

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 10

פרשת מקץ

Week ending December 11, 2015

Happy Chanukah!

Candle lighting 4:13

Parsha Points

One of the miracles celebrated on Chanukah is the miracle of having found a flask, containing enough pure oil to burn for one day, amongst the havoc the Greeks wreaked in the Holy Temple. The Maccabees wanted to light the Menorah with sacred olive oil, and knew it would take eight days to produce a new batch. Pragmatists may have assessed that since it is apparently impossible for one day's worth of oil to remain aflame for eight days, one should either light one-eighth of the oil each day, or have the Menorah lit for fewer hours each day, or other compromising possibilities. The Maccabees no doubt knew their options, yet decided to light the Menorah in the most preferred way. This was done despite the fact that it entailed exhausting their entire supply of pure olive oil on the first day, leaving them with the probability of not being able to maintain the highest standard they so aspired to reach. But they decided to do their maximum with the resources they had, and let the Al-mighty take care of the rest. There is a deep message here for us today. How many worthwhile endeavors are cast along the wayside because we are not guaranteed total success? Yet, the result of inaction due to fear of failure, is failure by default. We can learn from the Maccabees that when there is a worthwhile goal to achieve, one should let go of immobilizing perfectionism, and instead capitalize on existing assets and do one's utmost under the circumstances.

This Chanukah, you can transform the Maccabees' legacy into your own. Choose an important goal which you have been pushing off due to fear of failure, and try to accomplish whatever you can. Don't worry whether complete success will be yours. Just give it all you've got at the moment and leave the degree of success to Hashem. For just as Hashem let one day's worth of oil burn for eight, His Divine assistance can enable you to realize your objectives - even those you believed to be beyond your grasp. And that's a real miracle.

Written by Reb A. Kramer, Aish HaTorah

The Week in Review

It is hard to describe the jubilation and excitement that our boys experienced during Chanukah this year. Each day the giant menorah was lit by the students, and the ensuing singing of מנעו צור, led by Rabbi Guttman, brought them to their feet, spontaneously, dancing with each other and their Rebbeim. The highlight of the week came on Wednesday, when our eagerly awaited annual Chanukah mesiba was held. In addition to the wonderful music of Mr. Psachya Septimus, an impressive מנעו צור by Yosef Eisner, hot latkes and other goodies, the תלמידים from Pre 1A through 8th grade were treated to the "hold on to your seat" entertainment of the "Parrot Rebbe." With parrots and birds from all over the world, our lunchroom turned into a bird habitat, with big and small birds flying and landing everywhere to the excitement of all present. No less impressive was Morah Donya's Pre 1A choir, led by Mr. Septimus, and the inspirational singing and dancing of the boys and their Rebbeim ended a most memorable experience.

The Chanukah carnival on Thursday afternoon was also a great success, with varied booths and a basketball tournament at the end to keep the boys well entertained. Although it may be a letdown that Chanukah has now almost passed, nevertheless, Purim is not far away....

No bones about it, the students in grades 1 through 7 have been busy learning about Life Science in lab this semester. We have been concentrating on different systems, including the skeletal, muscular, circulatory and respiratory. As the boys work with the different layers that comprise the human body, they appreciate the miracle of life. First graders made human body brown paper bag costumes and learned about the organs we use daily. Second graders found out which foods are healthy to put into our bodies and conducted a fat experiment to determine which foods contain the most fat. The older boys made lungs, using bottles and balloons, to simulate how we breathe, made mechanical hands, using straws and string, to learn about joints, have seen and learned about their unique fingerprints, and created x-rays. They practiced taking their pulse and simulated capillary action in the lab using paper towels and colored water. Stay tuned, next we plan to explore the digestive system, the senses, and the nervous system.

The festive spirit of Chanuka is ushered into the girls school on Rosh Chodesh Kislev, when the G.O. first breaks out CHAGIGA! As in past years, our talented crew of 8th grade heads rose to the occasion, planning and executing marvelous performances for our annual Chanukah Chagiga. The audio-visuals, dramatic skit, dance, song-dance and aerobics showcase, not only the girls' talents, but also their ability to work together with amazing camaraderie. The Chagiga itself went off without a hitch and it was pure nachas to host YST alumnae at this special event. Very special thanks to Morah Frankl for organizing and directing this month-long endeavor that adds so much to the ruach of YST!

The wonderful parents of the girls school did their part to enhance Chanuka fun by participating in an exciting auction of special activities that was displayed during conferences. Every grade enjoyed their perks, adding to the pleasure of spending this week of Chanuka with their school family of friends.

On Wednesday morning, the 7th & 8th grades were treated to a thought-provoking workshop on the theme of "L'hodos U'lehalal". Miss Esther Malka Sender engaged the girls in an animated and interactive conversation. It opened the girls eyes to understanding how much appreciation we should all have to Hashem for the good He bestowed on us, as well as the value of expressing that appreciation.

Chanukah week ended with a full school assembly on Thursday morning. Morah Mindy and

Morah Sarah's Pre1Aers performed to a packed audience, and did a masterful job. Everyone agreed that our girls were "big and brave and bold - even though they are only five years old!" Morah Krauss' 4th graders ended the assembly with a beautiful song, which was well appreciated by all attendees!

Preschool Jottings

Welcome, come, welcome, come, come, come! Thank you to all parents, grandparents and guests who joined us for a lovely, Chanukah breakfast and performance. Our preschoolers made us very proud! The lights of the preschoolers are still shining bright!

Our week of Chanukah was full of special activities. Dreidel spin art, frosting donuts, singing Chanukah songs and a special Chanukah latke lunch. But by far, the most exciting one was the Musical IQ presentation. Each child was handed a drum and as Shmueli told the Chanukah story, each child joined by making the appropriate sound effects on his drum. The room sounded first like horses galloping, then wind blowing, army men marching and finally the victory call. The children were taught the importance of keeping to the beat and the right tempo.

Our new vocabulary words focus around the subject of health and hygiene. We started collecting our newest set of language cards. The new ring is filled with pictures that have to do with sleep. After all, a good night's rest makes for a healthy body. Our pictures include bunk beds, mattresses, pillows, comforters, cot, nap, lamp and canopy bed. Moving forward, we will be talking about preparing for bedtime.

FYI

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

Shabbos, Dec. 12 is Parshas Mikeitz
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 preschool 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 on Jan. 1st.**

• 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

• **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.

• No Pirchei or Pirchei Beis Medrash this week.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos at 2:15. UPCOMING BNOS EVENT. Roller skating at Kendall Park Roller Rink on Sunday, December 20 from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Bnos membership dues \$40.00 per child. Maximum of \$100.00 per family. Free for all Bnos members. Guests are welcome at \$15.00 for the session.

• 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=0B6CKN9Wv4ZCAYIVGV19pTG8y500>

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 shrakimi@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. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, Dec. 14 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 North 8th Ave., Edison.

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No class on Sun, Dec 13 and Mon, Dec 14.

Mazel Tov!

- Rabbi & Mrs. Binyamin Hammer upon the birth of a son
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avrohom Bernfeld upon the Bar mitzva of their son, Yechiel.

KUDOS!!

Dear Mrs. Brudny,

So sorry that I delayed in sending you this e-mail. I just wanted you to know how wonderful it was to have Mrs. Kamin present an in-service to our Pre-School staff upon her recent visit to Minneapolis.

Believe it or not our staff came in on Motzei Shabbos to meet with her and she was well worth it. Her presentation was creative, capturing, motivating and full of a knowledge of education and the age group. She was outstanding and professional, and the teachers quite frankly asked if she could speak again upon her next visit even if it means coming on Motzei Shabbos again! Having been in education for decades that is the ultimate compliment!

Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion is truly a lucky institution to have a woman of the caliber of Mrs. Kamin running their Pre-School.

With best wishes for a Freicleichen and Lichtiga Chanuka,
Rabbi Yehoshua Borenstein
Torah Academy of Minneapolis

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 Edgemont 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 - Save the Date for an exciting Mother Daughter Event featuring your girls! Stay tuned for further details.**