



MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE
 – ישיבה ומתיבתא ד'מיזורי –



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A Distinguished Visit

MTI was privileged to host Rav Dovid Harris Shlita, Rosh HaYeshiva of Chofetz Chaim in Queens, for an uplifting weekend. The talmidim went to the airport on Friday to greet the Rosh HaYeshiva and show proper kavod haTorah.

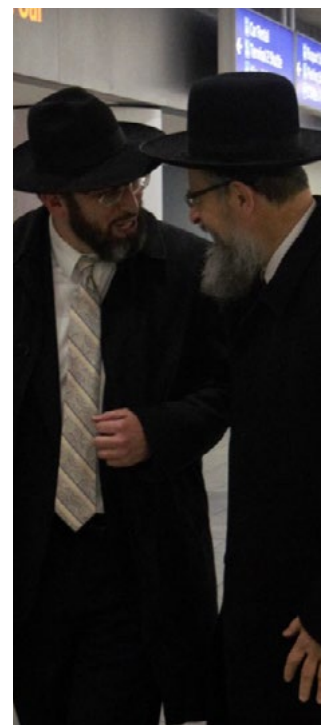
Over Shabbos, the students had the opportunity to hear divrei Torah and ask Rav Harris questions. He also met with the rebbeim individually and then as a group, giving eitza and direction. The Yeshiva prides itself on being shoel eitza and regularly discussing shailos with gedolim so that everything is done with daas Torah.

On motzei Shabbos, the Reiss family hosted a beautiful melave malka for the community in their home, where the large crowd was privileged to hear from the Rosh HaYeshiva about “*Living Life with Simcha*”.

Rav Harris spoke about the need to recognize and appreciate how great every human being is and how great every one of us is as a tzelem Elokim. This perspective will uplift us and provide extraordinary happiness. When we focus on and appreciate what it means for us to do a mitzvah and to learn torah, it fuels us to reach even greater heights. He quoted a medrash that relates that “פקודי ה' ישרים משמחי לב”, “The commandments of Hashem are upright, gladdening the heart”, is referring to Aharon Hakohen, who was sad following the death of his two sons, but became happy once Hashem appeared to him and taught him a new halacha. As explained by Rav Dovid Leibowitz, זצ”ל, the great simcha of learning even one new halacha was able to remove the extreme sadness that Aharon felt. The extraordinary joy that Torah learning brings and the power it has to connect with a human being can totally transform one’s state of mind.

Rav Harris commented that seeing the Yeshiva develop and seeing talmidim that are bnei Torah interested in growing, shteiging and getting closer to Hashem gave him tremendous chizuk and nachas. He expressed that he is very proud that the Yeshiva has a chelek in the aliya ruchnis of the community and that it is inspiring to see the fulfillment of the vision of Rav Henach Leibowitz, זצ”ל, taking shape in St. Louis and across the country.

The whole weekend was a tremendous source of chizuk and inspiration for the Yeshiva and the entire community.



Professional Learning Community

A rebbi or teacher, like any professional, is always engaged in a continuous process of improving and learning. In addition to staying current, educators who are always learning help foster an atmosphere of learning in the school. Although professional development has long been part of the MTI culture, this year we have adopted the collaborative Professional Learning Community model. In this framework, colleagues meet regularly, share expertise, and work collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students.

Rabbi Wachsman, leading the professional learning among our rebbeim this year, has established a student-

centered focus on improving gemara fluency. Many mechanchim have noted recently that fluency – being comfortable and capable with reading the gemara they learn – has become a challenge for some yeshiva students, and it is something we have decided to address as a priority. Rebbeim have researched, shared, and implemented practices focused on fluency, based on current perspectives of thinking and learning.

The general studies faculty has been working on innovative practices – methods, assignments, assessments, or activities that represent a new approach to a part of a teacher’s classroom style. The most important measures of teaching success are the student outcomes we see at the end of the year. Innovative practices are aimed at connecting instruction to better, consistent outcomes, keeping with our motto of *Every Student, Every Year*. Some examples

include self-assessment by students in English class, integrating lectures and labs in science class, and a focus on retrieval practice in math.

Another exciting initiative this year has been the implementation of a weekly mussar chabura among our rebbeim. On Wednesday afternoons, a rebbi presents an original mussar thought to the rest of the hanhala. Our rebbeim work together every day, and this chabura has carved out a new time for our rebbeim to learn together, as well.



Eighth-Graders Flock to Shabbaton at MTI in St. Louis



MTI eighth-grade Shabbaton in Saint Louis for prospective talmidim.

Y. COHEN

MTI, the Mesivta of St. Louis, hosted 35 eighth-grade *bachurim* from St. Louis and across America for their “Shabbos of Distinction,” a weekend for boys to experience firsthand what it means to be an MTI *talmid*.

Boys came from a number of cities around the country, including Pittsburgh, Denver, Chicago, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston and Atlanta.

Along with a Shabbos filled with *ruach* and great food, highlights of the weekend included a science lab activity on Thursday and exciting trips on Friday and Motzoei Shabbos.

At the *melaveh malkah*, the boys got to hear from the MTI band. The yeshiva administered *fahrsers* and assessment tests to prospective *talmidim* on Friday and Sunday.

Participants attended *shiurim*, got to

meet current *talmidim* and had a glimpse of life in MTI and the approach to *chinuch* the yeshiva is known for.

One guest commented that the atmosphere “makes me want to work hard and also have fun.”

“In such a short time, the boys really made nice connections with one another,” says *Rosh Yeshivah*, Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. “They got the chance to see how warm the MTI *talmidim* are, the school’s incredible happy and positive environment, and enjoy a most uplifting, spirited Shabbos with the *hanhalah* and *Rebbeim*.”

One participant commented, “I would like to attend MTI because I want to be in a 24-hour Torah environment, where I can learn and grow from people around me.”

For more information about the yeshiva, please call the office at 636-778-1896 x 101, or email admissions@missouritorah.org.

The World was Created to do Acts of Kindness for Others | עולם חסד יבנה

At MTI, our curriculum includes much more than books and classes. Chessed and community involvement are important aspects of life that our talmidim are encouraged to internalize through varied experiences.

Over the course of the last few months, groups of our talmidim participated in different activities to heighten their awareness of the need to give to others.

On a weekly basis, the Yeshiva hosts a community “big brother” program for grade school children coming from backgrounds of varying religious observance.

In December, a number of our talmidim spent many hours helping Kulanu Yachad, a local kiruv organization with some of the technical details involved in a major Shabbos seminar.

In January, 15 students went to donate blood as part of a community blood drive.

Our talented MTI student band entertained the residents at one of the local nursing homes. Their performance was really appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended.

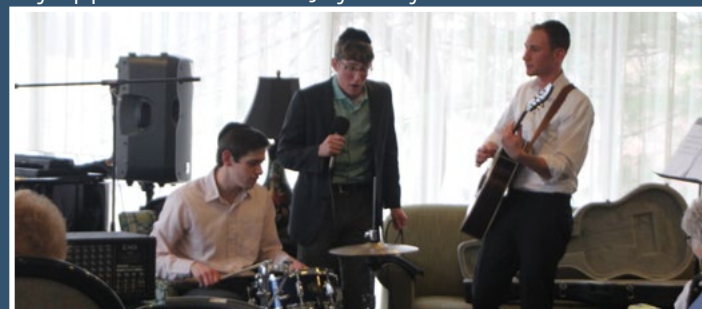
Our boys delivered a special thank you card (and some doughnuts!) to our local police department as part of our recognition of their hard work on our behalf.

We are so excited to offer our students these extra-curricular opportunities which add so much to the big picture of *chinuch* at MTI.

We are so proud of our talmidim!



Big Brother Program



Students perform Chanukah concert for Brentmoor residents



Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



MTI students participating in Blood Drive



Student Makerspace



Elchonon Manne playing the grand piano recently donated by the Baron family



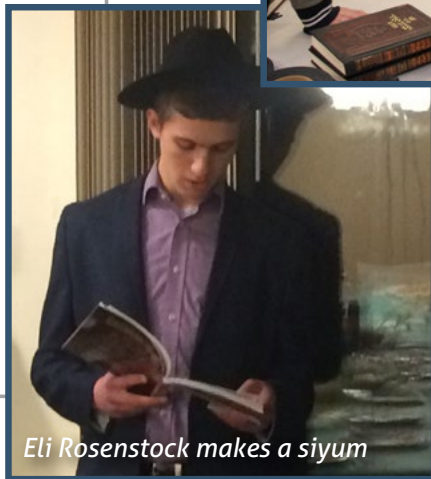
Binding Class



Archery Elective



MTI Students Publish Purim Kuntrus



Eli Rosenstock makes a siyum



Ice Skating Trip



Varsity Basketball Championship Winners



Anatomy Class



Loc Nguyen speaks to students in conjunction with a unit on the Vietnam War



Tzitzis Making



St. Louis Holocaust Museum Visit



Annual Ski Trip



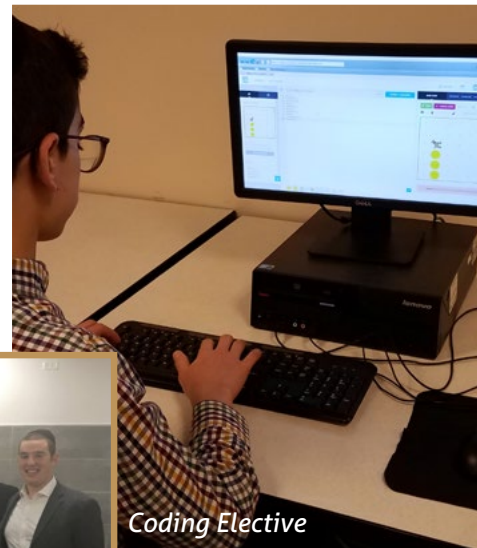
Motzei Shabbos Football



Last day of the zman - 150 Blatt Bais Medrash Cumulative Chazara



Alumni Get-together in Eretz Yisroel



Coding Elective



Rabbi Aaron Winter

Rabbi Shaya Cohen

Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt

Rabbi Herschel Schachter

Mr. Howard Tzvi Friedman

Rabbi Naftoli Elzaz

Rabbi Moshe Kamin

Rabbi Aaron Kotler

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn

Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

Rabbi Bentzion Chait

Rabbi AD Motzen

Rabbi Yirmiyahu Ornstein



You Did It!
 Thank you for your participation in Charidy!
 Because of YOU, we reached our goal of
\$500,000
BUILDING TORAH SCHOLARS.
BUILDING TORAH SCHOLARSHIP.



Eitan Katz



Rabbi Zecharia Wallerstein



Greg Fox, a"h

A Community

EVENING OF INSPIRATION

The second yahrtzeit of Chizkiyahu Moshe Yaakov Ben Shlomo, Greg Fox, A"H, was commemorated by the yeshiva on Wednesday evening Feb 21st.

Prior to the event, we conducted a special all-or-nothing 30-hour \$500,000 campaign themed "Building Torah Scholars. Building Torah Scholarship". Significant donations were gifted in Greg's memory, setting the tone for the evening ahead. With more than 800 participating donors, the goal was met amidst cheers from the talmidim who worked so hard to help their Yeshiva fill the Scholarship Fund.

The evening began with concurrent learning sessions with participating students from throughout the community who spent an hour of intense learning together in our Bais Medrash. Over the course of the hour, Maseches Megilla was divided up and learned, culminating in a grand siyum on the gemara.

Concurrently, many members of the community gathered in our auditorium for an inspirational lecture from Rabbi Zecharia Wallerstein. Rabbi Wallerstein shared a powerful message regarding the importance of Purim and how it highlights an incredible aspect of our relationship with Hashem.

Following the learning sessions, Rabbi Shmuel Wasser spoke about Greg's legacy. He was a person who displayed beautiful middos and was a great, non-judgemental friend who did all he could to help others shoulder their challenges and burdens.

The attendees were then treated to a moving concert and kumtitz with Eitan Katz. The spirited dancing and ruach was so beautiful and special. The warmth and energy that permeated the room continues to resonate throughout the yeshiva!

May all the learning, inspiration, and achdus be a zechus for the neshama of Greg Fox, A"H.



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Classroom Mezuzah

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MR. & MRS. JEFF & MARGIE WEISMAN
Conference Room

In Loving Memory of Paul & Audrey Weisman, A"H

SAVE THE DATE

Missouri Torah Institute
 ELEVENTH
 Annual Dinner

JUNE 10, 2018.