

# YSZ High School Hosts Girls Night Out

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This past Thursday night, the new Yeshiva Sha'are Zion Girls High School launched a *Girls Night Out* event at Beth Gavriel in Forest Hills for their applicants. The girls arrived from a variety of local elementary schools, including Bais Yaakov of Queens, Bnos Malka, Yeshiva of Central Queens and YSZ's own elementary school. Mrs. Rina Zerykier, the *menahelet*, introduced the evening as an opportunity for girls to connect to new friends and learn from one other. "High school is a time to discover who you are and who you want to be. It is also a home away from home and a second family. Here, you will make lifelong friends, and we will help you connect and learn from each other. As a high school, everything we do will have a message and purpose. Tonight, we are here for you to connect with each other," opened Mrs. Zerykier.

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The night kicked off with quick paced conversation starters. Questions were placed on each chair and the girls had one and a half minutes to answer each question before moving on to the next chair and a different peer. The girls had a great time getting to know each other.

Mrs. Zerykier then introduced the activity of the night, a STEM challenge. The girls had 18 minutes to plan, ideate, and test their hypotheses. In an architectural feat, the girls were challenged to build a freestanding tower out of spaghetti sticks, tape and string and then suspend a marshmallow from the top. The tallest tower stood at 24 inches! Most importantly, it was a great opportunity for quick engineering, team building, and connection.

In a wrap up reflection circle, the girls discussed with Mrs. Zerykier the values they learned from the challenge. They spoke about resilience, team building, collaboration, persistence and leadership. "I didn't realize I could learn so much about life from a STEM activity! This was so much fun!" said one young student. "I met so many incredible girls here tonight; I can't wait for high school to begin!" another girl quipped.

Well, neither can we! The first round of acceptance letters have already been mailed and registration is well underway. The high school is off to a great start!

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