

## 2016 Junior Maccabi Games

JCC Metrowest took 49 boys and girls to the Mid Atlantic Junior Maccabi Games that was hosted by the Katz JCC in Cherry Hill, NJ. We had 5 different teams competing in boys' and girls' basketball, boys' soccer, baseball and tennis. Our kids faced off against other delegations from New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Massachusetts. All of our teams advanced into the afternoon tournament hoping to come home with more memories and a medal. With great pleasure 2 of our competing teams were able to secure medals; girls' basketball took home the Silver medal after losing a hard fought game to the Kaiserman JCC in the gold medal game. Our boys' soccer team secured a gold medal in the soccer consolation bracket after an impressive win over Montgomery County. While we wished all of our teams could've taken home a medal they left this year's games with memories that will last a lifetime.

The boys baseball team went 1-2 in competition. They came away with a win vs Montgomery County in the first game of the day. With a record of 1-1 they would advance to the playoffs as one of the top 6 seeds. They faced South Jersey in the first round of the playoffs but came up a little short. South Jersey went on to win the gold medal. Our team played hard, but we faced some very good competition. We had a great collection of kids on our team. They all got along well and enjoyed being together. The kids effort and the way they handled themselves throughout the day made the JCC proud. It was a meaningful experience for all involved.

The boys basketball team went 1-2 in the morning qualifying games. They would be awarded the #6 seed in the playoff tournament. After being down 22-7 at the half, they went on a run in the second half cutting the lead to 7. Despite their best efforts they came up a little short. They played very well and left it all out on the court. It was a great experience for all of the boys both on and off the court.

The girls basketball team took home the silver medal for the second year in a row. They finished the tournament with a 4-2 record. They finished the preliminary round with a record of 2-1. They defeated both Bucks and Baltimore and lost to Kaiserman. The tournament was comprised of 10 teams with the top 6 teams qualifying for the playoffs. In their semifinal game they would face the #1 seed from Rockland. The girls really came together and played a great game, knocking off the #1 seed, advancing to the gold medal game. They would again face Kaiserman. After being down by as many as 10 at halftime, the girls went on a run in the second half, cutting the score to 5. Kaiserman went on a run towards the end, eventually winning the game. Despite the loss the girls did not hang their heads. They played tough, showed good sportsmanship, and left it all out on the court. The girls had a great experience at the Jr Maccabi games.

The boys soccer team won the gold medal in the consolation bracket. They finished the preliminary round with a record of 1-1-1 with a win against Montgomery County, a tie vs Center City, and a loss to Baltimore. They were awarded the top seed in the consolation bracket. They had 3 very exciting games in the morning and really came together as the day went on. The boys were happy to be able to bring home the gold medal for Metrowest.

Metrowest took 3 tennis players to the Jr Maccabi games. All 3 players participated in the competitive division. They would compete against other players from the surrounding states.

The Junior Maccabi games are so much more than just a sports tournament. It gives young Jewish athletes the chance to meet other young Jewish athletes from the Metrowest community, while also giving them a chance to compete against other young Jewish athletes from the surrounding states while showing pride for Metrowest.

All athletes had a great experience at the Junior Maccabi games both on and off the fields and courts.

On Sunday May 22nd JCC Metrowest took a delegation of 7 teams and 68 athletes to the Mini Maccabi Games hosted by the Rockland JCC in West Nyack, NY. We took the following teams: 2 boys basketball teams, 2 boys soccer teams, 2 girls soccer teams and a boys baseball team. Approximately 200 athletes from 10 JCC's were in attendance with Metrowest being the largest delegation at the games. It comes with great pleasure that we announce 4 of our teams came home claiming medals when the day ended.

Boys Baseball defeated Baltimore in a best 2 out of 3 tournament to claim the gold medal. Both of our girls' soccer teams faced off against each other in the gold medal game with Team Patrick claiming gold and Team Mark coming away with silver. Our boys soccer team coached by Ari Strulson advanced to the championship game against Stamford CT and took home a silver medal. This was a great day not only on the field for our delegation but for our community as a whole. We look forward to having another outstanding turnout in 2017.