

# Schechter Shavua

January 27, 2020 ----- 1 Shevat 5780

## Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford



**#SchechterPride** in Limor and Rabbi as they develop Judaic Studies curriculum for schools around the country! Plus, find out how Rimonim students are learning new techniques to improve their writing.... and honoring MLK in age-appropriate ways.

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### #SchechterPride in....

**Schechter Faculty Limor Shefer and Rabbi Chatinover**, who are helping raise the bar in Jewish education! Last week, along with educators from 11 other Jewish day schools, Limor and "Rabbi" participated in the second in a series of three writing conferences at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Under the direction of the Legacy Heritage Instructional Leadership Institute, the educators



presented a unit prepared by their home schools, shared feedback and suggestions on these units, and worked together to create three new units. By the end of the third conference in March, as a gift honoring the Avi Chai Foundation's 35+ years of support of Jewish education, this group of passionate, creative educators will have created an anthology of TaNaKH units that will serve as an invaluable resource for Jewish educators throughout North America.

### Cultivating Great Writers

If you stopped by the *Rimonim* classroom to observe a writing block with in the past few weeks,



you might have seen something incredible. You would have seen students writing independently, peers sharing their stories and providing constructive feedback respectfully. You would see students having one-on-one goal setting meetings with teacher **Kate Poltorak**, a time when students reflect on their work and discuss their

progress with a growth mindset. You would see small group conferences among the students as they share ideas for how to develop their goals. Students have made incredible changes through the introduction of Mastery-Based Progressions.

This progress began over the summer when Kate attended the Better Lessons conference in New York City. There, she worked with coaches to determine how to best improve her students' personalized learning. Kate discovered Mastery-Based Progressions, enabling students to take charge of analyzing their learning, discovering strengths and challenges, setting goals, conducting peer conferences, and tracking their progress. Little did Kate know how quickly the students would adjust and thrive! Students' motivation and the quality of their work has improved. Kate said, "The detail in these stories are impressive. Each student has in a way impressed me with either their work or their determination."

The students will finalize their projects this week by creating Flipgrid videos of themselves reading their own stories. They will have opportunities to comment on each other's writing by giving a "like" and a "wonder," terms that are accountable talk strategies that they have learned during this process.

If you would like to see these incredible stories and see some of their video comments, check out the bulletin board across the hall from room 6. The students' stories will be posted as well as a school login for Flipgrid that will allow you to watch the students read their stories. The students and Kate encourage you to leave a video comment so that they can see who has read their stories.

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## Never too Young to Learn About MLK!

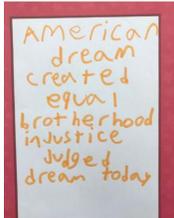
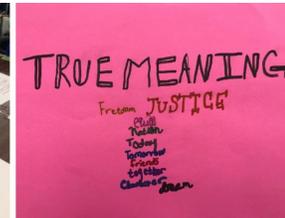
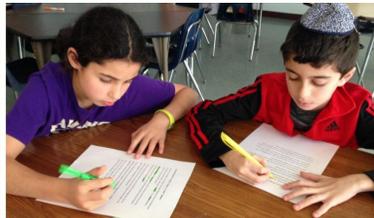
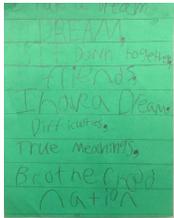
*Dubonim* learned about MLK in ways that two-year-olds understand: through stories. Bonnie read a great story I got this year called *Mixed - A Colorful Story* by Arree Chung about how there used to only be red, blue, and yellow people. It's a cute inspiring story about color, tolerance, and embracing differences. (They first all got



along, until they fought about who was best and separated to live in different parts of the city. Then a blue person and a yellow person became friendly, fell in love, got married, and made a new color, green. Everyone else was fascinated and they all started mixing! Then “there so many new colors And a lot of new names”. They rebuilt the city and it was full of color.

## Analyzing MLK's Language and Dreaming for the Future

The Geshet students listened to the book *Martin's Big Words* and had a discussion about what a “Big” word means. The students then highlighted the “Big” words in Martin Luther King’s speech and wrote “found poems” using only those words. In addition, the students created cloud mobiles stating their own dreams for themselves, the world and the community.



**Save the Date!**  
**Schechter's Israeli Dance Festival**  
**February 12, 2019 6:30pm**



DANCE! CELEBRATE!



# ISRAELI DANCE FESTIVAL

Wednesday, February 12 @ 6:30pm  
(snow date: February 20)

A Night of Israeli Dancing for K-8 students and  
parents. All are Welcome!

Where: New England Jewish Academy  
300 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

Solomon Schechter Day School  
of Greater Hartford 

**Current Schechter Parents -  
Please be on the lookout for your  
Schechter hats!**

Our love for Schechter we cannot  
hide  
Let's all show our #SchechterPride  
Why not put winter to the test  
With this toasty gift from the Kests



Click [HERE](#) for PHOTOS of Learning in Action!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- January 30: Parparim Shema Bear Program
- February 7: EC joins RELISH
- February 12: Israeli Dance Festival @ 6:30pm
- February 14: Professional Development. No classes
- February 17-18: School Closed for February Vacation
- February 20: Israeli Dance Festival (Snow date)
- March 4: Israel Night for Parents @ 7pm
- March 8: Hamentashen and RELISH @ 10:30am (Open to the Community!)

[Click here for More Dates!](#)

Solomon Schechter Day School  
of Greater Hartford

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