



# JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ENJOYED A VARIETY OF INSPIRING AND FUN PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE WEEK INCLUDING LATKE MAKING COMPETITIONS, A FACULTY-STUDENT BASKETBALL GAME, DREIDEL TOURNAMENT, INSPIRING SPEAKER, TZITZIT MAKING, CHAGIGAH AND MORE!

Aside from the amazing chesed work that was conducted by the Middle School students, the division was busy engaged in a number of Chanukah activities that spread the simcha of the chag throughout the building along with inspiring programming.

The week started with a “Chopped - JKHA Edition” latke making competition. Following the premise of the TV cooking competition show, each grade came to the atrium at different points throughout the day and were divided up into teams and were tasked with creating latkes that each contained a “mystery” ingredient, adding special flavor to their latke creations. Ingredients ranged from savory to sweet and from tomato sauce and black beans to jam and sprinkles! Rabbi Hertzberg had the dubious honor to taste each of the entries and the judges voted on the winning latke creation for each grade.

Seventh grade boys had the opportunity during Chanukah to hear a unique perspective from a guest speaker. The seventh grade boys who are just beginning to celebrate becoming Bnei Mitzvah were fortunate to kick off their Bar Mitzvah preparation by hearing from Nolan Edmonson. Nolan’s acceptance of mitzvot was different from that of our students. Nolan chose to become Jewish at a young age and converted to Judaism after completing high school. Students were amazed to hear his story and were able to apply the lessons of his commitment and desire to keep mitzvot with theirs. We look forward to more inspiring Bar Mitzvah programming to come. As part of our Middle School-wide tzitzit initiative, eighth grade boys had the special opportunity during Chanukah to learn about how to make tzitzit and then practice their new skill by making their very own personal tzitzit. We were very impressed with the boys’ hard work, perseverance, and excitement that they demonstrated from the first string until the last knot. A record number of students were able to walk away with a brand new complete pair of tzitzit. We know that this program will instill within students a new love and passion for this important mitzvah.

Other activities included a fifth grade-wide dreidel tournament as well as fun Chanukah math games. Faculty showed their athletic prowess on the basketball court as they challenged students to a faculty/student basketball game. The Middle Schoolers not on the court enjoyed cheering on their peers as well as their teachers!

