

# RYNJ Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration!!



## What's blue and white and full of stars? RYNJ!

*Yom Ha'atzmaut* was AMAZING at RYNJ as the elementary and junior high students celebrated in the most giving ways! First through fifth grade classes enjoyed fabulous Israel themed carnivals prepared and run by the eighth grade classes. Hands on *chessed* art projects were made by all students in the school, and will be distributed by various *tzedaka* organizations in Israel. The junior high *chessed* challenge gave the students a chance to teach themselves how to combat hunger in Israel and to empower themselves to be active, connected philanthropists. The programming for the day was organized by the eighth grade students, the student council and class representatives under the guidance of Morah Silver. All *chessed* connections, presentations, and programming were led by Areyvut under the leadership of Daniel Rothner. The following *chessed* organizations were participants in and recipients of the proceeds of RYNJ's school-wide *Yom Ha'atzmaut chessed celebration*. We encourage all our students to maintain a connection with them:



- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – canvas bags to **Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel**
- Preschool, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - bookmarks to **Lev LaLev**
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys- challah covers to **Yad Eliezer**
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls- bracelets to **Birthday Angels**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- canvas bags to **American Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Carnival- postcards to IDF soldiers through **Standing Together**

**Beit Issie Shapiro** is an organization that develops and provides services for children and adults with developmental disabilities in Israel.

**Birthday Angels** Birthday Party Project's goal is to provide a birthday party for every underprivileged child in Israel.

**Carmeil Ha'ir** helps Israelis who are going through difficult financial times by providing them with food and other essential services.

**Hazon Yeshaya Humanitarian Network** fights poverty in Israel by providing a network of soup kitchens, vocational training courses, free dental clinics and food distribution centers to help those in need.

**Leket Israel**, Israel's National Food bank and largest food rescue network, works to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity among the growing numbers of Israel's poor.

**Lev LaLev** supports orphaned and disadvantaged girls in Israel who have no families to nurture and care for them.

**Meir Panim**'s mission is to alleviate and diminish the harmful effects of poverty on thousands of families across Israel by supporting a range of food and social service programs aimed at helping the needy.

**Migdal Ohr** was created in order to provide education and social guidance to children from underprivileged and troubled homes from throughout Israel.

**Schneider Children's Medical Center** is the only comprehensive, tertiary care hospital of its kind in Israel and the Middle East, dedicated exclusively to the healthcare of children up to the age of 18.

**Standing Together** supports Israeli soldiers on active duty and gives the worldwide community an opportunity to show its appreciation to those who protect Israel.

**Yad Eliezer**'s mission is to help families cope with financial difficulties and empower them to break through the cycle of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency.



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## Preschool gets in on the act.



We began our day with a preschool parade outside in the parking lot. Watching the children dressed in blue and white, waving banners and flags, and singing songs of Israel was most uplifting and exciting to watch. The entire preschool then met in the Big Room and Morah Mali led a sing a long. We then sang Hatikvah and blew out all 64 candles on our Happy Birthday Israel cake.



After eating a delicious blue and white snack, thanks to the PTA, we began an interactive trip to Eretz Yisrael. We visited many sites and cities along the way, from Har Cheron, where the children sled down the mountains, to fishing in the Kinneret, to Kibbutz RYNJ, where the children rode a tractor, milked cows and picked oranges from an orchard. They also participated in basic army training, visited the Kotel, and of course stopped in Tel Aviv to have a snack in a trendy café. The children also participated in the school wide chesed project by making beautiful bookmarks to send to Eretz Yisrael.



Please ask your child about all these wonderful experiences! We thank Morah Mali, Morah Susie, and Morah Felicia for all the planning of this event and all the other Morot for their assistance. A special thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time for this wonderful experience.



It is our hope that Israel's 64<sup>th</sup> year of existence will be her strongest yet, bringing harmony and peace to all its inhabitants.

Shabbat Shalom!

*Fran Mermelstein*

