



YESHIVA
SHAAREI TZION

Dec. 29, 2017

FYI

- On Monday, Jan 1, There will be no busing and all schools will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.
- School pictures will be taken on the following dates:

Preschool - Mon, Jan 15th
Girls' school - Mon, Jan 15th
Boys' school - Tues, Jan 16th

Please see attached flyer for details on the dress code for each school.

- After school make up dates for girls:

Tues: Edible Arts - Jan 16
Wed: Sewing Basics - Jan 17
Thurs: Drawing - Jan 18

- After school make up dates for boys:

Mon: Bricks for Kids: Jan 8
Thurs: Team Extreme: Jan 18

• IMPORTANT DATES!

1) Father/Son Learning Event for grades 6-8 will be this Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Students and fathers are invited to join for davening at 7:30 (including the 6th graders), followed by breakfast, going to the classroom for a short session, then learning בַּחֲבֵרֹתָא. The program will conclude at 10:00 AM.

2) Motzai Shabbos, Jan 13, 2018 - The PTA's ATT program is presenting Rabbi Sarel Malitzky who will be speaking about "Creating a positive home environment with structure." Details to follow.

3) Motzai Shabbos, Jan 20, 2018 - Mother - Daughter Melave Malka to be held at 8:00 p.m. at the boys school 71 Ethel Rd. West, Piscataway. See attached flyer for details.

- *Achoseinu* the girls' grades 4-8 Shmiras Halashon Group will continue on Friday nights, 15 minutes after light benching. This group is led by our alumnus, Golda Ayelet Glinn at her home 162 North 8th Ave.

- Bnos Malka this Shabbos is from 2:15 to 3:15. Don't forget to bring your cards!

- Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash this week will be from 3:15 to 4:10 at the Agudah. There will be a minyan for Mincha before Pirchei at 2:50.

- 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 (Shiur at 8:40). Refreshments are served. For more info, to sponsor, or to volunteer, please call or text Arya Eisner (732-547-4994).



Parsha Points

After Yaakov blessed Ephraim and Menasheh, he added on "By you shall Bnei Yisroel bless (their children) saying: May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menasheh" (perek 48 pasuk 20).

The children of Yosef were very dear to Yaakov, but Yaakov had many grandchildren, who were all righteous. Why did Yaakov specifically say that all the future generations should be blessed to be like Ephraim and Menasheh? What was so special about these two? All of Yaakov's descendants grew up in a complete Torah environment – where they learned from Yaakov and easily followed in his footsteps. Ephraim and Menasheh however, grew up in Egypt – a country of evil people - and there in Egypt they remained righteous. Somehow, they had the strength, confidence, and clarity in what's right not to be negatively influenced by their surroundings. It was for this reason that Yaakov chose that all future generations should be like Ephraim and Menasheh. Yaakov foresaw that the Jews will go into exile and will be surrounded by negative influences. When we are blessed to be like Ephraim and Menasheh, it is a special prayer that we, just like them, should have the strength to remain pure and not become influenced by our surroundings.

Week in Review

You may have noticed a beautiful "treasure chest" attached to the door of the 2nd and 3rd grade classroom. Ask our 2nd and 3rd graders about our inaugural YST *Shorashim* Initiative! (Otherwise known as MTT- Master The Treasure!) Every second and third grade talmid received a "treasure box" filled with hundreds of color coordinated cards. Each one of the double sided cards is personalized with the boy's first and last name and includes a *shoresh* on one side and a picture with its translation on the other. The goal of the program is for our boys to master these "treasures"- the high frequency *milim* and *shorashim* that appear throughout the *Chumash*. During the daily review- the boys systematically review the cards that they "know" as well as the group of cards that are in the "not know yet" pile. Three new cards are added at a time only once the talmid has mastered the initial pile. It is exciting to see that the boys were familiar with many words from the box and have already learned and mastered many others since the start of the program! Each boy has the ability to move at his own pace and will IYH work on being *Koneh* hundreds of words that will enable him to learn and understand our most prized "treasure"- our *Heilige Torah Kakedosha!*

Grab your passport, hop aboard and don't miss your flight as you enter Rabbi Akerman's 2nd grade classroom! The boys are literally "flying high" on a journey around the world as they travel to different countries to learn about *middos tovos*. The boys have already been to France and England where they learned about *zerizus* and *emes*. They are currently visiting Canada where they are "patiently" learning about *savlanus*. Each *middah* that is taught has an interactive hands on project that each boy completes. Of course they are chock full of practical lessons that the boys are sure to carry with them as they blossom into *bnei Torah* and *baalei middos tovos*.

Can you help גימפול יום, קלונמוס, and טרב יום ליפא יום get up on time for the bus, remembering to pack up their homework and keep track of their personal supplies that are overflowing from their messy desk? Rabbi Kramer's 4th graders sure can! The boys were given the challenge to work on the מדה of אחריות in a most exciting and meaningful way. The boys were divided into

חזק! חזק! ונתחזק!

Preschool Jottings

When learning the circle shape, there couldn't be a better place to discover everything round than in a bakery. Donuts, bagels, cookies and round cakes are all circles! The nursery children boarded Harvey's bus to visit our local bakery where they looked, discovered and then, sampled circle items. The children were excited to dress as bakers and made their very own circle cookies.

The little *Yud* made a very big impression in the Kindergarten classroom this week. The children decorated *yarmulkas* for themselves or their family members. They put *Alef Beis* sticker letters on the nails of both of their ידיים and then peeled them off as they were able to identify each letter and sound. The walls of ירושלים are standing tall on the window of the classroom and finally, each child left their ידיים-print on the window of the classroom. The window faces Raritan Avenue, so as you drive by, please take notice of the handprints!

The children are very excited to finish *Chumash Breishis* and hear the whole shul erupt in excitement when saying חזק חזק ונתחזק. Since *Parshas Breishis*, every week, the children write one summary page in their *Chumash Breishis* review book. This way, everyone can be part of a *Chumash Breishis siyum*. Each one of the children painted a pillowcase with the famous words of Yaakov's Bracha המלאך הגאול.

small groups where they were each given a challenge. They were charged with a mission to help גימפל and Co. actively work on the מדה אחריות. Ever so strategically, the boys generated practical ways for Gimpel and friends that proved to be life changing for themselves as well! After the initial introductory activity, the boys were asked to honestly self-reflect on their own routine and think about areas in their personal lives that they can improve. Some of the examples they thought of were cleaning their room, completing schoolwork in a timely fashion, and getting up on time for the school bus. One week at a time, our 4th graders truly rose to their own challenge and ever so “responsibly” they monitored their own weekly progress. We look forward to watching our תלמידים continue to grow in their לאחריות and become true responsible עובדי ד’. Stay tuned for the שבט לוי family tree project that will be hot off the press next week!

YST BOY’S MIDDLE SCHOOL IS IN JEOPARDY! Let’s rephrase that: the 6th, 7th & 8th grade boys at YST are in the middle of their annual inter-class Jeopardy competition. Each semester, the boys go head-to-head for 10 rounds trying to outscore their opponents in a contest of wits and wisdom. The categories usually include geography, history, mind benders, parsha, general knowledge, and much, much more! Students combine their mental energy and work in small groups to answer the variety of questions thrown at them, hoping to contribute to their class and do better than the other classes. The competition is fierce (yet friendly) and much knowledge is gained in the process. Congratulations to the 8th grade for winning the first semester, and best of luck to the 6th grade which, for the first time in our cross-class competition history, is in the lead for the 2nd semester after the first three rounds have been completed. In seems as if the middle school really is in jeopardy . . . of gaining a ton of knowledge on a wide array of topics!

The 8th grade girls who kept to their Lights On, Log Off commitment to limit their use of technology and up their focus on the spiritual opportunities of Chanukah celebrated their achievement with an evening out at Capri Kosher in Manalapan. Mrs. P’nina Rosenberg, who had inspired the girls at the outset of the challenge, came back to re-inspire the girls with evocative anecdotes about “change” and the strong mathematical guarantee that Desire + Consistent Effort = Success. (ask your local 8th grader how to grow a garden of 50,000 daffodils!)

The girls’ reflective essays spoke volumes of the lessons they learned through participating in this challenge. Their insights are indicative of real growth!

“Whenever either my cousin or sibling would ask me to watch something with them, I felt strong and a real “Chanukah fighter” when I would tell him or her that I can’t watch that video because I’m on this 8th grade challenge . . .”

“The most enjoyable part about this program was that I was able to spend more time with my family and I felt that I had a more ruchniyus Chanukah because I wasn’t busy texting people from my mother’s phone . . .”

“I learned that when I really apply myself, I can achieve ANYTHING, even though it seems really difficult and if I can do it - so can YOU!”

“I thought it would be very hard and annoying but it turned out that when I wasn’t on any electronics, I really had a lot of extra time. This allowed me to do other things, such as paint, cook, or just ask my mother if she needs any help.”

“I loved this program. When the sheet was given out, I was really exited. Here was a chance to make Chanukah mean something. I spent my time more productively and in doing so made Chanukah feel more holy. It changed my Chanukah from shorter school days to now work on a time where I worked on myself, spent time with friends and family and got closer to Hashem.”

Special thanks to Morah Bakst, Morah Mindy & Mrs. Gross for joining the girls’ celebration.

One of our popular Chinese Auction activities is the adorable “Create a Word Cloud Poster” activity. This year’s winner, the 4th grade, created a complete slew of charming “wordles” that incorporated the names of each of member of the class. After displaying all 24 products, the girls voted on their most favorite Class of 2022 design, produced by Sara Malka Shenkman. The wise and alert owl is a fitting logo for this particular class, and the professionally laminated poster will travel with the class from classroom to classroom as a reminder of this fun and enriching activity.

In Pre1a girls’ קריאה class, we learned ת! Do you know what that means? It means we finished! We had such a nice א-ב-ג. We baked a yummy עוגה - cake and we got some edible נקודות to make sounds. Our סיום was on Wednesday and we really enjoyed it! Then we each received a very special, new המלמד. We can’t wait to really read words!

A peek into ח’ כיתה and you will feel the palpable excitement in anticipation for the 8th grade Shabbaton, תשע”ח. We are all very excited and many of us have been looking forward to this for years. “I’ve been looking forward to this Shabbaton for all my school years.” Says Tari Gottlieb. “And it’s finally here! I’m ecstatic!” The class has been divided into groups and each group is working together to create a most memorable Shabbaton. Stay tuned for more news after the Shabbaton!

Mrs. Gross’ 6th grade girls continue to incorporate note-taking skills learned in language arts, into other areas of the curriculum. After learning about tenement life in social studies, the girls worked in small groups to create a 3-dimensional project, group outline and summary. The projects really depict the information the class learned and each group worked so beautifully together. This great teamwork resulted in authentic looking projects.

Bulletin Board

- **Mon, Jan 1, 2018 - 8:00 am** - The Agudah will once again be having a **Legal Holiday Learning Program**. The 8:00 Shacharis will be followed by breakfast. After that there will be learning from 9:15 - 10:40, and then Rabbi Feldman will be giving a shiur and divrei chizuk until 11:00. The topic will be Halachos of Eating before Kiddush.
- **Mon, Jan 1, 2018 - Cong. Ahavas Yisroel 10th Annual Yom Iyun presents Rabbi Daniel Dombroff**, Dayan Bais HaVaad speaking on “*Marriage and Money, the Financial Obligations of a Husband to a Wife.*” 8:15 am Shacharis, followed by breakfast and the shiur at 9:15 am. at Cong A.Y. 1587 Route 27 in Edison. This Yom Iyun is graciously sponsored by the Gerszberg family in honor of the life of Rav Aharon Leib Steinman zt”l.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Jan 6 - 8:30 PM - Tiferes DVD for women** at the home of Aviva Siegel 16 Edgemount Rd. Topic: “Conversations with Yourself - Reality from the inside out”. Speakers: Mrs. Chana Werdyger and Mrs. Simi Yellen.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Jan 13 - 7:00 - 9:00 PM -YACHAD Sleep-under at OT!** For children and young adults, with and without special needs, ages 9 and up. Enjoy pizza, a movie, an age differentiated activity, and a make your own sundae bar! \$5 per person. Register at yachad.org/njsleepunder For more info contact Bracha Avraham @ avrahamb@ou.org
- **Sun, Jan 14 - 9:30am. - Highland Park Community Kollel Breakfast**, which will be held at Cong. Ohr Torah, is pleased to announce that the Guests of Honor at this year’s Breakfast will be Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Elbaz.
- **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 hpmikvah@gmail.com or call 516-526-0941.

Mazal Tov!

- Rabbi Naftali & Mrs. Malka Schwartz upon the birth of a son
 - Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem Carlebach upon Chaya Sorah’s Bas Mitzvah
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yitzchak Berkowitz upon Chana’s Bas Mitzvah

Catch ‘em Being Good!

עומר”ש, רב רב Herskowitz לרב

The Pre1A boys enjoyed all the special Chanukah activities and programs in school over Chanukah. The most unique thing for the boys was how the older תלמידים, especially those in 7th and 8th grade, went out of their way to include the “Pre1Aers”, and make them feel a part of the dancing and singing. They felt so great as the older boys held their hands and danced and sang with them! We can all be proud!!

Local News & Shiurim

- Rabbi Hillel Feldman will be giving the next in his series of women’s shiurim this Motzai Shabbos , Dec 30th at 8:30 at the home of Mrs. Fradie Rand 17 Celler Road on the topic “*Digging Deeper into Others: Seeing the Good in our Relationships.*” Save the date for the next shiur in the series, planned for Sunday January 14.
- Rebbitzin Eichenstein’s classes for women: Tefillah class on Sun, Dec 31 at 11:00 AM at the Agudah; Parsha class on Mon, Jan 1 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman’s Shimiras Haloshon class: Mon, Jan 1 at 7:30 PM at Ellen Smith’s house, 407 North 8th Ave, Edison.
- Mrs. Miri Cohen’s Parsha class: TFor status of class on Tues, Jan 2, please text Leah Epshten on Monday at 917-763-1848
- Tehillim group: Woman’s Tehillim group, that meets on Shabbos afternoons at Congregation Etz Ahaim, will resume in the beginning of March.
- Rabbi Yisroel Weiss’ shiur, “Living with Parsha”, for men and women: Change in location! Wed evenings at 8:30 PM Eiserman residence at 154 N. 10th Ave. For more info, please call Marsha at 732-777-1155.