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### Schechter School Office Hours (Winter):

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

**Friday**  
**8am- 2:30pm**

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### For Your Calendar:

**February 4**  
**Student Talent Show**

### Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Yitro

Candlelighting 4:50 pm

February 2, 2017

17 Shevat , 5778

### A Message from Andrea

#### The Changing Landscape of Math Education Part 3 Math Fluency

A word educators and parents are using a lot these days is fluency. Generally this is used to describe how accurately and quickly a student can recall his/her math facts. However, math fluency must involve more than speed and accuracy.

Principles and Standards for School Mathematics states, "Computational fluency refers to having efficient and accurate methods for computing. Students exhibit computational fluency when they demonstrate flexibility in the computational methods they choose, understand and can explain these methods, and produce accurate answers efficiently. The computational methods that a student uses should be based on mathematical ideas that the student understands well, including the structure of the base-ten number system, properties of multiplication and division, and number relationships."



We want to develop and encourage students to use their mathematical understanding and strategic thinking to solve a

**February 9**  
**Shabbat Share**

**February 11**  
**Seder Plate  
Tournament**

**February 14**  
**Middle School  
Science Fair**

**February 16**  
**Professional  
Development  
NO CLASSES**

**February 19-20**  
**February Break  
School Closed**

**February 25**  
**Hamentashen and  
RELISH!  
(bring your friends!)  
Packing Purim Baskets**

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### **Quick Links**

[Solomon Schechter  
Website](#)

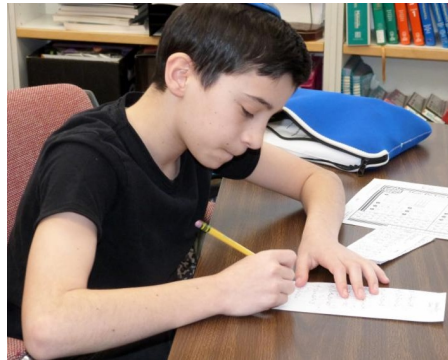
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**Mazel Tov to...**

**former Schechter  
Athletic  
Director Mike  
Cunningham and his  
wife, Suzie, on the  
birth of their son.**

**Rhett Thomas  
Cunningham was  
born on Monday,  
January 29, 2018.  
Special  
congratulations go  
to big sister  
Charley Belle.**

problem. Focusing on speed alone devalues these crucial skills. Focusing on efficiency means giving students the opportunity to think strategically about the best way to approach the specific problem at hand. Additionally, accuracy is more than getting the correct answer; it's about understanding the meaning of the operation, recording the work carefully and neatly, and considering whether the answer is reasonable.



How do we help students attain mathematical fluency and what does it look like?

Here's an example from Linda Gojak, Past President of the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics:

Students in a third grade class were given a sheet of ten problems and under each fact it asked the students to explain their answer. One student was asked for the answer to  $8+9$  and the student began counting with her fingers (this is not an action that demonstrates fluency). Before the student got to the answer, the teacher asked, "What do you know that would help you find the sum to  $8+9$ ?" After thinking briefly the student said, "17." Then the teacher asked the student how she got the answer without counting, the student answered, "I just took 1 off of the 8 and gave it to the 9. That made  $7+10$  and that's easy, 17."

Was this student fluent? Some may say, no. Ms. Gojak explains that this student demonstrated more than fluency; the student demonstrated understanding of place value, addition, and the associative property. In fact this student was accurate, flexible and efficient.



As we continue to think about math education, it's time to think about fluency in a broader way, as more than procedural. What a worthwhile goal: to reach for accuracy, efficiency and flexible thinking across mathematical topics.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Andrea

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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](mailto:ASobel@ssds-hartford.org) and include the name, email address, and relationship to Schechter and we will add them to our list!



## MORE Shema Pics!



# THIS SUNDAY!!!!

Solomon Schechter Day School  
of Greater Hartford

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](mailto:shnayder@hotmail.com)

Showcasing the talented students of Solomon Schechter

Come watch the AMAZING Schechter Talent!

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## MS takes in and takes on the the wise words of this week's mishna

*If I am not for me, who will be for me? And when I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, then when?*

Perhaps from a poster in a college dormitory? A tweet that went viral? Not at all. These are the words of Hillel, a brilliant sage, who lived around 2,000 years ago, as quoted in Avot 1:14. His words have become so iconic throughout the world that they risk becoming a cliché.

This week, the Middle School students studied this mishna in small groups. Then quietly and individually, they opened themselves to the text, making very personal connections. To honor their requests for anonymity, we will not identify the writers below by name.

**"If I am not for me, who will be for me?"** One student commented, "What I need to do for myself is I need to take full responsibility for myself." Another student stated, "I can take care of myself, stand up for myself and be proud of myself," while another noted, "I need to work harder to accomplish my goals."







**"And when I am for myself alone, what am I?"** One student observed, "I can take care of the planet instead of saying, 'It's not my problem.' I want the world to still be around for my kids and their kids." Other students stated, "I can help others by going to help at the House of Bread," "I could not brag about what I did. I could tell people they did well, too," and "When I see a person in need, I will step up because you never know the outcome."

**"And if not now, then when?"** One student noted, "It's saying that actions speak louder than words, and you should fulfill your word as soon as possible." Others commented, "I need to step up for something I believe in, not only for me but for the people around me." Another student reacted this way: "I am going to stand up for other people and not be afraid, help others when they need it. If it's not now, it might be never." Someone else interpreted: "To me, this means that if you keep putting off for tomorrow what must be done today, it will never happen." Finally, as one student succinctly stated, "If I don't start now, later may be too late."

Clearly, with our Schechter students as our teachers, these words will forever ring true.



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## Shema Celebration with Parparim!

The Parparim class participated in their annual Shema Program as a culminating event for a semester-long study of the Shema. The program included an adult learning segment lead by **Rabbi Howard Rosenbaum** as well as a hands-on creative element where the parents joined their children in creating either a Shema Bear or a Mezuzah. At the conclusion of the program, the children and parents together recited the *Shema* and *V'Ahavta* while



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## Tallit Night!



holding their treasured creations.



**Olivia** was so proud of her mezuzah that she said, "I can't wait to hang it in my house!"

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## Students and Parents Wrap Themselves in Tradition

Last Thursday night, students and parents from the 6th grade class gathered with Middle School Teacher, **Rabbi Steven Chatinover**, to learn about the traditions of wearing a *tallit* and the significance of tying the *tsitsit*. The evening began with a reading of "The Always Prayer Shawl," a moving story about the history of one family's tallit as it traveled through generations and across continents. After discussing the story, students and adults learned about the mitzvah of *tsitsit* by studying Numbers 15:37-41, Rashi's commentary on that section, as well as several *midrashim* related to it.

To connect their learning directly to the practice of these traditions, parents and children worked together to tie the *tsitsiyot* onto their custom-made *tallitot*. **Steve Leshem** commented, "I really enjoyed studying with my daughter, and then working together to tie the *tsitsiyot*."







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Upon finishing tying their *tsitsiyot* that night, students were excited to show off their new *tallitot*. All 6th grade students are now proudly wearing their new *tallitot* at the Rogow Middle School *minyan*. "It was such a special program," noted **Sheryl Levin**.

Thank you to **Rabbi Jeff Glickman**, a Schechter alumni parent and the rabbi of Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor, for having suggested the book "The Always Prayer Shawl" nearly ten years ago.

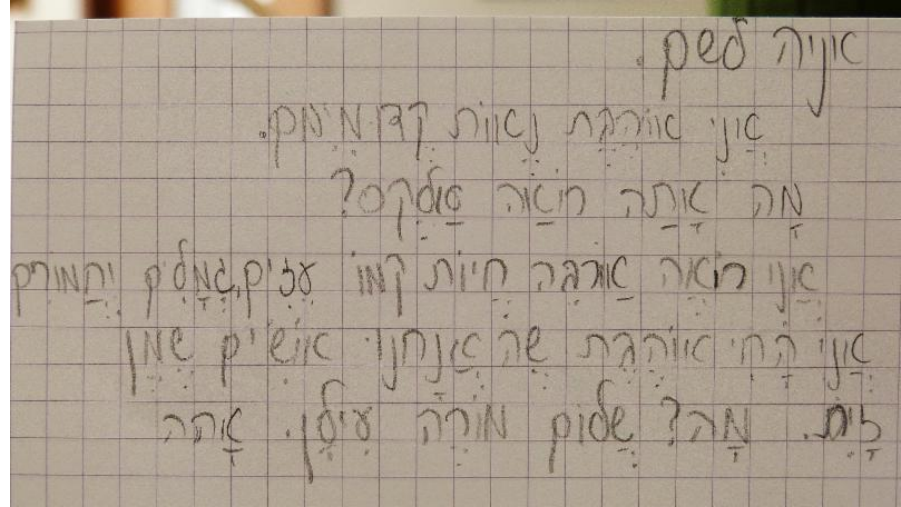


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## Gesher Hebrew Takes a Ride!

Submitted by Jeremy and Eli of Gesher class

Gesher students put their Hebrew vocabulary into action every day! Most recently, fourth and fifth grade students Eli, Jeremy, Alex, and Anya wrote and performed a short "play" to summarize what they learned about Neot Kdumim, a biblical location in Israel. The play described their bus ride as they returned from a field trip to this biblical location. Each student talked about what they had seen, what they had learned about, what they had liked most, and more...all in Hebrew! Below is a sample of the lines written and performed by one student.



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### EC3 Experiments with Cryogenics!

Early Childhood 3 explored the concept of cryogenics. Cryogenics is the study of the effects of freezing temperatures on different materials.







In this activity, we placed four different substances (water, liquid soap, vanilla pudding, and honey) into small cups, then froze them.



The next day, after the liquids had frozen, we took them out to observe, touch, and to see what effect freezing had on the substances.



**Cameron** noted a surprising outcome, observing, "the honey is still gooey!" **Eli** said, "the water turned to ice and it's so cold!"



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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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## Alumni Accomplishments in the World

*Mazal tov* to 1989 Schechter graduate **Gideon Zelermyer**, who won a Grammy on Monday night! Gideon, currently a cantor at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal, worked with Leonard Cohen to develop the song "You Want It Darker." You can read the article about his collaboration with Leonard Cohen and their exciting award [HERE](#).

**Rabbi Steven Chatinover**, who taught Cantor Zelermyer in Schechter's Middle School, noted, "It's always wonderful to see Schechter grads succeed on a larger stage. It's even sweeter when others, outside our Schechter family, recognize the abilities and achievements of those who called Schechter 'home'. Congratulations to a 'sweet singer of Israel!'"



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Are you busy on

**February 25th?**

We need YOU to help pack Purim baskets!!!  
This is a one time commitment starting at **9 AM**

in the Schechter auditorium.

Please contact Leah Berson at  
[kitchen@ssds-hartford.org](mailto:kitchen@ssds-hartford.org) if you can help out.



We are also are in need of parents to help serve lunch  
once or twice a month from 12 to 1:15.  
If you can help, send an email and schedule your days!

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SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY  
SCHOOL & BESS AND PAUL SIGEL  
HEBREW ACADEMY OF GREATER  
HARTFORD INVITE YOU TO OUR

# SCIENCE FAIR

Wednesday, February 14 2018

6 pm to 8 pm

Solomon Schechter Day School Cafeteria  
26 Buena Vista Road West Hartford

Come celebrate our love for science ♥

Explore the world of science through our brilliant  
students' projects and exhibit!



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**Mark your calendars!**

## 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 Hamentashen

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](mailto:rsvp@ssds-hartford.org)

Solomon Schechter Day School  
of Greater Hartford



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## SAVE THE DATE!

Parents Night Out @ Muse Paintbar,  
**Monday March 19**

Bar opens at 6:30 - Painting Starts at 7:00 PM Cost is  
\$40/pp

Come out and paint with other Schechter parents.  
We have the backroom reserved for us, but seating is  
limited to the first 22 people.

So please register as soon as possible.

Use the following private link to register [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 **old newspapers, used paint, tools, wood**, or anything you can repurpose!

Please contact Ms.Van at [rvanbindsbergen@ssds-hartford.org](mailto:rvanbindsbergen@ssds-hartford.org) with any questions or to schedule a pick up!



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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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**Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?**





**Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!**

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תשפ"ח

*please join us*  
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL  
**HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL  
OF NEW ENGLAND**  
GALA & AWARDS CEREMONY

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018**  
THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE, WEST HARTFORD

**5:30-6:30 PM**  
COCKTAIL RECEPTION

**6:30 PM**  
DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY

—2018 HONOREES—

*HHNE 2018 Gala Honorees*  
**MARCIA AND BENJAMIN ADLER**

*President's Award Recipient*  
**SYDNEY PERRY**

*Dietary Laws Observed*

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MIKVEH BESS ISRAEL

# #METOO WEST HARTFORD

A space for women to share our thoughts and experiences and look towards a safe and inclusive future.

Saturday, FEBRUARY 10, 2018 - 8PM

\$10 REGISTRATION FEE

VENUE SUPPLIED UPON REGISTRATION

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER VISIT  
WWW.MIKVEHBESSISRAEL.ORG

Email HANNAH.BRAUNEFRIEDMAN@GMAIL.COM if you have additional questions

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED

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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](mailto:tdbomzer@gmail.com) for more info

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# Shabbat Club



מועדון שבת



פטריוטס



נשרים

All 1st - 5th graders are invited to participate in this great program that will include Shabbat prayers and Super Bowl activities. Which team is the best?

● Feb 3 11AM-12PM Rooms 12/13 Beth El ●

Questions? Contact Rabbi Garber at  
[igarber@bethelwh.org](mailto:igarber@bethelwh.org).

Beth El  
Temple  
Be★

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Do you have an athlete in your family?



Come learn about the new Jewish Sports  
sleep-away camp in Fairfield, CT.

They are running 2 week sessions this summer!

Meet the director, Rabbi David Levy and learn about  
this new summer camp opportunity for your athlete!

February 8, 2018 at 7pm

The Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford CT, 06107



Sponsored by:

questions? [Principal@emanuelsynagogue.org](mailto:Principal@emanuelsynagogue.org)



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# JEWISH ACAPELLA WORKSHOP

FOR TEENS



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

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

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# Purim 2018!



The Emanuel Synagogue invites you  
to celebrate Purim with us!!

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

5:30 pm Pizza in the lobby

5:30 pm Mincha/Maariv

6:00 pm Megillah reading

Costume Parade

Gaga ♦ Face-painting ♦ Hula Hoops ♦ Photo Booth

7:30 pm Purim Café

Mishloach Manot (Purim Basket) pick up starting at 5:30 pm

The Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive

[www.emanuelsynagogue.org](http://www.emanuelsynagogue.org)



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Open to the  
public!

# A MAGICAL PURIM CELEBRATION!

at Congregation Beth Israel



Sunday, February 25th at 9:30am

Featuring...

**Carnival**

**Shpiel**

**Acrobatic Act**

**Megillah Reading**

...and more!

701 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
[www.cbict.org](http://www.cbict.org)  
860.233.8215

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## COMMUNITY MISHMAR

at Hebrew High School  
of New England

*Featuring Visiting YU Professor  
Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff*

### CELEBRATE COMMUNAL TORAH STUDY IN THE MONTH OF SHVAT

Monday, February 5, 2018  
7:00-8:30 pm

300 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT

CHAVRUTA STUDY WITH PREPARED SOURCES  
SHIUR BY VISITING SCHOLAR RABBI LAWRENCE HAJIOFF  
TOPIC: "ISRAEL AND THE END OF DAYS -  
FIVE SIGNS WE'RE CLOSE"

RSVP:  
SKOGLUND@HHNE.ORG

Refreshments will be served



Originally from London, England, Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff traveled to study in Israel and after to Monsey, NY to receive his rabbinical smicha ordination from Yeshiva Ohr Somayach. Rabbi Lawrence is the educational director of Jewish Enrichment Center in conjunction with Birthright Israel Alumni in Manhattan, New York, and is also on the full time faculty of Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University.

**HHNE**   
Hebrew High School of New England

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OPEN TO ALL TEENS IN 8TH-12TH GRADE

# KARAOKE & HAVDALLAH

WITH JACOB "SPIKE" KRAUS  
Song Leader Extraordinaire

SATURDAY, FEB 24TH  
6:30PM - 8:30PM  
@ FVJC

55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY

DINNER INCLUDED!  
BRING A FRIEND!

RSVP TO  
OFFICE@JTCONNECT.ORG



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## *Musician in Residence Weekend*



SHABBAT WITH  
SINGER SONGWRITER

*Jacob  
"Spike"  
Kraus*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY  
23, 7:00PM

Oneg Following

6:00PM  
WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION



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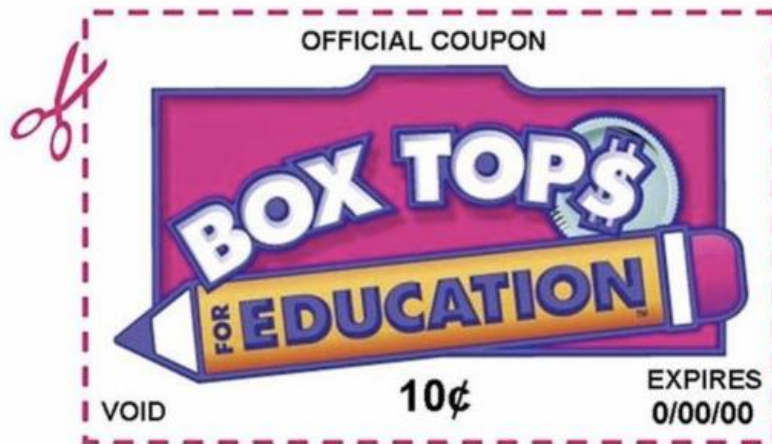
Speak Up Storytelling Workshop Growing up in the 1970s &  
1980s Sunday, March 4, 2018, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sponsored by and held at the Jewish Historical Society, 333  
Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

Speak Up co-founder and four time GrandSLAM champion  
Matthew Dicks will teach a day-long workshop on the art of  
storytelling. This workshop is designed for people with little or no  
previous storytelling experience. Improve communication skills,  
meet new people, and try something new! Learn methods for  
generating story ideas, structuring an effective story,  
performance techniques, and important rules of storytelling.

Interested workshop participants can share their stories at our  
public Storytelling Showcase on April 26, 2018.



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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](http://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