

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 14

"Flip," a production of the Maimonides School Drama Club, Fox Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m. (Daylight Savings Time).

### Monday, March 15

Grades K-8 dismissal at 3 p.m.; parent-teacher conferences 4-8 p.m.

Early registration deadline for After-School program spring semester.

Early registration deadline for M-Cats Sports Camp, for children currently in Kindergarten through Grade 7.

"Flip," a production of the Maimonides School Drama Club, Fox Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 17

"Let Music Ring," a concert by Elementary School vocal and instrumental ensembles; Brener Building auditorium, 4 p.m.

### Sunday, March 21

Elementary School Family Learning, Brener Building lunch room, 9:45-11 a.m.

PTA Spring Hat Show, Saval Auditorium, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Monday, March 22

Dismissal at 3 p.m. (faculty meetings).

## CHESED "COFFEE SHOP" FOR CONFEREES

Fourth and fifth graders staffed a "coffee shop" in the Brener Building second-floor lobby Wednesday to raise money during parent-teacher sessions for Haitian relief efforts. The concession, which features hot and cold drinks, pastries donated by Dushez Catering, and other snacks, will reopen for conferences on Monday. Teacher Orit Steinberg, who helped organize the effort, explained that it is important "so the kids will understand that they are part of something bigger."

## FIRST GRADERS WELCOME NEW SIDDURIM

Thirty-eight Grade 1 students took part in one of Maimonides School's most significant milestones Monday – the *Chagigat HaSiddur*. The children's presentation, directed by HaMorah Rosalie Koblitz, featured a "musical melodies program" focusing on the class, *tefillah* and the alphabet. Teachers, parents, grandparents, siblings and friends filled the Brener Building auditorium for the ceremonies. In his *dvar Torah*, Rabbi David Saltzman, principal, told the children, "This is really just the beginning of your future *tefillot* and your relationship with Hashem. Take the accomplishments of today and bring them to the next level. Rabbi Saltzman and Assistant Principal Reena Slovin distributed the *siddurim*, one for each student.

## DRAMA CLUB'S "FLIP" SUNDAY, MONDAY

Members of the Maimonides School Drama Club are putting the finishing touches on their production of "Flip," a series of six short one-act plays of various styles, all written by different playwrights. Performances of "Flip" are scheduled for Sunday and Monday beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the school's Judge J. John Fox Athletic Center. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$7 per student, and are available at the door. Performing will be seniors Leah Ellenbogen, Yael Koevary and Leora Nouriel and sophomores Naftali Ehrenkranz and Eitan Kahn. Stage manager is senior Racheli Berkovitz, assisted by junior Yardaena Milgram. Jonathan Lanzkron, a senior, is serving as technical director for the show. Producer is Miriam Hutton. The director of "Flip" is Stephanie Guedalia '10.

## DISAPPOINTING FINISH FOR MOCK TRIAL

Maimonides School's 2010 Mock Trial season came to an end Tuesday with a top-level legal battle laced with a dose of irony. The Maimonides team faced off against Sharon High School in the first round of the 16-team regional tournament. These two teams competed for the state championship almost a year ago, with Maimonides winning an extremely close match. This time the tables were turned, as Sharon prevailed in another impressive contest that was as close as could be. (Trial organizers shuffle the preliminary rounds so the same two teams can't meet for the championship in consecutive years.) The Maimonides students, who qualified for the "Sweet 16" for the third time in the past five years, will be invited to a regional champions' reception hosted by the Massachusetts Bar Association later this spring.

## ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO SING, PLAY

"Let Music Ring," a winter concert featuring vocal and instrumental ensembles from the Elementary School, is scheduled for next Wednesday beginning at 4 p.m. in the Brener Building auditorium. The program will feature combined choruses from Grades 1-2 and 4-5, the third grade chorus, and the Elementary School orchestra. The program is being coordinated by Rebecca Fisher, music teacher in the Elementary School.

## AID APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 22

Financial aid applications must be filed online by March 22 if a family is seeking financial assistance for the 2010-2011 school year. The instructions can be found by using the following link to the school website:  
<http://www.maimonides.org/pdf/financialAid/FinAidApplicationInstructions2010-11.pdf>

## CONDOLENCES TO...

Robin Walker, Rena '14 and Eliana, on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, Mrs. Inez Smith, z"l.

### HUNDREDS CELEBRATE SCHOOL AT GALA

Some 350 parents, teachers, seniors, volunteer leaders, friends and supporters convened at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Sunday evening to celebrate the school and its mission at the annual Gala.

Highlights were presentation of Pillar of Maimonides Awards to Brenda Hefter, director of Maimonides student support services, and Judge Doris Downs of Atlanta. Jeremy Salzberg '05 and Ben Fisher '10 introduced Mrs. Hefter. The presentation to the judge was by four Mock Trial team seniors, Stevie Fine, Daniel Lasman, Ben Nie-wood and Gavvy Rosen. The Gala agenda was replete with opportunities for students to showcase their talents: the Grade 5 choir, excerpts from Mock Trial and the Drama Club play, and reflections offered by seniors Donald Adler and Liora Sanieoff, Student Council presidents.

Although Sunday's Gala also was a celebration of a successful Annual Campaign, the campaign actually continues throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. More information is available from the Development Office (617-232-4452, ext. 410, or [info@maimonides.org](mailto:info@maimonides.org)).

### GRANDPARENTS' DAY PLANNING BEGINS

Planning already is underway for Maimonides School's annual Grandparents and Special Visitors Day, scheduled for Friday, May 14 (Rosh Chodesh Sivan). The program will be geared toward the Elementary School grades this year. Parents who think the Maimonides database may not include updated information for grandparents or special visitors may call (617) 232-4452, ext. 405, or write [info@maimonides.org](mailto:info@maimonides.org). The office hopes to assemble enough electronic mail addresses for a grandparents' automated list.

### SCIENCE FAIR ON SUNDAY IN BRENER GYM

Parents and students are invited to the Elementary School Science Fair Sunday from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Brener Building gymnasium. On Friday, third, fourth and fifth graders plan to be at their displays for a couple of hours beginning at 10:30 so younger students can visit the exhibits and ask questions.

### NEW AFTER-SCHOOL SEMESTER NEARS

The brochure for the After-School Program's spring semester is out, with Monday the deadline for discounted early registration. Courses range from engineering with Lego to sports and nature programs. Winter semester courses conclude next week except for Monday courses, which finished this week, and cooking, which has a make-up class on Wednesday, March 24

### MAIMONIDES PTA CORNER

Remember to support the PTA while shopping for Pesach! As an ongoing fundraiser, the PTA is selling gift cards to Star Market/Shaw's and Stop & Shop. These cards can be used like cash at the supermarkets and the PTA keeps 4 percent of the sales. Contact Frederique Smits, chair of the scrip program, at [famsmitsweil@hotmail.com](mailto:famsmitsweil@hotmail.com) to order.

The annual Spring Hat Show is scheduled for Sunday, March 21, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Saval Auditorium. Featured once again will be Linda Teicher's Headquarters from New York and Aliza Rosenberg of Boston. Our own Mickey Blechner Nyer will be showcasing her selection of hair accessories for both the young and old. Hope to see you all there!

Elementary School *Ivrit* teachers are looking for donations of Hebrew books as they work to expand their library. Cleaning for Pesach is an opportunity to donate used Hebrew books.

### BOYS WIN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

The Boys' Middle School basketball team won its third consecutive championship of the Jewish Day School League Tournament Sunday, 69-65, in a thrilling double overtime game against Rashi School. The game was close and dramatic throughout, with many lead changes and ties.

Maimonides was led by Yoni Klausner's 29 points, clutch late-game shooting and playmaking by Joseph Solomont and Noam Liss, and interior defense and rebounding by David Solooki and Eli Winton, all eighth graders. Also contributing were eighth grader Josh Jacobson and seventh graders Jared Shein and Eilon Applbaum.

The boys entered the tournament with a regular season record of 7-1, and were undefeated in their league. The only loss was to Park School, where a dramatic comeback fell seconds short. Other key contributors this season were Daniel Schwartz, Zach Blitstein, Aaron Marks, Noach Bressler, Josh Solomon and Aviad Hannel, Grade 8, and seventh grader Ezra Schwartz. Coaches are Erik Winton and Rabbi Dov Huff '99.

### JUNIOR LOOKING FOR LOST MacBOOK

Ariella Kasmer-Jacobs '11 reports that she is looking for her older model white MacBook computer, which she hasn't seen in more than a week. The unit was in the Upper School corridor. She hopes someone will find it and bring it to the Upper School office.

## ARTICLE BY RABBI JAFFE IN *TEN DA'AT*

Rabbi Yaakov Jaffe, Upper School *limudei kodesh* teacher, has written an article discussing different attitudes researchers take to the study and the teaching of Halacha in Jewish day schools. His piece, "Towards a New Paradigm for the Study of Halacha," appears in the December 2009 edition of *Ten Da'at*, Yeshiva University's journal of Jewish education. It is followed by discussion and response from other educators. Rabbi Jaffe coordinates the *Halacha Yomit* program in the Middle and Upper Schools. Many of the curricular and educational decisions that underlie this program follow from his research.

## SEVENTH GRADERS TO EXPLORE KASHRUT

Maimonides School seventh graders and the parents are scheduled to learn about the basics and intricacies of kashrut at a special program Wednesday evening. The event will begin with dinner at 5:30, followed by hands-on food demonstrations and Halachic explanations from teachers and kosher food experts. The program is an academic enrichment offering underwritten by Birkat Avraham, an organization that honors the memory of Abraham Levovitz, z"l, Maimonides School president emeritus.

## VISION, HEARING TO BE SCREENED

Students will be participating in simple vision and hearing screening programs in school over the next few months, according to Robin Shuman, school nurse. Hearing screenings will occur in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3, 6 and 9, while vision screenings will be in all Elementary School grades as well as 6 and 9. During hearing screening a child is asked to raise his or her hand to respond to different sounds. During vision screening a student is asked to identify various figures on the wall or in a machine. Parents of children who have difficulties will be notified.

These opportunities result from the school's partnership with the Brookline Public Schools as beneficiaries of the state Department of Public Health's Essential School Health Grant. Contact Mrs. Shuman (617-232-4452, ext. 406) for answers to questions or more information.

## SPORTS CAMP EARLY REGISTRATION DUE

Monday is the early registration deadline for the upcoming sessions of M-Cats Sports Camp, conducted by former Maimonides student-athletes for three weeks at the school beginning June 28. The program, now in its fifth year, is for children currently in kindergarten through Grade 7. Founder and director is Rachel Epstein '07; assistant director is her classmate Shlomo Golshirazian. All the details are available at [mcatsportscamp.com](http://mcatsportscamp.com).

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