

MTI BAIS MEDRASH: A HUB OF TORAH

“Walk into our bais medrash and you’ll see the enthusiasm and passion for learning,” says Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, rosh yeshiva. Baruch Hashem, the bais medrash enrollment doubled in size this year, and the bochurim are learning with hasmada and blossoming into true bnei Torah.

“The Gemara says ‘יגעתו ומצאתי תאמין’—



when a person works, it is impossible for him not to grow in Torah. That

is what we see happening in our bais medrash,” says Rabbi Avrohom Goldman, rosh yeshiva and magid shiur in the bais medrash. “The chevra is working very hard and growing unbelievably. The Steipler Gaon says that the main pleasantness of learning Torah comes from understanding it deeply; the bais medrash bochurim regularly taste this sweetness, which comes only after grappling with a sugya until they gain clarity.”

Learning Torah develops the boys outside the bais medrash as well. When the talmidim dedicate themselves to learning, “their commitment to Yiddishkeit takes off, their davening takes off, and their middos take off,” says Rabbi Goldman. Their growth brings them tremendous joy and satisfaction. “A bochur’s joy plays a critical role in his growth: the סל calls the simcha of learning

the syringe that injects Torah into the bloodstream.”



This year, the yeshiva has added a new program for the bais medrash bochurim: second- and third-year bochurim make strides in their learning through preparing and presenting Gemara and mussar chaburos to their peers. In Gemara, they present a sugya from one of the classic roshei yeshiva of the last century that they

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הדרן עלך מסכת תענית

MTI’s Mesivta Bekius Program Celebrates Siyum

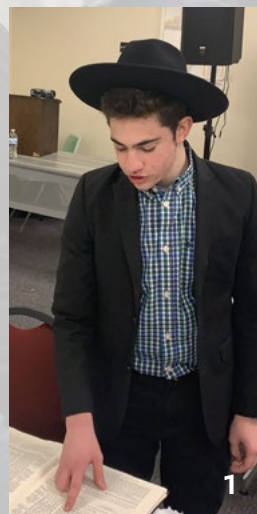
They worked hard. They shteiged. Now they are celebrating their accomplishments. The 11th and 12th grade talmidim who participated in a

voluntary bekius seder recently made a siyum on Maseches Taanis, and we are all so proud of them!

The bochurim learn for close to two hours every day after Mincha, twice as long as a regular bekius seder. At the start of each seder, Rabbi Moshe Chaim

Biron, who oversees the program, presents the day’s goal to keep the boys on track—although, as participant Akiva Cohen says, “Understanding is more important than reaching the goal.” Then, the challenge starts to learn that

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Rabbi Bentzion Chait gives vaad to bais medrash bochurim



Rabbi Rosner learns with 7th & 8th graders in the community at the Agudah



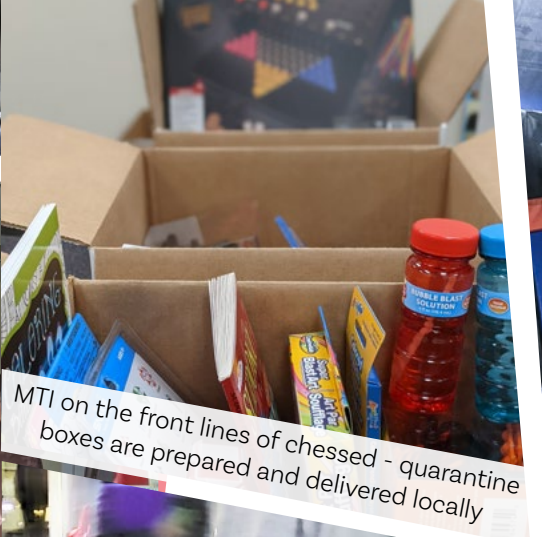
Talmidim enjoy an exciting Whirlyball trip



Mezuzas created during woodworking elective with Mr. Avraham Zelig Frumhoff



Students join MTI's chemistry club to enjoy "All Lab, No Lecture" each week



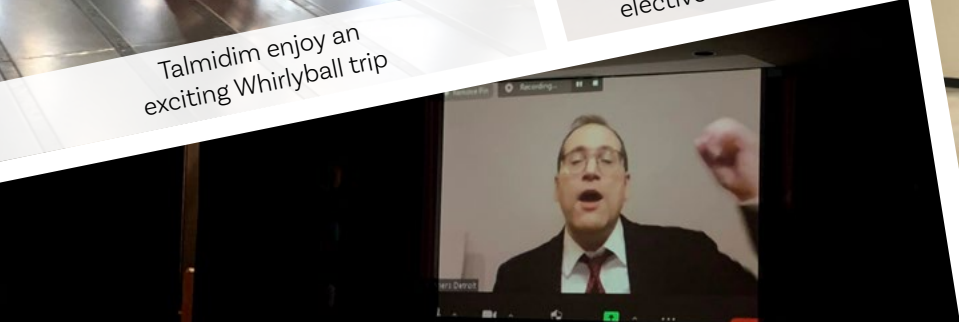
MTI on the front lines of chessed - quarantine boxes are prepared and delivered locally



Mesivta students enjoy an exciting trip to SkyZone



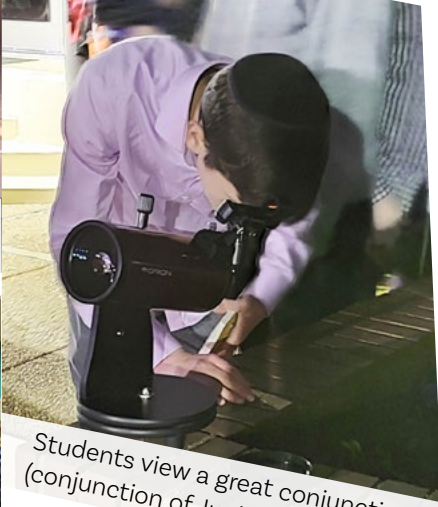
Talmidim delve into hachana seder as part of iyun each morning



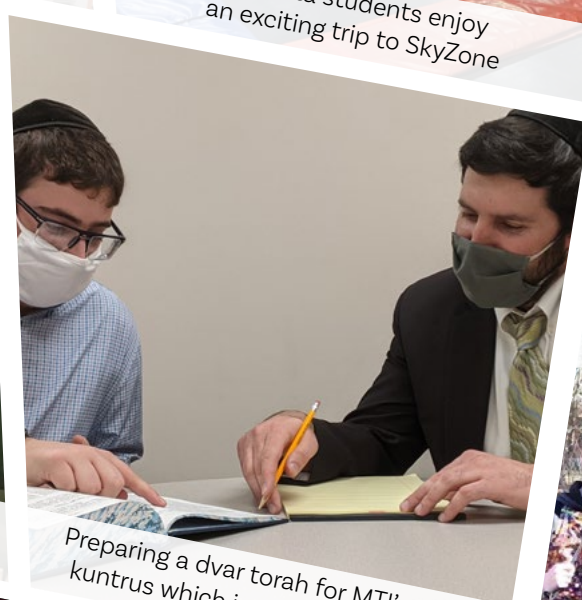
Rabbi Leiby Burnham speaks before Purim via zoom in MTI's auditorium



Rabbi Rockove's 9th grade bekus shiur celebrates the completion of 500 cumulative chazara sessions with lunch from Kohn's Deli



Students view a great conjunction (conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn)



Preparing a dvar torah for MTI's purim kuntrus which is published annually



Rabbi Gewirtz's shiur made (and ate) donuts for their backyard Chanuka chagiga



Rabbi Dovid Yachnes gives vaad to bais medrash bochurim



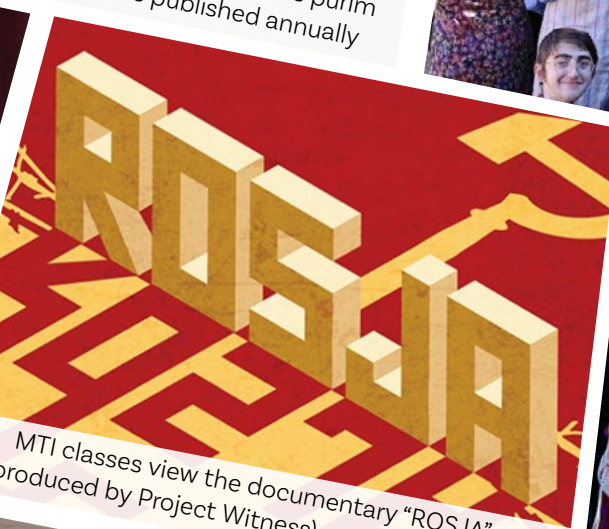
Aron Mazer enjoys a siyum with his shiur upon his completion of Meseches Taanis



Students from all grades compete in annual cholent cookoff! Congratulations to the 9th grade on their winning recipe!



Mr. Bob Hardcastle, of Delta Investments, speaks to students about financial planning, investments and the importance of living within one's means



MTI classes view the documentary "ROSJA" (produced by Project Witness) on Asara B'Teves



The yeshiva enjoys a beautiful shabbaton on the Agudah campus in Marshall, IN



Congratulations to Dovid Orrin for being selected as the winner in the 9th/10th category and to Gavin Kornblum for being chosen as the 11th/12th grade runner-up in the national Esther Malka פתח Writing Contest. Dovid and Gavin wrote from the perspective of a parent in 2040 describing how COVID-19 impacted his life and made an impact on his avodas Hashem. Thanks, as well, to Mr. Gartin, their English teacher, who provided feedback and guidance during the writing process.



Bochurim are treated to a special raffle appreciation breakfast in recognition of their part in raising a total of \$144,420!



Student initiated chess club meets weekly to hone skills and challenge each other



“MTI Bais Medrash: A Hub of Torah” continued from page 1

spent time working on. In mussar, they expound upon a maamar chazal with its intricacies, and explain and defend their understanding of what lessons chazal are teaching us. This process teaches them how to develop and deliver an idea. “It’s like teaching someone how to make a cholent,” says Rabbi Goldman. “You explain it to them, and they understand, but then when they make it themselves, they

get a different type of understanding.”

The bais medrash talmidim create a positive peer group that uplifts everyone they come in contact with. “There’s a tremendous chevrashtaf,” says Rabbi Goldman. “The bochurim are really connecting and bonding, both inside and outside the bais medrash.” This atmosphere envelops the underclassmen as well, when bais medrash bochurim contribute their hasmada during high school hachana,

chazara, chavrusa learning, or an optional bekius program (see below). The yeshiva cultivates a relationship between the high school boys and the bais medrash bochurim through a unified night seder, during which bais medrash bochurim learn with high school talmidim. Both parties gain from this relationship. High school students observe relatable role models who were in their places a few years before. When they see how happy the bais medrash bochurim are, they

desire that same satisfaction. Simultaneously, the bais medrash bochurim learn how to give to others, which is a critical attribute of a ben Torah.

We are so grateful to Hakadosh Baruch Hu that we have been able to stay open for in-person learning this year and that the bais medrash can continue to reverberate with the sweet sounds of Torah learning. We wish the bochurim success in their continued growth as bnei Torah.

“MTI’s Mesivta Bekius Program Celebrates Siyum” continued from page 1

day’s material with their chavrusas and to put in their best effort to gain clarity in the sugya. “They learn b’hasmada raba,” says Rabbi Biron. “The amount of effort the boys put in is truly amazing, and the ruach in the bais medrash during seder is very powerful and inspiring.”

The boys enjoy the opportunity to learn in a different way than they learn in shiur. “When I learn on my own with a chavrusa, rather than being taught by a rebbe, it helps me gain a greater clarity,” says Shmuel Lynn. Naftali Collins has a similar perspective: “It forces us to really engage and apply ourselves. We are working very hard, and we can really see our growth and accomplishments.”

This independent learning builds the talmidim’s skills tremendously. “I’ve gotten much better at being able to dissect a Gemara,” says Akiva, and the other bochurim

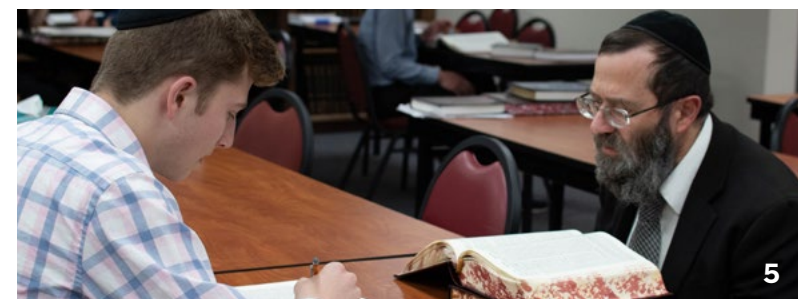
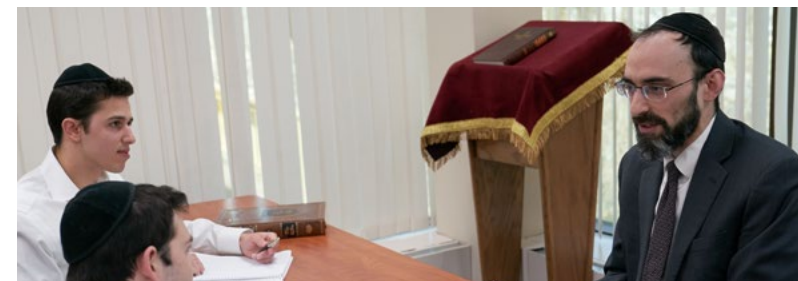
agree, stating that after months of effort, they have attained a much better sense of the Gemara’s flow, of “how Rashi thinks,” as Naftali puts it.

Over the Sukkos break, the students continued learning so as not to lose time. “It was a beautiful thing,” says Rabbi Biron. “The boys decided to do this on their own initiative, without any prompting.” They kept in touch over vacation and coordinated a system of two days moving forward, one day chazara, and returned to yeshiva with a great sense of pride.

The group initially celebrated a small siyum with their class and heard words of chizuk from Rabbi Biron, Rabbi Wachsmann, and Rabbi Fromowitz. Then, they had a big celebration with the whole yeshiva so everyone could share in their simcha.

The mesayemim are basking in the satisfaction of toiling in Torah and seeing the great results. Shmuel says, “I’m happy that I finished a whole masechta, and I know it, and I learned it by myself. It makes me feel very good.” Akiva says reflectively, “You learn and learn, and it’s really nice to reach, obviously not a finish line, but a checkpoint.” Naftali shares what this achievement taught him: “Knowing that I’m capable of finishing a masechta—and that I did it—makes me feel very accomplished. And doing it with my friends who had the same goal as me makes the experience even better.”

Mazel tov to all the mesayemim. May they continue to shteig and grow in their learning!



CHARLIE HARARY INSPIRES

Friends and talmidim of MTI all over the country enjoyed words of Purim inspiration from the dynamic Mr. Charlie Harary. While this was not Mr. Harary's first address to MTI, the virtual format expanded his reach, enabling even those outside St. Louis to attend. The event was dedicated by the Fox family in honor of the fifth yahrzeit of Greg Fox, z"l (Chizkiyahu Moshe Yaakov ben Shlomo).

The event opened with words from Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, who described the yeshiva's special relationship with Greg and introduced Mrs. Pamela Fox Claman, Greg's sister. Mrs. Claman spoke about her brother's kindness, compassion, and giving. She pointed out that everything we know can change in the blink of an eye, and enjoined listeners to give meaning to every minute of their lives by showing gratitude and doing good deeds.



Mr. Harary delivered a Purim message about resilience and self-sacrifice, declaring that a person doesn't have to be **ready** to do what it takes; he simply has to be **willing**, as Esther learned when she resolved to approach King Achashverosh. He shared that sometimes challenges can bring out a person's true worth. A seed appears

to be decaying as its shell falls away in the dirt, but the loss of its protective case actually enables its unfettered potential to emerge. The Megillah took on new meaning this year for all who heard Mr. Harary's stirring words. A recording of his lecture can be found at www.missouritorah.org/foxevent.



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RECRUITMENT: Covid Edition



In past years, MTI has treated visiting 8th grade boys to an unforgettable shabbaton weekend during which they have experienced the yeshiva atmosphere and met the rebbeim and talmidim in person. Due to this year's challenge to the normative way of doing things, over 80 families were hosted at a **virtual open house**. Guests had the opportunity to experience a virtual tour, meet the administration, and hear all about what it means to be an MTI talmid from a current 12th grader's personal account of his amazing yeshiva experience.

Additionally, several current parents joined the virtual open house to share the excitement and pride they have as MTI parents. The feedback was tremendously positive and optimistic. As the recruitment focus expanded to include bais medrash bochurim in the subsequent months, many prospective talmidim for both MTI divisions have visited the yeshiva to take their bechinas and feel the palpable excitement, energy and positivity in the air firsthand. The yeshiva, b'ezras Hashem, plans on welcoming a stellar group of 9th graders and first year bais medrash talmidim for the upcoming school year.

STAENBERG FAMILY GYM

YESHIVA HOSTS BENEFACTOR MICHAEL STAENBERG



On Thursday, December 31st, the yeshiva had the privilege of hosting renowned philanthropist Michael Staenberg, in honor of the recent dedication of the Staenberg Family Gym. Mr. Staenberg and his wife, Carol, are pillars of generosity and vision in the St. Louis community and beyond, and staunch supporters of Jewish education. After a tour of the campus, Mr. Staenberg viewed the newly affixed lettering on the outside of the gym.

During the visit, Rabbi Fromowitz described to the talmidim what Mr. Staenberg has done for the yeshiva and the community. Mr. Staenberg then addressed the students about the importance of giving tzedakah, reflecting on the formative experiences that ingrained this value in him.

In a major announcement, Mr. Staenberg also shared his desire to renovate and beautify the

gym and immediately sprang into action by putting his contractors in touch with Mr. Dovid Love, campus administrator. "The design phase of the gym renovation is progressing smoothly," says Dovid. "I'm so excited to be working with the dedicated team that Mr. Staenberg sent and I am confident that the finished product will be a five-star athletic center."

A special yasher koach to Dr. Craig Reiss, chairman of the board, who took significant time out of a very busy morning to join Mr. Staenberg for this visit!



Thank You!

**TORAH IS OUR ANCHOR
TORAH KEEPS US STRONG
1 NATION 1 TORAH 1 GOAL = 613**



Our ambitious and exciting Charidy fundraising campaign surpassed its intended goal of \$613,000 and raised an astounding \$623,045! The matched-dollar amount came from over 1,400 donations from all over the country and beyond. Parents, alumni, talmidim and friends of the yeshiva gave generously and worked together to reach out

to others to participate, helping us reach this lofty goal. In fact, the yeshiva raised more money during the day of the campaign than any other campaign in MTI history! It was a magnificent team effort and a great Kiddush Hashem! Yashar Koach!

RECENT DEDICATIONS



Peskin Family Megillah

Thank you to the Peskin family for dedicating the new magnificent megillah that we read from this past Purim. The Peskins made the dedication in memory of their parents, whose names are embroidered on the beautiful new megillah case.

Zichor Yimos Olam

After a number of years of careful and thoughtful planning, the zichor yimos olam memorial is now on display in the yeshiva's atrium.

This deeply emotional and thought provoking zikaron gives all those who pass by the opportunity to reflect and recognize the self-sacrifice of the 6 million kedoshim who gave up their lives al kiddush Hashem, sanctifying G-d's name, during the Holocaust.



SAVE THE DATE

Hachnasas Sefer Torah & Dinner | **JUNE 6, 2021**