



KEEP UP WITH THE BUZZ

L'ACADEMIE BETH RIVKAH POUR FILLES NEWSLETTER – כ"ב שבט תשע"ח FEBRUARY 7th, 2018

4 QUESTIONS FOR RABBI MINKOWITZ

1. WHAT WAS THE SCHOOL LIKE WHEN YOU ARRIVED?

Right before the Yom Kippur war, September 1973–ג' אלול תשל"ג my wife, Mrs. P. Minkowitz, and I moved to Montréal to assume the helm of Beth Rivkah. The fledgling school of about one hundred and fifty girls welcomed me as their new principal.

At this point, Beth Rivkah had only one preschool class. The entire High School ate by three round tables. I saw great potential in Beth Rivkah. The staff and teachers were dedicated and hard working.

2. WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST BUILDING PROJECT?

When I realized that since the Montréal winter is about six months long, the girls spent a lot of time indoors, and the building was lacking a gym. I ventured down to the basement which was a cavernous cellar at the time, to see if the girls can play there during recess. I found a large unfinished area, the size of the building

with exposed pipes and wires everywhere. This seemed like the perfect location for a gym.

I spent many hours meeting with contractors, and the cost of the project was \$18,000, way beyond our means.

The dream became a reality as our mothers' auxiliary pitched in, and Mr. Harvey Britton OBM of Britton Electric generously donated many hours of work and supplies. They created the BR Tag Day. The girls went to malls to sell "tags" for a nickel or a dime. This joint effort helped complete the gym. Today, the children and grandchildren of these alumni, who spent days selling tags enjoy the gym.

3. YOU SAID THAT THE PRESCHOOL HAD ONLY ONE CLASS, HOW DID IT GROW INTO THE BEAUTIFUL C.P.E. WE HAVE TODAY?

Our first floor had offices on the right (where the Tiny Tots class is today), behind that, a small library with a large open space which served as a

lunchroom, play area, and gym.

There was one class of four-year-old girls and boys in our preschool on that floor as well. Since the preschool was costly, parents were reluctant to apply.

I realized that there might be grants available for preschools. After much time spent on research and on applications, I asked the Rebbe for a Bracha. We were thrilled to receive a permit for 80 students, which quickly filled up. The following year, we wrote to the Rebbe that we are once again applying for a larger permit, and we were able to have 92 students. So it went, with many more brachos, we maxed our C.P.E. at 124 students, the largest in the province.

4. WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON EDUCATION?

An educator once commented, "I have thirty years of education behind me, I know what must be done". The Rebbe responded, "Chinuch, education should not be behind someone, it should be in the



Rabbi Yosef Minkowitz is the principal of Beth Rivkah for over four decades.

front. One must always move forward". In Beth Rivkah, we constantly thrive to advance, implementing new educational programs and practices.

Aside from formal education, Beth Rivkah endeavors to educate the whole child. Programs such as Tzivos Hashem, Achos T'mimim, and the Chidon are in full swing all year round giving our students spirit and warmth. ■

הכרת הטוב

I am grateful to my daughter's teacher for...

Parents, here is a wonderful place to express your gratitude towards your daughter's teacher.

Please email us at buzz@bethrivkah.com



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FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE FRIEDRIKER REBBE (5640-5710, 1880-1950)

When I was four years old, I asked my father:

"Why did Hashem make people with two eyes? Why not with one eye, just as they have one nose and one mouth?"

"Hashem gave us two eyes, a right eye, and a left eye," his father replied.

"The right eye is for seeing the good, and the left eye is for seeing faults. Use your right eye to look at others, and your left eye to look at yourself." ■

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/42899/jewish/A-Rebbs-Education.htm

Yud Shvat Mivtzoim Day 5778.
With their smiles and good cheer, the BR girls fulfilled the Rebbe's shlichus to brighten the lives of others.

BUZZING AT...



Grades seven and eight presented interactive programs in various preschools.

Bridging the generation gap, BR elementary students visited nursing home, and spent quality time with the residents.

Beautiful show, Beautiful Message Beautiful GIRLS

"Alive" Production

A LOOK INTO... THE ELEMENTARY & RESOURCE CENTER

Beth Rivkah Elementary has invested time, money and energy over the past three years training our teachers in implementing executive function skills in our classrooms. This year we are targeting grades three through six.

Executive functions are brain-based cognitive skills that are essentially the building blocks for completing all tasks, in school, at home and in life. These skills include flexibility, focus, organization, planning, self-awareness, self-control, time management, and working.

We are so excited about the impact the executive functions have had in the classroom. These are strategies that are available to be easily implemented in home and at school.

This is the executive functions program developed thus far:

- Last year, we had five workshops for the teachers to learn the executive functions and their direct correlation to the academic and social progress of our students. As a follow-up, this year as a review, we held a teachers' booster workshop.
 - The children were assessed in their executive functions to determine both their individual and classroom executive functions strengths and challenges.
 - Mrs. Davis, coordinator of the Resource Center for all the Beth Rivkah students, went into each classroom with a power point presentation to explain the executive functions to the students.
 - There were individual grade level meetings for teachers to analyze the data and discuss strategies and implementations.
 - A parent evening to explain executive functions.
- This year, we added the following three new components:
1. Each grade chose a month and the executive function they wished to work during this time frame. They have been publicizing it throughout the school via posters, slogans, songs, written work, poetry and the like.
 2. Teachers discussed with each individual child, the executive function and the strategy she would like to work on.
 3. A special executive functions bulletin board which students use as a reference.

THIS HAS B"H RESULTED IN... TO NAME A FEW...

- A better understanding of behavior patterns and as a result a more effective structured and organized class.
- Socially, children can clearly identify the executive function skill they are having a challenge with and find solutions with the help of an adult. As the saying goes, "if you can name it, you can tame it!"
- Academically, it has boosted children's success in school.

With Hashem's help and by working together, we can help our children grow stronger, be more successful and reach their potential. ■

With love
from the Beth Rivkah Kitchen

PIZZA SOUP



INGREDIENTS

- 1 large onion diced
- 3 carrots diced
- 4 potatoes peeled and diced
- 1 big sweet potato diced
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can tomato juice
- 2-3 Tbsp chicken soup powder



DIRECTIONS

1. Saute veggies with oil for a few minutes
2. Add water to cover the vegetables and boil until soft.
3. Blend and add water as needed.
4. Add cooked noodles and salt & pepper to taste.



FAVORITE SOUP ON THE MENU!

ART
CONTEST
THEME: SIMCHA

HEY ELEMENTARY GIRLS!

YOU can be part of the BR Art Contest.

1

Get a paper from contest managers (Sarah Cohen, Chana Iza Dahan, Bella Lev, and Chaya Mushka Muller)

2

Use paint, markers, crayons, paper or whatever you like to make a 2D drawing

Submit it to contest managers by Monday, י"ח אדר, March 5
All art work will be displayed in school.