

THE GESHER GAZETTE

www.gesherschool.com

The Bridge

23rd February 2024

Gesher's Volunteers

Gesher School is lucky to benefit from the support of volunteers, who assist our students and staff team in a wide range of different areas. Volunteers support students with reading, art and creative expression sessions, learning activities in small groups, playground activities and social skills and therapy dog interactions. We also have volunteers who support us in the background by helping keep our school spaces organised and tidy, for example supporting staff with our library space. One area where volunteers are a great help with is Hebrew Reading, where they help develop the student's interest and knowledge in the Hebrew alphabet and reading and spelling skills using Hebrew. We have several volunteers who have been involved with Gesher since we moved to our new school site, as well as newer volunteers who have joined us along our journey. It is always such a joy to see the students thriving with the additional time, support and encouragement that our volunteers provide, and we are thrilled to have volunteers attending each day of the week! We love having volunteers at Gesher and are always open to new volunteers joining our team.



It may be linked to an interest or skill in a certain area (e.g. a sport, artistic passion, gardening, etc.), a desire to give back to the community or an interest in developing their understanding and knowledge of working with Gesher students. Our volunteers are supported in their work by the school team, including opportunities to attend Volunteer Workshops termly and learn from class teachers, therapists and teaching assistants. If you know anyone who may be interested in volunteering at Gesher or have any questions, please get in touch with Miss Leigh (our volunteer coordinator).

Quiz Night

Save the Date! Thursday 11th April! Let's get quizzical! The Gesher PTC are back with another fantastic quiz night! Following on from the success of the last event, we can't wait to see all of our Gesher parents, family and friends for a night of fun, food and flexing those trivia muscles. As well as the quiz, there will be light refreshments, a raffle with some wonderful prizes and much more. Also backed by popular demand is your quiz host for this year, the wonderful Mr Chris! see below for links to buy tickets.



Kodesh Corner

The wonderful thing about the Jewish calendar is that there is always a chag (festival) to start planning and preparing for. With that in mind, I would like to remind you about the Purim Extravaganza morning on Friday 22nd March 9am-12pm with different activities going on. All parents and grandparents are welcome to join us. Please ensure that you confirm your attendance using this link. <https://bit.ly/3T8Tedg> Also, a few days after coming back from the Pesach Holidays is Yom Hashoah (Day of Remembrance). We will be buying some yellow candles to commemorate the 6 million Jews who lost their lives during the Holocaust. If you would like us to get a candle for your family, please confirm in the following link. <https://bit.ly/3wxiDnM> Shabbat Shalom

Therapy Corner

It is tempting to ask our children lots of questions when they get home from school, of course, we want to know everything about their day! However, this can cause pressure when they're tired after a long day, and frustration if they can't express themselves. Try offering opportunities to share without pressure e.g. "Do you want to speak about your day? No? Okay, if you want to speak later I'm here to listen". If they want to share, you could try to ask a less open-ended question that requires less cognitive energy and expressive language e.g. "Did you play with xxxx?" or give choices "Was maths or literacy your favourite today?". Another top tip is not to ask questions straight after school, and wait until your child has had a snack and a chance to decompress from the day. Here's a useful, short clip: <https://bit.ly/3OPV2VS> Disclaimer: The presenter advertises, at the end of the clip, for parents to contact her for more support etc. Gesher are not endorsing her work or recommending her services - this clip is purely for your information only, thanks.