THE GESHER GAZETTE

www.gesherschool.com The Bridge 20th October 2023

Gesher's Amazing Term

There is a Jewish proverb that "a little bit of light pushes away a lot of darkness" and the way that Jewish communities around the world have come together over the past few weeks has given tremendous light and shown the underlying strength, unity and beauty of Judaism. Our students have also given their light by sending letters and drawings to frontline soldiers, evacuated families, injured civilians and medical staff in Israel. At Gesher, we are fortunate to have had some amazing and unprecedented events recently that have also shone tremendous light on the long-lasting beauty of Judaism within the school. Our first was an unveiling ceremony for a Parochet for the Aron Hakodesh (curtain for the Torah cupboard) and a Torah cover. Designed by our ex-Art therapist and very kindly donated, the ceremony included a prayer for the state of Israel and was a beautiful and moving ceremony that engaged the students, especially when they had the opportunity to touch and kiss the Torah as it came around. We also launched the Chief Rabbi Kindness Award to students in Tamar. This award encourages the students to complete 36 different acts of kindness throughout the year and advance their journey to being upstanding and caring individuals within their home, their school and their community. Our term ended on a high with our very first Gesher Bar-Mitzvah celebration with family in attendance. Following a Gesher-ised Tefillah (prayer) service, our Bar-Mitzvah student had a aaliyah (call up) to the Torah and was presented with a certificate and a beautiful Chanukiah to enable him to fulfil a key Mitzvah (commandment) and bringing his own unique Jewish light into the world. May we only hear good news over the half term and may there be peace over the whole of Israel. Amen.







New Term, New Chef, New, menu

We look forward to welcoming our new Chef Caroline to Gesher after the half term. Caroline comes with a wealth of experience having worked in a variety of kitchens but her passion lies with supporting students to have access to healthy meals, to engage and feel a part of the dining experience when some find this challenging and finding ways to get students in the kitchen to make them part of the process. Caroline spent a few days at Gesher this term getting to know the students and finding out from them the foods they would like to see on the menu, and more about their individual dining experience. with that, we are excited to launch a new three-week menu. Caroline has ensured some firm favourites remained and new favourites, such as sushi are included. Following the launch of the menu Caroline will follow up with students, and get further feedback to ensure the final menu has something for for all. With this in mind we also recognise lunchtimes at Gesher is more than just a time for our students to re-fuel with some yummy food. Therefore we will continue to support and provide opportunities to teach important motor skills, like using a knife and fork and develop a range of social skills. We look forward to sharing further news. Link to new menu

Therapy Corner

This term, the Therapy team alongside teachers have supported Primary school P.E., offering activities like bicycle skills, football, dance, ball skills and tennis. Our P.E goals are to: Promote regular physical activity for improved health and fitness. Cultivate Teamwork & Sportsmanship by teaching fair play, respect for opponents and winning and losing. Encourage Social Interaction by supporting students to bond with peers from various classes, enhancing students' communication and interaction skills. Support OT and Gross Motor Skills through active participation in physical activities, along with promoting self-care skills such as changing uniforms. We look forward to seeing our students' skills and confidence grow in P.E next term