

Vehigadto Levincho: Introduction

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Vehigadto Levincho!

Over Purim this year - תשפ"ב - I started to think about the idea of doing a weekly, short, live talk for the parents of my pupils.

This would add a meaningful additional dimension to the teaching and learning I do with their children in the classroom.

After all, neither the home nor the school is a vacuum, but rather our children learn in both, from their parents at home and from their teachers at school, and so perhaps the important enterprise of Chinuch - Torah education, or we might say, training for a life of Torah-living - demands that we join up Home and School a little more than we usually do.

Of course, I really wasn't sure whether this ambitious and, frankly, petrifying idea was really going to happen, and I began to think up plausible excuses for not going ahead with it.

But then something really major happened. On Shushan Purim תשפ"ב Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky זצוק"ל passed from this world. Rabbi Kanievsky was the pre-eminent Torah scholar and Torah leader of our generation.

Now, this obviously shocked and shook the global Jewish community. But then one has to decide how to respond personally to such a loss. And so I thought it would be quite appropriate to respond by going ahead with this new project - to give a weekly, short, live talk for the parents of my pupils.

Bli neder - that is, without making any promises - the general intention is to look at themes in the weekly Parashah, and or to touch on thoughts relating to Chinuch and personal and family spiritual growth.

But the main object is to provide parents with food for thought that might support them, in various ways, in their role as partners in their children's Jewish learning and growth.

The name "Vehigadto Levincho" seemed appropriate because these words give us the mitzvah to engage with our children in the annual Chinuch experience par excellence - the Pesach Seder. "Vehigadto Levincho" is all about immersing ourselves and our children in the deepest, most impactful form of learning about Torah and our heritage.

So welcome to "Vehigadto Levincho." I hope you enjoy the journey and find it useful.

Finally - for now - let me wish you all much nachas from your children, and especially Yiddische nachas, for, as a Rabbi once said to my Father ע"ה, all nachas is great, but there's no nachas like Yiddische nachas!

Behatzlochoh!

J. Richards

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