

Volume 4 Issue 3
 October 31, 2014

7 Cheshvan 5775
 Parashat Lech Lecha

From the Principal's Desk



Lech Lecha, “*go for yourself.*” These are the very first words spoken to the very first Jew. Here, Hashem has told Avram to take his insight, his understanding, his experiences, and his vision and go for it in order to make a difference. The Sfat Emet quotes the Zohar and explains that in every generation Hashem says, “Lech Lecha.” For the first 2000 years, no one heard it. Now for the first time, someone heard that message.

Lech Lecha is a quality that lies within each one of us. It is a quality that is fueling the growth and excitement at Ohr Chadash. We look for ways to let the vision of each student come to life. Teachers find ways to reach the students, find avenues to get them excited and dream, and to be ready for their own set of tests that will help bring out their lights and emulate Avraham.

Some of the ways our awesome teachers have been able to bring this out have been through participation in things such as the school wide Challah Project, mini plays in Chumash class, campaigning and being a part of the student government, and having a say in their education through spelling contracts, homework menus, and interactive centers. All of these are ways in which the children gain a deeper understanding of what is being taught, which will in turn, create Hashem’s message of Lech Lecha, *go for yourself.*

At morning assembly each day, we discuss what it means to be an OCA student. An OCA student reaches for the S.T.A.R.s just like Hashem told. We **Stay Safe**, **Treasure Torah**, **AIM HIGH**, and **Respect** ourselves and others. We teach each student to aim high, to work hard in order to fulfill his/her vision, to be the children of Avraham and Sarah, and to grab hold of the Lech Lecha message that Hashem is sending to us in our generation.

Shabbat Shalom

Important OCA Dates

Tuesday, November 4: Professional Day — No School

Friday, November 7: Maryland Pride Day

Sunday, November 9: Sifriyat Pajama 4:00

Tuesday, November 11: Veteran’s Day



From the Desk of Mrs. Randi Orshan

Ohr Chadash Academy held its first Presidential Election for Student Government on October 21, 2014. After already being voted for class representatives, Jonathan R, Dani C, Grace L, and Hadassah J, took it a step further and ran for School President.

Each candidate was required to write a speech explaining why he/she would make an excellent president. Jonathan R. wrote that he was honest and would be make a good president because of his honesty. Dani C. said he was responsible and wanted to change some things around the school. Grace L. expressed her desire to help people and try to make school fun. Hadassah J. had great ideas as to how to make school the best it could possibly be. Every single speech was clear and to the point. It was an extremely hard decision for everyone. Each student at Ohr Chadash Academy had a chance to vote by secret

ballot.



The anticipation of who would be president was evident as the morning announcements were being made the next day. Hadassah J. was voted as School President, while Dani C. was elected as Vice President. The cheers were loud, and everyone was happy for each other.

Our first Student Government meeting was held on October 29th. The representatives came up with fantastic ideas about what would benefit Ohr Chadash and the community at large. On November 7th, we will have "Maryland Pride Day," where students are encouraged to wear the colors of Maryland, ie. Ravens, Orioles, Maryland State Flag. On November 25th, we will be hosting "Let's Do Lunch" where students will be making bagged lunches to deliver to a homeless shelter in Maryland. More details to follow regarding "Let's Do Lunch."

Faculty Profile: Ms. Yael Esterson, Early Childhood Director



Ms. Yael Esterson is both the Director of our new Early Childhood Center and the teacher of our Pre-K3 class. Morah Yael received a Bachelor of Science (2011) and a Master of Education (2012) degree in Early Childhood Special Education, along with a minor in Human Development from the University of Maryland, College Park. She currently holds a teaching certificate from the Maryland State Department of Education in Early Childhood Education: PreK – 3rd grade, Generic Special Education: Infant – 3rd Grade, and Severely/Profoundly Disabled: Infant – 12th grade. She currently holds certifications in CPR/First Aid and Medication Administration.

She has previously taught in Baltimore County Public Schools as a Kindergarten Communication and Learning Support Teacher for students with autism.

Ms. Esterson loves being in Ohr Chadash because "Walking through the halls of OCA you can truly sense the warm environment, and the feeling of family and community that emanates from the students and staff!" Teaching the youngest children at OCA gives her the opportunity to set the groundwork for their future and instill in them a true love of Judaism and learning. Seeing the possibility in each of her students' bright, shining faces, inspires her to create the most engaging lessons and activities so that she can encourage them to reach their greatest potential!

OCA Participates in the Shabbos Project



Jews from around the world had the opportunity to participate in something huge, The Shabbos Project. The project was started in South Africa, but spread across the world because its message was so powerful. People who have never experienced Shabbos decided to try it and see what the magic was all about. They got to experience one of Judaism's most distinct practices, and also one of its most pervasive and enduring gifts. People realized Shabbos is more than just a day off; it is a day of physical and spiritual delights, a day of relaxation and contemplation, a day of family closeness and interpersonal connection. It is a day of togetherness. OCA knew it had to be apart of this experience.

Thanks to Rosendorffs Bakery, A to Z Savings, and the Knish Shop, we were able to provide the students of OCA with challah dough to prepare for baking, aprons, hats, and tins. Each child was able to braid two challot; one to take home and one to give away to a participant in the Shabbos Project. The children were elated to be participating in this huge mitzvah. They realized just how special Shabbos was and how lucky they were to have this "gift" each week.



Thank you to all of the parents who came and participated in this project with us. We know this is an experience you and your child will remember forever!



November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 No School Professional Day	5	6	7 Maryland Pride Day	8 Cheshvan
9 Cheshvan	10 Cheshvan	11 Cheshvan	12 Cheshvan	13 Cheshvan	Candle Lighting 4:41 14 Cheshvan	15 Cheshvan
9 Sifriyat Pajama 4:00	10	11 Veteran's Day Assembly by 1 st Grade 1:00 MPR	12	13	14	15
16 Cheshvan	17 Cheshvan	18 Cheshvan	19 Cheshvan	20 Cheshvan	Candle Lighting 4:35 21 Cheshvan	22 Cheshvan
16	17 Second grade Kabbalat Hachumash 10:30 Auditorium	18	19	20	21 Midda Assembly 3 rd Grade 10:00 in MPR	22 PTA Melva Mal.ka
23 Cheshvan	24 Cheshvan	25 Cheshvan	26 Cheshvan	27 Cheshvan	End of 1st Trimester Candle Lighting 4:30 28 Cheshvan	29
23 Rosh Chodesh	24	25 Let's Do Lunch Program	26 Thanksgiving Program 11:30 Dismissal Thanksgiving Break	27 No School Thanksgiving Break	28 No School Thanksgiving Break	29
1 Kislev	2 Kislev	3 Kislev	4 Kislev	5 Kislev	Candle Lighting 4:27 6 Kislev	7 Kislev
30						
8 Kislev						

Around the Halls of OCA Early Childhood Center

Morah Yael Esterson, Morah Anne Norris, Morah Shoshanah, Morah Milka Baila

In the ECC last week, we had a rainbow of a week! We studied Parshat Noach and learned all about the different colors in and the order of the rainbow. In our centers we also found different objects around the classroom and tried to make our own unique rainbows! We even painted a rainbow with watercolors and salt. We learned that salt is a mineral that absorbs the color and creates interesting patterns on our papers. We created rainbows from found objects in the room, and painted with a cool shaving cream glue mixture (thank you Mrs A!). We discovered why things sink or float, and found out why Noach's teva floated.



Since it really felt like Fall, we went on a nature walk and collected leaves and acorns.

The children came back and we talked about the different colors of the leaves. We even tried to make a rainbow from the leaves! The children then did some beautiful leaf rubbings, some of which are hanging in our classroom and some of which were sent home!



On Thursday, we braided Challah as part of The Shabbos Project and on Friday, we had a special visit from a real firefighter! He taught us all about being safe in a fire and what to do if, chas v'shalom, there was a fire in school or at home. He also brought all of his firefighting gear and showed us how to wear all the special equipment. Thank you Firefighter Jonathan for a fun time and for the great helmets!



Technology Classes

Mrs. Tova Taragin



It is very exciting this year to have a dedicated computer lab for the students to work in. In all of the technology classes, we are using a keyboarding program called "Keyboarding Without Tears." As an introduction, the children were shown a PowerPoint presentation about keyboarding, including the invention of the first typewriter. The children are eager to practice holding their fingers in the proper positions. The Kindergarten also learned about the parts of a computer.

In the upper grades, all the third through fifth grade students were given OCA email addresses for use in school. They were shown a PowerPoint presentation entitled E-mail etiquette, and we discussed the importance of using derech ertz when sending emails. We touched on internet safety and privacy issues in addition. We hope to start using Google Classroom in the near future.



Fire Prevention Month

Mrs. Aliza Mann



October is Fire Prevention Month, and what better way to learn about fire safety than from a real-life firefighter? Firefighter Jonathan works as a firefighter and EMT with the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company. He came ready to educate the students about safe habits and procedures that can save a life in case of an emergency.



The students got to take a look at some of his EMT equipment and learn the reasons behind each piece of clothing he wears when he's fighting a fire. Firefighter Jonathan also stressed the importance of each child knowing his/her address and phone number and having a designated meeting place if your family needs to evacuate the house in a hurry. Thank you Firefighter Jonathan for your wonderful presentation!

Kitah Alef

Morah Flo Ziffer
Morah Gila Fixler

Last week, the children in Kitah alef began the third unit in their Ariote workbook - featuring the letters bet and vet. They are becoming more and more comfortable and proficient in blending letter and vowel sounds, reading sight vocabulary and stories in Hebrew.

The students work beautifully in small groups with Morah Golfeyz, Morah Gila or Morah Ziffer to develop their language arts skills. This week, they enjoyed "meeting" Barak and reading the bet story. They are also working on their Hebrew penmanship and wrote their first Hebrew sentence in script. This week we finished the bet unit and met Gadi and Gila who introduced us to the letter gimel.

I am very proud of how Kitah alef is davening. Last week we introduced the bracha for studying Torah, and this week, we began reciting Mah Tov. I am very proud how independent Kitah Alef has become in tracking, reciting and assessing their davening. They eagerly serve as chazanim and chazaniot to lead the class!

Last Thursday Kitah alef did a very big mitzvah, braiding challot for the Shabbos Project. What a wonderful way to join this very exciting endeavor!

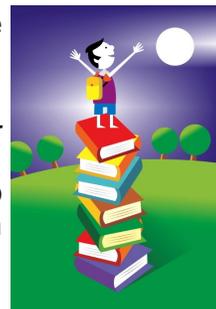


Second Grade

Mrs. Mary Sue Rubenstein

The children in my class have been introduced to a special reading incentive program entitled "Bag of Books," that will be in place for the remainder of second grade. They were very excited. Throughout the year, when the children complete 5 books with 5 summary sheets, they will be rewarded. For every five books read (and the completed summaries), the student will receive a certificate, and at the end of the year, every child who participates will be rewarded as well.

Last week, Second Graders read and enjoyed a short story in our *Reading/Writing Workshop* textbook which was entitled "Maria Celebrates Brazil." As an introduction to the reading, the children learned that Brazil was located on the continent of South America. We also talked about the fact that people in Brazil speak Portuguese. I was able to give the children some personal information, because my son lived and worked in Brazil several years ago.



In computer class, Mrs. Taragin came in and used the smart board, integrating what we were learning in grammar with a fun-filled activity.

In math, we began the topic of "number patterns." The children completed several oral and written activities which included: skip counting on a hundreds chart, skip counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's, determining patterns in skip counting, and applying these concepts toward solving word problems.

Kitah Gimel

Morah Avigail Barnoy

Last week the students had so many amazing experiences. Mr. Polirer (Fireman Jonathan, Lexi's father) came to speak about fire safety. The students took part in baking Challot with Jews around the world! They voted on the new Student President. They watched 4/5 grade boys present a play on the Mida of Cheshvan (הכרת הטוב) and Moshe Dwek and Ava Cohen received awards for the Mida of Tishray (דן לךף). Congratulations to both of them for judging their friends favorably no matter the issue!

This week we studied for our Chumash test by making plays about what we learned.



Third Grade

Mrs. Aliza Mann

Immigration Stories



This year's Social Studies topic is "community." This word means something different to many people, but the underlying feeling is that a community is a place where you belong. As Jews, most of our families have unique immigration stories. Many of our grandparents and great-grandparents came to this country searching for community.



Before Sukkot, the students used Scholastic to listen to immigration stories from kids their own age. This week, the students had an opportunity to share their immigration interview. Many of the students' stories had similarities and reflected information that the students learned during "Grandfather's Journey" and through their leveled readers. (For example, we learned what steerage class was during Language Arts, and some of the students reported that their relatives traveled this way from Europe.) After presenting their interviews, the students traced their family's journey on a world map. Please stop by our classroom sometime soon to see this map hanging on the wall with the family journeys outlined.



Please remember that Ohr Chadash Academy is a nut free environment. Please be very careful when packing your child's lunch and snack.

Kitah Daled-Hay: Senior Girls

We began Perek Gimel in Chumash Shmot last week and have been learning about Moshe and the sneh boair baeysh (the burning bush) .We reviewed the map of Canaan, Mitzrayim and Midyan. Also, we have been practicing our text-to-text compare/contrast skills through learning about the sneh. In addition, we have started studying the symbolism of the sneh according to mefarshim (commentators) Rashi and Sforno.

We have begun studying everyone's favorite shofet Ehud ben Gayra in Navi. All of the senior girls are excited to be learning about him. This week we also devoted a lot of Navi time to discussing our exciting Navi newspaper project. I am thrilled that steps one and two – research and interview – have been completed! Way to go Senior Girls! You are banding together and helping each other meet goals.

Now that the chagim are over, we are beginning our first major unit in denim—the laws of Shabbat. Last week, we read and compared the fourth of the Aseret Hadibrot as written in Parshat Yitro and in Parshat Vaetchanan. This week, we learned select mishnayot from Masechet Shabbat. Listening to the girls' comments and insights during dinim is truly a highlight of my day.

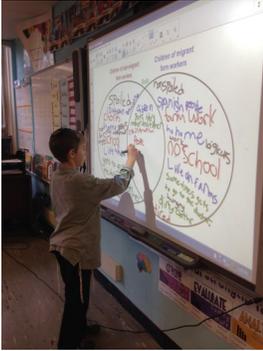
In Ivrit we have been spending a lot of time on suffixes that show ownership. We have recently begun practicing suffixes that show verb tense – it is review for most students, and mastering this skill is crucial in text comprehension across all of our Judaic studies.

Enjoy these lovely pictures of my wonderful senior girls, sporting the beautiful bows they made for the Sukkot holiday.



Fourth-Fifth Grade

Mrs. Aliza Mann



In Language Arts last week the students started a new short story, "Amelia's Road." Preparing to read took us through activities related to the comprehension element, problem and solution. We also spent time learning background information about migrant farm workers. Amelia's family travels around all year long looking for work harvesting crops. In order to have a better understanding of what this type of lifestyle is like, the students read a Scholastic article about kids who travel for farm, work and often have to sacrifice their education. As a follow-up to this, the students worked together to fill in a Venn Diagram, comparing and contrasting their lives to that of children of migrant farm workers. At the close of the lesson, the students had noted close to 30 similarities and differences. Using this background knowledge as we began reading, the students were able to sympathize with Amelia's plight. During our reading we engaged in role play exercises and modeled ways in which Amelia's feelings could manifest in her body language and expressions. This week, the students began working in collaborative centers and small reading groups to complete activities related to the story.

Me"ohr"aot Ohr Chadash-Happenings in our Ohr Chadash Family

Mazal Tov to Mrs. Anne Norris on the upcoming bar mitzvah this Shabbat of her son Nathaniel.

Condolences to the family of Judah Milner (K) on the loss of his great-grandmother, Mrs. Sylvia Milner.

Attention Parents! Ohr Chadash is going viral

Check for the latest updates of all that happens in OCA.
Pictures, Videos, and News.



Like Ohr Chadash Academy
on Facebook

Follow us on Instagram
@ohrchadashacademy

Follow us on Twitter
@OhrChadashBalt

Login to Renweb to have
access to student grades,
homework and,
school announcements.



- ◇ Thank you to all the parents who came and helped with the Shabbos project Challah braiding last week.
- ◇ Thank you to Mr. Jonathan Polirer for visiting and teaching us about fire safety.
- ◇ Thank you to Mr. Jonathan Schwartz who came and spoke to us about the election process.

Happy October Birthdays

Eitan Rozmaryn Pre- K3

Leah Orshan Pre- K4

Elan Levi Pre- K4

Meira Einbinder K

Ariella Juni 2

Rachamim Schor 2

Meital Shiller 3

Jonathan Rosen 4

Leah Scott 4

Levy Teles 4

Grace Larsen 5



OCA-PTA News

Lanie Carter and Rena Einbinder, Presidium

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed all of the chagim! Now that we're back on a more regular schedule, we have two exciting events coming up. Our parent melave malka will be on November 22 at the home of Susie and Matt Schoenfeld. It promises to be an enjoyable and delicious evening! We are looking forward to a fun and relaxing evening together! More details to follow!

Saturday Night Learning is back! Starting November 8 at 6:40, students are invited to come learn with their parents at school. We'll enjoy pizza, raffles, and prizes for frequent attendees, all lead by our own Rabbi Bennett. We will also be joining the Ner Tamid congregation on several occasions throughout the season. See the attached flyer for all the dates and times.

If you haven't already done so please **consider becoming a member of OCA PTA!** Your membership helps support our programming. Sign up here: https://ohrchadashbaltimore.org/ocapta/membership_and_tshirt.php. We also are fully stocked with new OCA T-shirts. Order online or stop by the office and pick one up!

There are still easy opportunities for you to support OCA PTA in your every day shopping.

Target

Sign up your card for their Take Charge of Education Program:
<http://www.target.com/tcoe> (our school ID is 153097)

Giant

Sign up your card for their A+ Rewards Program:
http://www.giantfood.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/?_requestid=1228038

Amazon

Bookmark this link and use it every time you shop:
<http://www.amazon.com/?&tag=ohrchadashbaltimore-20&camp=212361&creative=392013&linkCode=ws&>

Lovable Labels

Buy your personalized labels for all occasions here:
<http://www.ohrchadash.lovablelabels.ca/>

Box Tops

Please save us your Box Tops! Each Rosh Chodesh we will collect them and have a raffle for a free Pizza for all families that participate!

Looking forward to seeing you on the 22nd.
Lanie and Rena



OCA PTA Parent Melavah Malka

Please Join us on Motezi Shabbat, November 22nd at 8 pm

At the Home of Matt and Susie Schoenfeld 3514 Bonfield Road

Join us for a dairy buffet,
wine, and an opportunity to
socialize with other OCA
families.



\$13 per person or \$25 per couple

Sponsorships Available

RSVP by Nov. 18 to ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org

Yom Hakdasha - a Day of Dedication

Ohr Chadash Academy proudly announces the creation of Yom Hakdasha, a Day of Dedication.

We believe in being our students' home away from home because we know that every child brings something of "home" with them when they enter the building. As an expression of being a school family, we are instituting a Dedicated Day of Learning program – a *Yom Hakdasha* – to provide you with the opportunity to dedicate a day of learning in honor of a student or in memory of a loved one.

Dedications can be made for yahrzeits, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, academic achievement, receiving a first siddur or chumash, or any occasion. On the day of dedication, if a student is being honored, they are honored with holding the American and Israeli flags.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please contact the school office at office@ohrchadashbaltimore.org.

Support our OCA Family Advertisers

Email ohrchadashot@ohrchadashbaltimore.org if you are interested in advertising in our Family Advertisers pages.

***Computer Calligraphy
and Invitations by Tova***

**Commercial invitations and party
supplies available**

**Custom Hebrew/English invitations,
laminated benchers and tefillot also avail-
able.**

**Computer Calligraphy on envelopes,
place cards, table cards.**

**Laminated Sukkot benchers and
Kiddush Cards for sale now.**

**Mention OCA when you call and a
portion will be donated to our school.**

Call Tova Taragin at 410-371-9194

Thanks 21st Century Storage
for taking care of OCA's storage needs.

Located on Park Heights Avenue, about 3 blocks from
OCA, 21st Century Storage will donate \$20 to OCA for
every family that mentions our name when renting a
storage unit.

For more information, e-mail
ocapta@ocabaltimore.org.



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(410)466-5252 www.21css.com

Have a Target Redcard? Sign up so
OCA can receive a donation every time
you shop!

Sign up at www.target.com/tcoe.
Our school ID is 153097



Don't Lose It, Label it!

Label Camp Clothes
and School Supplies
with Ease!

Support OCA by buying
Lovable Labels.



Don't lose it, label it!

[http://
www.ohrchadash.lovablelabels.ca/](http://www.ohrchadash.lovablelabels.ca/)



Please Help Ohr Chadash when shopping at Staples

When you shop at Staples or redeem toner cartridges please give our
Staples Rewards number which is 2877957023

Ohr Chadash Tzedakah Scrip

If you are interested in ordering Agudah Scrip to benefit OCA, please send an email to ttaragin@ohrchadashbaltimore.org. or call 410-484-3931. If you give tzedakah to meshulachim (tzedakah collectors) at your door or in shul, using Agudah Scrip, a portion goes to our school. It is an easy way for OCA to get tzedakah too. It was conceived years ago, so that all our tzedakah money does not leave the city, but in addition, helps the local institutions (we receive the difference between the amount on the face of the scrip and the cost). The amounts available are:

50 cents scrip cost \$.75	\$4.00 scrip which costs \$5.00
\$1 scrip which costs \$1.25	\$8.00 scrip which costs \$10
\$2.50 scrip which costs \$3.00	\$20 scrip which costs \$25

Checks are to be made out to Agudah of Baltimore. Ordered scrip can be picked up in the school office or at the home of Tova and Alan Taragin. Arrangements can be made for delivery.



Join OCA-PTA for Motzei Shabbat Family Learning!

Dates and times below. As always, there will be pizza, raffles, and fun!

Frequent attendees will receive a great prize at the end of the season!



November 8—At OCA 6:40 PM

November 15 -At OCA 6:40 PM

November 22 -At OCA 6:20 PM

November 29—No Family Learning

December 6—At Ner Tamid 6:45 PM

December 13—At OCA 6:40 PM

December 20— At OCA 6:40 PM

December 27—No Family Learning

January 3—At OCA 7:00 PM

January 10—At Ner Tamid 7:00 PM

January 17—At OCA 7::00 PM

January 24—At OCA 7:00 PM

January 31—At OCA 7:00 PM

February 7—at Ner Tamid 7:30 PM

February 14—at OCA 7:30 PM

February 21—at OCA 7:30 PM

February 28 —at OCA 7:45 PM

March 7 - at OCA 7:45 PM

Please contact ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org with any questions or to sponsor a family learning session.

ner tamid
Youth

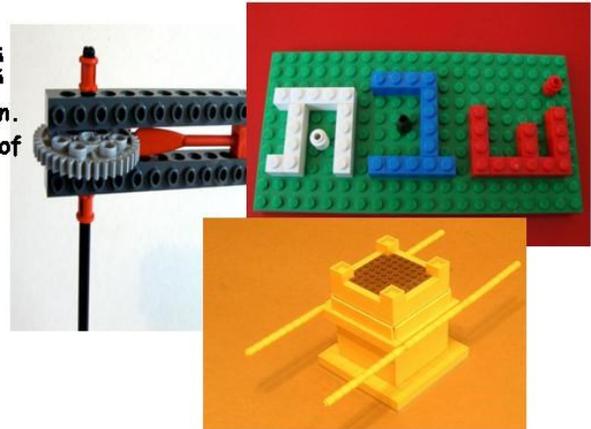
Shabbaton

Jewish Lego Contest

Students can enter the contest as part of the Shabbaton. Lego entries must be brought to Ner Tamid the morning of the Shabbaton or before.

Winners will be announced Saturday night.

Building our Jewish **lego**cy



Saturday Night Costume Party

Wear a costume Saturday night

Game Show

Prizes

Grades 1-6

Shabbaton ambassador program: Bring a friend who does not normally attend Ner Tamid and receive a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card

Shabbos November 15, 2014

\$25

Supervised program for students includes meals and activities. Program starts in Jr. Cong at 10:15 am. The program ends Saturday night after the costume party. Children will be picked up by parents after havdalah and returned to Ner Tamid for the costume party. Times to be announced.

Deadline is Tuesday November 11.



Register on nertamid.net
For info contact Samson Wach
410-764-6241 youth@nertamid.net

Kid Chefs



Students ages 6—12

Cooking classes for children in a safe learning environment that encourages discovery and creativity

\$20 for 4 classes
\$7.50 for individual classes

Sunday mornings 9:30—11 am

Sunday, November 09, 2014 Three Layer Cake

Sunday, December 07, 2014 Tuna and Salmon Pâtés

Sunday, January 11, 2015 Rolled Lasagna

Sunday, February 01, 2015 Dips & Sauces (Guacamole, Salsa etc.)



Ner Tamid Youth

6214 Pimlico Road

Register by November 5 for the 1st class

Register at nertamid.net

For info: youth@nertamid.net or 410-764-6241