

Tekhelet Activity



7th and 8th grade students welcomed the opportunity to spend their *Gemara* classes in the science lab where they participated in a hands on program focused on the *Mitzvah* of

Tekhelet, given by Joel Guberman of the *P'til Tekhelet Partnership* program. While emphasizing the halachic aspects, the topic was brought to life by showing the interaction between chemistry, biology, history, and archaeology. The students discovered that different chemicals mixed with the murex snail would result in a reaction producing a compound used to dye the wool. Left untreated, the wool turned a royal purple color, known in the Torah as *Argaman*. When exposed to the sun for just a few minutes, the color changed to *Tekhelet*, blue. The students enjoyed each step of the experiment, including the sweet fragrances emanating from the newly made *tekhelet* wool.

Sherri Mandell



On Wednesday, November 28th, our entire Middle School was privileged to hear Ms. Sherri Mandell, mother of the murdered Koby Mandel, ז"ל, and founder of Camp Koby, speak about the importance of *chesed* and *tzedakah* as she shared the life-learned lesson of overcoming, accepting and beating evil with love. The outpouring of *tzedakah* generated by our student body was overwhelming, as they collected over \$2,000 for the Koby Mandell Foundation, an organization founded to give children who have lost parents or siblings to terrorism an outlet where they can find enjoyment and learn to keep their spirits alive. Ms. Mandell finished to a

thunderous applause by our students who were clearly moved and invigorated by her words. Building on the momentum generated that morning, our seventh grade boys and their parents collected much needed art supplies for the children of Camp Koby, packing them at their Bar Mitzvah *Seudah* here at school.

Rally for Captive Israeli Soldiers



Committed as we are to the concept of "*Kol Yisrael Areivim zeh bazeh*," "Every Jew is responsible for every other Jew," Moriah stood 300 strong in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York City this past September, the only middle school among hundreds of high school and college-aged students. We protested in unison the double standard that exists with regard to Israeli MIAs. We stood proudly as our own Moriah 8th grader, Alexander Yablono- vich, was called to the podium to read the biography of Yehuda Katz, a missing Israeli soldier. As the assemblage sang *Am Yisrael Chai*, Moriah's students' voices could be heard loud and strong.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Our fifth graders enjoyed a presentation by Cheryl Urman, former Moriah parent, MAP president and local art teacher. Paralleling numerous references highlighted in the novel by E.L. Konigsburg, the presentation included slides of exhibits from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, past and present, ranging from Egyptian embalming techniques to Michelangelo's sculptures.

Anti-Bully Buddies

Anti-Bully Buddies, an innovative program coordinated by our psychologists, Ms. Eva Lazar of the middle school and Dr. Ellen Zeitchik of the



elementary school, paired fourth graders with sixth grade "buddies" to discuss healthy friendships. Together they read five age appropriate books which focused on bully prevention and identified and addressed relational aggression. The sixth graders had an opportunity to act as mentors to their younger buddies, while the fourth graders were excited to learn from a "teen source." The feedback from the students and teachers alike was very positive "I learned not to be a bystander and to inform a teacher when something is going on," said 6th grader, Meira Koslowe. 4th grader Ariel Forman advised, "Tell a teacher or a parent right away if someone is bullying you. It is not tattle telling if you are being bullied. This was a great program!" Rabbi Herzog, 4th grade Judaic Studies teacher was enthusiastic: "The program was engaging! The fourth graders had an opportunity to view the sixth graders as mentors; the sixth graders had an opportunity to view themselves as role models."

