

Shaarei Tzion



Volume 21, Issue 8

פרשת ויצא

Week ending November 20, 2015

Candle lighting 4:19

Parsha Points

“And Yaakov went out...” “ויצא יעקב...”

The word ויצא, and he went out, implies that he left behind a void. As Rashi explains, a tzaddik's departure leaves an imprint. The question, therefore, arises: Avraham also left his father's house. Yet, in recounting Avraham's departure the Torah uses the word ויילך, and he went. Why not ויצא, as with Yaakov? The answer is that when Yaakov left the home of Yitzchak and Rivkah, his departure and absence were keenly felt, because they valued his greatness and his splendid character. On the other hand, when Avraham departed, he left an environment of idolaters who did not appreciate his outstanding qualities. As a result, when he left they did not sense that “the splendor and radiance of their town had departed with him,” and the word ויצא would thus not be appropriate.

Chasam Sofer Taken from Torah Treasurers

The Week in Review

חיים was walking down the street when suddenly he saw his most beloved uncle נפתלי walking towards him. When they met, Uncle Naftali said: “Chaim, how would you like to receive a key that can open for you the greatest treasure house in the world? And all you have to do is use it.” In fact, this opportunity was presented to all of our 5th graders this past Sunday when they received their first gemaras. Indeed, for a boy, gemara is the key and foundation for all future learning, whether one becomes a lawyer, accountant or Rosh Yeshiva. Parents and grandparents came to be part of the auspicious occasion and, indeed, there was standing room only in our beautiful Beis Medrash where the event took place. To give the celebration the reverence and importance that was due, Rabbi Brudny, Rosh Kollel, spoke to the assemblage, emphasizing how our young 5th graders are now entering into the mesorah of פה שבעל תורה, taking their place alongside all those who preceded them in the chain of tradition. Rabbi Brudny then proceeded to give each boy his gift-wrapped gemara, from which the תלמידים then began to learn, under the direction of their rebbe, Rabbi Gutman. May they continue to grow in all areas of Torah, and give us much נחת!

Sixth Grade just finished learning all about decimals in depth, with computation and related problem solving. We began learning the rules of divisibility. Our 6th grade class can create factor trees for numbers ranging in the thousands. Our primary focus in 7th grade was solving equations, including fractions and decimals with positive and negative integers. We also began learning about inequalities. The 8th grade can solve multistep equations using distributive property with variables on both sides of the equation. We have introduced a smart board to our math room, enabling our learning of math to be more colorful, stimulating and technologically advanced.

The Pre1A girls have already completed four letterbooks - C, O, G and A. They know how to correctly write these letters in both upper and lower case and know the sound that each letter makes. They have even started listening to where in a word those sounds are - at the beginning, middle or end of a word and have begun blending the sounds of two letters together. In addition, the pre1a girls have already started writing on their own. They began sounding out words and thinking of the sounds that make up a word. They then found the letters that would stand for those sounds. We are so proud of their progress.

The girls in ד כתה have been working hard on their unit of “ברואר” (in the mail). Each girl wrote a real מכתב in עברית and then mailed it in a מעטפה. Some letters were actually mailed all the way to ארץ ישראל!

Mrs. Friedman's Current Events elective class is off to another exciting semester of reporting news from home, Israel and around the globe. This week, Bashi Akerman told us of the Wall Street Journal's article about the MOMA returning a famous piece of art work that was stolen by the Nazis. The MOMA returned the art to the rightful Jewish family. Malka Berkowitz and Sarah Fried reported on various aspects of the terrorist attacks that occurred last week in Paris. Ayelet Lebowitz shared a human interest article about a boy prodigy who went to university at the age of ten! Come join us in class to find out what he's up to now that he turned 17.

This week, Miss Spetner's 6th grade scientists have continued to explore simple organisms that are found in the environment, namely viruses and bacteria. They have learned about why viruses are not considered to be living, took a look at some viruses in action using microslide viewers, and modeled the very fast rate of bacterial growth using beans. We look forward to discussing both the benefits and harmful effects of these organisms in our environment.

Seventh grade science began a new section on heredity, which has prompted a lot of discussion

about their individual traits and those traits that are shared with family members. Students were asked to survey their families to see which traits are found in common among relatives. They have started to explore the structure of DNA, and will further discuss how the DNA of a cell contains the code for traits.

Preschool Jottings

The Young Investigators continued learning about a shul. The enthusiastic group extends a huge thank you to Rabbi Greene for teaching them so much about a shul. He showed the children how men put on a tallis, how they wrap it over their faces before they make a bracha, how a man does הגברות to a Sefer Torah and finally how גלילה is done. The children were fascinated and have a new understanding of what really happens when their fathers go to daven. They are looking forward to a visit to Ohav Emeth next week for a question/answer session with the Rov, Rabbi Kaufman.

Kids Corner children have learned the word balance. They took a trip to the backyard of their classmates, Shira and Aviva Scott to discover a seesaw! What a wonderful way to see and understand how things balance! They practiced balancing eggs on spoons and books on their head. The children appreciate the book Ten Apples Up On Top better than ever before!

The Nursery children learned the colors black and white this week. They practiced pattern making with many black and white things – including zebras and dalmatians.

The Kindergarten classes learned the letter ה and enjoyed a special visit from Hatzalah. They were shown the ambulance and were explained the various ways הצלה helps the people of our community.

Thank you to Mr. Fishel Erps and the Hatzalah members for taking the time to visit our school.

The children in Morah Mimi's class enjoyed time with Fraidy's mother - Mrs. A. Neustadt. Through words and song she taught that Good Choices Make for More Fun!

YST PRESCHOOL CHANUKAH BREAKFAST will be December 9 at 9:15 AM

FYI

• **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 on Jan. 1st.**

• *Please note important dates:* The first Parent-Teacher conference in the boys' division is on Tuesday Dec. 1st and in the girls' division, Wednesday, Dec. 2nd.

• Call the Boys School to schedule your appointments.

• **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.**

• On Sun, Nov 21 at 11:00am, Poile Zedek will be burying 9 Sifrei Torah as well as hundreds of seforim at the Poile Zedek cemetery. Procession will begin from 145 Neilson St. in New Brunswick to the cemetery located at 650 Joyce Kilmer Ave.

• The Girls School has pre-arranged PTA appointments for **Wed, Dec 2nd** with staggered scheduling, in order to alleviate the wait time during conferences. If you have not received the schedule, or if you are not planning on attending, please notify the girls school office

• Please note: PTA Chanukah letters are attached to the newsletter. Show the teachers how much you appreciate them by participating.

• NOTE CHANGE IN TIME: 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. What will we be building??
• YST PTA “Women's Only” swim continues at the JCC on Oak

Tree Road in Edison, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm on Nov. 21, Dec 5 and 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.

• After the resounding success of the Rebetzin Sima Spetner parenting workshops this past summer, the YST PTA is proud to present “The science of Parenting from a Torah Perspective” by Rebetzin Ruthi Lynn, a renowned expert in the field, specially trained and highly recommended by Rebetzin Sima Spetner. All women of the community is invited to join this 11 part series that will begin on Sun. Nov 22nd at 10:00 AM with the first class being a non commitment/trial class. Limited scholarships are available to YST parents. Spots are limited and enrollment will be on a first come first serve basis. For more information and to register please call 732-986-3153 or email srhakimi@hotmail.com Cost: \$225 for 11 sessions.

• 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 Weiss: Shiur for men and women on the Parsha, focus on Eemunah and Bitachon - Wed. nights at 9:15 PM at the Shenkman residence, 26 Leslie St, Edison.

• Please call the hotline at 206-666-8911 for status of Mrs. Miri Cohen's Thursday morning Parsha class.

• Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, Nov 23 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ellen Smith, 407 North 8th Ave., Edison

• Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Tefillah class on Sun, Nov. 22 at 10:00 AM at the Agudah; No class on Mon, Nov. 16.

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

Mazel Tov!

• Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Feuer & family upon the the engagement of Sorah Raizel to Nachi Baldinger from Flatbush
• Rabbi & Mrs. Jacob Krief & family upon Rina's Bas Mitzvah

Library Additions

• Cat in the Hat
in honor of Shira Scott's 4th birthday.

• Tsunami
in honor of Sara Zarny's 12th Birthday

Catch 'em Being Good!

Dear Mrs. Brudny:

I wanted to let you know how much this program with the older generation has enriched Ayelet's (Lebowitz) life. She sat at the Shabbos table glowing and excited telling us about her experiences and how she can't wait to go back. She relayed her conversations and feelings not just about “her lady”, but about the other girls' experiences and interactions. I'm so thrilled she is doing this and in this day and age when derech erez for our elders is somewhat lacking, this is a tremendous opportunity for these girls to learn to understand and appreciate that generation.

Thank you!! - Mrs. T. Lebowitz

BULLETIN BOARD

• **Motzai Shabbos, Nov. 21 - 9:00 PM - Tiferes DVD** for women at the home of Aviva Siegel, 16 Edgemount Rd. Current weekly teleconferences series: “Can I deal with this?! Honest discussion and practical tips” with Mrs. Rochel Goldbaum.

• **Motzai Shabbos, Nov 21 - 7:30 PM - A second viewing of the 13th Annual Yahrzeit Rachel Imeinu Video:** “In Times Such As These: What Can We Do?” will be shown at 292 North 5th Ave, Highland Park. The featured speakers are Rebbitzin Tzipora Heller & Rebbitzin Tehila Jaeger. This showing is for women and girls only.

• **Thurs, Nov 26 after Shacharis - Cong. Ahavas Yisroel Thanksgiving Day Yom Iyun** - The featured speaker this year will be Rabbi Shmuel Maybruch, a popular maggid shiur at Yeshiva University. The title of Rabbi Maybruch's shiur will be “Who Says Money Can't Buy Happiness? Materialism, Torah, and Psychological Research.” Everyone is invited to join us for this exciting annual event!

• **Sun, Dec 6 - 12:00 noon - RJJ Annual Ladies Luncheon and Chinese Auction** honoring the Mondrow Family in memory of Marian Mondrow, ה"ו. The luncheon will be held at Cong. Ohr Torah.