

Pesach Dvar Torah:



With Pesach right around the corner, it's a good time of year to reflect on what each holiday means to us and what type of introspection we should do. Many people notice that the Torah refers to Pesach as 'Chag Hamatzos', however most of us more commonly refer to the holiday as Pesach or Passover. How did this change come about and why did we switch?

Rav Chaim Volozhiner explains that the words matzos and mitzvot are written identically in Hebrew, which teaches us that by leaving Egypt the Jewish people had a chance to earn massive rewards by keeping the mitzvot. However, pesach, which means "passover" emphasizes the good that Hashem did for us.

Our sages teach us that focusing on Pesach and not referring to the holidays as Chag Hamatzos is a reminder that we should not serve Hashem with an eye towards receiving a reward, but rather from a sense of love and gratitude. So, our focus on Pesach should be on gratitude of the things we love as opposed to the rewards we might wish to attain.

What Makes Us Ezra:

By: Nathaniel Matat

In our lives, stactivity is scarce, if existent at all. Living in a fast paced society riddled with constant competition and deadlines, makes our lives hectic and filled with anxiety. This is especially true with regard to high school students who are at the point in their lives in which they are somewhat responsible for life changing decisions, and are generally spoiled with choices (what school they want to be in? Which college, if any?)(will they be serious students?)(what job do they want now, and for the future?). This societal setting demands adaptability. With a wide variety of choices presented around this age, high schools like Ezra Academy constantly adapt to offer more options, namely clubs and various academic programs.

Since just a year ago, much has changed in Ezra Academy. Most notably, our clubs have expanded to include chess and a basketball team which tastes victory. Our mock trial team "Legal Eagles", have reached a record high of top 8 in the state. Our incredible debate team has been successful in New York and on a memorable trip to Philadelphia. Most importantly however, was the addition of a new early morning study program for males centered around the laws of Shabbat. It occurs on Mondays and Wednesdays and begins at 7:59 with clear and direct practical learning. This also serves as a buffer against lateness. Successive successes like these can be indirectly attributed to increased interest on the part of the students, while being catalyzed by Ezra's incredible staff. At Ezra there certainly is something for everyone.

Sports: Ezra Eagles For The Win!

By: Shimon Kusayev



For the first time in nearly two decades the Ezra Eagles have won 5 basketball games and can almost taste the playoffs. Keeping their playoff dreams alive, the Ezra Eagles won their last home game against JIQ with a buzzer beater three by Ethan Yohananov which gave Ezra a narrow one point lead. The Eagles took a three game winning streak into Heichal but were met with stiffer competition. This season, Yohananov hasn't just impressed with his shooting but even more so with his stellar and tenacious defense, becoming a true leader on the team.

Entertainment: Ezra Humor

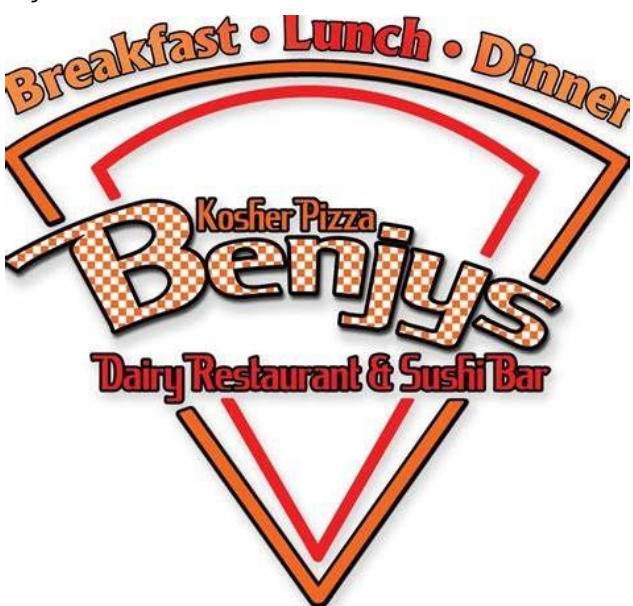
By: Allen Muradov



One of the things that makes Purim at Ezra Academy unique is our annual Purim shpiel. This is where the senior students of Ezra get together and make a video about the Ezra staff ending up in funny stories which is then shown after our yearly Purim party. In this year's Purim shpiel the story centered around Rabbi Friedler's fictional retirement after working at Ezra Academy for an astounding 100 years. The seniors poked fun at all their beloved teachers like Mr. Siegel, Ms. Fish, Mr. Miska, Dr. Weinberg. The shpiel had incredible impressions by Estee Abramaov making fun of Mr. Miska's love for the basketball team, and Devorah Akbashov playing a young Dr. Weinberg. The shpiel was enjoyable and had a charm to it. It was definitely a great event to experience with the Ezra family because it creates fond memories and great laughs.

Restaurant Review: Benjy's Pizza

By: Alan Yakubov



After many years of not having a chess team, Ezra Academy has come storming on to the scene of the yeshiva chess league. Finishing off the season by beating HANC in two consecutive matches, Ezra will be looking for more wins next year. To show their gratitude, the Ezra Knights pooled together enough money to buy their coach, Mr. Morochnick, a custom made chess set with an incredible design. However, no matter the winner or loser, we all walk away with one thing for certain, some great food, and an even greater experience. After every match, the amazingly generous chess teachers from both teams go out of their way to get 4 delicious pizza pies to celebrate. Mostly from Benjy's Pizza, (7272 Main St, Queens, NY 11367), which is one of the best Jewish pizza places in Queens. Extremely well rated with a 4.3 star average review. As well as having an incredible staff and a what seems to be endless menu due to there also being a sushi bar inside the restaurant.

Current Events:

By:Paulina Khaitov

Teacher Interview with Mr. Weinberg:

By: Regina Fatakhova

- 1) What factors do you think are contributing to any changes in student attitudes?
 - I think the positive messaging from all the staff members contributes to building a vision and a culture of possibilities for students. I also think starting a chess club and fielding a competitive basketball team creates a winning vibe that fuels the schools reputation. Add in the debate, model congress, mock trial successes and you have an academic reputation for excellence out in the world but also in the classroom. We've a long way to go but we are headed in the right direction to empowering our students and their families.

- 2) One piece of advice you would give to the students and teachers of Ezra Academy.
 - Far be it from me to give advice to teachers and staff. However, with regard to our student body it is along the lines of having them see the importance of their academic work ethic. It is about respecting their future by being that which they see to be possible in the present. Be in the moment.

- 3) What is one thing the students and teachers of Ezra Academy could do to continue this positive streak?
 - I think the culture of Ezra is blooming right in front of us now. We need not alter anything, we just need to remain steadfast in our commitment to a culture of success, kindness, and never giving up. Be unbreakable and have Emunah.



Ezra The Ezra Academy Mock Trial team has been doing exceedingly well, showing their extreme determination to become one of the top teams of New York. They have been showing great progress since last year, where their journey ended at the loss of the Sweet 16 round. Recently, the team bounced back stronger and passed this round. Now, Ezra has an oncoming game. When the Mock Trial Team wins this game, Ezra will have a new record for its entire existence, having them at top 4. Their skill and dedication have set a new standard, much higher for what will come next



Ezra Style:

By: Rafaela Fatakhov

Purim comes around once a year. High school students all over use that time as an opportunity to let their inner child out and to wear costumes and celebrate with the people around them. This also gives Ezra the chance to read the megillah, dance, eat, and party on a Saturday night where students were eager to flood the hallways on a non-school day. The highlight of the night though: the costumes. Students love dressing up. Whether it's in a scary or funny way, the students always find a way to be creative. Some of the creative costumes were race car drivers, pirates, angels, skeletons, basketball football and baseball players, Mario and Luigi, police officers, kiss marry kill, and tons more. Props like glow sticks and glasses were also given out by teachers. A great time was all and students loved using their wardrobe to showcase a different side of themselves.

Ezra Times



EZRA
ACADEMY

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Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

Debate Team brings home another win!



Chessed Trip to New Orleans!



Ezra Mock Trial reaches top 8 in the state



What could be more fun than rolling Matzah?



Ezra Knights win two chess matches against HANC



Ezra spreading Chessed:

