

## Bais Yaakov Of Queens Students Heart 2 Heart Letter-Writing Initiative For Chanukah

As Rosh Chodesh Kislev approached and students were learning the skills of letter writing, Mrs. Sarah Bergman and Mrs. Karen Reisbaum, general studies principal and assistant principal of Bais Yaakov Academy of Queens, discussed the idea of a letter-writing campaign with their teachers. Together, they planned a school-wide activity for students to design and decorate cards filled with Chanukah wishes for *chayalim*, hospital patients, and school children in Eretz Yisrael. The first batch of more than 400 cards is already on its way to Eretz Yisrael, to be delivered by a grandparent of their students. Rabbi Mordechai Gewritz, Dean of Bais Yaakov, pride-



fully said, "In our Bais Yaakov we continuously strive to inculcate our *talmidos* with *ahavas Yisrael*. This project is yet one more vehicle through which this goal is realized."



## Yeshiva Tiferes Moshe Engages School Counselor



In 2015 all parents raise their children thinking about their educational growth, but also with concern for their social-emotional growth. To further foster healthy social-emotional growth, Yeshiva Tiferes Moshe has engaged Mrs. Deetza Franklin as School Counselor. Mrs. Franklin is an experienced school counselor with a master's degree from Seton Hall University. She is presently working towards a licensure as a Mental Health Counselor. She has worked for the NYC Department of Education and has serviced Title 1 eligible students at Yeshiva Tiferes Moshe. In her private practice, she runs an SST (social skills training program) for young children.

Mrs. Franklin balances her week at Yeshiva Tiferes Moshe with one-on-one coun-

seling, teaching a class-wide social-emotional curriculum to a number of classes. In the classroom, she is utilizing the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum. Some of the components addressed in the curriculum are: self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. In addition to the students she meets privately, Mrs. Franklin is currently working with the Pre-1A, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. She is presently teaching the "Second Step" SEL curriculum and is working closely with the teachers to maximize carryover and effectiveness.

The Yeshiva thanks Counterforce Prevention/Intervention Program of the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools for providing the funding to make this important appointment possible.

## YSZ launches Avot U'Banim Program

Another exciting program was started at Yeshiva Sha'arei Zion Boys Division! On every Motza'ei Shabbat YSZ students and their fathers come together, with other fathers and sons, to learn and review the Torah they have learned in *yeshiva*. This scheduled time, which is set aside specifically for learning, encourages fathers and sons to spend quality time together. It is a magnificent scene, to see so many parents being active participants in their children's learning. Students whose fathers could not attend the program are teamed up by program directors with other boys and their fathers. Many pairs settle down to study something they've decided on together. Fathers beam with pride as they realize that learning Torah is a *nachat*-filled experience!

"It's amazing, seeing first-hand the growth and love for learning that a program such as this one can impact during this unique father-and-son time," explains Rabbi Nissim Musheyev, Assistant Principal at YSZ and Director of the *Avot U'Banim* program. "Many fathers have expressed their admiration after their learning sessions, amazed at how much their boys know!" This experience creates a lasting bond that gets stronger every week.

Of course, there were raffles, prizes, pizza, sushi, and much, much more as an incentive for the boys to keep on learning! Incentives such as these make the evening fun and keep the students eager to come back week after week. The *Avot U'Banim* learning continues to give children the message that Torah and *mitzvot* can be rewarding in many ways.

"Walking around the room and seeing the excitement on the boys' faces, as well as on the faces of the fathers was truly contagious," expressed Rabbi Yair Jacobs, Director of YSZ. "And it was heartwarming to witness the bonding of the boys with their fathers as they spent real quality time together, literally giving over the *Mesorah* to the next generation!"

Children charge into the next week



more enthusiastic to learn and prepare! It's a win-win! Everyone wins! Everyone gains – fathers from sons, and sons from fathers. Therefore it is appropriately named *Avot U'Banim*! Fathers and sons! What can be more wholesome? What can be more holy than linking generations and forging relations that matter most, and in the most delightful way.

## A "Pressing" Issue At Bnos Malka

In preparation for Chanukah, the Kindergarten class at Bnos Malka Academy paid a visit to the Jewish Children's Museum. The tour began at the olive press, where they learned how olive oil was made. They were so excited to have a chance to press their own olives and then use that oil to light a menorah. They spun

their own wicks from cotton-wool and even made wax *shamash* candles. The children reenacted the search for a small vial of olive oil during their "treasure hunt." Morah Zisi Koss loves this annual trip: "The children get so excited to use their own olive oil and wicks. The expressions on their faces are priceless."

