

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 12

פרשת ויחי

Week ending December 25, 2015

Candle lighting 4:18

Parsha Points

“ויקרא יעקב אל בניו ויאמר האספו ואגידה לכם את אשר יקרא אתכם באחרית הימים.”

“And Yaakov called his sons and said: Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the end of days.”

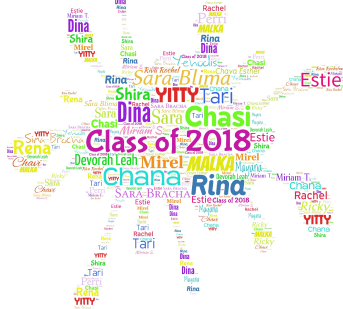
The exile in Egypt, their first exile, evolved from the quarreling and discord between Yosef and his brothers. Later in history, the destruction of the Bais Hamikdash and the subsequent exile were brought about by *sin’as chinam*, unwarranted hatred between fellow Jews. Yaakov, in his prophetic vision, entreated his sons to “gather together,” to live together in harmony and not to be torn by conflict and dissension. Only thus will you diminish the danger of “what shall befall you in the end of days.”

Ahavas Yonasan taken from Torah Treasurers

The Week in Review

The 7th grade boys were treated to a special trip to Brooklyn this week in honor of completing the **פרק גמרא מכות** of **אלו הן הגולין** of **פרק שליטא**. The *Rosh Hayeshiva* of Yeshivas Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin, *Hagaon Horav Ahron Schechter*, **שליטא**. The *Rosh Hayeshiva* became very excited when he heard that the boys were **פרק מסיים** and he remarked at how happy and content they looked upon reaching such a milestone. He encouraged the boys by commenting that if they have such **שמחה** now, then imagine how they will feel if they would finish the entire **מסכת**! Afterwards, the boys were taken to the famous KRM supermarket in Boro Park where they participated in an exciting scavenger hunt, with the clues coming from the **פרק 2nd** and the **סידור**. They searched and scavenged around the huge store, hunting for clues (and for some nosh to take home) as their creativity and originality were being put to the test. The **סיום סעודה** was actually held in Mendelsohn's Pizza Shop, with a yeshiva sponsored lunch in honor of the *simcha*. The boys, of course, behaved very well and made a true **קידוש ד**. Rabbi Neimen even received comments about how nicely the boys conducted themselves. May our **תלמידים** continue to go up the ladder of success in learning and **מדות טובות** and, **בסד**, complete the entire **מסכת** by the end of the year.

The Pre 1A boys have been working diligently this year learning letters and their phonemes or sounds. So far we have learned 8 letters including three vowels (o, a and i) and their short vowel sounds. The students have even started blending sounds together to make words! The love of learning is evident, even during snack time, as the children manipulate pretzels, apples, Cheerios or whatever they can get their hands on to make letters and words! Speaking of words, we have also learned many sight words, also known as high frequency words. So far these words, that we have up on our “Brick Word Wall”, are *the, of, a, I, me, and, at* and *not*. At the end of each day we have center time, where our child centered learning activities are done. One of our most sought after centers is our iPad center, where the students have an opportunity to review math and language arts skills.



The 6th graders earned the privilege of creating a “word-cloud” poster for their classroom. The process was multi-stepped and co-operative: Each girl designed her own poster under Mrs. Komet's direction, and then they voted on the product that they would be proud to display. The inkblot won the day and is now hanging proudly in front of the classroom of the Class of 2018!

The 8th grade girls have already memorized half of **שירת האזינו**! If you pass by them in the lunchroom or in the hallways, you will hear them singing the catchy tunes! In the **הלכה** class they are learning the **הלכות ברכות** with the **קיצור שלחן ערוך**. Under Morah Tauber's direction, they have become familiar with how to use the **ספר** independently so they can look up questions in the **הלכה** on their own. However, we know the most important rule - when in doubt - ask a **שאלה**!

The Pre1a girls had much fun learning all the **צבעים** (colors) in Hebrew. To complete the unit, they decorated two **גרבים** (socks), one **לבן** (white) and one **שחור** (black), to look like ducks. Then they played with them as they sang a cute song about **ברווזים** (ducks).

The girls enjoyed it so much, they just couldn't get enough of the **ברווזים**!

Tuesday morning, **עשרה בטבת**, the 7th and 8th grade girls spent an engaging and inspiring morning as guests of the Reenas Bais Yaakov Yom Iyun. Mrs. Backenroth's interactive workshop was an eye-opener for many of the girls, as they were prompted to assess their values. Miss Chevi Garfinkel's talk further clarified that “hard” does not equate “bad” and that which we “give up” as observant Jews truly uplifts and enhances our lives. All in all, it was a meaningful experience for the girls, with relevant take-away messages.

How many states and capitals can you name in 30 seconds? The 4th grade girls aim to answer, FIFTY! This week the girls began to work towards this goal by learning the first group of states on the west coast. They have been filling in maps, quizzing each other on the spelling, and of course, singing the states' song until their throats are dry. At this rate, the girls will be geography experts in no time. If you hear strains of "Olympia, Washington..." floating around in the hallways of YST, you can be sure that there is a 4th grader not too far away who is hurriedly progressing toward the coveted position of State and Capital Whiz.

Preschool Jottings

YST Farmers Market had an amazing opening event. The customers, who were actually our own preschoolers, came prepared with a shopping list and walked through the marketplace picking and choosing the vegetables. They had the challenge of differentiating between a cucumber and a zucchini. They had to count pieces of each vegetable as they filled their bags. And finally, they had to use all the muscles that they have to carry home their bags! The activity was loaded with educational skills fit for our precious Preschoolers. Upon leaving the marketplace, the farmer handed each child a sticker and a coloring page and promised them that if they refer a friend to the Market, they will get a free potato!

While learning the letter **ו** this week, the kindergarten classes took a trip to the *Kelim Mikvah* in Ohr Torah. For many of the children, this was a first time experience. They brought items from home and they made sure that each item was totally immersed. They were fascinated to learn that a brocha is made when *toiueing* the *kelim*.

The nursery children are still reviewing their colors. As the children throw the dice that they made, they review colors and numbers. The children decorated a comfortable, cushy pillow with the words *Hamalach Ha'goel* on them. Then, they glued all different colored buttons on it. As they placed the button on the pillow – they shouted out its color!

FYI

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

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
• **IMPORTANT:** There will be **no busing** on Fri, January 1st for the boys school and dismissal will be at 12:30 p.m.
• *Please note:* Boys School - 3:30PM Dismissal on Thursday, January 7th for all grades.
• **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, diptheria, acellualr 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. Gymnastics II & 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**. Happy reading!
• 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 2:15 – 3:15 at the Agudah
• 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 Thurs. at 10:00 AM sharp at Riki Samel's house. Please call the hotline to confirm at 206-666-8911.
• Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, Dec. 28 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 North 8th Ave., Edison. For more info, please call Ellen at 201-410-1893 or 732-777-6787.
• Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Tefillah class on Sun, Dec. 27 at 10:00 AM at the Agudah; Parsha class on Mon, Dec. 28 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
• SemPlus evening shiur for post seminary girls meets on Sunday evenings. Please call the hotline to confirm at 732-841-1885.

Mazel Tov!

- Rabbi & Mrs. Dov Mueller upon the birth of a son
- Mr. & Mrs. Eliezer Goldberg upon the birth of a son
- Morah Chaya Rena Klein upon the birth of a daughter
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yeruchom Levovitz upon the birth of a great grandson.
- Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem Savitz upon the birth of a son.

BULLETIN BOARD

• **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 Berman. 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 - 8:00 p.m. YST Girls' Mother/Daughter Melave Malka** - to be held at the boys' school 71 Ethel Rd. West, Piscataway. See attached form to make reservations.
• **Sun, Jan 17 - 9:30 a.m. - The Highland Park Community Kollel 8th Annual Breakfast** celebrating the Kollel's Decade of Torah, Avodah & Gemilus Chasodim. Will **היא** take place at Cong. Ohr Torah 48 Edgemount Rd. The Guest Speaker will be HaRav Lipa Geldwerth Shlit" a, R'M at Yeshiva Torah Temimah & Rav, Congregation Kol Torah.
• **Motzei Shabbos, Feb 6 - 8:15 PM - Park Mikvah Event** - Cooking demonstration and food tasting with Victoria Dwek, Managing Editor of Ami's Whisk Magazine and author of many cookbooks in the "Made Easy" and "Secret Restaurant" series, to be held at . at the home of Yael Kamelhar, 22 Perry Rd. For women only. Space is limited. To make a reservation, please mail or drop a \$25 check made out to Park Mikvah at the home of Esther Posen, 12 Fairhill Road. For more info, please call Lynn Hanfling at 732-777-0225.
• **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.