

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 11

פרשת ויגש

Week ending December 18, 2015

Candle lighting 4:15

Parsha Points

“... with bread, even to the littlest ones” “לחם לפי הדף”

It was within Yosef's power to provide them with the finest delicacies fit for a king. Yet, he only “sustained them with bread.” Why? Because, as it is stated in the next verse (47:13): “And there was no bread in the land.” In times of a famine, even a king and his household are forbidden to say: “I shall eat, drink and all will be well with me.” - *Siporno*

On a similar note, the Netziv explained Yaakov's instructions to his sons when they were going to purchase food in Egypt. וְנָחִי וְלֹא נָמוּת - that we may live and not die. Having always enjoyed a life of abundant prosperity in Yaakov's house, his sons would think their instructions were to buy enough food to live in the comfort to which they were accustomed. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, Yaakov stated his wish in the most unambiguous terms, “that we may live and not die.” They were to buy this much and no more, for it is prohibited to live in luxury when the world is suffering famine. - *Rabbi Naftoli Tzvi Yehudah Berlin taken from Torah Treasurers*

The Week in Review

This past month the boys had an exciting time in their Art classes with rs. Goodman. In honor of Chanukah they started off by making the most incredible, edible clay dreidels and menorahs in all different colors in the shapes. It was fun and yummy. They also learned the artistic technique of positive and negative space while using oil pastels to create beautiful flames for the menorah and dreidels. Next, they made windows, and put their own menorahs inside. It looked so realistic!

Mrs. Chait's fifth grade scientists have just begun an exciting new unit on invertebrates! After studying the five kingdoms of living things and the animal classification of vertebrates, students are eager to learn about the eight categories of animals without backbones. Some of these animals include sponges, invertebrates with stinging cells, and flatworms. Fifth graders are discovering how these creatures eat, function, and defend themselves, and are enjoying seeing them “come to life” in video clips. Stay tuned for the students' culminating research project on arthropods!

Catching Tails, Flipping Crazy Cones, Building Bridges, and Catching Squirrels are just some of the games Pre1A through 2nd grade girls have been having fun with in gym under Morah Lani Eisner's energetic direction. These GREAT GAMES, as the unit is called, helps reinforce coordination skills and awareness of their surroundings.

The older grades have been introduced to new and exciting games as well. Yes, they still long to play Machanayim, but they are opening up their minds to enjoy others such as TadPole and Wall Ball. These games are developing their team building and communication skills as well. Eye contact is an integral part of verbal and physical communication, as the girls are learning.

All Emotions Are Welcome! (Though they may not always be comfortable). Emotions are our mind's reactions to things that happen to us. Identifying, and taking charge of them determine our reactions. In Girls on the Run, the 5th grade girls have just added more tools to their box on how to manage, understand, and work through different types of emotions. Do you use the skill of distraction? Flexible thinking? Center yourself and slow down? The choice is yours to make. These skills are a life long necessity and, as the girls are realizing, will take lots of practice to incorporate fully.

Preschool Jottings

The kindest letter is the letter פ as it starts the kindest word - פִּי. The kindnesses that the children have been doing this week around the school were special. Even Savta Middos noticed all the פִּי that transpired. But the biggest פִּי that was done this week was visiting the elderly people in the Jewish Home for the Aged. The children sang to the residents and filled their day with sunshine. What a wonderful פִּי! The children are very proud of what they did and for many of them it was a first - time experience.

Colors, colors everywhere! The nursery class reviewed their colors and learned about blending colors to make different ones. Their fun game of Color Twister kept the children moving to the commands. They “colored” a Color Book for their classrooms that has colorful handprints of all the children. It is a masterpiece.

As we continue our Health and Hygiene Language Unit, we are concentrating now on healthy foods. We began with names of different vegetables and recognizing what the vegetables look like. Surely, you heard about the YST Farm Fresh Produce Center that is opening next week in our building! Place your order for free delivery of fresh, healthy vegetables that will be packed by the Preschool Crew.

FYI

• **Please Note the following corrections in the school calendar:**

Shabbos, Dec. 19 is Parshas Vayigash

Shabbos, Dec. 26 is Parshas Vayechi

• **CALENDAR CHANGES:** YST Preschool and Girls School Staff Members will have a Professional Development Day on Friday, January 1. There will be no sessions for children in either the Preschool or Girls School

• Boys School - 3:30PM Dismissal on Thursday, January 7 for all grades.

• **IMPORTANT:** There will be **no busing** on Friday, Dec 25th for both the boys and the girls schools and dismissal will be 12:30 p.m. In addition, there is **no busing** on Fri, January 1st for the boys school and dismissal will be at 12:30 p.m.

• **Attn. Pre-school Parents:** All children in the pre-school must have flu immunizations by Dec. 31, 2015. **According to NJ state law, any child who has not had a flu vaccine will not be allowed in school after January 1st, 2016.**

• **Attn: 6th grade Parents:** Regulation N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 Immunizations for Pupils in School was amended in 2008 to include that every child born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering sixth grade shall receive one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and one dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine. **Students who are not in compliance will not be allowed in school after January 1st, 2016.**

• Girls' After School Program make-up dates:

Mon:- Edible Arts, Cake Decorating - Jan 4

Tues: - Coding - Jan 5

Wed & Thurs: - Miss Benny's art classes will not be meeting on Dec.23, 24, 30 & 31. The make-up dates are Jan 6, 7, 20 & 21

Thurs. Gotta Run - Jan. 7

• **Six Flags Read to Succeed 2016 is here!** Once again, YST is participating in the Six Flags Read to Succeed program that offers free tickets to Great Adventure for students Pre1a to 6th grade who read and log a minimum of six hours over the next few weeks. The **Student Reading Log** needs to be completed and submitted to your child's teacher no later than **Feb 24, 2016**. Please see attached flyer. Happy reading!

• YST PTA “Women's Only” swim continues at the JCC on Oak Tree Road in Edison, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm on Dec 19. Cost is \$10 per session, \$8 per second in family. Mothers who chaperone may swim for free. Call Lisa Silvey at 732-993-3720 for more information.

• Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash will be from 3:05 to 4:05 at the Agudah. There will be a minyan for Mincha before Pirchei at 2:45.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15. Join for Roller Skating at Kendall Park Roller Rink on Sun, Dec 20 from 12-2. 3550 NJ-27, Kendall Park. All girls grades P1a and up are welcome to join. Membership dues \$40.00 per child/maximum of \$100.00 per family. Non-members are welcome to join \$15.00. Mothers and younger girls are welcome to join at no charge. Girls younger than P1a must be accompanied by a mother. Looking forward !!

• After the resounding success of the Rebbitzin Sima Spetner parenting workshops this past summer, the YST PTA is proud to present “The Science of Parenting from a Torah Perspective” by Rebbetzin Ruthi Lynn, a renowned expert in the field, specially trained and highly recommended by Rebbetzin Sima Spetner. A sample class can be accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6CKN9Wv4ZCAYIVGV19pTG8yS00>

The classes are scheduled as follows: 1) 12/27-emotional needs and motivation; 2) 01/03-praising properly and increasing positivity 3) 01/10-Creating a balance in the home 4) 01/17 reducing negativity, increasing cooperation 5) 01/31-picking battles 6) 02/14-defining issues 7) 02/21-giving consequences 8) 02/28-giving consequences etc. 9) 03/6-Sibling atmosphere 10) 03/13-Wrap up class. Recordings of each class will be available as well. This 10 part series is open to everyone and will begin on Sunday 12/27 at 10:00 AM in the 2nd floor Aguda classroom. Limited scholarships are available to YST parents. Spots are limited and enrollment will be on a first come first serve basis. For more info and to register, please call 732-986-3153 or email srhakimi@hotmail.com Cost: \$225 for 10 sessions or \$115 for either the first 5 or last 5 classes. Please contact Mrs. Scott ASAP to reserve your spot!

• Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur for men and women on the Parsha, with a focus on Emunah and Bitachon, will be held on Wed nights at 8:30 PM at the Shenkman's residence, 26 Leslie Street, Edison.

• Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class meets Thursday at 10:00 AM

sharp at Riki Samel's house. Please call the hotline to confirm at 206-666-8911. .

• SemPlus evening shiur for post seminary girls will meet on Wednesdays. Please call the hotline to confirm at 732-841-1885.

• 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 sheleima* 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!

- Mr. & Mrs. A. Joseph Stern upon the birth of a grandson
- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schiffman upon the birth of a son
- Rabbi & Mrs. Asa Minkowitz upon the birth of a grandson

CATCH 'EM BEING GOOD!

Dear Morah Leebe:

On Sunday, Esther Gitty (Kurtz) did an amazing מצוה! She realized that she had received Chanukah presents. So, we went to the store and Esther Gitty bought a present for the Chai Lifeline Toy Drive. This morning, we dropped it off in the toy drive box. We are so proud of her!! She also lit Chanukah candles so beautifully.

- Rabbi & Mrs. E. Kurtz

The Writer's Corner

Mrs. Werner's 1st grade girls are covering a unit on community helpers. After charting information on the various workers that they are familiar with the girls wrote journal entries about the topic. Below are some samples for you to enjoy.

All About Community Helpers

by Bracha Reisman

A pharmacist makes medicine. A pharmacist makes money. A doctor helps people when they are sick. They work in many different places. I'll mention some. A doctor can be in a hospital or a doctor's office. Orthodontists check your teeth and he gives braces to you and me.

Community Helpers

by Miri Hersh

A hatzala gives medicine. They go in an ambulance. They give surgery. A doctor helps kids and grownups. They take your blood pressure too. A police officer puts a robber in jail. They give you tickets. A teacher teaches kids. They teach kids to read and write. A storekeeper gives you bags for your things. They check how much money you have.

BULLETIN BOARD

- **Dec. 24-25 - Let Glatt 27 give you “Peace of Mind” for Shabbat.** Buy your prepared Shabbos dinner of any prepared food on 12/24 or 12/25 and a portion of your sale will go to “Peace of Mind”, a unique program designed to help discharged IDF combat veterans transition to civilian life. For more information e-mail Rosanne at rkoenigson@gmail.com
- **Motzai Shabbos, Jan. 2 - 8:30 PM - Tiferes DVD** for women: will be shown at the Siegel house, 16 Edgemount Rd. Current weekly teleconferences series: “Our Parents and In-laws” with Mrs. Seryl Berlan. The teleconferences are FREE to all women in the month of Kislev! 212-444-9898. Pin # 5775. For more info, please contact Aviva siegelmom@optonline.net.
- **Sun, Jan 3 - 7:00pm - YST Technology Event** featuring keynote speaker Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski. Rabbi Dr. Twerski is an world renowned specialist in addictive behavior, and lectures extensively on topics of stress, self-esteem and spirituality. Following the keynote address, parents will be invited to join focus groups on topics that they find personally engaging. Towards that end, please complete the Survey Monkey that was sent to you at your earliest convenience.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Jan 9 - Save the Date for an exciting Mother Daughter Event featuring your girls! Stay tuned for further details.**
- **Sun, Jan 17 - 9:30 a.m. - The Highland Park Community Kollel 8th Annual Breakfast** will take place at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- **Save the date! Sun, March 6 - 9:30am - Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley Annual Event** at the Pines Manor in Edison. The Guest speaker will be Rabbi Eli Mansour.