



KEEP UP WITH

THE BUZZ

HAPPY  
CHANUKAH

L'ACADEMIE BETH RIVKAH POUR FILLES NEWSLETTER – CHANUKAH 5779 DECEMBER 2018



Israel's Chief Rabbi Yitzchok Yoseph  
addressing BR students



A heartfelt  
"THANK YOU" to  
artist Haim Sherff who  
spearheaded this project, and  
to all those who participated in  
this monumental undertaking:

## B'YACHAD ART PROJECT

Just as each letter of the Aleph Beis is unique,  
so too is each Beth Rivkah student unique –  
unlike any other – and holds her own value.

B'Yachad, each and every Beth Rivkah staff  
member, student, alumna and parent blends  
to form a rich and meaningful tapestry.

B'Yachad, 22 students, alumnae and mothers  
collaborated to create a unique work of art  
depicting the holy letters of the Aleph Beis.

Pre-Cheder Aleph, Pre-Cheder Beis, Sarah & Rosie Gniwisch (Grades 1&3), Maryasha Yarmush (2017), Shilat Drey (Kindergarten), Rivkah Sabbah (2018), Devora Serraf (2017), Esther Kadosh Frankfurter (2005), Sheina Yarmush Dorn-sheinasart.com (2002), Esty Rosenfeld -maryem\_rose (2016), Brachie Lesches (Grade 11), Chaya Bernath (Grade 7), Esther, Chana, Tzivia Chaikin (Kindergarten Grades 2-3), Hana Duga (2018), Lea Kakon (Grade 1), Ita Sonnenschein (2016), Mrs. Zahava Steinberg, Tonny Lev (Grade 11), Ita Sputz Rubashkin (2013), Yitta Russ (Grade 3), Shayna Denburg (2005), Cheder Beis.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teachers' effort + parent involvement  
= enhanced educational experiences

This hands-on approach was  
both educational and enjoyable.

Students and teachers were grateful  
for this wonderful opportunity.

*At the beginning of the school year, the grades 5 & 6  
students were explained the expectations we had of them,  
and their responsibilities as a Beth Rivkah student.*

A checklist is sent home on a daily basis to be signed by their parents,  
keeping parents and school on the same page vis-à-vis their growth.

We are very proud of all those students who have fulfilled these  
high expectations. When we set the bar high, in both learning  
and behavior, our students strive to achieve these goals.

BAIS RIVKAH - CONNECTING MORE THAN EVER



THIS IS THE DAY THAT CONNECTED  
ME TO YOU, (the Chassidim) AND YOU TO ME



## A LOOK INTO... THE RESOURCE CENTER



GOAL



PLAN



DO



CHECK

A new sign in the BR Resource Centre stating, "Setting Goals Makes us Stronger Students" is being filled with handwritten Post-It notes, as students state their personal goals ("I want to read faster," and "I want to read Hebrew out loud in class").

We have adapted a 4-step process, Cognitive Orientation to Occupational Performance (CO-OP), where students are encouraged to be involved in their learning.

- ✓ Set **GOALS** for their learning;
- ✓ Develop a **PLAN** of action;
- ✓ **DO** (implement) the plan;
- ✓ **CHECK** the results of the plan; then revise the plan as needed.

Learning becomes a process of discovery as teachers guide students in developing and implementing their plans. Students check the results and reflect what and how they learned. Through self-awareness the student becomes acquainted with her learning style and which strategies work for her.

The positive results from student involvement is a visible and empowers students in many areas, in and out of school.

**MRS. M. DAVIS**

Resource Center Coordinator

“A flame must be lit by using another flame. In order to educate a generation which is excited and passionate about Yidishkeit, the educators must exude those same qualities. Children intuitively pay more attention to our actions than our words. We must rejuvenate our excitement about Yidishkeit. We must daven with fervor and do mitzvot with zeal. Do it for the children.”

<https://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah>

## I AM GRATEFUL TO MY SCHOOL BECAUSE...

One day last week, a couple of excited GO leaders from Beth Rivkah, New York – where I work – stopped me in the hall and asked if I wouldn't mind sharing my recollections of Simchas Torah 5738 when the Rebbe had a heart attack, and what happened five weeks later on Rosh Chodesh Kislev.

In a couple of minutes, without giving it too much thought, I told them how it was my first time as a Beth Rivkah Montreal ninth grader going to the Rebbe for Simchas Torah.

I remember the men suddenly coming into the women's Shul and breaking the windows. There was a feeling of panic, worry and shock. There were many tears.

I knew I had to wrap up this 'interview' so I ended by saying that after the Rebbe's miraculous recovery, the Rebbe came back stronger than ever – a fact that no one in the medical field could understand. And that's all I said in less than two minutes.

A few days later, I watched myself, and other teachers who were also interviewed, on a big screen in the Beth Rivkah lunchroom. All I could think was: "I have so much more to say."

After that Simchas Torah of 5738 (1977) the Rebbe lovingly said a sicha to the Chassidim from his room. I remember standing in the middle Shul on Eastern Parkway. We were "770 Tishrei sardines."

I didn't understand anything the Rebbe said at that time. I just memorized the people's pained faces and their hope to see their Rebbe very soon.

By hashgacha pratit, I found myself 'stuck' next to Chaya Groner Sandhaus, the daughter of the Rebbe's secretary. To this day, more than four decades later, whenever I meet Chaya, I feel a special bond with her. As the daughter of the man who dedicated his life to the Rebbe 24/7, I consider her 'royalty'.

Two days after Simchas Torah, Rabbi Minkowitz, the devoted principal of Beth Rivkah Montreal, held an assembly for the high school girls. In those days, the whole high school could fit into one room. I wish I could say that I remembered what Rabbi Minkowitz said to us that morning, but I don't remember a single word!

But this is what I do remember: I remember exactly in which room the assembly took place; I remember

exactly where I stood; I remember the uncharacteristic silence in the room; But most of all I remember Rabbi Minkowitz. I clearly remember how our principal had to stop every few sentences because he got choked up and had to control his emotions.

That day I saw a Chassid's unbreakable connection and loyalty to his Rebbe. That day I realized that I was in the presence of a devoted Chassid who was extremely worried about his beloved Rebbe. If I were asked to choose a defining moment in my life, I would say that that morning assembly had a great impact on my life. It ignited in me the desire to not only remain a student in the local Jewish school, but to be connected to the 'head': the Rebbe.

It is now 41 years later. Although times are different, what has remained the same, and even grown within me, and others, is the unshakeable, unlimited love we have for our Rebbe. How challenging it is to convey that feeling to our children, our students, and the next generation!

Every once and a while I'm blessed with the opportunity to catch glimpses of the generation that has never seen the Rebbe. I hear them learn and discuss the Rebbe's teachings. I see them ignite Jewish people, and even non-Jews in our community, and those around the world, through the Rebbe's vision. I watch them farbreng and sing niggunim in a way that we never did.

Thank you, Beth Rivkah eighth graders, for taking me on a trip down memory lane and reminding me how I got here.

Thank you, Rabbi Minkowitz, for letting us see and feel the unbreakable bond of a Chassid to his Rebbe. You have had an everlasting impact on me, and on thousands of others.

Thank you, Rebbe, for giving me the privilege of humbly calling myself a Lubavitcher Chassid – not Chassida – because like my dear Miriam (Swerdlov) always says: "We are ALL Chassidim of our Rebbe - equal in our mission and equal in our bond to our Rebbe."

Most of all, thank you, Hashem, for orchestrating the events in my life that put me exactly in the right place, at the right time, with the right people enriching my life forever as a proud Chassid of the Rebbe.

As you can see, I couldn't possibly have said all this in less than two minutes....so I'm sharing it with you.

*Dalia (Dahan) Reichman (1980)*

### Special Thanks to

*the Russ family and Lederman Foundation for sponsoring.*

2 Smartboards, one mobile unit for the elementary, and one stationary unit for the high school have been installed in our school. Smart boards are interactive white boards that allow teachers and students to engage in a fun learning environment. We look forward to using them.

Parents visit **[bethrivkah.com](http://bethrivkah.com)** to view our updated website.