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Community service is an important part of the Schechter Manhattan experience. Throughout our years at Schechter, we spend time helping causes such as visiting the elderly, cleaning NYC parks, and spending time with kids in need. Doing community service is very meaningful. We learn in school and from Jewish tradition, the practice of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. We believe that going out into the community and making a difference is a way to embody that idea. Each year, beginning in 3rd grade, every class participates in a different community service project. Out of all the years of doing community service, there are a few that stand out. In fifth grade we participated in a program called Dorot where we visited the elderly, in 7th we went to a nursing home, and this year, we helped students in a local public school.

This year, once a month, we went and visited one of the third grade classes at a local public school on the Upper west side. Sometimes we helped them with their school work, and other times we did fun science projects with them. We were each assigned a few 3rd grade buddies, and we formed strong bonds with them. Everytime we went to the school, their faces would light up and it felt so good knowing that we could make them happy. On our last community service visit, we went to the school and had an indoor picnic with the students. This gave us a time to share the fun experiences we had throughout the time we visited them. As we said goodbye to our buddies, we left with a smile on our face because we had been able to make a difference in their lives and make them smile.