



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, Pennsylvania, USA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

As I write this article, we are in the middle of celebrating Chanukah. It would be natural to write something about this joyous festival. However, I would like to reflect on an activity somewhat incidental to the holiday.

I decided to build a Menorah with the students. I did so last year, so this year had to be a little more advanced. (I owe my motivation to Rabbi Rizel who not only wants the best for his students but also has a very good eye when creating projects.) After seeing the project underway, Mrs. Seewald asked me to include additional grades. Now we had all students in grades two and above involved.

I watched the students sand the wood, glue the parts, and then stain the completed menorah. I felt that the students took pride in their menorahs, and that might translate into a more meaningful performance of this special mitzvah. I did not expect to see the enthusiasm I witnessed in the eyes and hands of the students.

There is something special about creating something with your own two hands. It's not just pride in the final product. It's seeing the item come to fruition in steps. It's seeing something come together from disparate parts and pieces to a finished item. It's seeing the handiwork, care, and patience pay off in improved completion.

A school is primarily an academic institution. The teachers hone the students' thinking skills and ignite their passion for learning. And while I don't think that the majority of students are likely to pursue wood-working as a profession, there is much to be gained from exposing students to a wide variety of activities and interests.

1st Grade Siddur Presentation
Tuesday, Dec. 22, 10:15
UHI Auditorium

I have decided to institute an after school woodwork-ing club for grades 3 – 8. If you are interested in having your child join, please email me at rnemetsky@theuhi.org and let me know which day (except Wednesday) is good for you. The cost is \$10.00, which will cover materials and a few basic tools. We will focus on basic skills while building two simple projects. If more than ten students sign up, I will need a parent volunteer to assist.

I wish everyone a very happy Chanukah and Shabbat Shalom.



IBZA PTA

Thank you to all those who helped at the BookFair.



A special thank you to Molly Rutta and her committee for preparing the Chanukah Lunch for our students and staff.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 22 Siddur Presentation Grade 1
- Dec. 24—Jan. 1 Midwinter Break
- Jan. 4 Classes resume.
- Jan. 10 Fast of 10th of Tevet