



Parsha Points

The Talmud, Shabbat 89a, tells us that the Almighty held Mt. Sinai over the heads of the Jewish people and said, "If you accept the Torah, good, but if not, you will be buried under the mountain." Why would the Talmud relate this story when two days previous the Jewish people unanimously responded to the Almighty that we will accept upon ourselves the Torah? We had not changed our minds in the two days that preceded the giving of the Torah!

Perhaps the message of Talmud is that as long as we as a people continue to accept the Torah and live according to the Torah all will be well. However, should we seek our identity as Jews in any other direction, we will cease to be Jews just as surely as the consequence of a mountain falling upon us. Throughout the last 3,300 years there have been perhaps 30 different movements trying to redefine what it means to be a Jew. They have all failed to provide the force and meaning to hold us together as a people. Only through learning Torah and fulfilling the commandments can we ensure our survival as a people and our identity as Jews.

The Week in Review

The Rosh Chodesh Sivan assembly for our students in grades 4-8 was most special, in that the speaker was Rabbi Shlomo Stein, Menahel of Yeshiva Torah Va'Daath. Rabbi Stein has a unique ability of being able to interest and involve the minds of his listeners, even when they span the ages of 9-14. Through true stories and **משלים**, Rabbi Stein left our **תלמידים** with a charge of how this Shavuot can be especially meaningful to them, and how they can truly grow in their **עבודת ה'**.

Our younger boys in grades Pre 1A through 3 heard most interesting stories and thoughts on the upcoming yom tov from our very own Rabbi Eidelman. Rabbi Eidelman's words, as always, touch home and carry a meaningful message. No doubt his thoughts will remain with our boys for years to come to help them continually grow in their **תורה** and **מדות**.

Shhh! We need quiet in the Middle School hallway! The 8th grade students are taking their final exams! Wait, it won't be over yet! Next week the 7th grade begins their final exams, and the 6th grade begins their third term final tests! Can you believe it? The school year is almost over! Wow! What a year it has been for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys in literacy! The 6th and 7th graders completed their research papers this term after months of extensive work exploring their individual topics! The 8th graders had completed their papers earlier in the year; after three years of writing research papers, they can head off to high school confident that they have the ability to produce any type of report! All three grades also had a year filled with grammar, novels, short stories, essays, poetry, vocabulary words, creative quotes, and so much more that it is impossible to list it all! Our middle school students are definitely the best! After a year of such hard work, the boys deserve to enjoy their summer break. Mazel Tov to the graduating Eighth Grade Class of 2016, and may all our boys have a great summer vacation!

ברוך שהחינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

The Pre1a girls are so pleased and excited with our special milestone. We received our first **סדורים**! Our **סדור** play was great, but the most special part was using our **סדורים** the next day. The excitement was palpable as each **ילדה** opened her **סדור**, pointed and read each word of davening. The davening was absolutely beautiful.

The presentation of *Chumashim* to the 1st grade girls is always a moment of pride in the landscape of a school year. This morning's performance was especially beautiful as Morah Blumie's 23 students shone on stage. Under Morah Blumie's & Morah Devorah's dedicated care, the girls re-enacted the *Medrash* of the argument between the mountains as to which one would merit to host the monumental event of *Matan Torah*. It was amazing to watch each girl's confidence and clarity as she stepped up for her part of the play. May their joy and love of Torah continue throughout their lifetimes!

מזל טוב on several milestones this week! They began the week by completing **פרשת בשלח** in **חומש** and celebrated with a grand trip to Make It Glass fusion workshop in Lakewood for an exciting activity. A pizza picnic lunch in the park topped off the trip.

The girls also ran their long-anticipated Girls On The Run 5k marathon. Spirits were high and the air at Highland Park High School running track was full of cheers and smiles as each 5th grader completed a 5k and received a victory medal from Morah Lani and Morah Chaya Rina.

In conjunction with learning the *Melech Hamishkan* in *Parshas Terumah*, the girls worked in groups to create models of the **כלים** of the **משכן**. Each group used the information they had learned in the **חומש** to create a beautiful mini **כלי** and present it to the

class.

כונה ה' has certainly learned how to set goals and to persist in their efforts to achieve their goals! We are so proud of their hard work in all areas.

This past week, the 4th grade girls have been very busy. The time has arrived for the yearly Animal Carnival. They have been preparing almost every day on their booths, posters and lots more. The girls were working so nicely together and helping each other throughout the week.

The 4th grade girls have also been busy with their States Party. They have been excitedly waiting for this party. Each girl received a state that they will be doing some research on plus dressing up to match that state. They will also give out a yummy treat connecting to their state. Stay tuned next week for further details.

All students in grades 2- 6 will be assessed on all the skills they have learned this year in math. Our goal is to measure the effectiveness of the tools we have implemented to build math fact fluency and critical thinking skills. We are proud of all the girls who have kept up their practice drills through reviewing the flash cards throughout the year. The satisfaction of being competent, happy math students will be the reward!

Preschool Jottings

Special News Flash from the Nursery Class as Reported from Morah Rochel and Morah Yaffa:

This week the children in our nursery class made us so proud. During a classroom activity one child was very sad. The other children saw and suggested, without being prompted, that they stand in front of the sad child and smile at him. We had learned that a smile can be contagious. Sure enough, the attempt was successful and they received a big smile from the child (and the *Moros*) in return. Moments like these make us so proud to be the *Moros* in YST Preschool. The kindergarten classes went on an exciting trip to Colonial Park for paddle boating. The children discovered reeds, paddles, seaweed, a pond and a beautiful playground. Special thank you to all the people who joined the trip to help us – Morah Lori, Morah Helene and Chani Alyesh.

Just in time for *Shavuos* – the Kindergarten children finished learning from *Aleph to Tuf!* Their *siyumim* are in the planning stages for next week. Mazel Tov to each of the children who have worked hard to master letter recognition and sounds of each letter.

This week, yes, we are still on the move! We investigated fans that move air around the room. We discovered ceiling fans, fans that spray water, fans that sit are good to put near our beds, fans that have different speed settings and oscillating fans. We mentioned that the word "fan" also means a person who cheers on a team ...or a candidate for president!

FYI

• **Box Tops:** Even though the school year is ending, many of the box tops expire at the end of June. Please send in all your boxtops so we can send them in before the expiration date! Of course, keep collecting all summer!

• **Boys Division - Please note:** There are no sessions for the boys on Sunday, June 19th.

• Come join the **YST PTA** for **Coffee and Connection** on the first day of Shavuot, Sunday, June 12th at 10:15 AM in the YST Pre-school. Lectures by Mrs. C. Brudny and Mrs. C. Loew. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Elisheva Nusbaum at Eli7nusbaum@gmail.com or 732-985-4603 with any questions or to RSVP. Complimentary babysitting available with RSVP only. This event is for women and girls.

• YST Girls 8th Grade Graduation will be Tues., June 14th at 7:00 p.m.

• YST Boys' 8th Grade Graduation will be Mon., June 20th

• **Bnos Malka Bake Sale Tonight - Erev Yom Tov! 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Agudah.** Vendors will be selling children's clothing, vinyl challah covers, vinyl tablecloths and gift items. Proceeds benefit Bnos Malka and the Kinder Fund.

• **Pirchei will be holding our annual Shavuot Torah Quiz Bowl** on the first night of Shavuot from 12:15-1:15 at the Agudah. There will be ices.

• The Shalosh Seudos Siyum on Seder Moed for boys in grades

5-8 will **Y"Y** take place Shabbos Parshas Naso. To sponsor (either fully or partially), please contact Arya Eisner at pircheidisonhp@gmail.com or 732-547-4994.

• Get your summer Crocs, flip-flops and sandals at the Children's ShoeShare! New and near-new water shoes for boys and girls - sizes infant up to big kids' size 3. Just \$1 - \$3 donation per pair. Call Elisheva Blumberg at (347) 416-3693. See the full selection of available shoes at facebook.com/shoeshare.

• **TorahKid Leagues** is back again for its 7th exciting season! Sunday morning sports fun for area children (boys 4-12; and girls 5-11) at the Highland Park High School baseball field. There are separate programs for boys (11:00-12:30) and girls (9:30-10:45). **YST children may attend a special play day on June 19,** and Summer ball starts June 26. Competitive play in different sports. For registration information, please contact Rabbi Lasar at TKLsports@aol.com or at (732) 985-1050.

• 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 Goldberger.

• Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur for men and women on the Parsha, with a focus on Emanah and Bitachon, meets Wed. evenings at 8:30 PM at the Shenkman's home, 26 Leslie St, Edison

• **Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class: WEDNESDAY** at 9:00 AM sharp at Riki Samel's house. Please call the hotline to confirm at 908-208-7144.

• Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class will resume in the fall.

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No classes until after Shavuos.

• Woman's Parsha discussion: Steinsaltz Ambassador, Betzeal Strauss, on essays of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, every Monday for women only at 1:00PM in the Ahavas Achim Beit Medrash

Mazel Tov!

• Rabbi Pinchas & Mrs. Werner upon the birth of a granddaughter

Library Additions

• *Nati & Tzviki 2*

in honor of Shmuel Chaim Gross' 7th birthday

Catch 'em Being Good!

Dear Mrs. Brudny:

I was glad to have the opportunity to help out at the Lag Ba'omer BBQ. Although it was really a hot day, each girl sat patiently waiting for the food to get to their tables. I saw many girls helping their teachers with cleanup too! Esti Jaffe, in 7th grade, showed her true commitment to the *mitzvah of Netilas Yedaim!* When I explained to the class that they needed to go wash at the water fountain, she approached me and politely asked about taking her roll along, so she can make the *bracha* right away!! Eight graders Mirele Itzkowitz and Rena Lewis thanked me so sweetly for all my help. I was really impressed by the *achdus* among their class!

- Mrs. Itzkowitz

Dear Rabbi Hershkovitz and Rabbi Kramer,

Aharon (Fisch) had a "double sleeper" last Shabbos, with Abie Chait and Ephraim Gewirtz. On Shabbos morning, the boys expressed a strong desire to daven together at home the way they learned in class, before going to shul. All three of them davened loud and clear, singing the tunes they had learned this year in Rabbi Kramer's class. They planned things out and took turns being *Chazzan*. As I listened as unobtrusively as possible from another room, I was overcome by the sense of unity, enthusiasm, and kavanah that all three boys displayed. *Yasher Koach* to Rabbi Kramer and YST for instilling in the boys such a zeal for davening (and learning too)! Sincerely,

- Mrs. S. Fisch

BULLETIN BOARD

- **Sun, June 12 - Jewish Children's Ice Cream & Cheesecake Torah Rally** at Cong O.E. 415 Raritan Ave.- **4:30 PM - Co-sponsored by Cong. Ohav Emeth and Chabad** - Hear the Ten Commandments, enjoy songs and stories, have an ice cream party, chocolates, banana sundae bar and jugglers. All ages are welcome. For more info call 732-296-1800.
- **Sun, June 19 - 9:30 a.m. - YST Breakfast honoring Rabbi Dovid Adlin and Chaim and Debbie Sabo as Parents of the Year.**
- **Motzai Shabbos, June 25 - 10:15 PM** - Tiferes for women: will meet at the home of Aviva Siegel, 16 Edgemount Rd. The title is "Permission to be Proud!". Speakers: Rabbi Yecheil Spero and Rabbi YY Rubinstein.