liberated Jerusalem. The movie merges actual film sequences from the war with survivors' testimonies and also well-acted dramatizations that put the viewers into the battles. From the political and ethnic friction that led to the war to the ground-level foot soldier exploits (an elite IDF paratrooper battalion), the film is tightly directed and edited, and of high production value. The actors are believable and the musical score quite moving. Very well done."

Free Admission & Free Refreshments
Film to be shown at 2240 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, CT

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YOUNG ISRAEL SPEAKERS SERIES 5778
presents
SHABBAT WITH PROFESSOR NECHAMA PRICE
Shabbat BeShalach • January 26-27, 2018



Both Director and alumna of the Program for Advanced Talmud Studies (GPATS) at Yeshiva University, **Professor Nechama Price** is preparing an elite cadre of female scholars of Talmud and Halacha to serve as leaders and role models for the Orthodox Jewish community.

Nechama Price serves on the Judaic Studies faculty in Stern College teaching courses in Tanach and Halacha. She graduated from Stern College, received her Masters in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School and a Masters in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. In addition, she serves as a Yoetzet Halacha (Adviser in Jewish Law) in Englewood, Tenafly, and Long Branch. She regularly gives shiurim throughout the greater NY area along with a weekly shiur in her hometown in Teaneck, NJ.

Also upcoming as part of 5778 Speakers Series...



Gavy Friedson

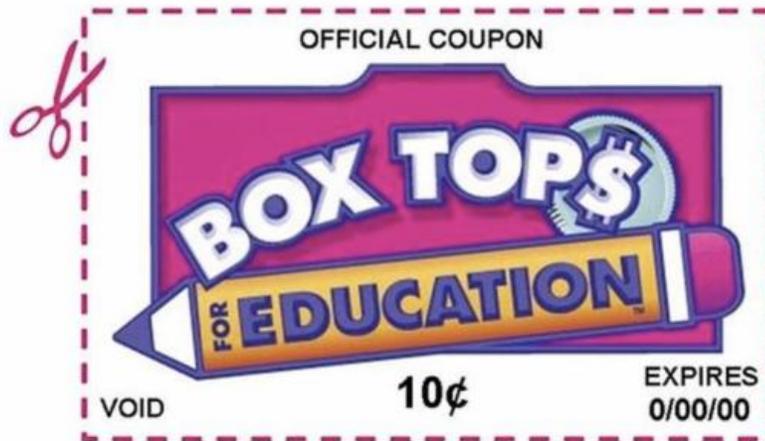
United Hatzalah International



Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact
Rabbi Brander at rabbi@youngisraelwh.org for more information.



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Let's get clipping!

Box Tops for Education is **free money** for our school!
There are many brands that you may purchase that
have this coupon on them...

Pillsbury

Kleenex

Ziploc

Betty Crocker

General Mills

Hefty

Box Tops will be collected the **First Friday of each month!** Drop them off in any of the collection bins you see around the school. Be sure to visit www.btfe.com to sign up for additional offers, support Solomon Schechter and even download the easy to use app!

Thanks for your support!

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Audrey Sobel and Rhiannon Van Bindsbergen, Co-Editors
Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford