



THE DRS STAR



A DRS Publication Written By The Students For The Students

700 Ibsen Street, Woodmere, NY 11598

Should College Athletes Get Paid?

By Josh Lent and Gabriel Leifer

Over the years, there have been non-stop arguments as to whether college athletes should be receiving compensation. There have been several cases over the years of college athletes getting fined or suspended for receiving money from different sources while playing amateur sports. Colleges don't want athletes to receive money because this act can lead to corruption among the college athletes. Skeptics say that college players should not receive compensation because the smaller sports, such as canoeing, don't earn as

much revenue as basketball and football, so they shouldn't be paid. Kids in college would not be able to handle such a big income coming their way. Colleges would also have to pay more money towards Johnny Manziel, the Heisman Trophy winner of 2012, than the kicker of the team, or the 12th man on the basketball team. Also, the extra revenue that the sports teams brings in for the college should go mainly towards the education of the young athletes. If

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Number Six School Deal is a Win-Win

By The Editorial Board

Written by Yitzchak Carroll

The Number Six School has sat in its plot desolate on Church Avenue in Woodmere since 2009, when the Lawrence School Board voted to close down the school to save over \$1 million. The now-defunct school has probably received more media attention than any other school in the county. Voters have made it clear that they are not interested in the building and its adjacent fields being sold to a commercial entity. In March, voters rejected Bronx-based Simone Development's \$12 bid for the property. It is time for the district and taxpayers to profit off of this vacant property and for it to turn into a win-win for all.

As time moves on, more Orthodox Jews in Nassau County

choose to raise their families in the Five Towns area, as opposed to smaller Jewish communities situated in Long Beach, West Hempstead, Great Neck, and Plainview. Therefore, having one of the largest Yeshivas in the county located in Long Beach is impractical. Moving the elementary school to the Five Towns, closer to HALB's Executive Office in Cedarhurst, DRS High School, located a block down in Woodmere, and SKA and Lev Chana in Hewlett Bay Park, would be much more practical. Additionally, the move would save money for the district in the long run, as less busses would be required, and the Lawrence School

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A snowman smiles before the Capitol in Washington D.C. as the East Coast suffers through record snowfalls and one of the coldest winters ever.

-Yoni Gutenmacher/DRS Star

Motivation and Teamwork Leads DRS to Championship Victory

By Yitzchak Carroll

A combination of motivation and teamwork led the DRS Wildcats to their first junior varsity basketball title in the Woodmere school's history, as they beat the Flatbush Falcons by a score of 43-25 to win the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League championship, held at Yeshiva University in Washington Heights on March 9. "The key to our victory was motivation," Wildcats guard Eytan Aryeh said. "We were all very motivated to get to our goal of the championship and didn't let anything get in our way."

Both teams entered the game undefeated, each touting an undefeated 10-0 record in the regular season. DRS won the Frisch Cougars of Paramus by a score of 57-46 in a semifinal

game on March 3 to clinch a spot in the championship, while Flatbush beat the SAR Sting of Riverdale 50-39 in a March 5 semifinal game to secure their berth.

While Flatbush held the lead early on, the tables turned at the end of the first quarter, courtesy of a 3-pointer by Wildcats point guard Yoav Deutsch, who was named game MVP, and a layup by forward Akiva Ackerman, as DRS went into the second quarter with a 10-7 lead. The momentum continued in the second quarter, and Deutsch scored on a buzzer-beater 3-pointer to put the Wildcats ahead 26-13 going into the half. Deutsch, 16, scored 16 points in the game, including four

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Articles

TECHNOLOGY CORNER: Faster than A Speeding Bullet By David Herman

Imagine traveling from Washington, D.C. to New York City in just a single hour. Sound impossible? How about traveling from the nation's capital to Baltimore, 39 miles, in 15 minutes? Sounds even crazier! Well, it is actually going to happen, and sooner than you might think.

Magnetic Levitation trains (Maglev for short) have been around for a while in Japan. Soon, they will be coming to the States. Japan, the leader in Maglev development is now testing new bullet trains with speeds up to 311 miles per hour. Putting that



number into perspective, airplanes travel at an average of 550 miles per hour.

Maglev trains actually float on a bed of air. The magnet coils fixed in the track repel the guidance magnets attached to the underbelly of the train. The train never touches the ground and is levitated

between 1 to 10 centimeters! Once the train is floating, electric power is supplied to the magnetic coils within the railway to create a sophisticated system of magnetic fields that pull and push the train down the railway. The magnets in front of the train pull it, while the

magnets behind it give it thrust. Because of the levitation, friction is obliterated. Friction acts to slow regular trains down. Now that the friction is gone, the train can reach incredible speeds. Eliminating friction also reduces the chance of fires and accidents.

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We Have What To Learn From Yachad By Maury Rosenfeld

In light of our school's recent Yachad Shabbaton, I thought I'd take a break from writing the usual, boring column. Instead, I wanted to talk about someone I know. His name is Tzvi Burston. Tzvi is in his early thirties, lives in Los Angeles, and runs an independent music label. Besides all of that, Tzvi has cerebral palsy, rendering him in a wheelchair. He's also the greatest person I've ever met, and I love him like a brother.

I'm not going to talk about the extraordinary Yachad Israel program, Yad B'Yad, where Tzvi and I met, because that's not what this is about. Given that DRS doesn't really participate in Yachad events that often, or at all really, I thought I'd like to take a second to show you what a "Yachad member" is like.

They love and hate, just like you and me. They have the exact same emotions as we do. And that is because we're not so different, at all.

People don't want to be judged solely on how they look. If that was the method of summing somebody up, many amazing people would be tossed aside, given not a second thought, just because they speak or smell or look a little bit different, a little bit... abnormal.

They have amazing senses of humor. Just ask my friend Tzvi. He likes to dabble in stand-up comedy. He's also the funniest guy I've ever met.

They listen to you more than anybody else. If there's one thing a Yachad member understands, it's that sometimes you just need to talk to somebody. And, rest assured, any Yachad member would never turn away. Can we say the same for ourselves, the "mainstream" population?

Have you always been there when your friends needed you? Or did you come up with some

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Students Enjoy Annual DRS Parent-Son Melava Malka By Yehuda Posner

On Motzei Shabbat, Feb. 8, DRS hosted its annual Parent-Son Melava Malka. Students and their parents joined their Rabbeim in a kumzitz led by Rabbi Kaminetzky, Rabbi Wolf, Rabbi Friedman, and social worker Dani Jozsef. At the program, the school honored Rabbi Klapholtz for his 17 years of dedication to the school with a special presentation. Following the inspirational presentation, students, parents and Rebbeim went to the cafeteria, where the celebration continued. Once there, they socialized and enjoyed delicious food, followed by a presentation of the Torah Growth and Midot Tovot Awards and watched a montage which contained pictures of the teachers and students enjoying a typical day in DRS. The evening concluded with dancing to music by Neshama Orchestra.

The Parent-Son Melava Malka is an important evening in which students, along with their parents

"It is the one night a year that our entire Yeshiva family, dads, moms, and students, can come together to celebrate the positive Jewish energy that our Yeshiva strives to inculcate in our talmidim with song, Divrei Torah, food and dancing," said Menahel Rabbi Kaminetsky when asked about the purpose of the Melava Malka. Students agree that the Melava Malka was a very special evening. "The Parent-Son Melava Malka is very important because it is the one evening a year that students and their parents get together with their Rabbiem and enjoy an inspiring evening with singing, dancing and food," said sophomore Aron Herman. "The Parent-Son Melava Malka shows the true goal of DRS: achdut," said freshman Josh Beer. The student body looks forward to next year's Parent-Son Melava Malka.

SEE photos on page 10.

The Star Columns

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

BY CALEV SANDERS

Native - OneRepublic (★★★★)

With soul-plumbing lyrics, entrancing beats and rich vocals, OneRepublic presents the music world with its third album, the meaningful and deep yet invigorating and explosive Native. The extremely talented lead singer, songwriter, and producer Ryan Tedder brings a poetic depth to his latest creation. Compared to OneRepublic's last two albums, Native is more pop-friendly and less dark and despair filled. However, Native, having been released only last March of 2013, seems to be more of another step in the band's gradual evolution, rather than a disgrace to its past work as some are claiming it to be. As a whole, the album has a voice about the way we live our lives, our decisions and how we as humans interact with each other. A strong subject to sing about, yet the seamless way the members of OneRepublic has done this is what has given the band it's fame. And in Native, they simply do it in a way they haven't done before.

Each song reflects upon life in its own way, questioning man's intentions and our world as it is. From the start, with the No. 1 hit Counting Stars, to the short but mesmerizing finale, Don't Look Down, Native is a graceful blend of acoustic and electronic music. The album holds a wide variety of instrumentals, like in the almost orchestral and haunting tones of Au Revoir and the rock-heavy sounds of Light It Up.

The catchy, urban beat in Burning Bridges would be very enjoyable if not for the fact that it is almost identical to the 2009 hit Good Life

from the band's last album, Waking Up. Aside from that insignificant flaw, the songs are truly masterpieces. The song Preacher is a captivating track loaded with southern choirs and poppy synths. Upbeat and lively, Something I Need, along with the beautiful What You Wanted, as well as the vibrant Feel Again stand out as the more romantic songs on this album, about the strength of love and the way it affects us all. The twangy and energetic song I Lived, about living life to the fullest and making the most of the time we have without living in regret, is one of the more prominent tracks and better expresses the album's overall message.

Though the songs, in both the instrumentals and lyrics, can be at times slightly repetitive, it is this that pushes the feeling all the more stronger and does not at all detract from the enjoyment in the album.

In essence, Native is a roaming, running, wild, and free spirit that bounds into the deepest and most authentic moments and sensations of our existence on Earth. Its songs about life, love, and all the experiences they have to offer both good and bad which have a powerful lesson to learn if you're willing to listen close enough.

Guys In The Kitchen: Zucchini Bread

By Mrs. Sue Weinberg

The entire staff of the DRS Star would like to wish a special Mazel Tov to our food columnist and beloved DRS administrative assistant, Mrs. Sue Weinberg, and her husband, Rob, on the engagement of her son, Josh, to Allysa Jeret!

1 stick of margarine
1 cup of sugar
2 eggs
1.75 cups of flour
½ teaspoon of baking powder
½ teaspoon of salt
1 teaspoon of cinnamon
⅛ teaspoon of nutmeg
1 cup of grated zucchini
1 teaspoon of vanilla

Cream margarine and sugar; beat in eggs. Stir in flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla. Fold in zucchini.

Pour mixture in 9" X 5" loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Enjoy!

Wrestling Team Wins Big at Wittenberg

The DRS Wrestling Team excelled at the 19th annual Henry Wittenberg Memorial Tournament, hosted by Yeshiva University. Sophomore Jacob Goldsmith, senior Chaim Steinhardt and junior David Haskell all won awards, as the whole team put forth a colossal effort at the event.



Photos by Natan Davidowitz/Star

Articles

Should College Athletes Get Paid?

By Josh Lent and Gabriel Leifer

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colleges paid the players, then they would be subject to extra taxes because it would be considered a professional sport. Colleges indirectly pay the players, because they provide huge scholarships worth thousands of dollars, which saves the athletes' families tuition costs. Some would say that college athletes should get paid, because colleges receive so much money from the players that they should need to repay these athletes. Players should receive money because the players, who do not have full scholarships and are paying towards the courses, are not receiving the education that they pay for

since they invest so much time in representing the college by playing these sports. Additionally, the majority of the athletes are not going to go professional, so they might as well cash in now while they have the chance. Schools also make money by making these big name players' jerseys and other apparel that attracts fans to buy these items. College players are risking their entire career by representing their schools' identity because they are taking the risk of getting injured. Many people believe that colleges have instituted that the rule that

athletes shouldn't receive money in college because they want to avoid paying back taxes for being considered a professional sport.

There will never be a right answer to this debate, however, the current method is unacceptable, because players have been suspended for several games just for getting discounts at stores. It seems that colleges are currently only looking out for their best interest and not the athletes. This is why the college athletes should be able to receive some form of compensation for their hard work.

Political Roundup

Rice announces run for Congress, Astorino likely GOP contender

By Yitzchak Carroll

With the 2014 midterm election season approaching, several major political moves have occurred recently that are sure to make this election season more interesting than ever before. With several important posts up for re-election, this election season is sure to excite and be one for the ages.

Current Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice (D-Garden City) announced her bid for Congress after longtime incumbent Carolyn McCarthy (D-Mineola) announced that she will not run for re-election. Ms. McCarthy was an excellent Congresswoman, and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors, but she was just one of many gun-control lobbyists. We need a unique voice, someone who will represent all of our interests in Washington. Ms. Rice, a devoted prosecutor and fighter for justice is sure to represent our interests on Capitol Hill. "I think my skill set and experience shows that I can address these issues and more, just as Carolyn [McCarthy] has done," Rice said in an interview with Newsday. She has been tough on everything from drunk driving to violent crime. Additionally, county legislature minority leader Kevan Abrahams (D-Freeport) is another likely contender for the primary.

The question that remains is to whom the Republican candidate will be. Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray (R-Levittown) made it clear that she is not interested in pursuing the GOP nomination for the post. "Committed to a job I love and focused on completing tasks on my agenda as Hempstead Town Supervisor, I am not a candidate for the United States Congress," Murray said in a press release. "I thank town residents for their ongoing support, and appreciate the kind words of those who encouraged me to run for Congress." A potential contender is current County Legislator Francis Becker (R-Lynbrook) who unsuccessfully ran for McCarthy's seat in 2010 and 2012. State senate majority leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre) is another likely contender for the seat in this year's pivotal midterm election.

For the Governor's post, it is pretty clear that incumbent Andrew Cuomo will be facing off against current Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino. Astorino, despite being relatively new to the political scene, would do a fine job as Governor. Hopefully, Astorino will revitalize New York's economy and attract new businesses to the state. Cuomo has done a lot of talking with regards to bringing businesses to New York, with upbeat ads playing "Empire State of Mind" in the background, but the initiatives have not led to much significant economic development.

This year's midterm election season will be an interesting and exciting one. However, at the end of the day, our taxes remain exorbitantly high, and New York is not attracting many new businesses. While our little niche in the upper-middle class of Nassau County may seem all fine and dandy, we need to elect representatives that will move this county, state, and nation to social and economic growth and prosperity.

Sign up today for the DRS Star's online edition to get the latest news, sports, and opinions on all things DRS! Log on to drsstar.com to sign up today.

Articles

Exclusive Interview With Ping Pong Star Akiva Ackerman

By Eytan Aryeh

DRS Star Sports Beat Reporter Eytan Aryeh recently had an exclusive, one on one interview with nationally-ranked ping-pong superstar Akiva Ackerman. In the interview, Akiva discussed his past, current, and future career in ping-pong.

E.A- When did you first start playing ping-pong?

A.A- Well, I first picked up a racket when I was 6 years old. But professionally, I started my Ping-Pong career at age 9

E.A- When did you start thinking that you could be a professional player?

A.A- Well, after I played a couple of times, my dad took me to a professional ping-pong [club]. Once there, the head coach saw that I had a lot of potential and he recommended that I take lessons.

E.A- So your dad supports you a lot?

A.A- Yes physically, mentally and financially, he supported me so I can be the best.

E.A- So you think you are the best?

A.A- I am currently ranked #1 in under 18 boys in the state of NY.

E.A- Is this ranking for Jews or non-Jews as well?

A.A- Yes, out of any race and ethnicity.

E.A- Can you describe your most significant accomplishment or award that you have received?

A.A- Hmm... That's a tough one. I would probably have to say my most significant accomplishment would be finishing 1st place for the 2013 Maccabiah Games trials for North America. My best award I have received would be coming in 1st place at the 2011 US Nationals in one of the rating events.

E.A- Wow that is impressive... Do you have any advice for any other young Jewish athletes?

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Number Six School Deal is a Win-Win

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District wouldn't have to pay the Long Beach School District for special education services to HALB students who reside in the Lawrence district. The route for busses from the Five Towns to the current elementary school in Long Beach includes a \$2 toll each way on the Atlantic Beach Bridge, the only toll bridge on Long Island. Over the course of the school year, each bus would save over \$1500 annually.

As per New York State law, the sale of a public school is subject to a public referendum by the district's taxpayers. One of the concerns of local residents is that the company or organization that buys the facility will not leave the fields open to the public. The fields in the back of the school have been a hub for pickup games, and even DRS makes use of the facilities from time to time. While HALB should not leave the fields open for public use during school hours for obvious reasons, they should be open to the public during nominal non-school hours for the public to enjoy.

However, restrictions need to be put in place for everyone's safety, and the adjacent fields should only be open during specified hours, as opposed to 24 hours a day. Security personnel should be on call in the event of an emergency, and a strict zero-tolerance policy should be adapted for trespassers in the park after dark to ensure the safety all of those who enjoy tire HALB system would be much more connected together.

The proposed deal is a win-win for both the taxpayers of the Lawrence School District, as well as for the greater HALB community at large. It will bring a growing and successful elementary school into the Five Towns community, while preserving the fields, and saving the district in busing, tolls, and special education services. This is a win-win deal for the entire community at large, and will allow our region to grow and prosper, while educating the leaders of tomorrow, and saving taxpayer dollars, all at the same time.



Photo courtesy Jeff Bessen/Herald

We Have What To Learn From Yachad

By Maury Rosenfeld

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excuse, brush him off, or maybe even be the reason he needs to vent?

See, that's because they also make the best of friends. They understand loyalty and the true bindings of friendship. I wish I could say the same about us. As Five Towns teenagers, we've all seen best friends yesterday be at war today. The tables turn every week, and the way we speak about our closest "friends" behind their backs is nothing short of backstabbing betrayal.

They're happy almost whenever you see them. That's because Yachad members

know you just have to enjoy life. That's a hard thing to do if you're not happy. You'll see them constantly with a smile, ones so big they radiate and spread to everyone near them. Definitely can't say the same about every adult or parent around here. People are so caught up with business or meetings or shopping that you almost never see a smiling face, as sad as it is.

Instead of backing away in avoidance, we should approach Yachad members when we see them. Apparently, we have a lot to learn.

Articles

Exclusive Interview With Ping Pong Star Akiva

Ackerman
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A.A- Yes. Work hard, practice, and most importantly, believe in yourself.

E.A- Is it difficult to be a professional athlete while being shomer Shabbat and holidays?

A.A- Definitely. My sister and I had many opportunities to compete and probably do well in tournaments, but never once did we compete on Shabbos. Me being Jewish [sic.] comes before Ping-Pong. Always!

E.A- Do you ever compete against your sister?

A.A- In a professional competition no, but [in] practice matches, yes, we play all the time.

E.A- Is she better than you?

A.A- No! What type of a question is that?

E.A- Haha! What is her ranking?

A.A- In girls under 13 in the entire United States, she is ranked #3.

A.A- Thank you!

E.A- Would she be better than you if you were both in 7th grade?

A.A- She is close to what I was back then, but I was slightly better than her.

E.A- Is there any money prize in the tournaments?

A.A- Yes, but very little which is why I believe a lot of our top juniors in America drop out of the sport.

E.A- Are you planning on dropping out?

A.A- Eventually, when I get older, I probably will.

E.A- Any reason?

A.A- Yes, because I will need to support my family.

E.A- Will you want your children to be like you ?

A.A- When they are kids, yes. But eventually they will have to give it up.

E.A- You don't want them in the Olympics or any major tournament?

A.A- As kids I would let the try to achieve their ping-pong goals but only as kids.

E.A- Okay, thank you so much for your time and good luck in the rest of your career.

A Snowy Winter at DRS

The Five Towns endured several snowstorms in 2014, which caused four snow cancellation days and one early dismissal at DRS. Although the Super Bowl was played in nice weather, the day after brought a massive snowstorm, leaving flights cancelled and fans stranded.



Photo by Yitzchak Carroll/ DRS Star

YDE ELIMINATES DRS VARSITY BASKETBALL FROM PLAYOFFS

Coming off a productive season, the Wildcats' Varsity Basketball squad lost to the Brooklyn-based YDE Thunder on Feb. 19 by a score of 61-54. Below, the JV team beat the Shaarei Torah Stars 65-33 on Feb. 15.



Photo by Shmulik

Roth/DRS Star

TECHNOLOGY CORNER :

Faster than A Speeding Bullet

By David Herman
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Japan wants to export its expertise in Maglev technology to other countries starting with the United States. In September, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Shinzo Abe, the prime minister of Japan, proposed to lend the United States up \$8 billion, equal to half of the development costs to build the futuristic train. Japan wants to prove their transit infrastructure technology in the United States, hoping more countries will line up and purchase similar trains for their cities. Other countries are trying to take the lead in Maglev

technology, as well. European countries such as France and Italy have implemented their own speed trains and China is proposing a train that will travel under ground in airless tunnels achieving speeds of 600 miles per hour. By working with the United States government, Japan hopes to retain their title of pioneer and leader in the area of high-speed rail technology. DC to New York in 1 hour doesn't sound so crazy anymore, does it? Futuristic travel really is right around the corner.

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Bullying

By Baruch Weissman

The entire staff of the DRS Star wishes a special Mazel Tov to our News Editor, Baruch Weissman, on the birth of a baby sister!

Bullying is a serious issue. It's present in all types of environments: schools, workplaces, and even in locker rooms of professional sports teams. There are many forms of bullying, and while some are more serious than others, they're all bad and inexcusable. The two main types of bullying are verbal and physical, but verbal bullying is the more common of the two.

Many students think it's okay to say something mean about another student just to get laughs, because, after all, 'it was just a joke.' This logic is wrong. While it may not seem like it hurts the victim, in most instances it does. Even if the victim is your 'friend' and you don't really mean it, it still hurts the victim and makes him feel bad.

On October 30, 2013, Jonathan Martin, the rookie offensive tackle for the Miami Dolphins, left the team facility for 'emotional' reasons. It was initially reported that he had been mistreated by some teammates during lunch that day when they asked him to sit with them, but then promptly got up and left the table when he sat down. Martin was subsequently listed on the injury report with an unspecified injury and missed the Dolphins' game on October 31. It was later reported that during this period, Martin had briefly checked into a hospital for emotional distress before flying to his parents' home in California, where he started "preparing a detailed document for his cooperation with a league investigation into a string of alleged multiple incidents he says led to his emotional distress and exit from the team." After a whole long process, it was concluded that the bullying of Richie Incognito, and others, forced Jonathan Martin to leave the facility because he just couldn't take the emotional struggles anymore. Martin and Incognito, along with many others involved in the situation, have probably played their last game in the NFL.

While getting laughs and attention is always encouraging, you may want to think twice the next time you want to make a 'joke' about another student, or anyone for that matter. Bullying is wrong, and there is no excuse for doing it.

Making a Difference in the Community

By Matan Bauman

Each year, DRS students are required to complete 30 chesed hours. By the end of the year, each student hands in their chart, as they strive to attain the 120 hours they need to graduate DRS. Doing these chesed hours teaches students about being kind to others and helping out the community. However, there is still one major question on many peoples' minds, as to what to do for chesed hours.

As I went around asking students what they do for their hours, I was informed of these various ideas, some of which included:

Tutoring: Help kids who are having trouble in school. They can even be in a different school!

Friendship Circle: There are many different activities that you are able to do with this amazing organization.

Tomchei Shabbos: Help deliver food for people who are in need in the local community.

Yachad: Hang out with some kids, learn valuable life lessons, and even make a friend or two!

Masbia Soup Kitchen: Help out by making food, preparing food packages, and even serve patrons who are in need.

Babysitting: Help out some parents who want to have a night to themselves and watch their children for a few hours.

Visiting Nursing Homes: Go and simply talk to some of the people living there. Brighten someone's day and find someone new to talk to.

Helping around the school: There are so many activities around the school that every student can do to make up their hours. Some of these include the Open House and Freshman Orientation.

Hopefully these ideas give students an answer to our question, "What should I do for chesed hours?" And that they help students realize how easy it is to help out around their neighborhood and the rest of the world.

Left, DRS sophomores Ari Savitsky, Jeremy Brody, and Willie Solomon smile as they volunteer at the DRS Open House.

Photo by David Itzkowitz/DRS Star



Janitors: The Unsung Heroes of DRS

By Aaron Koffsky

Over the past 17 years, DRS has been providing education for teenage boys through an excellent staff of teachers. In addition to the teaching faculty, the maintenance crew at DRS has also performed an exceptional job at maintaining a proper learning atmosphere, as well as taking a vital role in all after school programs. The maintenance staff at DRS truly plays an important role in all of our daily lives. Every day Andre, Chanin, Victor, and Andrés sweep, clean, plow, set up, clean up, mop, scrub, and take out the trash all in order to maintain the proper atmosphere and order. Every basketball game, hockey game, open house, breakfast, lunch, mishmar, melava malka, and davening and couldn't be done without them. All of the physically demanding preparations and cleaning could not have been accomplished if it wasn't for their grand knowledge of the school's inner workings. It's this asset that makes the Andre, Chanin, Victor and Andrés such valuable members of the DRS staff. We thank you for all your help and we hope you will continue to working here for many years to come.

Motivation and teamwork leads DRS to championship victory

By YITZCHAK CARROLL

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3-pointers, which gave DRS the momentum it needed to come out on top. “It was a team effort,” Deutsch said humbly about the championship victory. Center Abie Perlow and power forward Gabriel Leifer made some excellent rebounds in the second half, sealing the victory for the Wildcats.

Captain Akiva Ackerman attributed the championship victory to a team effort. “It was definitely a total team effort,” he said. “Every individual contributed to our championship-winning season,” he added. DRS Athletic Director Rabbi Michael Finkelstein said that DRS’s flawless offense and defense led the team to victory. “We played a flawless game, both offensively and defensively,” he said.



NORPAC Mission to Washington 2014

By Michael Fagin

On Wednesday, April 30, NORPAC will embark on its annual Mission to Washington, D.C. NORPAC is a non-partisan political action committee whose purpose is to promote a strong relationship between the US and Israel. To accomplish this goal, NORPAC runs an annual mission to Washington to discuss important issues with members of Congress. This year may be the most critical year to join NORPAC because participants will be advocating for stronger sanctions on Iran, which is dangerously close to a nuclear weapon. This is vital for Israel’s security.

This year, NORPAC will be meeting with almost 90% of the 535 members of Congress. One of the main goals of NORPAC is to educate these Representatives and Senators about the benefits of Israel as an ally and the importance of its security.

The day of the mission begins at 6 AM when participants board a bus to Washington, however, some

choose to utilize other methods of transportation. Before the mission begins, each lobbyist receives talking points that they are to discuss with Congressmen. Once the bus arrives at the Washington Convention Center, the lobbyists hear from members of Congress who are supporters of a strong US-Israel relationship. After this, the lobbyists split up into small groups of six to ten people and make their way to Capitol Hill. While meeting the member of Congress, the group will discuss major problems in Israel, how they are relevant to our country, and how Congress can make a difference.

NORPAC is an amazing opportunity which allows students to experience a day in Washington, D.C. while providing an incredible opportunity for high school students to be heard on crucial issues concerning Israel. All students under 18 must attend NORPAC with a parent or guardian. Sign up now and make a difference during this critical time in Israel’s history!

School Policy: White Shirts and Ties: What’s the Point?

By Brian Chernigoff

As we have heard many times, it has been the minhag of DRS for 17 years to wear white shirts and ties on Rosh Chodesh. This is a very interesting tradition for it seemingly has the logic that it enhances the spirit of Rosh Chodesh and gives honor to the day. I don’t understand how wearing white shirts and ties accomplishes this, and I believe there is a bigger problem the administration must tackle before getting so hyped up about students not complying with the Rosh Chodesh dress code.

Over the last couple of months, on each Rosh Chodesh, something very disturbing has been occurring. One thing about Rosh Chodesh in DRS that I greatly enjoy is the amazing davener we have, especially the beautiful Hallel we sing. However, over the last couple of months, when the chazzan tried to start singing a beautiful tune for one part of Hallel, barely anybody was singing with him! What made this

even worse, was that I could actually hear myself singing! That’s preposterous, for usually I cannot hear my own voice, but rather the voices of the entire school mixed into one harmonious symphony. To make this situation even more dire, the students feel they are above consequences, making it even harder to return the renowned DRS Rosh Chodesh davener to what it once was. All the administration does is tell us to not forget our white shirts and ties. If the students just wear their white shirts and ties and fail to put any effort in getting into the spirit of Rosh Chodesh, then it seems that wearing the white shirts and ties has no purpose. If the rule has no purpose, then why is it enforced?

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Humor Column

By Noach Levy

Hello readers! It has come to my attention that the overwhelming majority of students attending DRS are unaware of Murphy's Fundamental Laws of Nature. This fact is an abomination and must be rectified. Therefore, I am interrupting your irregularly scheduled DRS Star Humor Page to do so.

Murphy's Law is the set of rules which governs all jokes. Some jokes have one, and some have more. But the only jokes that Murphy's Law doesn't apply to are anti-jokes, but seeing as when you are told an anti-joke you are expecting an actual joke, Murphy's Law still applies in some sense.

Murphy's Law also applies in life. Everyone is subject to Murphy's Law at least once in their lifetime. The majority only find themselves victim to these laws a few times in their life, but the "lucky" few, such as myself find themselves tormented by it EVERY. SINGLE. DAY. Its literally as if Murphy's Ghost has been haunting me my whole life!

So without further ado, Murphy's Fundamental Laws of Nature:

#1 - "When nothing can go wrong, it will."

#2 - "Nothing is ever as simple as it seems.."

#3 - "Everything always costs more money than you have, and takes longer."

#4 - "If you try to please everybody, someone is not going to like it."

#5 - "Nothing ever quite works out."

#6 - "It is easier to get into a thing than to get out."

#7 - "If you explain something so clearly that no one could possibly misunderstand, someone will."

#8 - "Whatever you want to do, you have to do something else first."

And last, but most certainly not least,

#9 - "If you predict that something will happen, it won't."

But, luckily, I have discovered a loophole in Murphy's Law: it can apply to itself, if you know how to work it. For example, the final law: if I say that I will get a 90 on my next test, and am sure of it, Laws #1, #2, #5 and #9 will apply, and I will fail. However, if I say that I will definitely fail, Law #9 will cancel out the other laws, and I will pass (but don't rely on this, or all the Laws will apply, and you will fail). Of course, since I just predicted that, Murphy's 9th Law will apply, so none of this will work. But since I said that previous statement, according to Murphy's law, it will. Unfortunately, due to that previous statement, it won't again. I hope you get the message since I explained it so clearly, but according to the 7th Law, someone won't. If you are that person, I envy you, because you don't feel as tormented by Murphy's Law if you don't know how

School Policy: White Shirts and Ties: What's the Point?

By Brian Chernigoff

Continued from Page #8

Aside from the fact that the rule that we must wear white shirts and ties on Rosh Chodesh seems to be illogical, I have one more problem with the fact that it is enforced. Throughout this year, on the day before any Rosh Chodesh, after davening, we are given a whole speech about how we should wear white shorts and ties the following day and that those who don't will be severely penalized. However, this is not the case. Students who don't conform with the Rosh Chodesh dress code are merely held back from breakfast for a minute and are politely asked to follow the dress code on the next Rosh Chodesh. I feel there would be more compliance to these rules with stronger enforcement and consequences.

Rosh Chodesh is a nice time when we sanctify the new month and look forward to its upcoming holidays. However, I'm afraid that many students are not getting into the spirit of Rosh Chodesh with the singing during davening, and there seems to be no action taken to rectify this. They think that wearing white shirts and ties will bring out the Rosh Chodesh spirit more than a nice song-filled davening would. They are wrong. They enforce the rule that we must wear white shirts and ties on Rosh Chodesh for no apparent sensible reason. Now I ask you, what's the point of that school rule?

Gun Control Isn't the Answer

By Jordan Eidlisz

Approximately 37 percent of Americans households possess at least one gun. The total number of firearms in the US is estimated at around 270 million. The statement "guns don't kill people; people kill people: is a very true one. If one were to leave a fully automatic rifle on a bench fully loaded, it won't shoot anyone. If I were to give that gun to certain people, they might. In many cases, it's nearly impossible to tell who will be the one who does the next shooting, as most perpetrators are just normal people that just snap.

Taking away guns isn't the answer, though. There is something known as the black market. Many criminals who are breaking the law anyways don't care if they can get a legal gun or not. Instead of taking the time to register and buy a legal gun, they simply buy one illegally. It's easier for them and they can buy guns that are very hard to get legally, such as fully automatic rifles. They then use these weapons to commit crimes, such as burglaries and murders.

On the other side, there are law abiding citizens who want to get a gun legally to protect their families. They wait through the long process involving background checks and get a gun to protect themselves and their families. By tightening gun laws or trying to ban guns, the government is taking away guns from these law abiding citizens, not the criminals. In states where it's easier to get guns, it also has an effect on the criminals mentality. Put yourself in the shoes of a burglar. You want to go break into a house to steal their valuables. Are you going to do that in a state where there is a higher likelihood of there being a gun in that house, or a state where there probably isn't a gun in the house? By making looser gun laws so more people can access firearms, it discourages criminals from even attempting to commit crimes. There is no way to completely stop shootings.

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Students Enjoy Annual DRS Parent-Son Melava Malka



Gun Control Isn't the Answer

By Jordan Eidlisz

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Every once in a while, a regular person who bought a legal gun will snap and go on a rampage. There is nothing we can do to stop this, as even if they didn't have a legal gun they would find a way to get an illegal one or kill people in a different way. What we can do though is to try to stop gang shootings with illegal guns. The vast majority of the 12,000 annual gun murders and 66,000 non-fatal shootings are committed by people who have no legal right to a gun. The small percentage of 1.2% illegal dealers supply an astounding 57% of guns used in crimes. So why not crack down on these illegal gun dealers and give stiffer penalties to the people using these illegal guns, instead of cracking down on the law abiding citizens and infringing on our Second Amendment rights?

Haredi Enlistment: The Great Debate

By Joseph Sultan

The question arises as to whether or not Haredim should be forced to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). There are two sides to this argument. First, by law, every Israeli citizen over the age of 18, excluding Arabs, is mandated to serve in the Israeli military. All men must serve at least three years while women serve only two. Therefore, it seems based on this that Haredim should serve in the army since they are Israeli citizens. On the other hand, Haredim claim that serving G-d is another form of protection to the country. Since they are learning Torah every day they feel this should exempt them from providing their services to the country. This controversy is causing much chaos in the State of Israel and Haredim claim that they will take this as far as "civil war" to dodge the draft.

When the State of Israel was established, the government wrote up a compromise meant to exempt 400 learned Torah scholars from the

army each year. As time progressed, this number grew drastically, until the point that in 2005 the number was 40,000! These Haredim don't have careers; they are always learning.

The "Yesh Atid" and "Bayit Yehudi" political parties support the new bill requiring Haredim to serve in the army, and claim that the Haredi enlistment process will begin by next month and no later. The government will cut scholar funds and will imprison any individual who refuses the draft or doesn't perform some type of community service. By encouraging them to work, the government also wants to end their cycle of poverty.

This matter is causing much tension within the realm of Israeli society, and this tension will keep on growing if not ended. Many regular Israelis complain and protest the fact that they have to risk their own lives and put in much effort in order to protect their country, including

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Defense Propels DRS in Quarterfinals

By Yitzchak Carroll

Defense and saves were aplenty in the DRS Wildcats' 4-0 shutout over the RAMAZ Rams on March 3, as effort and teamwork led the Woodmere-based school to victory. "It was a total team effort," said DRS head coach Larry Gross regarding the game. "We played the best we played all year," he added.

DRS came into the game with a 12-2 record, tied for first place in the Eastern Conference of the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League (MYHSAL) with the Frisch Cougars of Paramus, N.J. in the semifinals.

Defensive teamwork led the game for the Wildcats, as they kept possession of the puck throughout the majority of the game, and goalie Ari Gutenmacher made numerous diving saves. "The whole team really played together; we played as a complete team," said senior forward Jeremy Barth. "We kept possession of the ball the entire game and didn't let them get the ball."

The Wildcats also led the game offensively, as junior David Soffer scored the first goal of the game less than six minutes into the first period with an assist from Jeremy Barth. In the second period, Sammy Rauch scored on a DRS powerplay with an assist from Soffer, as the crowd roared with excitement. Captain Avi Genachowski scored two goals as well, sealing the victory for DRS.

DRS Assistant Coach Rabbi Steven Genachowski attributed the victory to a team effort. "We got a great effort from the entire team and got it done," he said. When asked about the most valuable effort, Genachowski handed it to the goalie. "In a shutout game, you gotta give it to the goalie [Ari Gutenmacher]."

Promoting a Positive Academic Environment

By Yitzchak Carroll

Interactive multimedia presentations, faculty and student workshops, and informative flyers and posters are just some of the ways Davis Renov Stahler (DRS) Yeshiva High School social worker Doni Jozsef is trying to help students and faculty improve self esteem, strengthen student-teacher relationships, and provide social and emotional support to students in the Woodmere-based school, through his new initiative, dubbed "The Positive Project."

"The Positive Project is an innovative initiative to enhance our school culture with creative workshops and engaging media presentations for the sake of promoting a socially and emotionally-rich atmosphere," said Jozsef, who holds a master's degree in social work, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in media psychology. "Schools are moving towards stricter guidelines and greater demands, and I felt the need to balance the pressure and scholastic demands with an added dose of social and emotional support for both teachers and students alike," he added.

The program consists of various components to provide social and emotional support for students and faculty members, including monthly workshops to work on various dimensions of personal well-being, according to Jozsef. "We work on social sensitivity, self-esteem, and self-respect for what we do on a daily basis to remind ourselves that this is an opportunity for growth," he said regarding the workshops, which include various multimedia presentations which Jozsef creates and incorporates.

According to students, the program has been highly successful thus far in promoting friendship, respect, and camaraderie among the more than 300 students who attend DRS. "The Positive Project promotes camaraderie and friendship, and makes sure that everyone in the school is kind to each other," said junior Eli Goldberg. Sophomore Brian Chernigoff agrees that the program has promoted more unity and friendship among students. "I think the Positive Project has changed the school because kids are looking out for one another more," he said.

Jozsef hopes the program will help in the long run by promoting a sense of collaboration among students at DRS. "I want to take the positive spirit to an even greater level by fueling the momentum with collaboration, compassion, creativity, and a sense of community," he said.

Hareidi Enlistment

By Joe Sultan
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the Haredim, and that the Haredim are exempt just because they learn all day. However the perspective of the Haredim is that as long as the country continues to serve G-d, everyone will be safe, which is why some Haredim refuse give up their Torah learning.

Nowadays, with the 40,000 people exempted from the army, most Haredim don't study Torah for the reason stated, but rather just use it as an excuse for exemption. At the same time, many secular Jews also don't want to serve in the military, but just do it because they are mandated to. This controversy has become a huge problem in Israel, and if not resolved soon may have major consequences.

Wildcats Hockey Dominates Frisch 8-1, Headed to MYHSAL Varsity Championship

Photos by Mandy Leifer/Frisch





Letter from the Editor

Yitzchak Carroll (left), Editor in Chief
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Photos by David Itzkowitz/Star

Looking back to when I transferred to DRS as a sophomore transfer student in September, I am surprised that what was a joke a couple of years ago turned into a successful project of managing a newspaper. I am so appreciative of all of the support I have received from my friends at my old school, current classmates here at DRS, my colleagues and editors at Richner Communications, and friends and family members. As our third edition goes to press, we are constantly making improvements and tweaking the paper to hopefully make it an award-winner. Most importantly, I owe a great debt of *hakarat hatov* to the people who made this paper a success.

Rabbi Kaminetsky, not only did you bring this project to life, but you spend countless hours behind the scenes reviewing articles and ensuring that our paper conforms to halachic and ethical standards. Without you, this paper and the entire Yeshiva would not exist. Thank you for everything you do for our Yeshiva.

Dr. K, thank you for helping us get sponsors and for helping proofread the paper. Your story ideas are invaluable and much appreciated by our staff and myself.

Rabbi Storch, your time, help, advice, input, and assistance both inside and outside of the newspaper is much appreciated. Your efforts helped bring this dream to fruition.

Rabbi Brazil, thanks for getting our paper started and for all of the praise you have showered on the paper. It really goes a long way and is much appreciated by everyone.

Ms. Lopez, for being the best faculty advisor I have ever had, and for organizing and ensuring that deadlines are met. You are a great manager, teacher, and mentor. Thank you for stepping up to the plate and for being the newspaper faculty advisor, which is a thankless job.

Mrs. "Sue" Weinberg, thank you for all that you have done for me and the entire paper behind the scenes, especially your recipes in our weekly newsletter, and your Guys in the Kitchen section in the monthly print edition. Thank you for all that you do for everyone in the school.

Last but not least, **our entire staff**. Running a newspaper is a team sport, and cannot be accomplished by one or two people alone. Whether you cover stories, write a column, take pictures, sell ads, or lay the paper out, we thank you for all of your dedication. You guys are amazing and everyone brings a different set of skills, talents, and abilities to the table. Above all, you are all dedicated and hard working. You do your work on time and put your best foot forward. Yasher Koach!

As always, if you have any comments, feedback, or story ideas, send a letter to the editor to editor@drsstar.com. We appreciate your support and readership!

All the best,

Yitzchak Carroll, Editor in Chief
Brian Chernigoff, Executive Editor

The DRS Star

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