

## MTA Students Join Shalva in Jerusalem Half Marathon

By Aryeh Margolin

Last Wednesday, 14 Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MTA) students accompanied by Elie Hirt of their Student Activities Department flew to Eretz Yisrael with Team Shalva to run in the annual Jerusalem Marathon. Upon arriving in Israel on Thursday, the group went directly to the Shalva facility to see and interact with some of the many disabled children that Shalva helps. After dropping off their luggage at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem, they then went on an impressive tour of the famous Yeshiva Aish HaTorah, which overlooks the Kotel. At the end of the tour,



the group went up to the roof, which has one of the most phenomenal views in all of Israel. The group went to daven a meaningful mincha at the Kotel, after which they returned to the hotel to prepare for the big race in the morning.

At 5:00 a.m. on Friday, all the Shalva runners woke up for Shacharis, and immediately afterwards, headed off to begin the main purpose of the trip: the big race. This is what all their training was for. The students' running times for the half marathon ranged from 1:43 to 2:30. Some students who ran in the 10k also finished with outstanding times. Three hours after beginning the race, everyone gathered back at

the hotel for a victory party. The hard part was now over and the boys were ready for some fun. Most of the students went to Machaneh Yehudah where they bought snacks and drinks for Shabbos, while others stayed in the hotel to rest.

Friday night came and the boys anticipated the inspirational Shabbos they had ahead of

them. Over Shabbos, the MTA boys met many other students from other yeshiva high schools and heard from famous speakers. As Shabbos came to a close, the participants enjoyed a musical Havdalah led by Rav Motti Miller. They were sad to see Shabbos go, but they knew that there was still more excitement to come. On Motzei Shabbos, the students from MTA and many other schools went to the Cinema City mall; toured the walls outside of the Old City; walked to the plaza outside the Churva Shul for a quick "mifkad" led by Rav Yair Eisenstock; and arrived at the nearby Beis Midrash of Yeshivat Orayta for a siyum and a story. The program concluded with an inspirational kumsitz with Rav Yair. There were tears in their eyes by the end and many students, from all the schools, said this was the highlight of their trip.

The final day of the weekend arrived but MTA's Elie Hirt made sure the trip would



not end with just a simple hotel breakfast. The group set off to the Dead Sea. The students enjoyed a Sheirut ride full of singing, which continued with a kumsitz in the middle of the Yam HaMelach for almost an hour. After returning to Jerusalem, they visited Ben Yehudah for tasty shwarma and gift buying and davened Maariv at the Kotel one last time. The trip found the students back at the hotel just in time to catch the bus to the airport. "Only 363 days until we're back" said Hershele Vaisman, looking forward to next year.

## TABC Wins Yeshiva Shakespeare Competition

March 17 was a great day for Shakespeare and a great day for Torah Academy of Bergen County. Competing in Envision Shakespeare 2016 against six other yeshiva high schools by performing Act One, Scene Three, from Macbeth, the TABC students came home triumphant, carrying the "best



actor" trophy.

The students began the day learning about the timelessness of Shakespeare through highly interactive workshops, and then went on to win the first round of competition against Frisch in the morning. The afternoon brought more workshops and then victory; TABC competed against the two other winning schools of the morning, SAR and Westchester Hebrew High, to be awarded the best actor award for the trio of witches. All of the participants—Benjy Kleiner, Ike Bazian, Shai Gutfreund, Binyamin Novetsky, Eli Dickman, Yaakov Kagel, Yehoshua Kanarek and Netanel Arussy—told Dr. Master, their faculty advisor, "I'm in for next year." Too bad some participants are seniors and might find it hard to return from Israel for the day.

## Tefillah is Unraveled for Yavneh Students

Rabbi Simcha Schaum's fourth grade class at Yavneh Academy is studying the meaning behind tefillot. World renowned Chazzan Yaakov Motzen made a special appearance to help them understand the how's and why's of the tefillot.

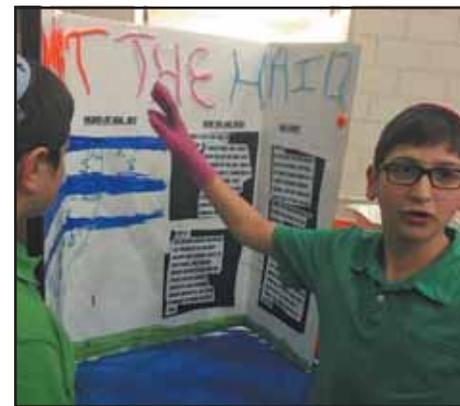


## Yeshivat Noam Middle School Scientists Present at Earth Expo

Glaciers. Flooding. Bacteria. Climate... Just to name a few of the important topics addressed and researched by Yeshivat Noam Middle School scientists. This research culminated with impressive science presentations at the Middle School Earth Expo for their parents and guests.



Sixth graders presenting their research about floods to Principal Rabbi Chaim Hagler.



## Moriah's Pre-K Explores Feelings

In Moriah pre-K, in connection with the Purim story, the children learned about their feelings. Faces reflect the feelings we have in our hearts. The megillah story reveals so many feelings that we have... happy, angry, sad, excited are some of the feelings found in the Purim story.

