

THE GESHER GAZETTE

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The Bridge

15th December 2023

End of Term Highlights

As we draw a close to the term, we take this opportunity to reflect on all the learning, friendships made, and trips and events explored across the last 12 weeks. It has been fantastic to read the reports this week and to see first hand the progress students have made this term. A highlight for me has been seeing the new students embracing Gesher's school life and being supported by their peers as they settled in. We also recognise this term has been filled with mixed emotions as we all came to grips with the tragic global events of October. It is commendable to see how our students have grappled and dealt with a mixture of emotions as they have navigated the past few months. As always, we recognise the importance of community and how coming together to support each other through difficult times is the best way forward. It has been wonderful to end the term by having the opportunity to celebrate Chanukah with parents, staff and students alike over the last week. These events have allowed us the opportunity to spend some close time with our students outside of an academic context, and it is so lovely to



witness the progress they have made as young people and see the relationships that have flourished. We want to thank every member of the Gesher community for your support and wish you all a joyous and restful winter break.



Kodesh Corner

This past week of Chanukah has brought a tremendous amount of light, warmth and joy into Gesher. We had the pleasure of hosting students from Kisharon and JFS to join our secondary students in our immersive enrichment afternoons, as well as primary parents to join their children on a separate afternoon. The corridors and classrooms were transformed with UV lights and glow-in-the-dark activities including Chanukah card making, face and hand painting, bracelet making, Play-Doh making and fun glow and light games. We also had a whole school chanukiah lighting at the end of each day accompanied by different mini activities, including eating doughnuts without licking lips, latke and dip tasting, and dreidel and chocolate coins competitions. We were honoured to have Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis join us on the first night



to turn on the lights to our 80,000 LEGO brick chanukiah and share some words of wisdom. He also gave students our new Chanukah Inclusive Resource Booklet to enable them to engage with each night of Chanukah with their families through sensory, practical and general knowledge activities and discussion questions. It has been a wonderful way to end our term and we wish everyone a Shabbat Shalom and a lovely relaxing winter break.

Therapy Corner

As the holidays approach, it's a good time to remind ourselves that preparation is the key to success when planning days out. Planning outings with sensory needs in mind create joyful experiences for everyone involved. You can do this by choosing venues with less crowded SEN-friendly times, quiet spaces or sensory rooms for breaks when needed. Consider bringing ear defenders, fidget tools, or comfort items to aid with sensory overload and transitions. Plan activities with flexibility, consider showing the journey to the venue, what the venue looks like and the schedule for breaks with your child as a visual ahead of the outing. Weaving sensory considerations into your holiday plans, allows you to create memorable and inclusive outings for all. Find a list of events happening throughout the holidays on this link - <https://bit.ly/3Rg1Xbj>