

MTI GOES LONG-DISTANCE DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



In consultation with rabbinic advisors and medical experts, MTI sadly closed its campus for in-school learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite all, and perhaps because of it, they remain strongly committed to maintaining student learning and upholding the power of Torah which the world so sorely needs. Additionally, MTI continues to provide the learning opportunities, connections, and relationships that make MTI such a special yeshiva.

An important orientation was held for the high

school on the students' last day on campus to help them transition to a mandatory distance-learning program, in which classes are held via Zoom meetings and conference calls. To date, the shiurim, secular classes and even voluntary additional shiurim have been productive and well "attended".

Bais medrash talmidim have stepped up to the plate unbelievably. Across time zones and across the country, daily shiurim and all regular learning sessions are being maintained by the dedicated rebbeim

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MTI TALMIDIM ATTEND NATIONAL 13th SIYUM HASHAS



One of MTI's foremost priorities is to instill in its talmidim a love and appreciation for limud haTorah. This year, the 13th Siyum Hashas presented a unique opportunity to impress this vital message in an unforgettable way. "There were two factors that weighed into our decision to try to encourage and facilitate the participation of as many talmidim as we could," says Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Shmuel

Wasser. "First of all, it was a tremendous display of kavod haTorah. It was a celebration of learning Torah, and we felt that it would make a life-changing impression on our talmidim. It was a spectacular display of the centrality of the Torah to Klal Yisrael.

"Second was the fact that, while St. Louis has a wonderful and beautiful Torah community, being out of town you tend not to realize



from here just how big Klal Yisrael is, and what you're a part of. By attending an event with 90,000 people, you get a much greater appreciation for the scope and beauty of Klal Yisrael."

The yeshiva acquired 100 tickets to the siyum and made them available to talmidim, parents and alumni. Several delegations of talmidim made the trip: Rabbi Wasser led a group from

cont. on page 6

LARGE GROUP OF
PROSPECTIVE
STUDENTS ATTENDS
MTI SHABBATON

PAGE 7





SPOTLIGHT ON GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY



Rabbi Shimshon Gewirtz teaches 9th grade Iyun and is the General Studies Principal. He is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago's School of Education and has been with MTI since 2013. He loves to see how much the boys grow during their years in MTI and is honored to be a part of this process.



Mr. Erik Corley has been teaching math at MTI for ten years. He has a bachelor's degree from Truman State University in history, a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University, and a degree in Applied Behavioral Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology. He most enjoys helping students learn to become problem-solvers, using the skills they gain in math to figure out puzzles in other aspects of life.



Mr. William Doolin teaches world history and U.S. history. He also teaches middle school social studies at Torah Prep School. Mr. Doolin has taught in public and private schools in the St. Louis area in addition to spending time in South Korea teaching English. He is passionate about history and learning, and he loves to read in his free time.



Mr. Wayne Dugge teaches biology, anatomy, and chemistry at MTI. He has a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Augustana College, a master's in biology and secondary education from SIU Edwardsville, and 45 years of teaching experience. Outside the classroom he enjoys traveling.



Mr. Timothy Gartin teaches English, government, and personal finance. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in business from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, he worked as an accountant for over two decades before turning to teaching. He appreciates the opportunity to teach his students not only concepts, but valuable life-skills.



Mr. Bruce Green teaches English I-III and PUSH. He has a master's in English literature from the University of New Orleans and will attend medical school at Midwestern University in Glendale, AZ in the fall. When not teaching, he enjoys board games and baking. He appreciates the small class sizes at MTI and the culture that encourages questions, fostering true understanding.



Mr. Branson Lawrence teaches algebra, computer science, engineering, physics, and chemistry. He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in physics education, and he worked as a teacher and principal for over 30 years at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. He enjoys teaching at MTI because of the supportive atmosphere and the faculty's ability and desire to adapt to individual student needs.



Mr. Joshua Winstral teaches Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Precalculus. He graduated from Colgate University and worked on Wall Street for many years before becoming a teacher. Outside the classroom, he enjoys playing guitar, cooking, and spending time with his family. He loves interacting with the students of MTI as he finds them driven and motivated to succeed.

MAX בְּעִנְטָשׁ BRACHA ACHRONA INITIATIVE

If you enter the MTI dining room at the end of a meal, you may notice a flurry of index cards suddenly materializing from the pants pockets of the students. What are these mysterious cards? They're part of the newest student-driven initiative to strengthen brachos at MTI.

When bais medrash bachur Shmuel Kosofsky sought to help himself remember to say brachos achronos, he decided to start a yeshiva-wide program. "It's a mitzvah that people don't always remember to do, not because it's hard, but just because it's something they don't always remember."

Enter MAX בְּעִנְטָשׁ. With the help of Avrohom Yosef Staum, Shmuel created and distributed charts with a week's worth of meals for boys to record when they said their bracha achrona. After each week, everyone who successfully participated is eligible to attend a get-together with chizuk and refreshments. At the end of the month, all the boys who have filled out their bracha achrona cards for four straight weeks celebrate at a big bash, complete with wontons and chicken poppers. The talmidim are very excited about the program and it has really made a big difference in helping to create a focus on the importance of thanking Hashem properly after we eat. The program is sponsored lezecher nishmas R' Shlomo Schlesinger, R' Shlomo ben Dovid, A"H.



ONCE AGAIN CHARLIE HARARY ENTERTAINS & INSPIRES

Motivational speaker Charlie Harary inspired a rapt audience of MTI talmidim and St. Louis community members with his signature wisdom and wit.

Mr. Harary addressed an audience of more than 300 representing the full diversity of the community on the relevant topic of "The Eyes of Greatness - How to See the Invisible". With his trademark passion and humor, Mr. Harary expounded on how man is created with far more greatness than we can fathom. When we open ourselves up to new vistas and possibilities, what we can accomplish is totally unimaginable.

Everyone who heard Charlie Harary speak came away uplifted and motivated to grow and strive to better fulfill their potential. The crowd was energized and uplifted because of the positive and inspirational message he shared. A recording of the lecture is available on our website, www.missouritorah.org.



Preceding the lecture, the audience enjoyed a performance by the talented MTI choir. For MTI talmidim, a highlight of Mr. Harary's visit was the opportunity to have a Q & A session following the community lecture. He spoke about real growth and the ability we have to always reach higher. He expressed how impressed he is with MTI. "It is a place of greatness where the talmidim are interested in growing and becoming great. You should appreciate that your rebbeim are focused on you and want you to become great".

Mr. Harary, Esq. is the co-founder of H3 & Company, a multi-million dollar venture capital and advisory firm, and a Clinical Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship at the Syms School of Business in Yeshiva University. He is a sought-after motivational speaker on a variety of topics, from Torah and personal growth to business.

Mr. Harary's visit was sponsored by the Fox family to commemorate the fourth yahrtzeit of Greg Fox (Chizkiyahu Moshe Yaakov ben Shlomo), A"H.



WOODWORKING GOES HIGH-TECH WITH NEW CNC-ROUTER ELECTIVE

On Wednesday evenings following night seder, students convene for a woodworking elective, taught by woodworker Mr. Avrohom Zelig Frumhoff. The new elective doesn't just involve hammers and saws. Budding programmers and engineers meticulously plan their designs on a computerized 3-D surface, selecting the depth and precise style, and then the CNC-routing machine carves the design into the wood of students' choice. This popular activity empowers students to enjoy the power and precision of robot-controlled power tools and build valuable STEM skills, all while cultivating their creativity and having fun.





RABBI MEIR SHAFFREN
DEMONSTRATES FINDING
BUGS IN VEGETABLES



BAIS MEDRASH TRIP TO FRENCH CANYON IN
STARVED ROCK STATE PARK



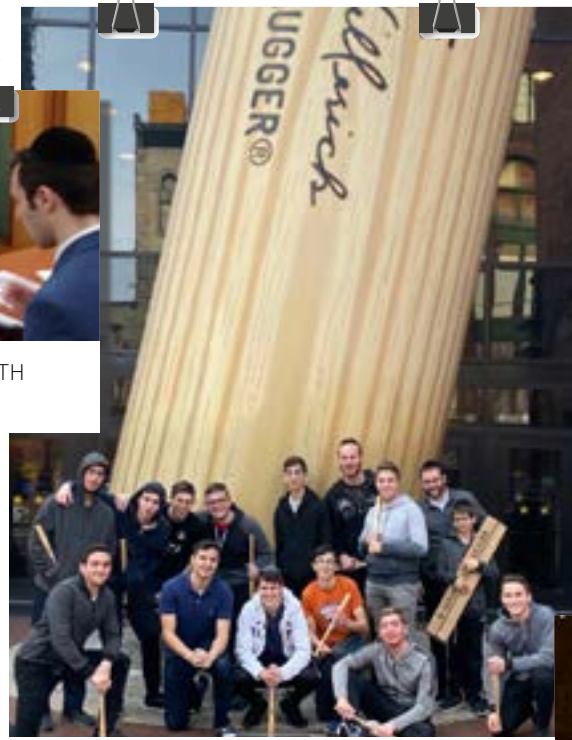
FINISHED PRODUCTS IN ROBOTICS CLASS



ADAR IS WELCOMED AT MTI WITH SIMCHA



MTI BAIS MEDRASH STUDENTS LEARN WITH
CHILDREN IN ATLANTA



12TH GRADE STUDENTS TAKE TRIP TO LOUISVILLE



MAKING TABLE SALT FROM HYDRO-
CHLORIC ACID & BAKING SODA DURING
STOICHIOMETRY LAB



RABBI MENACHEM TENDLER
SPEAKS BEFORE CHANUKAH



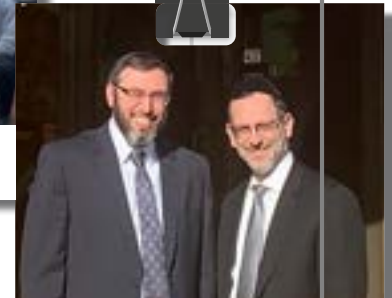
RAFFLE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST



RABBI AVROMI WACHSMAN GIVES
VAAD TO BAIS MEDRASH



RABBI FROMOWITZ INTRODUCES
TALMIDIM TO NEW CYCLE OF
SEFER CHOFETZ CHAIM



RABBI ELI SAMBER, PRINCIPAL
OF ARIE CROWN IN CHICAGO,
VISITS MTI



BAIS MEDRASH SPENDS SHABBOS IN IOWA



ENGINEERING CLASS
CONSTRUCTS BRIDGES



ANNUAL SCHOOL-WIDE TRIP TO HIDDEN VALLEY SKI RESORT



CHANUKAH DANCING IN YESHIVA



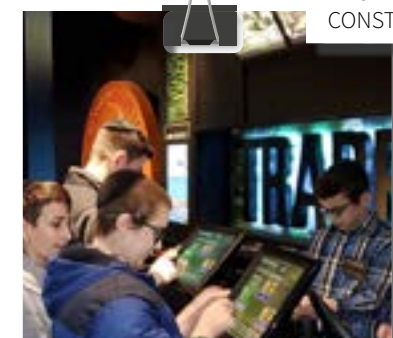
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!



RABBI BENTZION CHAIT
GIVES SHMUESS



MTI STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN
COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



STUDENTS VISIT
FEDERAL RESERVE

cont. from page 1
his 10th and 11th grade shiur, Rabbi Mendy Rosner traveled with the attending 12th graders, and Rabbi Avroham Goldman went with the bais medrash bochurim. In addition, a number of talmidim attended the nearby Chicago Siyum Hashas on Sunday, January 5th, to gain chizuk from the proceedings there.



Rabbi Wasser complemented the impact of the siyum by taking advantage of the trip to show his talmidim some of the Torah centers and gedolim in America. At Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, they heard from Rabbi Wasser’s own Rosh Yeshiva, Harav Akiva Grunblatt, shlit”a; at Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, they met with Roshei Yeshiva Harav Malkiel Kotler, shlit”a, and Harav Dovid Schustal, shlit”a; and at the Philadelphia yeshiva they had the opportunity to hear from Rosh Yeshiva Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlit”a, and his son, Rosh Yeshiva Harav Sholom Kamenetsky, shlit”a.



The boys also visited the Living Torah Museum in Brooklyn, where curator Rabbi Shaul Shimon Deutsch kept the boys spellbound for more than an hour with a fascinating presentation involving real artifacts that literally brought the Gemara alive in a way that is so real and unbelievable. The boys were captivated and really enjoyed having the visuals and being able to see and touch such old and unique objects dating back many centuries to the times of the Mishna and Gemara.



Rabbi Goldman’s group of bais medrash bochurim spent the Monday and Tuesday before the siyum learning in Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens. One talmid found it inspiring “to be in a place where there

were significantly more people doing what we do. The kol Torah was unbelievable.” He also appreciated seeing bnei Torah—some of them MTI alumni—who were “further along in learning, showing us what we can become as we develop and grow more in learning”.



The night before the siyum, MTI held a reunion in Queens for current talmidim, local alumni, and visiting alumni. Attendees caught up with old friends, partook of light refreshments, and danced enthusiastically in celebration of the recent MTI alumni chassanim that were in attendance. Rabbi Goldman and Rabbi Fromowitz shared divrei chizuk and proudly shared that it gave them chizuk to see so many members of the MTI family in one place and connecting as one big family.



The various groups’ journeys culminated at MetLife stadium on January 1st, where over 90,000 yidden from all different walks of life joined to celebrate the Torah that binds us together. The large-scale kiddush Hashem and kavod haTorah profoundly affected everyone there. One talmid recalls what he found most meaningful: “It was amazing to see that there were so many people with the same dedication that we have. Seeing people’s commitment makes you appreciate what you’re doing more.” For him, the highlights of the siyum were hearing over 90,000 people answer “Amein, Yehei Shmei Rabba,” dancing joyously with strangers who were celebrating the very same thing, and taking part in the soul-shaking Kabbalas Ol Malchus Shamayim at the end of the program.



“The boys really were inspired, and they felt the experience was something that would stay with them for a very long time,” Rabbi Wasser reflects. Who knows? Maybe the next siyum, seven and a half years from now, will even see some MTI mesayemim!

EIGHTH-GRADERS EXPERIENCE MTI AT JAM-PACKED SHABBATON

They came from Chicago and Minneapolis. They came from Norfolk and Nashville, from as far as Scottsdale, AZ, and as near as right here in St. Louis. From all over the country, eighth-graders gathered to learn about MTI and experience a Shabbos in the yeshiva. A second guest wing was opened up on campus to accommodate the many attendees.

Over the packed weekend, the boys got to meet their prospective classmates, interact with the current MTI talmidim, and learn from MTI’s beloved roshei yeshiva and rebbeim. In addition, the visitors spent time learning with the bais medrash bochurim who are great mashpiim and role models to learn from.

They took their bechinas and math and English assessment tests and had an interview with the Menahel, Rabbi Menachem Wachsman.

There was a great mix - the eighth graders got a sense of the seriousness of learning and the fun and exciting outlets and trips that are offered in MTI. They saw how it provides a good and healthy balance to grow and thrive. The visitors experienced the learning and the positive culture of MTI, while having an immensely enjoyable time as well.

MTI is looking forward to a great ninth grade class next year!



YOU DID IT! YASHER KOACH TO ALL!

This year’s campaign couldn’t attempt to raise only a million because MTI is always striving to be מעלין בקודש - reaching higher in all that they do!

It was down to the wire, but with Hashem’s help and the assistance of the wonderful friends of the yeshiva, it was a success!

As \$1,003,856 —a product of 1,333 donations—flashed on the big screen, the



talmidim and staff erupted in song and dance, in gratitude to Hashem.

Yasher koach to all of the volunteers and donors for helping MTI go from strength to strength!

Visit missouritorah.org/videos to see some great videos that were created for the campaign, including a student-driven music video “One Million and One”.



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MTI ALUMNI ISRAEL REUNIONS



cont. from page 1

and talmidim via phone calls and Zoom - from early in the morning until late at night.

To protect spiritual safety, the yeshiva implemented a strict and thoughtful protocol to ensure that every student has access to devices on which internet access is safe and properly filtered. Parents were offered several options to fit their needs, including providing students with filtered Chromebooks and paid access to professional and effective filters.



One grateful high school parent commented, "I just wanted to express our gratitude for how quickly the yeshiva has organized the distance learning program. We know everyone involved in the yeshiva puts their heart and soul into providing the boys with an environment they can thrive in. While the current situation is certainly not something that anyone could have planned for, the lessons the boys can learn from how the yeshiva is managing it is something they will take with them forever."

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A similarly appreciative bais medrash parent stated, "We just wanted to thank you so much. Our son is a huge nachas for us, davening early, on time, and learning until late at night. He is also an all-around huge mensch, helpful and sweet. He is a source of great simcha and strength for us in these dark times."

Rabbi Wachsman and Rabbi Gewirtz skillfully led the fantastic team of dedicated rebbeim and teachers in acclimating on very short notice to a new system of learning. The talmidim beautifully transitioned into this new temporary reality.



SAVE THE DATE!

WITH HASHEM'S HELP,
WE HOPE TO CELEBRATE OUR

13th Annual Dinner

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, 2020 AT 5:45 PM

HONORING

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Carol
STAENBERG**

THE RITZ CARLTON HOTEL | ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

TEHILLIM FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The talmidim and staff are learning and davening in the zechus of a שלימה רפואה and speedy recovery for those that are affected by the current situation. To add a name to this tehillim list, please email names to tehillim@missouritorah.org. Wishing all of you a happy and healthy, וחג בשר ושמח!

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