

PHDS/NEAT NEWS

Providence Hebrew Day School/New England Academy of Torah

Dress Code Update

Thank you to the many parents who provided feedback via the survey about the recently revised dress code, implemented this year for middle school and scheduled to become schoolwide for Grades 1–8 for the next school year.

The education committee has reviewed the data and after a great deal of discussion has modified the dress code requirements for Grades 1–5.

The goals of the school's dress code include: a uniformity in dress, a style of dress that shows *chashivus* for the learning that is taking place, and ease in enforceability.

This new code, which we believe not only addresses all of these goals, but also takes into account many of the parents' previous concerns, has been approved by the lay leadership and will be implemented for the 2018–2019 school year.

A copy of this new dress code is attached. Any changes are highlighted in yellow. While we recognize that some parents may have already made purchases for next year, the fact that these revisions widen the options rather than limiting them should allow for any already purchased garments to be worn to school.

Although we wish we could have fulfilled everyone's wishes, that just wasn't possible. We do believe that this new code deals with many concerns expressed by parents.

If you have any questions about the new dress code, please feel free to reach out to either of us.

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman
Dean

Mrs. Miriam Esther Weiner
Principal, PHDS

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Inside This Issue:

<i>Shabbos Programming</i>	2
<i>Mishmar!!!</i>	2
<i>Happy Birthday</i>	2
<i>School Choice Rally</i>	2
<i>Classroom Chatter</i>	2-3
<i>From Rabbi Scheinerman</i>	4

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Shifra Bracha Purec on the celebration of her bas mitzvah this Sunday. Mazel tov to her proud parents, Mr. Sruli and Mrs. Tzipora Purec. In addition to being a PHDS parent, Mrs. Purec is a PHDS/NEAT graduate. Mazel tov to the Providence grandparents, Rabbi Avrohom and Mrs. Lynn Jakubowicz.



Give 'n Get

Multiple substitutes needed Monday, January 22, 11:00–1:00 or any portion of that time. If you can help in this way, please contact Mrs. Weiner at ME-Weiner@phdschool.org or 401-331-5327 ext. 18.

Mrs. Saara Moskowitz

Shabbos Programming

This week:

Likras Shabbos is at 3:40.

There is no **Ahavas Yisroel Group**.

Bnos is 2:30–3:30.

There is no **Pirchei**.

Kol Hane'arim is at 6:30 at PHDS.

Thank you to Rabbi Schneur Zalman and Mrs. Devorah Laufer for sponsoring the snacks for Bnos this week.

To sign up to sponsor snacks there is a sign-up chart on the bulletin board outside the school office. You can also contact Mrs. Golden at 421-6996 or goldenshoshana@gmail.com to confirm which week you will be sponsoring the snacks. Please contact Mrs. Golden with any questions.

Mishmar!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you to Mr. Sruli and Mrs. Tzipora Purec for sponsoring the snacks for Mishmar this week. Sponsorship of refreshments for future weeks is available. Please contact Mrs. Karp at (401) 831-3215 to arrange a sponsorship.

Happy Birthday

Happy *Shevat* birthday to Atara Bielory, Levi Yehuda Golden, Aryeh Menchel, Eliyahu Minkin, Tehilla Esther Minkin, Aron Dovid Twersky, and Shoshana Raizel Yudkowsky.

School Choice Rally

The school's ability to provide financial aid is very much contingent on the funding of the State of Rhode Island's scholarship tax credit law. We have been fortunate that to date, our school has received a portion of these credits on an annual basis. However, our success has been contingent on success in a lottery system, as the available tax credits have been oversubscribed. Each year we join together with other schools to rally for an increase in the cap, which at this point is \$1.5 million dollars to support all the private schools in the state. In order for funds to become guaranteed and to allow all applications to be accepted annually we need to lobby for the cap to be raised. **On Wednesday January 24, at 6:00 p.m., we will be hosting a special speaker here at the school in honor of School Choice week (see enclosed flyer). It is crucial that we have a large showing for the following reasons:**

- School Choice is vital for the funding of private schools, especially for those with large families.
- We are the host school of the event this year and our support of the event must be felt and counted.
- We must show thanks to the State for our success to date and also let the media and others that are attending know that we are joining in the campaign to Raise the Cap!
- Support the PHDS band performing at the event!

We look forward to seeing you at the event!

Classroom Chatter

- Pre-K is very interested in learning about the *makkos*. Both classes have done several projects, which included two different versions of the *makkah of dam*, blood, and *tzefardei'a*, frogs. For this and next week's *parshios*, we made a giant *Paro* surrounded by pictures of all the *makkos*. For some fun in the classroom, we made water that mysteriously turned into blood when a "Mitzri" tried to drink it.
- Winter is here and Pre-K is busy making snowflakes, snowmen, and reading stories about winter. They are learning to count backward as they recite *Five Little Snowmen*.
- Kindergarten talks about their *middos* program, "Menchlich Friendship" almost every day. Recent topics

- were the domino effect (happiness, compliments, and smiles are contagious), empathy (trying to figure out what others are feeling), and giving compliments. We are learning to stretch our hearts so we can be better friends.
- Kindergarten is learning about Turtles for the letter T. Did you know there are seven different kinds of sea turtles and they are all endangered? We read a very sweet book about sea turtles and learned about ways we can help sea turtles survive.
 - The first graders are very excited because they started *millim* and *chavairi* this week.
 - Grade 3 began a new unit in Reading. The theme is “Getting The Job Done.” Students are exploring the idea of how we can learn from everything that we do. Skills include organization of the text and summarizing literature. We continue with multiplication skills as well as problem solving. It was exciting to incorporate our Animal unit, which is our focus in Science, with our Writers Workshop. The students investigated the Arctic Polar Bear and proceeded to summarize an article that we read as a group. Their summaries and illustrations are hung in our classroom to be shared with their peers. A beautiful job was done by all!
 - Mazel tov to the fifth grade on their completion of *Parshas Beshalach*! They celebrated on Monday with a *siyum* at which the students delivered beautiful *divrei Torah*.
 - This week, Rabbi Weissmann’s Gemora class learned how to spell the word “bequeath” and learned that steel wool grows from iron sheep. Ask them for details!
 - The sixth-grade girls have finished *Parshas Terumah* and are preparing for a comprehensive test followed by a celebratory *siyum*.
 - The seventh- and eighth-grade girls have created a before, during, and after bulletin board about the *inyan* of Nazir, complete with appropriate length hair.
 - Seventh- and eighth-grade girls had an important meeting this week. They all became ministers and “Dovid Hamelech” announced their new positions to ensure a smooth running of the new kingdom. Our newly assigned scribe recorded it all so that all future generations should know this information too.
 - The sixth grade Earth Science students have completed their study of rocks, and will use much of this information as they begin studying the dynamic forces that drive such phenomena as earthquakes and volcanoes. They are also engaged in a long-range weather prediction activity, with most students accurately (and happily), predicting the snow days last week. Many students have been very close to the “record low” temperature predictions over the weekend. I think most people hope that New England will not see the temperatures plunge down that low again!
 - The lab is quite energetic these days, as the seventh- and eighth-grade Physical Science students are increasing their knowledge of many forms of energy, and learning about the Law of Conservation of Energy, as well as learning even more useful math equations. They also continue to investigate various topics with some lively and “elastic” hands-on activities. They saw an informative and, at times, funny roller coaster video, which featured many of the things they have learned about in the past four months.
 - In sixth grade Social Studies we have been studying the very important presidency of our first president, George Washington. After that we will move on to a number of interesting and exciting topics such as the Louisiana Purchase. We hope to be able to do another project like our past Revolutionary War one in the near future.
 - In seventh- and eighth-grade Social Studies we have concluded our study of the creation and content of the Constitution. This week we have begun our study of the Bill of Rights and will then be moving on to study other important amendments to the Constitution.
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From the Desk of Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman

Dear Parents,

Parshas Va'eira is a testimony to the famous adage of “*Hakina hataava vehakovod motziin es ho'odom min ho'olom* – jealousy, lust, and honor can remove a person from this world.” This week’s *parshah* relates the plague of frogs that affected all of Mitzrayim. Moshe asks Pharaoh when to get rid of the frogs: “You tell me the time and I will make sure they are gone.” The *Oznayim LaTorah* explains that although Pharaoh’s entire nation was suffering, he asks for them to be removed the following day instead of immediately. His reasoning was to try to amass a marketing campaign letting

every Egyptian know that the following day **HE** would get rid of the frogs in his quest for honor. *A little bit of honor can remove one from the world!*

This past Shabbos we celebrated the bar mitzvah of Ezra Nechemiah Weiner, who was born to a family whose actions are worthy of honor but whose desire to stay out of the limelight preclude them from seeking honor. Mrs. Weiner, our *menaheles*, aside from educating our students and organizing the entire school program, is involved in many other aspects of *chessed* and our community’s growth, together with her husband. Mazel Tov to your family and to Ezra; may we all share many *simchos* in the future.

Parenting Part 2 – A continuation of the article on the work of Adina Soclof, a noted parenting expert, on the topic of getting your children to tap into their strengths and smarts.

In order to help children appreciate their strengths parents may need to broaden their vocabulary and understanding of what constitutes a strength. For example, there are nine different categories of intelligence. These intelligences can assist parents to identify and find activities that enhance their children’s strengths.

Intelligence Area	Represented in society by:
Visual/Spatial	Artist, Navigator, Architect: You prefer using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.
Verbal/Linguistic	Journalist, Teacher, Lawyer: You prefer using words, both in speech and writing.
Logical/Mathematical	Accountants, Computers, Engineers: You prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.
Interpersonal	Salesperson, Mental Health, Politician: You prefer to learn in groups or with other people.
Intrapersonal	Researcher, Novelist, Entrepreneur: You prefer to work alone and use self-study.
Aural/Musical/Rhythmic	Musician, Composer, DJ: You prefer using sound and music.
Naturalist	Farmer, Botanist, Environmentalist: You prefer working outdoors with animals and plants.
Existential	Philosopher, Theorist: You prefer dealing with abstract theories.
Bodily/Kinesthetic	Athlete, Firefighter, Actor: You prefer using your body, hands, and sense of touch.

Good Shabbos, *Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman*, Dean