

THE GESHER GAZETTE

www.gesherschool.com

The Bridge

22nd March 2024

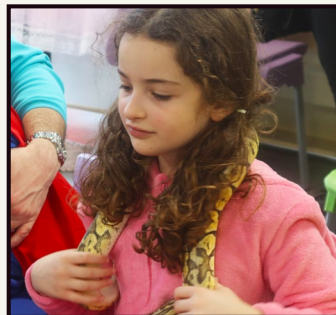
Purim Celebrations

This Saturday night and Sunday is one of the most joyful days of the Jewish calendar - Purim, a time for extra celebrations and joy in our lives. As it is over the weekend, we gave our students an extra day of fun and enjoyment, as well as finishing school an hour earlier. What could be more enjoyable for them (and the staff) than that? (!) Today (Friday 22nd March) we invited parents, grandparents, and Gesher volunteers to join us for our Enrichment morning of dressing up, food and activities. The day started with a beautiful Oneg Shabbat assembly led by the students with plenty of grape juice and challah to enjoy. We introduced the advocate lead for additional needs at the United Synagogue, Rivka Steinberg, and announced that Rabbi Kurzer, of the Pinner synagogue and Gesher's Rabbi in Residence, is leaving for pastures anew in Golders Green at Pesach time. We thank him tremendously for all the religious and spiritual guidance and advice he has given us and he will be greatly missed, but we wish him all the best in his future endeavours and look forward to welcoming, and working with, his replacement in the future. The morning was then filled with fun activities that the students really enjoyed, including making and tasting



Hamantaschen's, making their own puppets, crowns, masks and greggors (noisemakers), making Mishloach Manot (food gift packages) which they can distribute to friends and families on Purim day, and a petting zoo with furry and scaly friends including giant snails, salamanders, tortoises, a python, rabbits and a duck which the students really enjoyed petting and feeding. The morning

ended with a hilarious mashup of songs from The Greatest Showman performed by staff in our Purim video which can be seen here - <https://bit.ly/4csj57g> A great day was had by all and we can't wait to welcome all the parents, grandparents and Gesher volunteers to future events. We wish you all a Shabbat Shalom & Ah Freilichen Purim (Happy Purim in Yiddish).



Therapy Corner

World Book Day on the 7th March was a huge success this year and provided the perfect opportunity to launch our new high-quality reading books, carefully chosen based on the children's interests as well as ensuring a range of material which no matter their stage of

reading, they can access and enjoy. We want all our students to be readers and this starts with fostering a love for reading, so reading is a joy and not a chore. Along with new books, students and staff have been busy working on renovating their class reading areas as part of a whole school initiative, all of which will be revealed next week.

When reading at home, it is important that this love of reading continues: carve out quality time where your child reads to you, as well as you reading to them; and create a relaxed environment where you can talk, laugh and enjoy the book together! Please click on the link here for more advice: <https://bit.ly/3ILuodg>