



Shvat 5786
January 2026

BIKE-A-THON
INFORMATION
(SEE FLYER)

Highlights OF MESIVTA OF PHOENIX



STABILITY *and* STRENGTH

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of Rebbeim and teachers who continue to guide our talmidim with care, consistency, and deep investment. Their continued presence provides the foundation for our growth, and we are truly grateful for each member of our exceptional staff.

This semester the rebbeim and teachers benefitted from various professional development sessions, including a special focus on the emotional well-being of our talmidim, with Rabbi Dovid Felt and Rav Reuven Leuchter.

ENHANCED *Second Seder*

We've introduced meaningful upgrades to our second seder program this year. For the first time, our 11th grade talmidim are participating in an afternoon chabura track, giving them the opportunity to develop and strengthen their skills in a beis medrash setting. They are learning additional perakim of Maseches Gittin under Rabbi Goetz's guidance, with the goal of making a siyum on the entire masechta.

Our 12th grade talmidim have a focused second seder with Rabbi Gewirtz which is dedicated to reviewing Maseches Sotah, the masechta they are learning in the morning in Bekius. His guidance is helping them gain real clarity and mastery in their learning.

These additions reflect our ongoing commitment to helping every talmid grow with confidence and satisfaction.



Rabbi Felt and Rebbeim



Rabbi Goetz at 2nd seder



Learning outdoors in the beautiful Phoenix winter

Night CHABURAS

Many talmidim have taken on extra learning during and after night seder, joining chaburas that aim to complete additional masechtos by year's end.

- **Rabbi Gewirtz's Chabura:** Learning Maseches Chagigah twice a week with discussion and clarity.
- **Rabbi Barth's Chabura:** In Scottsdale, learning Maseches Makkos, offering talmidim on that side of town a consistent learning opportunity.
- **Rabbi Hirsch's Chabura:** In yeshiva, learning the later perakim of Maseches Gittin, focusing on complex and practical sugyos.



- **Rabbi Zagelbaum's Chabura:** Additionally, a special Thursday night chabura led by Rabbi Zagelbaum is learning Chiddushei Rav Chaim, focusing on sugyos relevant to the morning lyun mesechta.

These chaburas have added depth and excitement to the Mesivta's nightly learning.

Sunday Morning 8TH GRADE PROGRAM

8th graders from Torah Day School and Phoenix Hebrew Academy have joined the Mesivta for a special Sunday morning learning program with a focus on Rambam Hilchos De'os and Maseches Tamid. Each week, the boys come to the Mesivta to learn these sugyos together, building familiarity with the ideas and strengthening their skills.

During the week, the boys review what they've learned with their Rebbeim, Rabbi Gonsky and Rabbi Vann, reinforcing their understanding and preparing for the next session.

This program has strengthened skills, built relationships, and given the boys a valuable head start as they prepare themselves for Mesivta learning.



Mr. Jake Weintraub
learning with his son



Mr. Yoni Meirov
learning with his son

YAMIM *Tovim*

On Motzaei Shabbos before Selichos, the Mesivta gathered at Drs. Josh and Kathryn Kanner's home for a pre-Selichos kumzits, featuring inspiring singing and divrei chizuk that set the tone for Elul and the Yomim Noraim. The evening concluded with a BBQ that fostered achdus among the boys.

Leading up to the *Yamim Noraim*, talmidim heard *divrei hisorerus* from several inspiring speakers:

- Rabbi Stauber, Rosh Kollel Avreichim of Phoenix, gave a pre-Rosh Hashanah shiur focused on personal growth and teshuvah.
- During Aseres Yemei Teshuvah, Rabbi Aryeh Cohen (Menahel of TDSP) and Rabbi Roizman (Rav of Ohr HaTorah) gave powerful talks that helped talmidim prepare sincerely for Yom Kippur.

Simchas Torah was celebrated at Mesivta of Phoenix as usual, and it was filled with tremendous joy, as talmidim and rebbeim danced together with great achdus, followed by a beautiful kiddush that enhanced the simcha even further. It has become a highlight of the yearly calendar for the bochurim who are home for Sukkos. Chanuka in the yeshiva was celebrated with a special mesiba featuring divrei Torah from bochurim and rebbeim, as well as shiur mesibos held in each rebbi's home.



Monday Night FATHERS' SHIUR

New this year, the Mesivta launched a weekly Monday night Fathers' Learning Program during night seder.

The evening begins with a clear and engaging shiur from Rabbi Goetz on the gemara in Gittin that the bochurim are learning. Afterwards, fathers and sons sit together to review and learn.

The beis medrash is filled with energy and connection of fathers and sons learning side by side, bringing added meaning to the night seder experience.



Rabbi Semel with last year's top Bikeathon raisers

SHLOSHIM SIYUM AND SEUDAH FOR *R' Zalman Segal z"l*

The Mesivta recently held a heartfelt siyum and seudah to mark the shloshim of R' Zalman Segal z"l.

The event honored his legacy of Torah, tefillah, and community leadership. His son, David Segal (President of the Mesivta), and son-in-law Rabbi Cooperman shared meaningful reflections, stories, and memories of R' Zalman's lasting impact on Phoenix and beyond.



Mr. David Segal, son of R' Zalman z'l,
making a siyum at the Shloshim

New Flip Phone Program ושכנתי בתוכם

The Mesivta has launched a new initiative promoting responsible technology use, called ושכנתי בתוכם.

Inspired by the structure of the Beis HaMikdash, the program includes three levels:

- **Azarah** – Talk and text flip phone
- **Kodesh** – Talk-only flip phone
- **Kodesh HaKodashim** – No phone at all

The goal is to help each bochur recognize that he doesn't need to own a phone, and that choosing wisely can strengthen his limud HaTorah and Avodas Hashem.

Each tier comes with its own privileges and incentives, encouraging growth and thoughtful choices.

CONSTRUCTION Update

We're excited to share that construction on our long-awaited building expansion is officially set to begin this month!

After a lengthy process, all city permits have been approved. This milestone is the result of months of planning, coordination, and persistence, and we're deeply grateful to everyone who helped make it happen.

The expansion will include:

- A larger **Beis Medrash**
- Spacious **classrooms**
- A new **dining room**
- A **dormitory wing**
- Additional **administrative and support space**



This project will allow us to serve our talmidim even better and support continued growth. Excitement is high as we prepare to break ground and watch the vision take shape!

ACADEMIC Highlights



Mr. Barden's History & Government Class

- World History: Early civilizations (Egypt, Greece, Rome) and their influence
- American History: From the Colonies to the Mexican-American War
- Government: Constitution, civil liberties, Congress, the Presidency, and federalism

Mr. Badalov's Physics Class

- Focused on two-dimensional motion and velocity vectors
- Now beginning the unit on forces, supported by basic trigonometry

Mr. Schutsky's Chemistry Class

- Covered matter, mixtures, atomic structure, and the periodic table
- Recently completed a unit on ionic compounds
- Now beginning stoichiometry with a focus on molar quantities

Rabbi Coff's 10th Grade students explored quadratic equations through hands-on STEM learning focused on motion and engineering. They studied the laws of motion and force, SI units and metric measurement, and basic mechanical engineering concepts, applying these ideas by building adjustable catapults to investigate parabolic motion and designing mousetrap-powered cars to understand rotational motion and torque.

Rabbi Dubitsky's 11th grade Criminal Justice class covered the elements of a crime, forensics and its methodologies, as well as hate and cybercrimes. They will move ahead in the next quarter to study policing law, focusing on criminal procedures and search and seizure.

