

An Awe-Inspiring Visit By Rosh Yeshiva Harav Akiva Grunblatt



Rav Grunblatt's celebrated arrival at Lambert International Airport



Rav Grunblatt addressing MTI Melava Malka guests



(L-R) Dr. Craig Reiss, Chairman of the Board with Dr. Michael Treisman, the lucky Raffle Winner of 4 Round-Trip Tickets to Eretz Yisroel

In the beginning of December, MTI was *zoche* to be graced by the presence of HaRav Akiva Grunblatt, *shlita*, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, New York.

In a show of proper *kavod haTorah* for the Rosh Hayeshiva, the Yeshiva came to greet HaRav Grunblatt at Saint Louis' Lambert Airport on Friday morning. Upon seeing the Rosh Hayeshiva in the arrival area, the bochorim spontaneously burst into joyous singing and dancing, escorting the Rosh Hayeshiva to his car. Rav Grunblatt spent Shabbos at MTI's new campus, giving *divrei Torah* and *shmuessin* to the talmidim.

On Motzei Shabbos, Rabbi and Mrs. Menachem Wachsman hosted MTI's annual community-wide Melava Malka. Harav Grunblatt addressed the crowd, giving inspiring *divrei chizuk* about the role of the rebbe-talmid relationship as the heart and foundation of our *mesorah*.

Another highlight of the Melava Malka was the anticipated drawing of the MTI Grand Raffle. The month-long campaign raffled a prize of four round-trip tickets

to Israel, and involved bochorim from all grades and shiurim making phone calls to donors nationwide to garner support. Dr. and Mrs. Michael Treisman of

Chesterfield had the lucky ticket, culminating MTI's most exciting raffle campaign yet, bringing in nearly 50% more funds this year than in the past, with the total raised at \$92,000! Much gratitude is felt toward Rabbi Josh Bregman, MTI's newly appointed V.P. of Development for spearheading this successful campaign.

On Sunday, HaRav Grunblatt visited Torah Prep, a local elementary school and delivered *divrei bracha* and *chizuk* to the middle school boys. Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, Menahel of Torah Prep commented that "It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to have the chance to hear inspiring words from a visiting Rosh Yeshiva."

Rav Grunblatt delivering a *shmuess* to the talmidim





Talmidim asking questions on the shiur klali

AN AWE-INSPIRING VISIT cont.

To cap his visit to the St. Louis community, Rav Grunblatt gave a *shiur klali* on the *sugya* of *kibud av v'eim* to MTI's Bais Medrash bochorim, as well as to a number of the *chevrei hakollel* of the two *kollelim* in town.

Upon reflecting how the shiur brought the St. Louis community together as one, Rabbi Shaya Mintz, Executive Director of the St. Louis Kollel commented that "it solidifies our respect and reverence for *talmidei chachamim* and *rabbonim*. It is the key to ensuring a strong *mesorah* to the next generation." Rabbi Moshe Winter, one of the Roshei Kollel of the newly-founded Chesterfield Kollel, also attended the shiur along with the *yungerleit* of his Kollel. He effused that "it was an uplifting and inspiring experience for me and all the members of the Chesterfield Kollel. It was a *zechus* for us to be invited to join the shiur".

Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky, a member of the St. Louis Kollel described that "it was refreshing to feel part of a yeshiva atmosphere in the beautiful MTI Bais Medrash along with the *bnei hayeshiva* and the Chesterfield Kollel, and I am happy that we were able to join."

Rabbi Shmuel Kay, a member of the Chesterfield community, and former talmid in Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim expressed, "to listen live to the Rosh Yeshiva clearly expressing how each *mahalech* we thought was *p'shat* couldn't be *p'shat* and then suggest his own--was truly awe inspiring on all accounts."

Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Avroham Goldman described what he felt was a most amazing weekend. "It was such an incredible honor to have Rav Grunblatt spend time at the Yeshiva," he remarked. "An added benefit was the fact that while we already speak to our Rebbe on a regular basis to ask *shailos* pertaining to our running of the Yeshiva, it was good to have a number of hours of face-to-face discussion pertaining to *hashkafa* and *hadracha* with the Rosh Hayeshiva."



MTI staff meeting with the Rosh Hayeshiva HaRav Grunblatt



Mr. Richard Senturia addressing the students as part of MTI's Guest Speaker Series



New record studio MTI



MTI bochorim lighting Chanukah candles



Chanukah Chagigah



MTI Seniors showing appreciation to local law enforcement



Rabbi Dovid Goldm lyun Shiur



New York Reunion during Sukkos Break



St. Louis Reunion during Sukkos



Setting up for the rocket launch



Rabbi Dovid Goldm delivering a Dvar Torah at the Chanukah Chagigah



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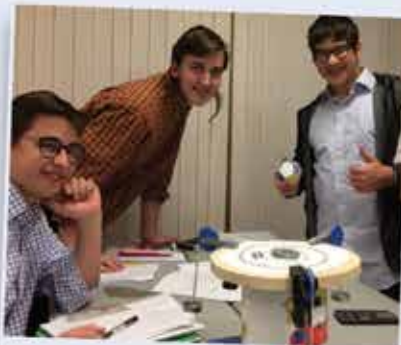
Pictures



The light of
the Menorah
and Torah burns
bright at MTI



9th Graders learning to
calculate construction costs



10th Graders Learning to
Balance Force Vectors



Robotics
elective



Bochrim enjoying the Yeshiva
Chanukah Chagigah



Rebbeim and Talmidim of the Beis Medrash gather for a
Chanukah Mesiba at the Ranken Jordan Rehab Center



Detroit Reunion during Sukkos Break



Bochurim dancing at the
MTI Annual Chanukah
Chagigah



Bochurim hosting music
concert at Delmar Gardens
West, an assisted
living facility



MTI Raffle Appreciation Breakfast
for our hardworking boys



10th Graders performing at the annual MTI-Tunes
at the Chanukah Chagigah



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Focus on General Studies Department

Rabbi Shimshon Gewirtz,
General Studies Principal

es department at MTI, students learn the skills
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and certain skills are more critical than ever. Our
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. We focus on the science and math skills that
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n skills they will need to work and lead in the
tion.

out it can also be fun! One ongoing highlight this
ional explosions and frequent hands-on learning
nce classes. As usual, Mr. Corley's AP Statistics

class used random numbers and knowledge of statistics to simulate playing dreidel (and also played dreidel). Mr. Harris is proud to report that the 10th grade English class enjoyed the day they recited Edgar Guest's poem "They Said It Couldn't Be Done" in serial formation.

The department features some new faces (see below), as well as familiar ones who have been with us for a long time. Our teachers align their instruction with the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards, while creating learning environments that allow students to grow their minds, learning valuable content and skills. It is important to us that the expectations and policies in the general studies department match those we have for students in their Torah studies. In this way, we promote a holistic approach to the chinuch of our talmidim, mind, heart, and *neshama*, which reflects the values for which Missouri Torah Institute stands.

General Studies Faculty Members: WORLD EXPERIENCE TO MTI'S CLASSROOMS

welcomed two new staff
ng of this school year.

Mr. Kasen

aches all of MTI's social studies
ment, Personal Finance, World
ory, Problems in U.S. History,
ocks and finance.

s Constitutional Law and Economics at
ersity and has taught government and history
ic schools for the past 15 years. Mr. Kasen is
oral candidate at the University of Missouri
ere he is preparing his dissertation, focusing
activities in order to increase student voice,
political engagement.

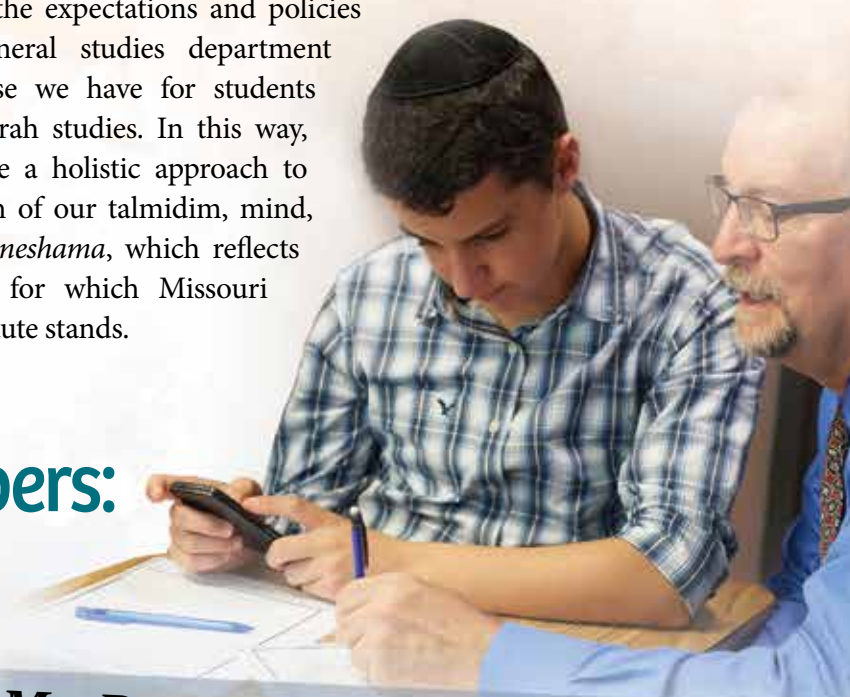
wrote a weekly economics column for the
Dispatch, and he has been a radio and TV
n St. Louis for more than 25 years. He currently
e Allman Report in the Wheel of Kasen. Mr.
nted, "I've been Jewish for more than 60 years,
t MTI has added a really surprising extension
always valued."



Mr. Branson D. Lawrence, Jr.

Mr. Branson Lawrence joins us in MTI to teach math and science. He holds a B.S. in chemistry and M.S. in physics education and was an educator in Illinois for over 36 years. He spent the last 25 years in the classroom teaching science, chemistry, physics, math and education courses to students ranging in age from 11 to 61. He worked most recently as principal at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, working with faculty on the creation and implementation of innovative and interdisciplinary curricula. In addition, he served as the Director of the Energy Center from 2007 to 2013.

Mr. Lawrence has been a National Board Certified Teacher for young adult science for the last 13 years, and has served as the President of the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers. He was awarded as one of the Top Ten Science Educators for Innovative Teaching, among many other education awards throughout his career. Mr. Lawrence expressed that he "really enjoys how active the boys are during projects and lab activities."



Upcoming Shabbos of Distinction

SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 9-12 PARSHAS BESHALACH

MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE'S
ANNUAL "SHABBOS OF DISTINCTION",
A SHABBATON FOR PROSPECTIVE TALMIDIM.

An exciting program is being planned for 8th grade boys from all over the country to share in the unique MTI Shabbos experience, enjoy activities together with current and prospective talmidim, and be able to conduct their *farhers* and interviews for the MTI admissions process.

The program begins Thursday afternoon, February 9th, and runs through Shabbos, ending Sunday February 12th, and is filled with activities and shiurim and the unique opportunity to meet like-minded bochurim from all over America. Spending time at the must-see, magnificent campus, together with the rebbeim and talmidim will offer prospective talmidim the chance to feel MTI's incredible ruach firsthand. At the Shabbos of Distinction they will see the yeshiva in action and get a sense of what it means to be an MTI talmid.

"It was a fun and inspirational Shabbos," said a prospective talmid at last year's Shabbaton, who is currently in MTI's 9th grade class. He remarked at the time that he would "really love to attend Missouri Torah Institute."

"In such a short time, the boys really make nice connections with one another," said Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. "They get the chance to see how warm the MTI talmidim are, the school's incredible environment, and enjoy a most uplifting, spirited Shabbos with the hanhala and rebbeim."

To make an appointment or to register your son for the *Shabbos of Distinction*, please visit our website at www.missouritorah.org, or call 636.778.1896.



MTI- ALUMNI AND STAFF

Mazel Tovs

MTI wishes a heartfelt MAZEL TOV to....



Avi Rhodes upon his engagement
to Devorah Davidowitz

David Shapiro upon his engagement
to Celia Edelstein

Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Mordechai
& Devorah Levy upon their recent marriage

Mr. & Mrs. Josh & Mera Treisman
upon their recent marriage



Rabbi & Mrs. Shimshon Gewirtz
upon the birth of their daughter

Mr. & Mrs. Menachem and Debbie
Graff upon the birth of a grandson

Mr. & Mrs. Dovid Love
upon the birth of their son

Mr. & Mrs. Refoel Spector
upon the birth of their son



Rabbi & Mrs. Avroham Goldman
upon their son, Yechiel's Bar Mitzvah

New Safrus Class

With The MTI Approach, the yeshiva believes in engaging the many facets of each bochur's talents and capabilities. This *zman*, MTI ushered in a new program

to our well-rounded *chinuch* that allows our talmidim to gain experience in *klei kodesh*, our Safrus Program. Rabbi Gidon Nitsun, an expert Sofer, as well as a Shoel-Umaishiv in MTI's Beis Medrash, leads the class.

The boys have had the opportunity to learn about how *mezuzos* and *tefillin* are made, as well as practice *ksivas osios* on real parchment with quills. This is an exciting hands-on opportunity that will offer our talmidim a glimpse into the life and work of a Sofer Stam.





1809 Clarkson Road
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Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt's Chanukah Shiur at MTI

On Chanukah the talmidim in the Beis Medrash were privileged to hear a shiur on the *sugya* of *mehadrin in ner Chanukah* from Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, Rav of Agudas Israel of St. Louis.

The talmidim really got into the heart of the *sugya* and asked very good questions.

Rabbi Shmuel Wasser commented that “we appreciate the warm relationship we have with the Rav of the Aguda and are *makir tov* that he took the time to give the shiur and engage the talmidim.”

Rabbi Greenblatt was very impressed with the talmidim and enjoyed coming and sharing his insights with the bochurim.

עז חיוס היא לא חזיקים בה

PLEASE CONSIDER CHOOSING A DAY FOR YOU TO BE THE

Parnes Hayom

Sponsor the learning & davening of the Rebbeim and Talmidim of MTI

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In honor of
someone
special

In merit of
a *refuah
shelaima*

To express
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\$180 Beis Medrash
\$250 Whole Yeshiva
\$500 Learning & Meals for the Day (Whole Yeshiva)
\$1000 Week of Learning (Whole Yeshiva)



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For more information please contact Rabbi Josh Bregman at 636-778-1896 x 108 or email him at rabbibregman@missouritorah.org