



Inside SCHECHTER

May 17, 2024 / 9 Iyar 5784
Weekly Parashat : Emor

Candle lighting: 7:47 PM
Shabbat ends: 8:56 PM

8th Graders Lead Ceremony on Yom Hazikaron



On Yom Hazikaron, our 8th graders led our school *kehillah* (community) in a *tekes* to remember the fallen soldiers in Israeli wars and the victims of terrorism. The *tekes* began with the lowering of the Israeli flag followed by the *El Malei Rachamim* prayer, and included readings in English and Hebrew, a dance performance, a video tribute to honor fallen soldiers and victims of October.

"While our hearts are heavy, we reaffirm our commitment to ensure that their legacy lives on and that we stand together in the face of adversity — drawing strength from our shared history and values," said Delphine Gamburg, Deputy Consul General.



Thanks to Hebrew teacher Shlomit Hoch for working with our student volunteers, and to our special guests, Delphine Gamburg, Deputy Consul General; Renie Schreiber-Director of Civil Society, Jewish Communities and Cultural Affairs; Rabbi Michael Schwab, Ayelet Cohen; and Cantor Matan Meital.

Am Yisrael Chai: Israel at 76!



Happy 76th birthday, Israel! On Yom Haatzmaut, we kicked off the day together at the Sager School as a *kehillah* with Hatikvah, followed by inspiring words from Consul General and Schechter parent Yinam Cohen. Decked out in *kachol v'lavan* (blue and white), students and faculty enjoyed a day filled with celebration and learning about Israel's rich culture and history.



Thanks to Judaic Studies teacher Rachael Gray-Raff for planning a full day of activities and to our entire faculty and staff and parent volunteers! "You could feel the joy and passion for Israel all day (and taste it too!)," said Suzanne Mishkin, Sager School K-6 Principal. "At Schechter, one of our core values is Israel, and on Yom Haatzmaut we truly lived our mission and values!"

[View more photo on our Facebook](#)

Students Shine in Chidon HaTanach



You could hear the cheers coming from the gym throughout the entire school — however, they weren't for a basketball game, they were for the *Chidon HaTanach* — a rigorous bible contest! The tradition of holding a *Chidon HaTanach* on *Yom Haatzmaut* was developed by Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, to connect our ancient history with the future of our people.

After studying for weeks at school and at home, 10 students competed in front of their cheering classmates and teachers. With just seconds to answer each question, students were asked to recall verses, quotes, numbers, characters, and events in the Torah.

Kol Hakavod to all of our contestants:

Grade 5: Jack Channon, Ben Gabai, and Ziv Tuby

Grade 6: Logan Benuck, Jack Caplan, and Devora Weinberg

Grade 7: Isaiah Bernstein and Ari Smith

Grade 8: Phoebe Berkowitz, Emerson Blum, and Drew Gallo

Congratulations to the top scorers:

Third place: Jack Caplan

Second Place: Jack Channon

First place: Ben Gabai and Ari Smith tied for first place and Ari Smith won in an exciting tie breaker!



"We were thrilled to be present to watch Ari and his classmates take such pride in their shared heritage, knowing that our people have been studying these same texts for thousands of years," said Michelle Wasserman, mom of top scorer, Ari Smith.

"Thank you again to Solomon Schechter and to Ari's teachers for continuing to inspire his love of Judaic studies, Hebrew, and of course, our beloved Israel."

Special thanks to Rabbi Jonathan for overseeing the contest and to Cantor Meital, and Rabbis Crane, Chapman, and Ozarowski for serving as judges.

Watch the Contest & Feel the Excitement

Ginsburg ECC Sends a Special Video to Children in Israel



As Yom Haatzmaut was beginning in Israel, the Alim class sent a special video card to the children in the Gan (Kindergarten) of Kibbutz Yiftach, currently displaced from their homes on the Lebanon border. "We were looking for ways to help our two- and three-year-old students connect with Israel," explained ECC teacher, Cara Gutstein. "We hoped that thinking about children just like them who like to paint, build, and play outside would be a way to start. As teachers, we also hoped to offer love and support to parents of children and to our colleagues working and living under these extreme circumstances. We hope the video will bring smiles and comfort."

Schechter Inspectors Tour NPR & WBEZ Studio



Last week, our Schechter Inspectors (members of the Sager School Literary Magazine) hit the journalism jackpot with a field trip to the new, state-of-the-art National Public Radio and WBEZ Studios in Chicago. After a lively Q and A session, our budding journalists had front row seats to observe a live news radio show.

Thanks to Amy Schwartz, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher and Schechter Inspector

advisor, for going above and beyond to provide students with this unforgettable experience.

Kol Hakavod to Isaac Rubinson

Isaac Rubinson (SSDS '25) became a Bar Mitzvah at Moriah Congregation on May 4, 2024. He read parashat Aharei Mot and its haftarah and led the Torah service. Isaac's step-dad, Zach Frankel (SSDS '01) led *Shacharit*, his brother Asher (SSDS '22) led *Musaf*, and his brother Gabe (SSDS '31) led *Ashrei*. Isaac loves martial arts, drumming with his band, and spending time with his family and puppy LuLu. He is a dedicated student, avid reader, and fan of *The Office* and *John Wick*.

Mazal Tov to Isaac's proud parents, Yori Rubinson, Laurel Van Allen and Zach Frankel (SSDS '01); to his brothers, Asher (SSDS '22) and Gabriel (SSDS '31); to his grandparents, Roberta and Michael Rubinson, Denise and Terry Van Allen, Kim and Alan Frankel, and Laura Frankel and Michael Bukowski, and to his many cherished aunts, uncles, and loving cousins.



Kol Hakavod to Sasha Weisenberg



Sasha Weisenberg (SSDS '25) will become a Bat Mitzvah this coming Shabbat reading parashat Emor at Moriah Congregation. Sasha loves dogs, dancing, and spending her free time with friends, especially at Sephora. Sasha is proud to be part of the Schechter community and to carry on the legacy of one day (soon) becoming a proud Schechter graduate.

Mazal Tov to Sasha's proud parents, Ilana Epstein (SSDS '87) and Dan Weisenberg; to her sisters Shani (SSDS '18) and Jordana (SSDS '20); to her loving grandparents Linda (former SSDS teacher) and Leslie Epstein and Bev and Sam Weisenberg; to her proud aunts and uncles, Jodi and Aaron (SSDS '89) Epstein, Naomi (SSDS '98) and Mike Beychok, Mindy and Jeff Sosland and Neal Weisenberg; and to her loving cousins Benny (SSDS '25), Asher (SSDS '28) Epstein and Jakey Beystein, Zachary, Kate, and Henry Sosland.

Upcoming Events

A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT WITH

David Duani Kotler

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IN THE
GAZA ENVELOPE AND SURVIVOR OF
THE OCTOBER 7TH ATTACK ON
KIBBUTZ KFAR AZA



Tuesday, May 28
7:00 - 8:00 PM

This program will be held at the Northbrook Campus

On the morning of October 7th, David, his wife Yarden, and their four children were in their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza while terrorists infiltrated their kibbutz. When they emerged from their shelter after 20 hours, they discovered that all of their extended family had survived, however close friends had been killed, students and staff from David's school — Nofei Basor High School, where he served as principal — had been killed, and a number of close friends and their children had been taken hostage. As principal, David spent the first three months after October 7th attending all of the funerals and developing an emergency educational program for all of his students.

David and his family are visiting the Chicago area for a brief respite. He will be sharing his family's story and describing the three critical elements of the educational emergency program that he developed for the students.

Registration is required to attend this free event. Donations help to defray costs.

**Register
Now**

SAVE THE DATE

SCHECHTER



22nd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Rolling Green Country Club | Arlington Heights

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