

My Dear Students,

A long, long, long time ago in a town just 50 miles north of here (just outside of Monsey), Mr. & Mrs. Lokensky had a son. This son grew up with big dreams and aspirations. While his friends wanted to become doctors, lawyers, architects, or abacus programs (this was pre-modern technology) he wanted to be a teacher. He didn't want to be just any teacher, but he wanted to have the privilege of educating young minds at a leading educational institution (like YST). It was a lofty goal, but little Lokensky studied hard, trying to learn all there was to know about America, the world, politics, and the sciences. He traveled across the fruited plains to Arizona, where he received his bachelor degree in Political Science and sat through hundreds of hours of boring lectures about a topic he loved. He did not give up on his dream, but besides content, he learned what he did not want to do as a teacher. He did not want to have students endlessly take shorthand notes of a series of names and dates that they would have to memorize and regurgitate. He also would not make students listen to a recital of the textbook being read as kids slept in the back of the class. HISTORY CAN BE INTERESTING! HISTORY IS RELEVANT TO OUR LIVES! LEARNING SHOULD NOT ONLY BE FOR THE GENIUSES TO SUCCEED AT, BUT EVERYONE WILLING TO WORK HARD SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO WELL! STUDENTS SHOULD BE REWARDED FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR AND IT SHOULD REFLECT IN THEIR GRADE!! This revelation is what some historians (if I can call myself that) call "The Lokensky Revolution" (for some odd reason, it is not mentioned in textbooks – some type of editorial oversight I suppose).

With these ideals in mind, the not so little any more Lokensky traveled the globe, visiting all kinds of neat places and collecting all kinds of interesting facts that he hoped he would one day be able to share with some young, fertile, minds.

That was over 20 years ago. Since then, the ever-growing, ever-graying Lokensky, has been fulfilling his dream, trying to integrate what the Torah teaches with the events that have taken place in the world around us and trying to share his enthusiasm for learning with a younger generation (that disappointingly still can't beat him in basketball). Let's dream together and make this coming year one that is fit for the books! In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer and practice your basketball!!

Yitzchak Lokensky