



RETZIFUS PROGRAM ELEVATES LEARNING TO NEW LEVELS

והגית בו
ימים וסליפה

The talmidim at the yeshiva always strive to reach new heights in their learning. This zman, 11th grade rebbe Rabbi Moshe Chaim Biron instituted a new program to help them grow in their hasmadah through learning b'retzifus.

In this voluntary 16-week program, mesivta and bais medrash bochurim honed their ability to study Torah uninterrupted, creating a new beautiful dimension to their learning. Participants adopted a workout model, building their mental learning "muscles" through tri-weekly sessions of rising durations.

Each participant chose one of two tiers: Tier 1 worked towards 60 minutes of retzifus, Tier 2 towards 120. Talmidim celebrated their progress with a small treat at the end of each week, and

larger rewards at significant milestones: Week 5 closed with an outing to Topgolf, Week 10 with a planned excursion to SkyZone, and those who reach their goal will celebrate with a trip to Chicago.

According to Rabbi Biron, talmidim really pushed themselves to succeed. "It brought so much of their potential into reality, with people discovering capabilities they never knew they had." The bochurim confirm this. 12th-grader Roni Staum shares, "Before the program, I never imagined I could actually sit down and learn for 30 minutes straight without the slightest interruption." Another bochur, who called the first session "the hardest 10 minutes of his life," can now readily learn straight for an hour. *cont. on page 4*

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A VISIT FROM "THE MECHANEC'S MECHANEC," RABBI SHAYA COHEN

The yeshiva recently had the privilege of hosting Rabbi Shaya Cohen, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Zichron Aryeh in Bayswater, NY, and a veteran mechanec with nearly six decades of experience.

Rabbi Cohen spent a packed week-end sharing his wisdom with the bnei hayeshiva and the St. Louis community. On Thursday and Friday, Rabbi Cohen gave several inspiring sessions to the talmidim on fundamentals in emuna and bi-



tachon, such as Torah mi'Sinai, nevua, happiness, suffering, and tefila. The talmidim appreciated the opportunity to learn from a great talmid chochom about profoundly relevant areas of Yiddishkeit. Talmid Yosef Kamin reflects: "Rabbi Cohen discussed topics that are unfortunately rarely discussed in such depth, yet extremely important to know, such as how to create a close, true keshar with Hashem and indisputable proofs that Hashem created the world." As *cont. on page 2*

MIDWEST AGUDAH CONVENTION

PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO MEET LEADING RABBANIM & ASKANIM

When a group of bais medrash bochurim traveled to Chicago for the Midwest Agudah Convention, their role was to run groups for elementary-school-aged boys. In addition, they had the special opportunity to meet many gedolim, rabbanim, and askanim. For many bochurim, the highlight of the weekend was an impromptu Friday morning breakfast with Harav Aharon Dovid Goldberg, Rosh Yeshiva of Telshe Cleveland. “We saw him sitting by himself at a table right next to us, so we went over to him,” says

encounters. Avrami identifies one point Harav Goldberg made that will stick with him: “The Rosh Yeshiva told us that tefila is one of the best opportunities to get closer to Hashem and grow in yiras Shamayim.” Avrami adds another takeaway, “All the gedolim stressed the same point: that as bnei Torah, we just have to keep on working on our learning and middos, and the results will come.” Beyond the words of these Torah leaders, the bochurim learned so much just from being in their presence. “It was ‘gedolah shimushah



HaRav Shmuel Fuerst, Dayan of Agudath Israel of Illinois, speaks with talmidim from MTI at the convention

Avrami Barasch. “He gave us almost an hour of his time. We gained so much in hashkafa from hearing the Rosh Yeshiva’s answers to our questions.” The talmidim also had the privilege of speaking to and receiving brachos from Harav Elyah Brudny and Harav Malkiel Kotler. The bochurim gained valuable chizuk and insights from these

yoser milimudah,” remarks talmid Yechiel Goldman. AY Staum muses, “I think the most impactful lesson to me was seeing the patience that the gedolim had for each individual. We were a small group of yeshiva bochurim among a huge number of participants at the convention. Giving of their time so generously was a great limud in derech eretz.”

cont. from page 1 talmid Eli Cunningham put it, “Rabbi Cohen’s presentation explored the broader context of Yiddishkeit with clarity and breathtaking passion.” Rabbi Cohen gave the talmidim time to ask any questions that were on their mind. He also met with the rebbeim, each grade, and individual talmidim, and he spent Shabbos with the yeshiva. Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, Rosh Yeshiva, introduced Rabbi Cohen to



the hanhala as “a mechanech’s mechanech” due to his decades of experience. But despite his distinguished status, he wasn’t too busy to spend time with the talmidim. Marveled Yosef, “He made sure that he had time for every single bochur who wanted to have a discussion with him. He devoted nearly every moment of his

PIRCHEI CHESTERFIELD:

BAIS MEDRASH BOCHURIM STEP UP

Every other week, the boys of the Chesterfield community look forward to Shabbos with extra excitement. On those Shabbasos, the yeshiva’s bais medrash bochurim run an unmissable Pirchei program, full of Torah, games, candy, and raffles. “The idea is to have a yeshiva presence in the community and give the boys a fun, healthy, structured way to spend a Shabbos afternoon,” explains Akiva Cohen, the bochur overseeing the program.

Every Pirchei week, two bochurim

spend Shabbos in the community and run either an erev Shabbos learning program (dubbed “Licorice Shabbos,” a play on “Likras Shabbos”) or a Friday night oneg, as well as a Shabbos afternoon program for 1st-8th grade boys.



time to us during his Shabbos here.”

Rabbi Cohen’s visit uplifted the entire community. He met with the community’s mechanchim to discuss how to most effectively reach talmidim—a topic on which he gives courses to mechanchim across the country. He also addressed the wives of the yeshiva’s rebbeim with words of inspiration and chizuk regarding their vital supporting role in harbatzas haTorah. On Friday morning, Rabbi Cohen visited both the girls’ and boys’ divisions of Torah Prep Elementary School and spoke to the students.

On Motzei Shabbos, the entire community was invited to Torah Prep Elementary School to hear Rabbi Cohen speak about countering outside influences from within. He shared how we can give



“The kids really love it. They ask me why it’s not every week,” relates Akiva. Counselor Yechiel Goldman reflects, “I wish I had this program when I was growing up.”

The participants are not the only ones who gain from the experience. Yechiel comments, “Coming in as a leader and being welcomed by the community is a very nice thing.” Mr. Yigal Sasportas, who spearheaded the program, agrees: “The opportunity to teach and be mechazek people has a strong impact in the development of the bochurim’s leadership skills.”



our children an excitement for Yiddishkeit, and how we can help them see Hashem in their lives and build a relationship with Him. Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, Menahel of the boys division of Torah Prep effused, “Rabbi Cohen’s passion for teaching and helping our talmidim and talmidos internalize the yesodos of emunah is contagious! His talks to the parents and mechanchim were empowering and instructive, with sound and practical advice.”

The yeshiva and the community appreciated and gained tremendously from Rabbi Cohen’s vast Torah knowledge and chizuk.

Rabbi Cohen’s seminars are available at missouritorah.org/videos.



cont. from page 1

The program taught the talmidim the value of perseverance. “Sometimes I had to learn for a certain amount of time without interruption—and I was just not in the mood,” admits 11th grader Aryeh Lichtenfeld. “It taught me to keep pushing through.” 12th grader Daniel Tropper says

the program encouraged him to push himself to learn on days when he may have otherwise “taken it a little easier.”

Participants discovered the unique momentum and joy that a focused learning session could bring.



“Often when talmidim set out to learn for 25 minutes, it ends up stretching into 70 minutes,” says Rabbi Biron. Daniel feels that his “learning attention span” has improved because of the program. And Aryeh shares, “When I started to understand my learning better, I started to enjoy it more. Now I sometimes find myself learning with a friend in our free time.”

Rabbi Menachem Wachsmen, menahel, reflects on the accomplishments of his talmidim: “By the end of the program, bochurim accomplished what they never thought would be possible, developing the ability and commitment to learn straight without interruption for extended periods of time. Rabbi Biron encouraged the bochurim to keep at it week by week, and, baruch Hashem, a tremendous inner power was realized by everyone who participated.” In Roni’s words, “I pushed myself to do something a little bit out of my comfort zone—and I saw that hard work really pays off. It felt good.”



Participants discovered the unique momentum and joy that a focused learning session could bring.



Photos from retzifus seder, poppers rewards party and a trip to TopGolf



MTI RECEIVES REACCREDITATION!

The Cognia team presented a summary of their exit report and findings to the yeshiva’s leadership team. This three-day review was the culmination of a year of self-reflection and assessment. The review team spoke to students, parents, teachers, and board members – fifty people in all – and reviewed the yeshiva’s self-assessment and evidence.

We are pleased to report that the review team has recommended MTI for continued accreditation!

A special thank you to Rabbi Shimshon Gewirtz for spearheading our accreditation efforts and spending countless hours over the



past year preparing us for the review. The level of professionalism and detail was truly apparent and recognized by the Cognia team members.

The team shared what a pleasure it was to speak to everyone, and in particular, how much they enjoyed their conversations with the parent groups. They were excited to learn about our mission and developed a very positive

impression of our school. The exit report highlighted strengths in the way we share feedback with stakeholders and how we provide equitable opportunities for all students to learn and excel. Four continuous improvement priorities on which to focus were identified and we look forward to continuing to improve and enhance our yeshiva.

Every Friday, the yeshiva’s 9th grade winds down from a busy week of learning with a chance to relax and connect. Together with their rebbe, Rabbi Gershon Rockove, they spend the final 15 minutes of shiur on Friday enjoying kugel and cake that they bake themselves, with a talmid or Rabbi Rockove sharing a mussar-related dvar Torah. “It’s a chance for informal bonding and reflection at the end of the week,” says Rabbi Rockove. “It’s nice for the talmidim to enjoy something their friends made, while also providing a taste of home.” Talmid Daniel Dubovick adds, “Mussar and kugel brings the week of learning to a really nice close. It gives us an opportunity to look back with satisfaction at the week’s efforts and accomplishments.”

“MUSSAR AND KUGEL” ENHANCES 9TH GRADE EREV SHABBOS





Rabbi Avrohom Goldman gives a shmuess to mesivta talmidim



MTI Varsity team wins the championship game!



Bais Medrash chanukah mesiba melava malka at the home of Rabbi Avrohom Goldman



12th grade at the Wachsmans



Pre-purim mesiba



9th grade BBQ with Rabbi Rockove



Mr. Stuart Rosenblum, board member and president of American Mortgage, gives finance presentation



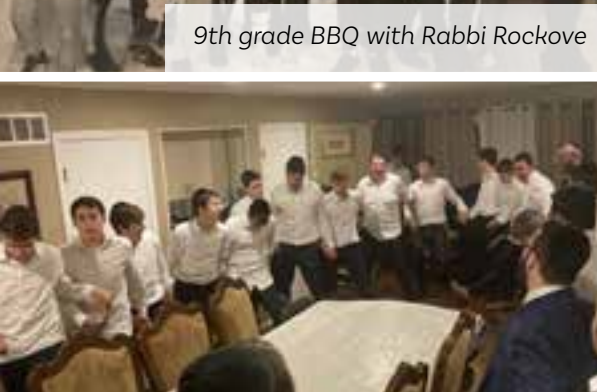
Megillah reading



Charlie Harary speaks in commemoration of the yahrtzeit of Greg Fox a"l



10th grader Joey Sosnick makes a siyum



Bais Medrash melava malka at the home of Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz



Hike at Rockwood Reservation



Bais Medrash visits the Deutsches on purim



Huge igloo construction during one of our snowfalls this winter



Menorah lighting



Ski trip to Hidden Valley



ACT prep course



Wasser family sheva brachos at MTI



Rabbi Avrohom Goldman giving pilpul shiur



Coding Elective



Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz gives vaad to Rabbi Biron's 12th grade bekiyus shiur



Snow day learning program for 4th - 8th grade local boys at MTI



High school weekend trip to Futbol Club



Dancing after Rosh Chodesh breakfast



Raffle appreciation breakfast



Staff building meeting



12th grade students enjoy a Chesterfield Shabbaton at the home of Rabbi Wachsman



Bais Medrash mussar seder



Enjoying the new rec-room



Schoolwide Achdus Trip - Kirkwood Community Center

RABBI YITZCHOK EHRMAN VISITS



Rabbi Yitzchok Ehrman of Agudath Israel was invited to speak to the talmidim about the important work of askanus on behalf of Klal Yisroel. Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, Rosh Yeshiva, introduced Reb Yitzchok, who has assisted the yeshiva as well as many other Mosdos and has had tremendous Siyata Dishmaya in accomplishing so much with his hard work. He wanted the talmidim to hear how they can get involved in shtadlanus and give to the klal.

Rabbi Ehrman shared with them some of what the Agudah does and what he has been involved with as CEO of the Agudath Israel of Illinois for the past 20 years. He encouraged the talmidim that in the future, aside from staying connected to their yeshiva, they should get involved and participate locally wherever they live. Whether it be helping out a shul, yeshiva,

community organization, chesed, or government advocacy, we should think past ourselves and be concerned with others. He then stressed the importance of being selfless, doing things for the right purpose, and always asking Daas Torah.

Following his speech, at the question and answer session, one of the questions asked was, “How does one find time to give to the tzibbur?” He answered that one has to make time for his own ruchniyus, his own learning, and his family. Only then can one properly give to the klal. Once he has that structure in place, he will find the time for community work, no matter how busy he is. When we do what we are supposed to do, we get the proper Siyata Dishmaya in order to be matzliach.

Rabbi Ehrman is now transitioning from his current position at the Midwest Agudah

to becoming the COO of the National Agudah office in New York. When this new opportunity presented itself, he asked his Chicago board what they thought of him moving on. He was so impressed when their response was that if it’s better for Klal Yisroel, then while we will miss you, it’s the proper thing to do and we support you in this big decision. The focus needs to be that whatever is best for Klal Yisroel is what should be done.

Rabbi Ehrman shared some of the success stories of the work that Agudah has done across the country. He impressed upon the talmidim that we must always remember that our job is to do our hishtadlus, and whether it will be successful or not is up to Hashem.

MTI BOCHURIM HOST EXCITING OUTREACH PROGRAMS



JUMP

**JEWISH
UNITY**
Mentoring Program

WHAT?
Boys ages 8-13 have the opportunity to:

- ◆ Increase Jewish knowledge in a friendly and positive atmosphere
- ◆ Pair up with fun, enthusiastic mentors from Missouri Torah Institute

WHERE?
MTI Campus
1809 Clarkson Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

COST?
\$75/child - 15 sessions or \$125/family
Includes all additional trips and events.

WHEN?
Wednesdays
from 6-7pm
Light refreshments served

For more information contact Rabbi Efraim Fromowitz
at 917-587-2425 or efromowitz@gmail.com



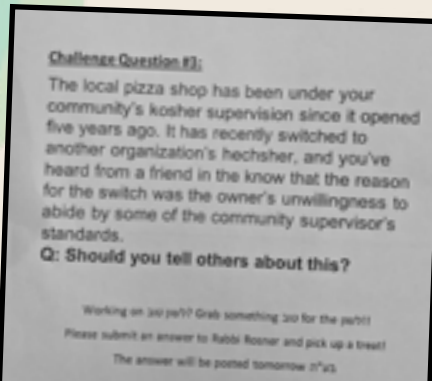
This year, the yeshiva encouraged 8th graders and their parents from around the country to visit for a day to get a feel for life at MTI. They also held a shabbaton for 8th grade boys to experience the MTI ruach. Many of those who visited plan on attending next year, and the yeshiva is looking forward to a great incoming 9th grade class!



During the month of March, MTI joined the greater St. Louis community in participating in Clean Speech, a program spearheaded by Aish St. Louis, promoting focusing on the area of shmiras halashon. Many of the bochurim signed up for

Machsom L’fi, a designated segment of time during which they are extra vigilant to ensure that no lashon hara is spoken.

Additionally, talmidim are challenged with practical real-life shailos posted in yeshiva. The halacha is then put up the next day for the talmidim to see if their thought process on the day before was correct. Be”H, the MTI bochurim will take this chizuk and continue to weigh their words carefully.



MTI & COMMUNITY UPLIFTED BY VETERAN MARBITZEI TORAH

Rabbi Avrohom Stulberger, Rosh Yeshiva of Valley Torah High School in Los Angeles, was invited to the yeshiva in November to be mechazek the talmidim. He spent a packed weekend imparting his Torah and wisdom to the talmidim, rebbeim, and the entire St. Louis community.

On Friday, following the Rosh Chodesh breakfast, Rabbi Stulberger gave an inspiring shmuess to the entire yeshiva, where he shared the need to be a mevakesh and yearn for Torah growth. “Learning has to come from within, because that’s what will make you grow and become a great person,” paraphrases bais medrash bochur Avrami Striks. After the shmuess, Rabbi Stulberger went to University City, where he

incredible,” effuses bais medrash talmid Aharon Lehrer. Bais medrash talmid Binyomin Manela especially appreciated Rabbi Stulberger’s cogent articulation of the Chofetz Chaim mehalech of Torah and mussar. Rabbi and Mrs. Stulberger expressed how impressed they were with the yeshiva and its talmidim.

On Motzei Shabbos, Rabbi Noach Orlowek, Mashgiach of Yeshivas Torah Ore in Yerushalayim, joined Rabbi Stulberger at MTI for a community melave malka. Rabbi Orlowek spent Shabbos in the University City neighborhood of St. Louis as a community scholar in residence. The other community mosdos co-hosted



spoke separately to the boys’ division and then to the girls’ division of Torah Prep’s middle school.

Rabbi Stulberger and his wife spent an uplifting Shabbos with the rebbeim and talmidim of the yeshiva. Besides enjoying the seudos and oneg Shabbos with the

the event and were enthusiastic about this unique learning opportunity. “It was nice to see the community come together, spending a Motzei Shabbos getting excited about chinuch and our families,” reflects a community member.

Rabbi Orlowek and Rabbi Stulberger pre-

dren that which we have ourselves. After the shiur, the rabbanim participated in a Q&A panel discussion moderated by Rabbi Menachem Tendler of U.City Shul, followed by a delicious dairy buffet. The evening concluded with a moving kumzits led by the talmidim of the yeshiva.

“Rabbi Orlowek and Rabbi Stulberger are both veteran marbitzei Torah,” notes Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, Rosh Yeshiva of MTI. “To have them both together to share their insights from decades of experience was a big kavod for the yeshiva and for the greater St. Louis community.” Mr. Fred Wohlfarth, a recent Chesterfield transplant from Los



talmidim, Rabbi Stulberger gave a vaad to the bais medrash about staying strong to one’s mesorah. On Shabbos day he hosted a diverse and relevant Q&A session for the talmidim. “The amount of knowledge Rabbi Stulberger had at the tip of his tongue was

sented a double dynamic lecture entitled “How Can We Connect to Hashem and Pass It On to the Next Generation?” They elucidated that the first step in chinuch is to be excited about who we are as yidden, because we can only transmit to our chil-



7TH AND 8TH GRADERS ENJOY LEARNING & BASKETBALL AT THE YESHIVA

The yeshiva is thrilled to once again give local 7th and 8th graders the opportunity to spend an evening learning with bais medrash talmidim, playing basketball in the yeshiva’s gym, and enjoying a delicious supper. Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, Rosh Yeshiva remarked, “it is wonderful to see the local boys excited to connect with the yeshiva and the bais medrash talmidim. We are proud that the yeshiva is expanding its ability to service the community.”



Angeles and current MTI parent, has a long-time connection to Rabbi Stulberger, as he has three children who attended Valley Torah. “Rabbi Stulberger is a remarkable speaker. My wife and I didn’t want to miss hearing him, especially since it is a rare opportunity now.” Mr. Wohlfarth also appreciated Rabbi Orlowek’s distinctive style of conveying his penetrating insights. “He’s very funny. He brings humor into the point he’s trying to make, and at times that hits home more than just saying it.”

To wrap up a packed weekend, on Sunday morning, Rabbi Stulberger met with the rebbeim of the yeshiva to discuss practical ideas for furthering the talmidim’s growth.

The yeshiva’s talmidim appreciated the opportunity to spend such concentrated time with a talmid chochom of Rabbi Stulberger’s caliber. “It was very special to learn from someone who is so immersed in Torah,” relates bais medrash bochur Dovy Gordon. Binyomin observes, “Rabbi Stulberger is very open, and he is not afraid to answer difficult questions, and at the same time, he is so loving, caring, and sincere.” Bais medrash bochur Avrami Barasch sums up the Shabbos: “Rabbi Stulberger brought a lot of ruach to the yeshiva, as we all tried to gain all we could from his wisdom and experience. It was an unbelievable Shabbos.”



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BAIS MEDRASH BOCHURIM GIVE MUSSAR CHABUROS



MAZEL TOV!

November 2021- March 2022

Alumni Marriages

Mordy Foxbruner on his marriage to Ms. Naomi Mazlin of Valley Village, CA!
Shmuel Meth on his marriage to Ms. Tova Davidowitz of Las Vegas, NV!
Aaron Sanders on his marriage to Ms. Ashley Myers of Lawrence, NY!
Daniel Stein on his marriage to Ms. Tehilla Portnoy of Baltimore, MD!

Alumni Engagements

Yehuda Bortz on his engagement to Ms. Hannah Grayman of Baltimore, MD!
Dovid Chaimovitz on his engagement to Ms. Malka Spiegel of Toronto, Ontario!
Azi Wiesel on his engagement to Ms. Chani Kramer of Lakewood, NJ!

Alumni Births

Mr. & Mrs. Yitzy Bergida on the birth of a girl!
Mr. & Mrs. Simcha Greenfield on the birth of a girl!
Mr. & Mrs. Menachem Guttman on the birth of a girl!
Mr. & Mrs. Avi Rhodes on the birth of a girl!
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Rosenblum on the birth of a girl!
Mr. & Mrs. Yosaif Slotkin on the birth of a boy!
Mr. & Mrs. Yossi Turk on the birth of a boy!
Mr. & Mrs. Baruch Wexler on the birth of a girl!

Staff Simchas

Rabbi & Mrs. Josh & Chana Bregman on the birth of a boy!
Rabbi & Mrs. Efraim & Shulamis Fromowitz on the bas mitzvah of their daughter Shayna!
Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel & Chanie Wasser on the marriage of their daughter Ruchama to Mordechai Aminov of Queens, NY!

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MTI CONCERT JOEY NEWCOMB



Joey Newcomb
concert highlight
video available at
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