

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 26

פרשת מצורע - שבת הגדול

Week ending April 15, 2016

Candle lighting 7:19

Parsha Points

“וכל המרבה לספר ביציאת מצרים הרי זה משבח”

“And the more one tells of the departure from Egypt, the more he is praised.”

Normally we should refrain from saying too much praise about Hashem. The Talmud relates that someone once led prayers while in the company of Rabbi Chanina. The leader said, “The great Hashem, the powerful, the awesome, mighty, omnipotent, strong, feared, sure and honorable...” Rabbi Chanina waited until the man finished his prayers, then said, “Have you completed all of Hashem’s praise? Why did you elaborate so much? Our prayer only has three adjectives, the great, powerful and awesome.” and we only include them because Moshe said them, and the Rabbis included them; otherwise we would not even say them. Let me explain. We can compare this to a king who owned a million dinars of gold, and his subjects were praising him because of the silver that he also owned. Would that not be a great embarrassment? Similarly, Hashem is the all-powerful; whatever you praise Him will be less than He deserves.”

The question is: Why do we praise Hashem so much on the night of Pesach? We can compare this to a king whose son was captured in battle and taken to a foreign land. The king did not rest in attempting to rescue his son. But none of his subjects were successful. The king himself went, and in the middle of the night, in a daring raid, saved his son. On the way to the palace, the son began to praise his father for his bravery, cleverness, strength and speed. He praised his father during the entire time that they rode in the royal coach. Finally, while still praising his father, the prince, tired from the ordeal and the journey, fell asleep.

One whom the king saves may praise him without limit. And we, who would still today be in Egyptian bondage were it not for the redemption of Hashem, are obligated to praise him without end.

Rabbi Moshe Apter, taken from the Sfas Emes Anthology Reflections on Redemption

The Week in Review

Our 6th grade is learning beautifully, even with the excitement of Pesach knocking on the door. We have recently completed פרשת קדושים חומש, and are on schedule with our special חזרות פרשיות in ספר ויקרא, keeping up with the פרשת השבוע. In addition, we are presently in the פרק 22nd of משניות, anticipating the completion of the מסכת in the near future. And in גמרא, after having completed פרק הכונס, we are well underway in our learning of פרק המניח. It is a true נחת to see how beautifully the boys are progressing and how much they have accomplished already this year.

After spending much time this year learning comprehension skills and reading short stories, the second grade boys have begun to read their very first novel, *The Chalk Box Kid*. They are busy figuring out vocabulary words and homophone meanings by using context clues. They read the novel by taking turns every few pages and have a follow up discussion about each chapter. The new Chalk Kid workbook is used for pre-reading and post-reading activities. The boys are enjoying this experience and feel very grown up! They are really excited about completing their first book report and an exciting project at the conclusion of the novel. Stay tuned

Keep your eyes on Mrs. Schwartz’ 3rd grade girls! They are very “semse”-itive! Ask them why? Because, בִּזָּה, they have five working senses. They are soon going to embark on a magical field trip with the infamous Ms. Frizzle and her class, and will be learning the different parts of the eye and how they work! Stick around as 3rd grade really “gets into the eye!”

The excitement and interest surrounding the girls school LINK game has complemented the anticipation of the yom tov of Pesach, when, hopefully, many of our students will have the opportunity to connect with far-flung family members. We would be delighted to hear your comments, criticism and/or compliments post-Pesach. Please be in touch!

As you well imagine, the girls in Morah Blumie’s כיתה א’ have spent the past several weeks preparing for Pesach. In particular, their conversations have been centered around answering essential questions that lend themselves to an every-expanding, ever-deepening understanding of this important Yom Tov. Why did Hashem give us the Yom Tov of Pesach? How are the mitzvos of Pesach special to the Yom tov? The girls have also spent time discussing how, with the myriad of details and concepts that connect to Pesach, it is so important not to lose sight of the main idea of מעבודת לחרות! If you happen to meet a member of א’ כיתה, feel free to spend a minute checking their understanding of these important concepts!

Best wishes for a wonderful Yom Tov!

Preschool Jottings

Who knows **one**? We know **one**!

There’s only one beautiful YST Preschool where all this could happen!

Who knows **two**? We know **two**!

Two are the numbers of Moros in each classroom that create, design and help the children make all the wonderful Pesach projects!

Who knows **four**? We know **four**!

Four is the age of the Kindergarten children in Morah Rochel and Morah Yaffa’s classroom who are bringing home the YST Kindergarten Preschool Pesach Publication of *Is it Pesach Yet?*

Who knows **five**? We know **five**!

Five is the number of the days of the week when we come to school and work so hard to learn and prepare for Pesach!

Who knows **eight**? We know **eight**!

Eight is number that reminds us of the delicious matzah that we made and “eight” this week!! The South Brunswick Chabad Matzah Factory came to the Preschool on Tuesday and demonstrated, step by step, exactly how matzah is made.

Who knows **nine**? We know **nine**!

Nine is the number of days until the Yom Tov of Pesach, when we can share all that we have learned with our families.

Who knows **twelve**? We know **twelve**!

Twelve is the number of YST Preschool Staff Members who make this all happen!

Chag Kasher V’sameach!

FYI

• **Achievement Tests are coming up this week in the boys school. Please make every effort to avoid having your children miss any of the testing sessions.** Make sure your child has had a good night’s rest and comes equipped with plenty of sharpened pencils and some healthful snack.

• **Please note: As of Friday, May 6th** regular Friday dismissals will begin after the Pesach vacation. **Friday dismissals will be at 3:00 pm.** (1:35 p.m. for girls grades 6-8)

• **Girls After School Program Make-Up Dates:**

Mon: Edible Arts & Gymnastics - April 18

Tues: Fun in the Kitchen - April 19

• **No more YST uniform drop-offs will be accepted until after Pesach.**

• No Pirchei, Pirchei Beis Medrash or Bnos Malka this Shabbos. It’s time to relax!

• Middlesex County is offering a Prescription Discount Card for uninsured residents or anyone whose current plan does not include prescriptions. There is no cost for the card and can be used at any participating pharmacy in Middlesex County. This is not insurance and the card cannot be combined with any third party payer program, including but not limited to Medicare and Medicaid or with any other type of insurance. To obtain a card or find participating pharmacies, call ProAct toll free at 1-877-776-2285 or visit NJRxDiscountCard.com

• **Children’s ShoeShare:** Get a new-to-you pair of shoes for the upcoming yom tov! A large collection of beautiful, gently used kids shoes. Up to big kids’ size 3.

• **Toy Library:** A free lending library of boards games, train sets, puzzles, building blocks, and electronic toys available to borrow for one month at a time. Contact Elisheva Blumberg at elishevablumberg@gmail.com. Or call 347-416-3693.

• The Edison/Highland Park gown Gemach, L’iluy Nishmas R’ Yitzchok Ben Binyomin, is open for business! The Gemach houses a wide selection of gowns for children, pre-teen, teens and adults. Please note the Gemach is still looking for donation of gowns in very good condition. Tax deduction is given and pick up of the gowns can also be arranged. For more information and/or to schedule an appointment please call Sara Scott at 516-526-0941.

• Rabbi Bassous’ Women’s class: Sundays at 10:00 AM at Etz Ahaim. Class will be based upon the book “100 Brachos, Counting your Blessings 100 Times a Day” by Rabbi Moshe Goldberg

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein’s, Mrs. Miri Cohen’s & the SemPlus shiurim will resume after Pesach.

• Woman’s Parsha discussion: Steinsaltz Ambassador, Betzalel Strauss, will be conducting discussion based on

the essays of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, every Monday at 1:00PM in the Ahavas Achim Beit Midrash. All interested women are invited. Contact Cynthia at cynthiandlloyd@yahoo.com with any questions.

• Women’s beginning Israeli Dancing will resume after Lag B’Omer on Sunday, May 29.

• Please join the *Tehillim* hotline by calling 401-694-1602 at 8:45 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Follow the prompts and enter access 4625 followed by the pound key. The *Tehillim* is said as *z’chus for refuah shleima* for community members, who are ill. Following the *Tehillim*, we will be learning from the *sefer* Growing Each Day. If you would like to volunteer to lead a night of Tele - *Tehillim*, please contact Adina Pruzansky 732-339-0780.

Mazel Tov!

- Rabbi & Mrs. Noach Sauber upon the birth of a granddaughter
- Rabbi & Mrs. Reuven Billowitz upon the birth of a daughter
- Mr. & Mrs. Teddy Scher upon the birth of a son
- Rabbi & Mrs. Meir Brotsky upon the engagement of their daughter, Mashy to Tzvi Flagler from Lakewood
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yeruchom Levovitz upon the engagement of their grandson

Library Additions

• Surprise

in honor of Meira Black’s 7th birthday

• Buried Treasure

in honor of Bassie Sauer’s 11th birthday

• Blood Brothers

in honor of Batsheva Sauer’s 13th birthday

Thank You!

Dear Morah Rochel and Morah Faige,

We just LOOOVE to read the new Pesach book you sent home! Dovi said his *Moros* made him in a REAL book! He really enjoyed finding himself in the pictures. I am usually not one for saving projects long-term, but this is a sure “keeper!” Thank you for putting all your *kochos* into teaching Dovi!

Mrs. Tzippy Reider

Dear Morah Faige, Morah Rochel, and the rest of the YST staff,

We want to let you know how much we are enjoying the beautiful *Is It Pesach Yet* book! The original Shabbos version is one of our favorites, so it’s really fun to talk about all of the different Pesach preparations and see Chaim and his classmates performing them in such detail. Attached is a picture of Kovi enjoying the book (he especially likes the pages about switching to the Pesach dishes, and has almost figured out the difference between *Emmy* and *Tehilla*).

Thanks so much for all of your hard work and the knowledge and enthusiasm you instill in our children.

- Mrs. Leah Epshteyn



BULLETIN BOARD

• **Save the Date: Sun, June 19 - 9:30 a.m. - YST Breakfast honoring Rabbi Dovid Adlin and Chaim and Debbie Sabo as Parents of the Year.**