

Yeshivah of Flatbush Auction

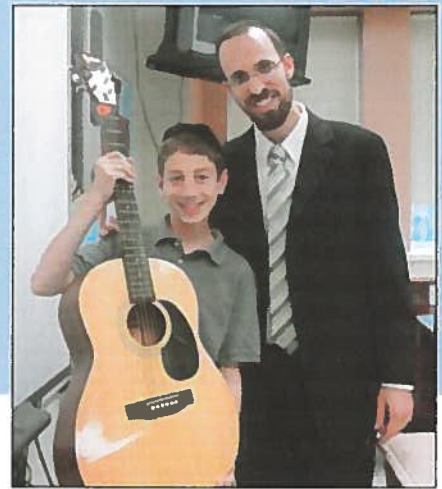
Teaches Children Charitable Values

Diane Chabbott and Michelle Oliveira

Shmirat Halashon, (guarding your tongue against gossiping and much more), is something most people mean to do better, but is very hard to stick to. The Yeshivah of Flatbush, in trying to instill this value in its children and provide them with a support system for doing the right thing, developed an impressive curriculum regarding the tenets of shmirat halashon. Each year YOF has a grand event to celebrate the children's accomplishments.



Mrs. Chana Mantel and the girls of the auction committee



Joseph Terzi was the proud winner of a class guitar concert by Rabbi Shlomie Felendler



Mrs. Chana Mantel and the boys of the auction committee



YOF parent Lena Waingort with her children, Joe and Renee

YOF's Auction...

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Rosette Zeitoune, Jennifer Shalam and THE stylish pink leopard luggage

This year's Shmirat Halashon Auction successfully raised money which will support several worthy causes, among them: Bonei Olam, a charity helping couples with infertility issues; Chai Lifeline, which provides a compassionate network for families with children battling severe illness; and an Israeli educational organization helping disadvantaged children attend low-cost summer camp.

Coordinator and teacher Chana Mantel stressed that raising money for charity is just one important aspect of the Shmirat Halashon program; raising children's awareness

of the power of words is its primary objective.

Mrs. Mantel has long been dedicated to this goal. Forty kids helped her secure donations, resulting in hundreds of parents donating prizes such as a Mac Pro, a plasma TV, iPad and iPhone, Nook, and a funky pink leopard luggage set, as well as toys, clothes, sports equipment and jewelry. Several teachers offered their own talents, including Rabbi Shlomie Felendler who offered a guitar concert. YOF parent and staff member Esther Shasho designed the auction booklets.

Students, parents and faculty were all excited to participate in the auction, knowing that their donation would help so many.

"Thanks to all our donors, many underprivileged children in Israel will go to summer camp," said Mrs. Mantel. "This mitzvah will save them from being on the street."

The first of the Shmirat Halashon auctions, created by Mrs. Mantel and YOF parent and alumna Rachel Safdieh, started small. Eventually, more parents became involved and their generosity became infectious. Mrs. Mantel makes sure every year that there is a wide range of ticket prices, so that all of the students can participate.

Developing sensitivity to others—their needs and their feelings—is an important aspect of all Middle Division teaching. Rabbi Hertzberg concluded, "The Shmirat Halashon program puts on everyone's radar the opportunities and dangers that the words we speak provide." □

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Kids surrounding the ticket tables