

# Barkai Yeshivah

## Incorporating Torah Ideas Into Student's Everyday Lives

**B**arkai's Lower and Middle Schools honor each *Rosh Hodesh* (the first day of every month in the Hebrew calendar), with a unique program which focuses on a distinct theme. The students look forward to spending time with their peers and eagerly anticipate what is in store for them.

Barkai's teacher's helpers from Israel Karen, Shira, Yahel and Elia organize the monthly programs with the guidance of teacher Adele Chabot and help from supervisors Hedva and Rabbi Aviad Yechieli. The programs offer the opportunity to teach the students how they may incorporate some of the Torah's most important ideas into their own lives.

Rosh Hodesh Heshvan's theme was *tziniut* (modesty), in honor of Rahel Imenu. Rahel Imenu embodied the trait of modesty in all that she did, and so, the students in lower and middle school were able to learn how it may relate to them on a daily basis.

Rav Yeshivah, Rabbi Daniel Kahana, spoke to the students about the meaning of *tziniut*. The root of the word signifies keeping something private at times in order to share it at the appropriate time and in the proper context. He explained that they must know how to conduct themselves, exercising their ability to guard something that's private, and know when it should be expressed to others.

The lower school students were reminded that to protect something dear to them they must keep it safe somewhere, only to take it out when necessary. For example, money is kept safe in a piggy bank only to be used at special times. The 4th grade girls led the other students in the song of the week. The excitement and sense of unity among the students was very special to see.

The middle school students attended a Rosh Hodesh assembly as well. Teacher Adele Chabot and Rabbi Aviad built upon the idea of *tziniut* and pointed out to the students that anytime they post a message on Facebook, WhatsApp or Instagram, modesty comes into play.

The students were divided into groups for small discussions led by their teachers. Each group was given a series of examples of WhatsApp con-



# Barkai...

Continued from page 136



versations on oak tag, beautifully designed by Karen Torgueman. After reading each post, the students had to vote “should post” or “should show reserve,” and then a discussion ensued about their reasoning behind it. For example, should students use a class chat as a forum to post pictures of themselves and a few friends out at a restaurant?

The students learned some practical tools they could use on a daily basis when deciding to post information about themselves and others. They gained a greater sensitivity and awareness about the effects that their words, and even photos alone, may have.

The Rosh Hodesh programs are unique as they bring together the students and emphasizes a common theme related to their everyday lives and activities. To learn something new and how it applies to life today makes the Torah a more relatable and relevant guidebook, even during modern times. □