



## A SPECIAL PURIM MESSAGE

March 2015 -Adar 5775



This year Purim falls on Thursday, March 5 (14 Adar). There are four special mitzvot that are performed and observed on Purim Day. They are:

- Reading of the Megillah (story of Purim)
- Mishloach Manot (sending of food to one another)
- Se'udat Purim (festive meal)
- Ma'tanot La'evyonim (gifts to the poor).

One of our duties is to help all our students and their families perform those four mitzvot. All other activities on Purim are customs rather than requirements (such as being in costume). We need your help in order to perpetuate the joy of Purim throughout our community and into our homes. How can you help?

**Reading of the Megillah-** A portion of the Megillah will be read by and for the children at school on Thursday morning, March 5, followed at 9:00 by a full reading for the middle school students. *Parents and friends are invited to attend the full reading.* You should also attend a Megillah reading at your synagogue on Wednesday evening, March 4.

**Mishloach Manot** - Please have your child prepare at home two "goodie bags" with the following items on each: two cookies and two pieces of candy, in their original wrappers and marked with an approved kosher symbol as listed in the school manual (remember that a "K" alone is not acceptable for use in the school), and a fruit (raisins, apple, etc.). NO NUTS, PLEASE. Have your child decorate the bags, label them

with "Have a Happy Purim," and bring them to school on Thursday, March 5. The bags will be given to the teacher, and they will be exchanged, so that each child who brings two bags will in turn receive two bags to bring home.

**Se'udat Purim-** Our Parent Association will serve the students a special brunch before noon consisting of bagels, cream cheese, and hamentaschen. (Do not send lunch on this day.) However, the festive Purim meal (Seudah) is traditionally served in the late afternoon and extends until the night, Shushan Purim. Wine, hamantashen, and other delightful foods are served with joy!

**Ma'tanot La'evyonim-** On Purim there is a special mitzvah to give gifts to the poor. We can only be happy on Purim if we have helped to lighten the burden of other Jews less fortunate than we. Please have your children bring in a donation of \$1-\$5 of their own money (if possible) that we will send to Friends of the IDF, an organization that helps lone Israeli soldiers.

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Our sages teach us that the month of Adar is a month of simcha (happiness and joy). To that goal, we, the Gottesman RTW Academy family, have prepared some festivities which will enable us to fulfill this mitzvah.

We extend the Purim spirit in our school with our annual Purim "shpiel," which is customarily produced by our graduating class each year. The eighth graders adapt a well-known play to the story of Purim, and the lyrics and plot are written by them in a most unusual and creative way. This year the production, *Esther and the Beast*, will be presented in the Welt-Colin auditorium on Monday evening, March 2, at 7:00 PM. We encourage all of our GRTWA family to join us.

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### **To Summarize**

**We will hold a festive Purim carnival for the children on Purim, March 5. We ask that they come dressed in costume in the spirit of the festival, bring Mishloach Manot, and make a personal donation. The school day will end at 12:00 (11:45 for ECC) and there will be no after school care.**

We at Gottesman RTW Academy wish you and your family a happy Purim.