

UPDATE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Celebrating Another Incredible Year!

Our Meorot staff is proud to be completing their exciting and successful second year of teaching Judaic Studies to students with special education needs. Utilizing a comprehensive, individualized and supportive approach, our students have access to an appropriate and inclusive Hebrew Education.

This year our Kindergarten class has been learning to understand basic Hebrew language, learning to read Hebrew sight words, increasing their Hebrew vocabulary, introducing the Alef Bet letters through multi-sensory approaches and learning about the Jewish holidays.

Our Second grade class has advanced to reading and translating short stories in Hebrew, increasing their vocabulary, and Hebrew grammar concepts. Meorot has introduced a weekly Parsha curriculum at this level and the students were prepared to discuss the Parsha, integrating Hebrew words, each week at their Shabbat tables. As appropriate, some students are preparing to successfully

enter full day Jewish educational programs in the future.



At Meorot, we facilitate learning the skills that are necessary for language and reading achievement through the use of multidimensional instruction which simultaneously integrates a variety of methods. Our language immersion format, letter-word acquisition, phonemic awareness, multi modalities and metacognitive strategies are consistently implemented within a cross curriculum framework.

For example, in the Pesach unit our Kindergarten class integrated the learning about the Seder unit together with the acquisition of Hebrew language words to culminate in a

personalized “**Ayfo HaAfikomen**” keepsake book that each child can read and translate. Our Second grade class produced their own Hebrew short story about searching for the Afikoman, while also working on fluency skills through reading and practicing the entire Mah Nishtanah in Hebrew. Additionally, the students learned about Ashkenazi and Sephardi customs and the concept of Kitniyot, using sorting skills, Jewish life experience and their phonetic Hebrew fluency skills. In both classes, all lessons and units culminate in a take home keepsake which acts as a reteach and review text when at home.

Partnering with the families and the larger community, the Meorot staff is honored to be part of such a unique, important and successful educational endeavor for the Jewish children in the community.

To start a discussion, please contact the Program Director at DrGutkind@meorotgn.org

PARENTS' CORNER:

"WHAT MEOROT MEANS TO US"

"Overall, we believe that what Meorot is providing to the Great Neck and surrounding communities not only fills a distinct and vital need, but does so with professionalism, diligence, warmth, and love. Whether you are part of the organization as the parent of a student, as a staff member, as a board member, or as a benefactor, you should wholeheartedly know that you are doing Hashem's work. As its name suggests, Meorot illuminates and brings light to the world by giving yiddishkeit to precious Jewish children who may not have another effective outlet through which to attain it. We are sincerely grateful that such a program started when we really needed it. To know Meorot is to love Meorot."

HAKARAT HATOV

Thank you to our many community volunteers

Meorot prides itself as a grass roots initiative where we welcome the community at large to help establish the program within the network of Yeshivot servicing Great Neck and surrounding communities.

Two favorite sessions for our students is when they invite their families and friends to celebrate with them at the Meorot Chanukah & Purim parties. During those events **Noam Segal** kept the students singing and dancing with his uplifting guitar playing and **Ellen Newman** organized an arts & crafts station to make holiday related gifts such as Mishloach Manot. This year we also introduced a Special Projects segment where **Corinne Franco** led our students in a sensory based *papier mache* art project to make masks for Purim. Also, during the Purim module, Great Neck's **B'nei Akiva shluchof Rivka & Noa** helped create an environment where the students are immersed with native Hebrew speakers.



Our largest community event of the year was the Chanukah Candles campaign. We are very grateful for the efforts of **Vivian Kron, Debbie Spilky and multiple high school girls**. It was such a success that the story was reported in multiple local papers!

Finally, we would like to acknowledge two local shul fund raising initiatives: The **Babylonian Jewish Center Bat Mitzvah Program's** Challah Bake and the **Great Neck Synagogue's upcoming Youth Color Run to honor Rabbi Polakoff**.

Meorot is an innovative Judaic Studies Special Education program, providing elementary aged students with an inspired Modern Orthodox Jewish education.



For more information or to donate, visit us at www.meorotgn.org