



at North Shore Hebrew Academy

SAVE THE DATE:

Meorot Community ZOOM Lecture
"Understanding Reading Comprehension"
Featuring: Dr. Gutkind, Meorot Program Director
Wednesday, June 3 @ 8:30pm
Meeting ID: 991 1721 5948 Password: meorot

2019-2020 | VOLUME: 3 | SPRING | 5780

REACHING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE

Meorot at North Shore Hebrew Academy is proud and excited to be in its third year of successfully 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.



One highlight of this year has been the inclusion of two of our Meorot students in the North Shore Hebrew Academy Siddur presentation, one of our partnering schools. Like their peers, our students were proud to be on stage and receive their own inscribed siddur. Participation in ceremonies like this is an important part of Meorot's role in the community at large, ensuring that all of our Jewish children grow their sense of Jewish pride and belonging within our community.

In our classrooms, the students in Morah Galit's class have been introduced to basic Hebrew language and sight words while learning about the Jewish Holidays. In addition, they are continuing to learn the Alef Bet letters using multidimensional approaches, such as tactile, kinesthetic, visual, auditory and whole-body sensory approaches. During Magal (circle) time, the students learn about the Jewish Holidays, Jewish daily living skills, and essential Tefillot through pantomiming, songs, and games.

In Morah Marie's class, the students, in addition to being involved in learning together as a group, receive differentiated Hebrew language instruction based on their appropriate level and learning styles. Some students are learning to decode letters and vowels, while others are developing beginning grammar and reading comprehension skills. All students are increasing their vocabulary usage while learning about the Jewish Holidays & Parashat Hashavua. Music, crafts, games and drama help reinforce their everyday language skills as well as their understanding of holiday themes and content.

ZOOM @ MEOROT

Since the outbreak of Covid19, Meorot has begun servicing our students online. We are using Zoom as the forum for teaching and the Meorot students are participating two times every week in our zoom group circle time. In circle time, the children sing Jewish songs and Tefillot that are led by our Meorot teachers. Many of these songs include the kinesthetic modality, such as hand motions. Students are given opportunities to lead and interact with their peers which is a crucial component of our Judaic Studies learning program. Using the medium of screen share, the students were able to see new words and view short videos. Since Meorot's Hebrew Language component is individualized, Meorot students were offered to arrange private one on one Hebrew lessons with their Morah via Zoom. Meorot shares Hebrew online resources, suggestions for apps and family educational activities. **See the next page for our recommendations.**

PARENTS' CORNER:

Finding a suitable and nurturing school for a child is a challenge that many Orthodox Jews choose to face. Locating a program that addresses some special educational needs for students who present with some difficulties is even more complicated. It is far from easy sending one's child to a secular program where no Judaism will be taught. We were delighted when we discovered that a specialized after-school Yeshiva would be opening up in Great Neck. Meorot provided our child with wonderful and essential lessons in the areas of Judaic education. Our child learned to read Hebrew, sing Hebrew songs, daven tefilah, learn about Shabbat and chaggim amongst many other matters. We hung up our child's art projects all over the house to reinforce the Hebrew words. Meorot exposed our child to berachot, a siddur, a seder plate, a menorah... things that made her aware of Jewish identity and heritage. She finally understood that she had a different set of customs and traditions than her friends at public school.

When it came time to look into yeshivas, the staff at Meorot were incredibly supportive and really guided us into finding an appropriate placement for her. Our daughter was adequately prepared to continue her Jewish education at her new school when the time came for her to be acclimated. We are very grateful to the founders, the board and the staff of Meorot for filling in those fundamental blanks our child needed.

HAPPENINGS AT MEOROT

Tu B'Shvat

This year Meorot celebrated Tu B'Shvat with multisensory experiences! Students learned a Hebrew unit on fruits, practiced saying specific Brochot related to fruits and learned vocabulary words related to the Tu B'Shvat theme. Some students learned the word "eitz" and "pairot" while others were able to integrate the whole language and create their own book about fruit and trees with Hebrew captions. A highlight of our unit was a two part art project led by Cori Franco in which the students were able to paint and decorate a fruit tree project as a gift to their families. Cori creatively packaged all the projects including a dried fruit package for all our Meorot families to enjoy. Students also included their own personalized Hebrew cards. It was truly a special and memorable gift.



Purim Chagiga

Meorot's Pre Purim Party was full of fun and festivities! Staff and students had a great time wearing their costumes, dancing and eating together. Purim music, played by Noam Segal, as well as classic Jewish circle dances like "U Shavtem Mayim", "Yesh Lanu Tayish" and "Henai Rakevet" had us all dancing until the very end of the program. Students were led in an art project to make their own groggers with Ellen Neuman and were able to assemble their own Mishloach Manot to give to friends, family and classmates.

Meorot Recommended resources to help during Quarantine

- [How to discuss Coronavirus with your children \(Dr. Fineberg\)](#)
- [How to create Space & Habits to keep kids engaged \(NY Times\)](#)
- [Technology & Distance Learning \(Eli Shapiro\)](#)
- [Maintaining & Imparting Appropriate Levels of Alarm \(OHEL\)](#)
- [Sibling Rivalry \(Child Mind Institute\)](#)

Chanukah & Shavuot Community Fundraisers

Meorot would like to express hakarat hatov for the widespread support of our fundraisers. For a 2nd year in a row we sold more than 613 candles during the Meorot Chanukah Campaign and this year we brightened up our quarantined communities with beautiful Orchids for Chag Shavuot! We would like to acknowledge the fireless work of our dedicated volunteers including Vivian & Nik Kron, Debbie Spilky and Judy Sobel, as well as, the Meorot board.

Your support makes Meorot possible—to donate please visit:

<https://www.meorotgn.org/donate>

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

For more information, visit our website www.meorotgn.org

or contact us at info@meorotgn.org

Partnering Yeshivot:

