

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 19

Elementary School Family Learning, Brener Building lunchroom, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

Upper School play, Judge J. John Fox Gymnasium, 3 p.m.

Winter sports awards event, Saval Auditorium, 6:45 p.m.

Monday, March 20

Upper School play, Fox Gymnasium, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

Dismissal at 3 p.m. for Early Childhood Center, Elementary and Middle Schools (rescheduled parent-teacher conferences).

Friday, March 24

Grade 1 Chagigat HaSiddur, Brener Building gymnasium, 8 a.m.

MAZAL TOV TO

Brenda Hefter, Middle and Upper School director of support services, and her husband Dr. Jesse Hefter, on the birth of their grandson.

SENIORS ANTICIPATING AIPAC CONFERENCE

The Class of 2017 is preparing to travel to Washington, DC next Sunday, March 26, for the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Ben Marchette, deputy director of AIPAC's New England Region, addressed the seniors and their parents in separate meetings Thursday. The seniors were also informed that there will be a detailed debriefing session Wednesday afternoon, March 29, the day after they return.

This is the third consecutive year that the senior class has participated in the policy conference. Accompanying the students will be Naty Katz, head of school; Rabbi Dov Huff, Judaic studies principal; Frederique Smits, director of institutional advancement; Refael Fadlon, Grade 12 co-dean; Tamar Gelb, director of college counseling; Benji Hain, director of Middle School student life; and Dana Bar-Or, Grade 8 dean.

The seniors won't be the only policy conference participants with a connection to Maimonides School. Among the speakers will be Dr. Matthew Levitt '88, director of the Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Also scheduled to speak is a former Maimonides student, Prof. Ilan Troen, founder of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at Brandeis University.

UPPER SCHOOL PLAY SUNDAY AND MONDAY

The 2017 Upper School play is scheduled for Sunday, March 19, at 3 p.m. and Monday, March 20, at 6 p.m. on the stage inside Judge J. John Fox Gymnasium. The production is a comic classic, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde. Seniors are organizing and managing the production: Director Arthur Bloomfield, Producer Michelle Delman and Technical Director Yonatan Diamond. Seniors in the cast are Baruch-Lev Kelman as Algernon, Lauren Koralnik as Lady Bracknell, Sarah Wertheimer as Gwendolyn Fairfax, Rebecca Stolarov as Cecily Cardew and Zev Traum as Dr. Chasuble. Other cast members are sophomores Shulamit Weisman as Miss Prism, Michael Schwartz as Merriman and Josh Schoenberg as Lane; and freshman Aviel Taube as Jack. Working on stage and behind the scenes to make the play a success are seniors Micah Beiser, Jakob Diamond and Abigail Lanzkron, junior Livia Zarge, and Emily Goldberg in eighth grade. "The cast has been working to perfect their English accents to add authenticity to the play," said Ms. Roberta Wright, faculty advisor.

SCHOOL CO-SPONSORS MEETING WITH MKs

Maimonides School is a co-sponsor of a "town hall" meeting with five members of the Knesset on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. The session, part of the Ruderman Knesset Mission, is planned for Congregation Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard St., Brookline. The agenda includes the relationship between Americans and Israelis, and keeping Israel a secure Jewish and democratic state. Registration is through the link <http://bit.ly/2ISYO4Z>, by sending an email to jasmine@rudermanfoundation.org, or through a Facebook event page, <https://goo.gl/ayuf4P>.

A NEW TRIBUTE TO EZRA SCHWARTZ, זק"ל

The Maimonides School M-Cat baseball team will host a new invitational day-school tournament this spring. The four-team tournament is named in memory of Ezra Schwartz, זק"ל '15, a standout varsity baseball M-Cat who was killed by a terrorist in Israel in November 2015. The games are scheduled for May 18-21 in Sharon. Other participating schools will be Atlanta Jewish Academy and two Manhattan schools, Ramaz and SAR High School. More details and the full schedule will be announced shortly.

SPORTS CAMP DISCOUNT DEADLINE SUNDAY

Sunday is the deadline for the 2017 M-Cat Sports Camp's early registration discount. This is the 10th year of the camp, open to students finishing pre-kindergarten through Grade 7. Sessions are scheduled for June 19-23 and 26-30, as well as July 3-7 and 10-14. More information and registration are at www.mcatsportscamp.com. Camp director is Michal Alge '14.

GRADE 1 *SIDDUR* MILESTONE NEXT FRIDAY

An educational milestone for the past four decades, the *Chagigat HaSiddur*, is scheduled for first grade students on Friday, March 24, at 8 a.m. The highlight will be the presentation of a personalized *siddur* to each student.

Oranit Saadia, the *limudei kodesh* teacher coordinating the celebration, explained that the milestone takes place almost seven months after the start of first grade so the children have the opportunity to not only learn to read Hebrew but also learn about *tefillah*. "We really feel that each child is ready to get a *siddur* in a meaningful way," she said. And by emphasizing the use of a *siddur* with respect and *derech erez*, "This isn't just a present; now they know what to do with it." Narration, *tefillot* and songs are all in Hebrew – the only English is a *dvar Torah* by Rabbi David Saltzman, Elementary School principal, who will also present the *siddurim*. The *chagigah* also features a video presentation and a museum, where first graders display and explain their work. Mrs. Saadia said the displays focus on certain key passages in *tefillah*, as well as family heritage.

Mrs. Saadia emphasized that the preparation and execution of the milestone event is a team effort, with assistance from general studies teacher Danielle Carrus, teaching assistants and principals. In addition, "We integrate music and art," with first graders practicing their songs with music teacher Andrew Malkin and preparing stage decorations – including self-portraits – with art teacher Ariel DiOrio.

PTA'S ANNUAL SKATING PARTY MARCH 26

Maimonides PTA invites the entire student body and families to an ice skating party Sunday, March 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Warrior Ice Arena, 90 Guest St., Brighton. The new venue is the practice home of the Boston Bruins. Reservations (<http://evite.me/ujtztzSqBnT>) by next Wednesday lock in a rate of \$10 per skater, including skate rental. Doughnuts (from Donuts with a Difference) and cocoa will be provided by PTA.

APPLICATIONS FOR AID DUE NEXT FRIDAY

The deadline for filing a financial aid application for the 2016-17 school year is next Friday (March 24). The deadline for submitting the required tax documentation is April 24. The link to the financial aid page on the school website is <http://www.maimonides.org/adm-financial-aid-returning-families>. Contact Arline Tannenbaum (617-232-4452, ext. 425, or atannenbaum@maimonides.org) for answers to questions.

GRADE 8 PARENTS' UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW

Parents of eighth grade students are invited to "Step Up to Upper School," an interactive, information-filled presentation on Tuesday beginning at 8 p.m. (note the change in time) in Levy Library, Saval Campus. Upper School principals will be joined by representatives of the academic, student life and social work teams. Dairy dessert will be served. Reservations can be made with Erin O'Brien (eobrien@maimonides.org) or through the invitation emailed to parents.