



YESHIVA
SHAAREI TZION

Dec. 1, 2017

FYI

- Parent Teacher conferences in the girls school will be on Tues, December 5th. Apointments have been scheduled and you should have received an e-mailed list of conferences.
- Express your Hakoras Hatov to the staff of YST by contributing to the PTA Chanukah Gifts. Details can be found on the school website or on the flyer sent to your email. The deadline is next Friday, December 8th!
- **SAVE THE DATES!**
- 1) Father/Son Learning Event will be on Monday, Jan.1, 2018.
- 2) Mother-Daughter Event Motzei Shabbos, January 20th, 2018.
- **Reminder:** Orders placed at any time from Display My Art will help support the school! It's a great idea for Chanukah gifts! Orders can be placed online at www.displaymyart.com or by phone 800-394-2090.
- **Attention girls, grades 4-8:** Come join *Achoseinu* the Shmiras Halashon Group, on Friday nights, 15 minutes after licht benching. This group is led by our alumnus, Golda Ayelet Glinn at her home 162 North 8th Ave.
- **In the Boys' Division:** The second, five week cycle of the Kabbalas Shabbos Kriah Program started this week for grades 2-4. Congratulations to all participants and to our raffle winners from the first cycle! Stay tuned for more greaat prizes and raffles!
- **Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash** will be from 3:05-4:00 this Shabbos at the Agudah. There will be Mincha at 2:45 pm .
- **Avos Ubonim** is this Motzai Shabbos, from 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. at the Agudah.
- **The Boys' Night Seder** program continues Mon through Thurs after the 8:00 Maariv. Mon./Wed./Thur. from 8:15 to 8:45 and Tues. from 8:15 to 9:00 pm.
- **Chai Lifeline** will be starting its Chanukah Toy Drive. Gifts for all ages, tots to teenagers, are being collected in all buildings. Toys should be brand new and please do not wrap the items.

With Chanukah around the corner, we are excited to announce a school-wide Menorah Contest at YST Boys!

Thank you to the seventh grade committee that helped to plan and organize the details of the contest. We look forward to a Chanukah parade of the biggest, most artistic, most meaningful, and most original hand-made menorahs in town!

Flyers with information about the contest were distributed on Friday.



Parsha Points

“וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֱלֹקֵי אַבְרָהָם וְאֱלֹקֵי אַבְי יִצְחָק...”

“And Yaakov said G-d of my father Avraham and G-d of my father Yitzchok...”

As Yaakov prayed to Hashem to save him from his evil brother Eisav, he invoked the merit of his saintly ancestors, the Patriarchs. Are they not however, Eisav's ancestors? How can he entreat Hashem to listen to his prayers in lieu of Eisav's? We may derive from this *pasuk* that only one who follows in the footsteps of his ancestors may invoke their merit. Yaakov followed the path which was paved by his forefathers; he maintained their ideals. We may add that it is not sufficient to merely emulate the actions of the Patriarch externally, but it is even more necessary to internalize the totality of their approach to life. This is indicated by Lot's behavior. Despite the fact that he was Avraham's student in the mitzvah of kindness to others, Lot's spiritual essence was tainted as a result of his decision to live in Sodom. Following in a tzaddik's path means interacting their ideals into the entirety of one's philosophy of life.

Horav Yechezkel Levinstein, Z"l Taken from *Peninim on the Torah*

Week in Review

While Jews the world over will be celebrating the next *Siyum Ha'Shas* in the near future, this year's 7th grade class will have a legitimate right to be a major part of the great celebration. Last week, when the 7th grade **מסכת פרק יומי** learners were beginning the second **פרק מסכת**, the boys jumped on the bandwagon for a short ride through its **דפים**. **מכות** is the **מסכת** learned in 7th grade and the second **פרק** is what they began learning this year. Every day of the week a different volunteer of the class was the guest **שיעור מגיד** for that day's **פרק** (or **עמוד**), reading and reviewing the **גמרא** to his fellow classmates, with them following along word for word. It was a great **חזרה** for the boys, and an honor for the **מגיד** and a special privilege for the entire class to become part of this historic movement of **דף יומי**. May the boys all continue to grow and become true **בני תורה**!

The 4th grade boys are becoming great readers! They really enjoyed recommending their 'good-pick' books to their classmates. Hats off to our five winners who did a fantastic job presenting their books clearly with many convincing reasons why to read their books! The exemplary work of the 4th graders is earning them lots of decks! The boys had a great time reviewing factoring by playing a Factor Dice Game. In social studies, the boys have been singing hard as they memorize the Northeast states and capitals. As the year moves along, we look forward to continuous growth and learning!

Help Your 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grader Become a Better Reader

Listen to your child read:

When your child starts bringing books home from school, have him read to you. If it doesn't sound good (mistakes, choppy reading), have him read it again. Alternatively, read it to him, and then have him try to read it himself. Point at the words when you read them, or point at them when your child is reading the story to you. This kind of repeated oral reading makes students better readers.

Ask questions:

When your child reads, get him to retell the story or information. If it's a story, ask who it was about and what happened. If it's an informational text, have your child explain what it was about and have him recall an important fact. Reading involves not just sounding

Preschool Jottings

The excitement is in the air as our YST Preschoolers practice for the Chanukah Breakfast which will take place on Wednesday, December 13 at 9:15 am. The performance will feature the preschoolers performance of: YST Preschoolers –WE LIGHT UP THE TOWN! Looking forward to greeting parents, grandparents and relatives. It promises to be the HIGHLIGHT of your Chanukah festivities.

The nursery children finished their color unit with a bright splash of pink and purple! They identified pink and purple flowers and made their own tulips by pressing forks into pink and purple paint.

The Chanukah story has come alive in the Preschool building. Morah Rochel and Morah Faige's class reenacts a part of the story almost every day. We have some very brave children who love to play the part of the Macabbeim and those who refuse to play the part of Antiochus.

The kindergartners in Morah Mimi and Morah Irene's class, using the Project Approach style, are learning all about houses. After investigating and discovering houses in our neighborhood, they decided to try and make a foundation for their own house. They mixed water and sand, but could not get the right consistency, until they consulted with an expert (none other than, Nelson!). He instructed them on how to make it a peanut buttery texture, perfect to lay the foundation and begin building their structure.

Our Lots of Language continues as we discover things that are BIG, Medium and small. The perfect place to find big animals is in our (imaginary) zoo! It's called the ZOO FOR BIG ANIMALS. Of course, no mice, no snakes, no birds and no ladybugs are allowed, because they are not big enough to be in this zoo. The children toured the zoo and discovered a lion, tiger, bear, ostrich, elephant, gorilla and many more animals. The Zoo-keeper gave each of the children a sticker as they left the zoo! It was our lucky day....the zoo is free on Thursdays!

out words, but thinking about and remembering ideas and events.

Have him tell you a "story":

One great way to introduce children to literacy is to take their dictation. Have them recount an experience or make up a story. Write it as it is being told and then read it aloud.

Promote writing:

Literacy involves reading and writing. Having books and magazines available for your child is a good idea, but it's also helpful to have pencils, crayons, markers, and paper. Encourage your child to write. One way to do this is to write notes or short letters to him. It won't be long before he is writing back to you.

In the girls school, the Pre1Aers are busy preparing for their Chanukah play. It's a pretty sophisticated play and even though they just started practicing, they are doing an amazing job. The girls are also excited with working on all their Chanukah projects. They can't wait to finish them and show them to you! In the meantime, in learning about יצר אש, Morah Mindy taught the girls about eyes and how lucky we are able to see. Hashem has given us all sorts of protection for our eyes, such as lids, lashes, tears and a brow bone that protrudes.

Taking a peek into Morah Rubinfeld's 5th grade classroom this week would offer a special surprise; stuffed animals of every shape and size joined their חומש class מכת נורב. Animal-themed ribbons tied in their hair was yet another way the מכות came alive in their classroom. In נביא, the girls read with terror and amazement as the wise יעל finished off סיסרא with hammer and peg. Sounds of song fill the classroom as the girls join דבורה in praising ה' for the miraculous victory. Exciting motions add a special touch to learning דבורה שירת! The girls' enthusiastic participation and insightful input make teaching each day such a pleasure!

To culminate the unit on Colonial America, Mrs. Gross' 7th graders researched different topics pertaining to that time period and presented them to the class. The girls created slide shows, dioramas, videos and skits to teach the class about topics such as the Salem Witch Trials, as well as, education and healthcare in the colonies. Check out their beautiful informative posters during PTA!

In Mrs. Epshteyn's 7th grade Language Arts class, the girls analyzed a scientific article about magic and the brain, two poems, a not-so-short story, and even sidewalk chalk art in our examination of the differences between perception and reality. The eighth graders held a mock trial for the unreliable narrator of Edgar Allan Poe's classic horror story "The Tell-tale Heart," using textual evidence to craft skillful arguments for the defense or prosecution. As we begin our first lessons in the Think CERCA program, the seventh and eighth graders are learning to develop strong, clear, and specific thesis statements to form the backbone of their writing.

Mrs. Brudny:

I hope this note finds you well.

David and I attended the twins' first parent teacher conferences last night. To a person, everyone expressed how impressed they were with the girls, their desire to learn, to help others in the school when needed, their quick involvement in social causes presented to them, their demonstration of *derech erez* for the teachers and administrators, and their overall *middot*.

David and I credit the teachers at YST with instilling in them the correct mindset for learning, igniting the flame to make them passionate about what they are learning, and guiding them on the proper process to engage in discourse in a respectful and open-minded way.

We wanted to express to you our extreme *hacarat hatov* for all you have done for them, and clearly continue to do for them as they have entered this higher learning environment.

We know you consider all YST girls as your own, regardless of whether or not they have walked out the school doors as students for the first or final time, so we wanted to say thank you and allow you to shep natch along with us!
- Mr. & Mrs. David Feiler

Mazal Tov!

- Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Shaps upon the birth of a grandson
 - Mr. Harvey Hanson (our bus driver) upon the birth of a grandson
- Rabbi Pinchus & Mrs. Shoshana Werner upon the birth of a granddaughter
- Rabbi Baruch & Morah Sarah Goodman upon Esti's marriage to Levi Edelman

Bulletin Board

• **Motzai Shabbos, Dec 2 - 8:30 PM - A new shiur series for women, given by Rabbi Hillel Feldman** on the topic of "The Deeper Self. The Neshama Part II: Escaping the Paradox of this World." This shiur will take place at the Scotts, 22 Celler Rd. **Save the dates for the next two installments in this series on Dec 30 and Jan 13.**

• **Sun, Dec 10 - 12:00 noon - Annual RJJ Ladies Luncheon and Chinese Auction - Honoring Mrs. Shelly Presby**, to be held at Cong. Ohr Torah, 48 Edgemount Rd. For more info, please call RJJ at 732-985-6533.

• **Motzai Shabbos, Dec 23 - 8pm - Cong. Ahavas Yisroel 10th Annual Women's Melave Malka to be held** at the new Torah Links building 261 Dunham's Corner Rd., East Brunswick. This year's entertainment is a Kosher Chopped competition run by Naomi Nachman, the Aussie Gourmet! Higher sponsorship levels will receive a signed copy of Mrs. Nachman's new cookbook, and a special edition Kosher Chopped apron. Register at www.ayedison.org. Email Sisterhood@AYedison.org with any questions, and for information on how to become a Kosher Chopped contestant!

• **Save the date! Sun, Dec 24 at 8 PM "Come Discover Why We Cover"**. All Married women and women of marriageable age are invited to attend the event being held in the Agudah basement. Join us for a presentation given by esteemed kallah teacher and personal life coach from Monsey, Mrs. Reena Resnick, about the spiritual reasons as to why married women cover their hair. There will be demonstrations, light refreshments and Israeli rectangular scarves and shapers available for purchase. 10 percent proceeds go to YST. Sponsorships are available. If interested please text Avivah Eisengart at 609-462-3979.

• **Save the date! Motzai Shabbos, Feb 10 - Mikvah Melave Malka** at Congregation Ohr Torah. Speaker: the Honorable Judge Ruchie Freier. For women only. More details to follow. For more information and to help sponsor the event, please email hpmik

Library Additions

- **Fortune Seekers**
in honor of Sara Zarny's 14th birthday
- **It's a Kids World After All**
in honor of Esti Kanelsky's 8th birthday
- **White Hot Diamonds**
in honor of Eliana Dersovitz's Bat Mitzvah

Local News & Shiurim

- A new Sofer Class has begun on Sunday evenings at Cong. Etz Ahaim with Rabbi Bassous at 4:45 p.m. (right after Mincha). The goal is to write your own Megillah. For more information, please contact Rabbi David Bassous at 732-247-3839.
- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No class on Sun, Nov 18 or Mon, Nov 19.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, Dec 4th and Mon, Dec 11th at 7:30 PM at Smith house, 407 North 8th Ave, Edison
- Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha: No class on Tues, Dec 5. Class resumes on 12/12 at the home of Leah Epshtein, 253 Lawrence Ave, Highland Park.
- Tehillim group: There is a new Woman's Tehillim group every Shabbos afternoon at 3:45 PM at Cong Etz Ahaim, 230 Dennison St, Highland Park.
- Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur, "Living with Parsha", for men and women: Wed evenings at 8:30 PM in the Khal Chassidim dining room, entrance through front door of house. For more info, please call Marsha at 732-777-1155.