

# Yeshiva Elementary School

## Contests Combine Fun, Learning

Everyone loves a contest, and the students at Yeshiva Elementary School of New Haven are no exception. The students at Yeshiva recently participated in two school contests: The Yeshiva Bee and the National Geography Bee.

The Beckius Bee covered material in all of Sefer Bereshit (the Book of Genesis) and coincided with the end of Genesis as the weekly Torah portion. Questions were taken directly from the text, quizzing the children's ability to recall names, places and quotes and famous descriptions. Daniel Scherban from the Upper Beit Sefer class placed first, answering, "Name the great-grandson of Shem, the son of Noach" (Answer: Aver). The contest then went into overtime before selecting Jared Gimbel from among the six finalists as the official runner-up.

The National Geography Society sponsors a yearly, nationwide contests among school children. The first phase of the competition took place, for Yeshiva students, during Chanukah. The students of Middle and Upper Beit Sefer showcased their impressive knowledge of geography in the rounds which included: United States Geography, Geographic Comparisons in the United States, Continents, World Geography, the Geography of Culturally Important Places and Issues, Plants and Animals and Physical Geography.

Staying their ground all the way to the final round were the following students: Shoshana Hluchan, Michael Shrager, Daniel Scherban, Avraham Moshe Nemoy and Jared Gimbel. The final round consisted of 100 questions. Among the many answered successfully: "Lake Assal, at 512 feet below sea level, is the lowest point on which continent?" (Answer: Africa).

The students were extremely well prepared, thanks to Mr. Daniel Greene, a longtime Yeshiva elementary teacher. They were so well prepared, in fact, that to single out one representative from the school, the contest went into the Championship Round held between Avraham Moshe Nemoy and Jared Gimbel. It was close, but Gimbel finished first by correctly answering, "Macao, formerly an overseas territory of Portugal, was returned to which country in 1999?" (Answer: China). As the school's winner, Jared took a written exam to qualify for the state competition. This will be the fourth time in recent history that Yeshiva University / The Gan School has sent students to the National Geography State Competition.

Yeshiva Elementary School of New Haven (The Gan School) has programs from pre-school through grade eight. For more information, please contact the school at 203 777-2200.