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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 9
Shabbat Share**

February 11

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Mishpatim

Candlelighting 4:59 pm

February 9, 2018

24 Shevat , 5778

A Message from Andrea

The Changing Landscape of Math Education Part 4:
Productive Struggle by Mona Teitelbaum

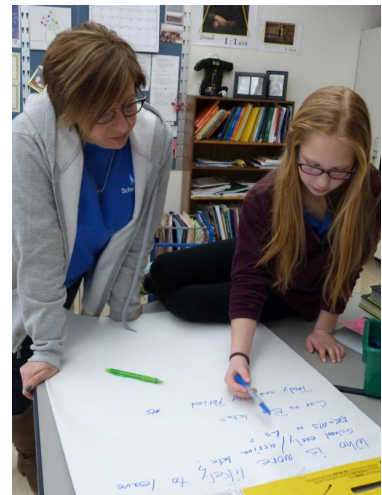
"Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance." -
Samuel Johnson

None of us would dispute that learning music, sports, reading, or writing requires perseverance. What happens when a child learns to ride a bicycle without training wheels for the first time? She may fall; she needs assistance, but she keeps trying and trying, refining her technique and within an hour, a day, or more, she flies.

Math education research shows that this same stick-to-itiveness, or perseverance, is essential if students are to learn mathematics.

Researchers call this 'productive struggle.' "Educators agree that students' productive struggle in the classroom is a necessary component for learning" (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, NCTM). For students this means "struggling at times with mathematics but knowing that breakthroughs often emerge from confusion and struggle." They know they will fly, so they keep trying.

Research studies suggest that in order for students to learn deeply and with understanding, they must struggle with challenging problems. One type of challenge in mathematics is when a student sees a problem presented in a way he or she has



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**

**March 1
Purim**

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Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

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Condolences to...

**Ira Potashner and
Eva Urtasun Sotil
and their children,
Schechter student
Amaia (Rimonim)
and Eliana,
on the loss of their
beloved sister,
sister-in-law, and
aunt,**

Sylvie Potashner

-

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never seen before. The student perceives it to be completely new and doesn't know how to start. Mathematicians say that if you know how to start on a question it's practice. When you don't know how to start it's a problem and you may have to work hard to solve it.



Of course, teachers are there to support the student through the struggle so that a breakthrough does occur-- so that the struggle is constructive. The teacher might ask questions so the student is able to make connections between what he or she has learned and how that might apply to the new problem. The teacher might instead encourage the student to recall other strategies they have used in the past such as drawing a picture or making a list.

Teachers, students, and parents play a role in productive struggle. "In the recent NCTM publication *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* (2014), the writing team identified the support of productive struggle in learning mathematics as one of the eight important teaching practices." As teachers and parents, we can explicitly remind students that struggling to make sense of mathematics is an important and natural part of learning. Rather than avoiding this phenomenon, we can integrate struggle as part of doing mathematics by acknowledging students' consternation" and helping them to see it as part of a process. (H.K Warshauer, 2015)

We tell the new bicycle rider that it might be challenging, but gradually and with perseverance, she will learn to balance; it's part of learning to ride. We can show her, but she has to be able to do it herself. Over time and with support, students learn that they "...need to view the struggle that may inevitably be a part of problem solving as an opportunity to learn...and to see that confronting and working through struggle can ultimately be helpful" (Star, 2015).

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!

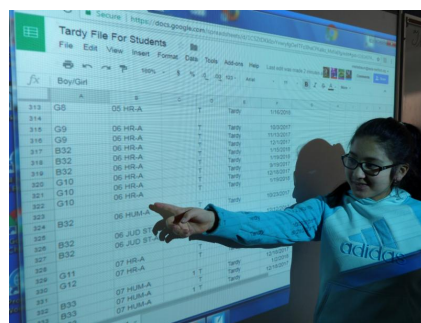


Inside the Classroom

With Rimonim!



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Students engage in productive struggle and come to learn that their perseverance will lead not only to success but to a higher level of accomplishment. (Warshauer, 2015) The word "struggle" has a negative connotation to most of us. In mathematics, as in many other activities, that struggle encounters perseverance and develops into something positive. When the bicycle rider learns to ride unaided, she feels joy because she can now do something she couldn't before. That joy is even greater because she persevered and met the challenge head on.

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Tu B'Shevat Celebrations with Rimonim and Gesher

Rimonim and Gesher celebrated the holiday of Tu B'Shevat together. Students from both groups enjoyed singing authentic Israeli songs for Tu B'Shevat, discussing the costumes and *mitzvah* of the holiday and listening to an Israeli story, *Six in One Bag* by Levine Kipnis.



According to the story, the students prepared a Tu B'Shvet bag to take home to their families that included dried fruits for the holiday such as: dates, figs, raisins and apricots. In addition, the students created colorful greeting cards for the holiday.



As Rimonim and Gesher students celebrated together, their many happy smiles marked the beginning of new friendships.

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6th Grade creates and performs in their original play, "Josie and the Fish".... Articles from TWO perspectives!

The following piece is by Talia Leshem:

A couple months ago, the sixth graders studied the Book of Jonah in Judaic Studies class. They had recently come back from TEVA, where they had written and performed their own play for Rabbi Chatinover and Ms. Bobbi Woodbury, the chaperones on the trip. They found the story of Jonah so interesting that Cooper G-R and Talia L. adapted it into a script, with their own modern twist on the story. Once finished, they got the rest of the class interested in performing it.



The sixth grade's adapted version is titled "Josie and the Fish" and includes the four chapters in the Book of Jonah and the missing chapter, which is their alternate ending to the story.

Also included is a gymnastics halftime

show choreographed by the girls. Some new elements of the play include Siri (an intelligent personal assistant on apple devices), the Hanukkah snakes (fictional characters that give gifts to children on Hanukkah), fish slapping, and Sheldon (Halayah S.'s dog).

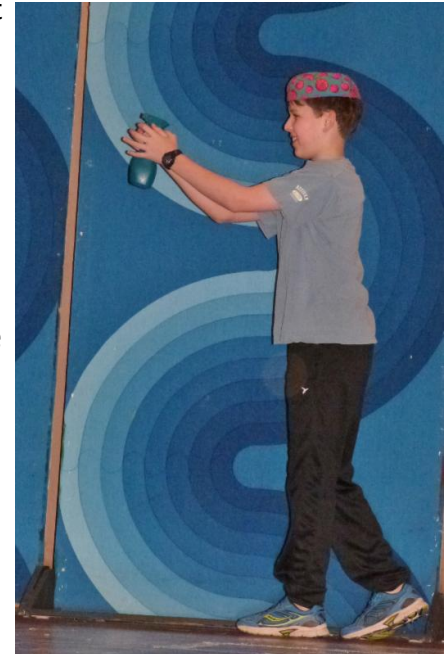
Miriam N. says, "It was really cool to be able to make a story from the *Tanakh* into a fun modern day skit." Ari S-P agrees, "It's an interesting way to portray the story of Jonah. I like that it shows a different ending."



They performed their original play on Tuesday, February 6th for Rabbi Chatinover, Ms. Bobbi Woodbury and Mrs. Rosen. The sixth grade hopes to write and perform more original plays like this one.

The following is Written by Rabbi Chatinover:

How do you measure how the study of Bible/Humash affects students? How do you know that they are excited by the learning process? The 6th Grade provided a wonderful example of enthusiasm and creativity on Tuesday morning during their Judaic Studies class. The members of the Class of 2020 put on a stellar performance of "Josie and the Fish," an original play which they wrote on the heels of their study of the Book of Jonah.



Nancy Rosen, Bobbi Woodbury and Rabbi Chatinover were treated to a creative, humor-filled update of this important biblical narrative (including an acrobatic 'half-time show' featuring two human pyramids!).

The students did this on their own initiative, giving evidence of not only their special brand of biting,

absurdist humor (Jonah journeying in *Nineveh* by Uber; God threatening *Nineveh* with loss of cell service), but at the same time demonstrating that they fully understood and appreciated the story of Jonah and the timeless themes it contains (e.g., God

criticizing Jonah for caring about the plant more than the inhabitants of Nineveh). Kudos to the Class of 2020 for teaching us that real learning takes place when students take what they have learned and make it their own.



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EC gets a visit from veterinarian, Dr. Leshem

When veterinarian and Schechter parent **Dr. Steven Leshem** visited the Early Childhood 3 and 4 classes last Friday, he was greeted with enthusiasm... and a lot of questions!

He spoke to the students about his fun job as a veterinarian and the ways in which he takes care of animals when they are sick. Dr. Leshem asked the children about the pets they have in their homes and what they do to take care of them. Every child had brought a favorite stuffed animal from home that needed bandaging; each student held his/her animal still while Dr.

Leshem and his interns, Morah Robin and Morah Bonnie,





bandaged them up!
A wide variety of animals
needed medical care,
including bears, camels,
cats, dogs, and even a
giraffe.

Albert said, "I liked the
bandages. Mine was
black!" Stella added,
"Mine was the one with

bones on it!"

Students also examined some x-rays of animals and had to guess
which animals they were pictures of. Our students did very well
with this; perhaps we have some future veterinarians in our midst!



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EC 2 and 3 Celebrate the Birthday of the Trees !

In honor of Tu B'Shevat, the EC 2 and 3 classes got together to

celebrate the birthday of the trees.

They sang happy birthday to the trees and then they had a special snack. They enjoyed different fruits that grow on trees. "It's a fruit feast!" one excited three year old exclaimed.



After the feast, Morah Yeshiva read *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, which led to a discussion about why the tree loved the boy and the boy loved the tree. Their answers were about how the boy and the tree made each other happy. Students then had the opportunity to do a little planting.

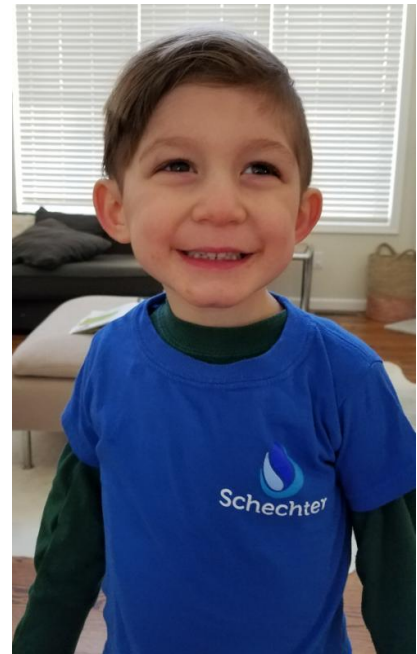


One eager two year old watched intently to see if the seeds would grow the moment they were planted. "Opportunities to celebrate together helps the children to realize they are part of the bigger community, which is an underlying theme in our school," said teacher Yeshiva Cohen.

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Schechter Welcomes our new EC Families!

A BIG Welcome to Ayelet, Lennox, and Valentina!
As well as the whole Glantz, Fishbein, and Mendolia
Families!



**So excited to have you in
our Schechter Family!**

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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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Come out and Volunteer with Us!

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 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

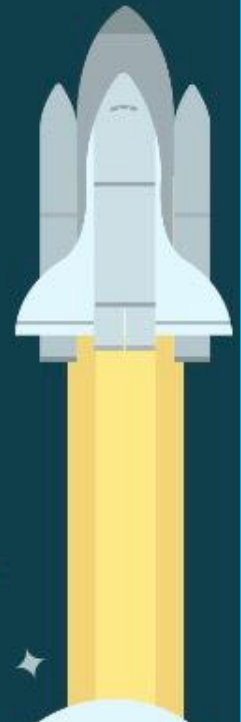
Wednesday, February 14 2018

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

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 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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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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Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?



Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!

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ד"ר

please join us
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL
OF NEW ENGLAND
GALA & AWARDS CEREMONY

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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Chabad House of Greater Hartford

Presents

Purim in NYC!

**Thursday,
March 1, 2018**

Megillah reading 4:30 p.m.

Purim Feast 8:00 p.m.

Location:

Emanuel Synagogue
160 Mohegan Drive,
West Hartford

Featuring:

- BUFFET DINNER • DRINKS
- FACE PAINTING • PICKLE MAKING
- NEW YORK T SHIRTS AND MORE

\$25 adult, \$18 student

\$12 child, \$65 family

Prepay before February 28:

\$20 adult, \$15 student

\$10 child, \$60 family

I ♥ NY

RSVP 860-232-1116 • www.ChabadHartford.com

Entertainment by
Breakdancers from
DANCESTYLEZ
ENTERTAINMENT

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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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shabbat speaker

March 16th, 7:00pm

Uncle Nat Rescues the Torah!

Presentation by Shari Cassutt on the
rescue of a Holocaust Torah by her Uncle Nat



Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation

55 Bushy Hill Rd, Simsbury

Photo courtesy of Sheila Pally



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WOMEN OF THE WALL

with guest Rabbi Debra Cantor
of B'nai Tikvoh Sholom

**Claiming Sacred Ground
at Judaism's Holy Site**

**Thursday, March 22nd
7:00pm**

Sponsored by FVJC Sisterhood
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation
55 Bushy Hill Rd, Simsbury



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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



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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
860.233.8215

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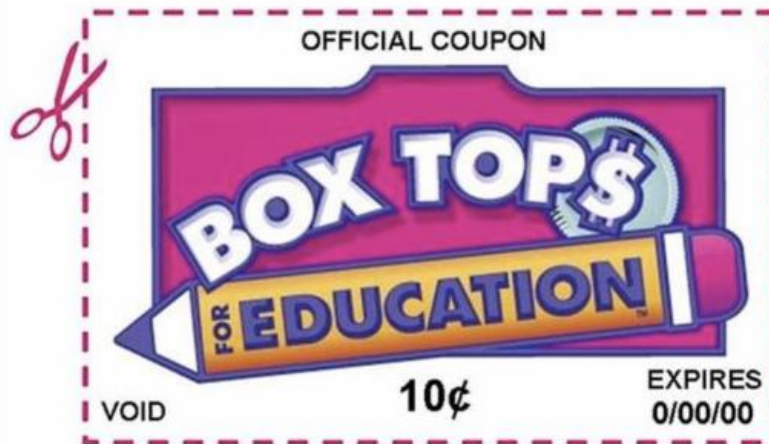
Speak Up Storytelling Workshop Growing up in the 1970s &
1980s Sunday, March 4, 2018, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sponsored by and held at the Jewish Historical Society, 333
Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

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 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