

# THE MTI TIMES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 • חשוון/כסלו תשע"ה

## FOCUS ON CHESED



This year at MTI, we have initiated a school-wide initiative focusing on the Middah of Chesed and Ahavas Yisroel, as a zechus for Chizkiyahu Moshe Yaakov ben Mariyosa. It has been heartwarming to see so many of our talmidim take from their own

time to participate in the short shiur in Sefer Ahavas Chesed which takes place daily after davening. Each week, 15 of our Beis Medrash talmidim conduct a "Big Brother" program in partnership with Aish HaTorah; a program which has doubled since its inception. We are working as well to schedule weekly Chesed trips. A Chesed "story of the day" is posted daily on our bulletin board. These programs are part of our mission of instilling the critical sensitivities within our talmidim towards Chesed and feeling for another Jew. It is our hope that they absorb these all-important concepts as they learn that they are part of a much larger "family".

## FALL UNITY TRIP



Earlier in the fall, the entire Yeshiva along with the Rebbeim and staff enjoyed a wonderful afternoon retreat to Castlewood State Park. The slight drizzle that was falling throughout the day didn't stop the new bachurim from experiencing a day filled

with unity and achdus along with the rest of the Yeshiva. Many of the boys had the opportunity to view the beautiful scenery as they hiked through the beautiful trails, while others participated in friendly and competitive football, baseball and volleyball games. The trip culminated with a delicious BBQ, prepared by our chef Elchanan Batat, along with singing and dancing. B'H the MTI family is continuing to grow together!



## 2014 ISRAEL RAFFLE CAMPAIGN

Our 8th Annual Israel Raffle Campaign has gotten off to a great start and we are excited by the tremendous response we've gotten so far! This campaign is vital to the Yeshiva's mission and serves as a springboard to many of its efforts in raising the much needed scholarship funds.



The grand prize drawing will take place on **Motzoei Shabbos, December 27<sup>th</sup>!**

- To purchase tickets, you can:
1. Fill out and return the stubs on the raffle tickets you received in the mail
  2. Visit [www.missouritorah.org](http://www.missouritorah.org)
  3. Email [raffle@missouritorah.org](mailto:raffle@missouritorah.org)
  4. Call 314-594-0462 x 10

Thank you again to last year's participants, including our donors, sellers and volunteers. Because of you we raised almost **\$50,000!**

## BIG BROTHER PROGRAM BACK FOR ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR

Now in its 4th year, the MTI Big Brother Program continues and is off to a great start! Each Beis Medrash Bochur is paired with one or two high school students and learns with them every night for forty five minutes. This unique arrangement serves many benefits, including but not limited to: assisting the high school boys with their Judaic studies, positively mentoring the high school boys, providing relationships that can help the high school boys navigate the sometimes challenging aspects



of high school life, and creating bonds that will hopefully last beyond MTI. We are fortunate to have a group of superb Beis Medrash Bochurim who so graciously give up time from their full schedules to learn and spend time with their high school pairs. Thank you!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MENAHEL



**"T**orah Tziva Lanu Moshe Morasha Kehilas Yaakov"

The Gemara in Sanhedrin (91b) states "One who withholds a halacha from his student, it is as if he stole from the inheritance of his ancestors. The Gemara then darshens this from our pasuk as it says "morasha" it is an inheritance for all of Klal Yisrael from the time of creation."

Simply this Gemara is telling us that Hashem gave the Torah to every member of Klal Yisrael, and therefore if a Rebbe purposely withholds a portion of Torah from his student who desires it, it is as if he is taking something which is rightfully the talmid's.

The Maharsha explains that the Gemara does not only refer to this past scenario, rather it even applies when a Rebbe would like his student to learn this piece of Torah. In fact the Maharsha says that even if the Rebbe tried to teach the Torah to the student, but the student had a difficult time grasping the material, the concept of the Gemara would still apply. He says if there is a student who has as much trouble as the student of Rav Prayda, who needed to be taught each lesson 400 different times, if the Rebbe does not reach him it is considered as if he has stolen his rightful inheritance.

The reason this is true is that every Jewish person has the ability to learn Torah. In fact everyone has their own "chailek" in Torah, as we ask Hashem in davening, "V'sain chelkeinu b'sorasecha". This chailek is unique to him; it is his special way of understanding the Torah and his special way of connecting to the Torah, and this is his birthright endowed to him by HaShem. Therefore every child is entitled to have a Rebbe that has the patience and wisdom to teach him the Torah in a way that he can understand and internalize it.

This is our mission at MTI. Students are placed in classes based on their learning styles, not merely by their grade level. Our staff is dedicated to educating each of our boys in the fashion that is suited to them, while at the same time lovingly and passionately reaching out to inspire each of their hearts and minds.

May we be Zoche to see the day when we see the fulfillment of the Pasuk, "Vechol Bonayich Limudei HaShem".

**Rabbi Dovid Goldman**

Menahele

## AN EXCITING BEGINNING



**W**ith each new school year at Missouri Torah Institute, we experience a mixture of feelings. We are excited, as we appreciate the opportunity we have to play such an important role in the development and growth of budding Bnei Torah. At Yeshiva, this opportunity translates into a staff which is completely devoted to the individual. Our Rebbeim work hard, encouraging each

talmid to appreciate and recognize his greatness and potential and to grow within the context of his unique personality, maximizing his strengths. Chazal tell us that the identifying trait of leadership, as expressed by Hakadosh Baruch Hu to Moshe Rabeinu, is "Ish Asher Ruach Bo." Rashi explains this as a reference to a leader who has the ability to relate to the individual characteristics of each person. At MTI, this trait so aptly defines our staff.

At the same time, we feel an awesome responsibility for the seventy talmidim who are entrusted to us. We do our utmost to help each talmid to maximize his potential for growth. Indeed, Chazal say that one of the reasons a Rebbe cannot be paid directly for his teaching is simply because the job has no limits. If one were to agree to be paid for such a "job", there would be no possibility of vacation or personal time off. Such is the awesomeness of responsibility to teach Torah!

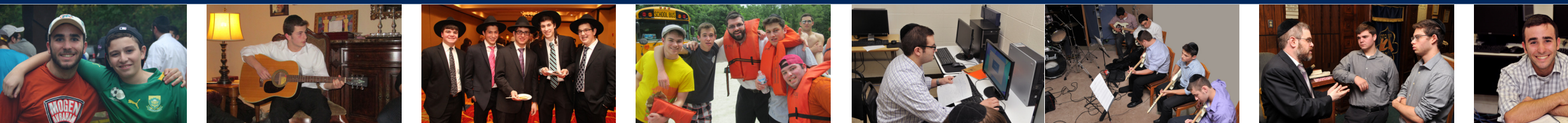
With HaShem's help, this excitement and sense of responsibility will continue to inspire us to help our Talmidim to shine brightly with the light of Torah and Derech Eretz, so we can all merit to see these young, developing individuals grow to become the leaders of the next generation.

**Rabbi Shmuel Wasser**

Rosh Yeshiva

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GENERAL STUDIES UPDATE



In the general studies department at MTI, students learn the skills they need to be successful in life after high school. In today's world, these skills are more critical than ever, and we work to ensure that our students are college and career ready when they complete our program. In particular, we focus on the science and math skills that students will need in the booming areas of technology and engineering, and the communication skills they will need to work and lead in the age of information.

In our effort to properly focus the program on the skills students need, we have instituted a battery of testing based on the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards to gauge students' progress towards acquisition of these 21st century skills. The tests are provided by Cambridge Educational Services, who then gives us analytics and data that we can use to guide our curriculum development and to focus our students' ACT test preparation.

This year, the department features some new faces as well as some familiar ones who have been with us for a long time. Mr. Wade Newbrough, recently back from teaching in Asia, is our new social studies teacher. Dr. Tzvi Tannenbaum is a history scholar and has joined our faculty teaching Jewish history to our 12th grade students. We also have an all new science staff, with Mr. Greg Kramer – the talented glass blower from the City Museum – and the experienced and successful Dr. Steven Cranston working with students on increasingly rigorous, real-life, hands-on science lessons. Mr. David Jennings teaches English, having joined us last year. Mr. Charles Weede (math,) Mr. Erik Corley (math,) and Mr. Ralph Wirtel (English) have all been with us for several years, and their familiar faces add continuity to help ensure steady growth for the program.

On Tuesdays, students participate in our popular Electives program, which gives them the opportunity to learn and experience in areas outside the core curriculum. Adam Beck, from the Dave Simon School of Music, leads the exciting and noisy Band class, and by the end of the semester they sound really nice! Tony Biere is back teaching Art and Design, where students are learning about perspective and vanishing points while sketching cityscapes. Soon, they will move on to oil paints, and then to sculpture and relief. By popular demand, we have brought back the Athletics class. New this year is our Journalism and Writing club, which allows students to write creatively and publish their work.

Come stop by any day after Mincha and see how well our students are doing. In addition to its staff, any program is only as good as its students, and ours are hard-working, positive, and constantly growing – simply the best!

**Rabbi Shimshon Gewirtz**  
General Studies Principal



Meet Our 9th Graders



**Name: Noach Bienstock**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Chesterfield, MO  
**Enjoys:** hiking, playing and following sports,

playing video games, knitting  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** The shiurim are hard and challenging, the rebbeim are caring, warm, and great to talk to, the guys are nice and fun, and I have the best night Seder chavrusa : Aharon Ettedgui!



**Name: Yoel Druxman**  
**From:** Chesterfield, MO  
**Grade: 9**  
**Enjoys:** computers, playing sports, animals

**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** the shiurim are challenging, the classes are interesting, and there are exciting trips.

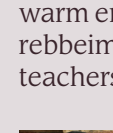


**Name: Shlomo Garfunkel**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Savannah, GA  
**Enjoys:** sports, baking,  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...**

of the school trips a few times a week.



**Name: Josh Margulies**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Cleveland, OH  
**Enjoys:** playing squash, snowboarding, sailing and skiing  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** of the warm environment, very nice rebbeim, great guys, and good teachers.



**Name: Ben Meyers**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Cincinnati, OH  
**Enjoys:** Art, basketball, football, soccer,

swimming, building models, learning gemara, rock climbing, following the Lakers and the Reds  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** it's a caring special place. Many of the guys are friends regardless of their ages. Also, the classes are challenging.



**Name: Aryeh Roberts**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Cleveland, OH  
**Enjoys:** playing sports, following sports, being active  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** of the spirited environment, serious learning, and good Torah and secular studies.



**Name: Yonah Rosenzweig**  
**From:** Rochester, NY  
**Grade: 9**  
**Enjoys:** reading, following sports

**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** we learn a lot and have a lot of fun. Now I know what my brothers loved so much!



**Name: Yitzchok Shapiro**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Monsey, NY  
**Enjoys:** basketball, football  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...**

rebbeim have good relationships with the boys. I find it easier to learn in a supportive place.



**Name: Eitan Shwartzman**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Enjoys:** soccer, art

**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** the dorm is fun, the classes are serious, and we learn a lot. The guys want to learn, but are not pressured to learn.



**Name: Paysach Gedaliah Slater**  
**Grade: 9**  
**From:** Silver Spring, MD  
**Enjoys:** Art, handy work,

following the Nationals, playing music  
**I LOVE MTI BECAUSE...** I have gotten off to a good start, and I like that there are great bais medrash guys who care about you and check on you, as well as good rebbeim.

