

YESHIVA
SHAAREI TZION

Feb 16, 2018



Parsha Points

In this week's Parsha we find the מצוה of building the משכן כלים of the ארון. All the dimensions of the ארון were of half אמות (2½, 1½). However, by the שלחן most of the dimensions were of full אמות. 2 אמות long, 1 אמה wide (and 1 1/2 אמות high). What is the תורה teaching us with these different types of measurements? The כלי יקר explains that the תורה is hinting to us an important lesson in עבודת ה'. The ארון represents the תורה and רוחניות. When it comes to spirituality, one should never be satisfied with the level he has attained. This is represented by the half אמות of the ארון. A half of an אמה is an incomplete אמה. A person should always look at his מדרגה in תורה and יראת שמים as being incomplete and something missing. We should always feel a thirst and a drive to continuously grow in all areas of רוחניות. However, when a person looks at his situation in the physical world, he should have a totally different outlook. He should always be satisfied with what ה' gave him, and not be jealous of other people. This is represented by the full אמות of the שלחן. The שלחן held the לחם הפנים which represents פרנסה (livelihood) and גשמיות, therefore its dimensions were of full אמות. A full אמה is complete and not lacking anything. So too we should always be "שמח בחלקו" and feel satisfied with whatever גשמיות we have.

Week in Review

The Pre1A boys have been learning and perfecting their ברכות this month. With lots of songs, activities and even a special smart board game that Mrs. Komet created, the boys are becoming pros! For מזונות, they spent a lot of time baking some delicious cakes, cookies and treats. All the older grades were invited to purchase מזונות treats from the sale. The Pre1Aers sat at their stations selling goodies with big smiles on their faces. The big boys were encouraged to say the ברכות out loud, so the students could all answer אמן! In honor of פרשת תרומה, the Pre1Aers built a model משכן out of blocks, Lego and magna tiles. The boys looked carefully at the diagrams in the book they were reading to try and build it as best as they could! How proud they were to invite Rabbi Herskowitz to come inspect their finished product. It sure was an impressive piece of work. The boys went to great length as they elaborated on the details of the different parts of the משכן. It was very gratifying for them to marvel at their creativity put to good use.

Mr. Stio, a veteran public school principal, really enjoyed his 2-month stint as the 5th grade substitute teacher. His students spent time mastering multiplication and long division, as well as beginning a unit on fractions. The boys worked diligently at improving their written expression, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing and spelling skills. Besides the short stories in the anthology, the boys enjoyed reading a classic fiction novel on survival by Gary Paulsen. During the Chanukah season, the boys loved a thematic unit which included problem solving in engineering, architecture and math. Using just gum drops and toothpicks, each boy created a structure that had to be well-balanced as well as tall and wide. This activity was an opportunity to work both independently and cooperatively.

Preschool Jottings

Let's face it! The most exciting place to be on Rosh Chodesh Adar is in the preschool! They were treated to a face painting event and their expressions were painted all over the children's faces! Thank you Mrs. Aviva Goldfarb for her professional painting that made our faces look happier than ever! Holding the little mirrors, the children admired their "looks!"

The Kindergarten children in Morah Mimi's class learned what a true emergency is. They had a scheduled appointment with the firemen at the Edison Fire Station on Plainfield Avenue. When they arrived at the station, the fire trucks were just pulling out to answer an emergency call. "Sorry", said the chief, "it's an emergency!" Harvey, our bus-driver, drove the children to an indoor playground and then back to the fire station. The emergency was over and the class enjoyed a tour of the facility and the trucks.

ט is a very exciting letter to learn. It was a ט-andwich lunch for all the kindergarteners. סבתא Middos was so thrilled to be the special guest this week and Morah Rochel and Morah Faige's class made a very special סידור with their class that the children are so proud to hold and to daven from. They learned how to properly care for it, how to hold it and upon closing it, they give it a warm kiss!

Shushan is up and standing in the nursery classroom. Purim projects, songs and the Purim story are already happening in Morah Yaffa and Morah Devora's classroom. Every day, a bit more of the story unfolds. The children hear and learn the story and then, they can follow the plot that is outlined clearly on our front bulletin board.

FYI

- Registration for the '18-'19 school year is now open. Materials were emailed to all current parents, and will be available for download from the website. Early bird discounts ends Monday, March 5th.
- B6T Transportation forms for grades K-7, are due on Feb 28th. If you have not sent in your forms, please see the attached.
- The 6 Flags Read to Succeed Reading Program is almost over. Don't forget, the reading log MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THIS TUESDAY, FEB. 20TH. *Sorry, no exceptions are allowed.*
- Purim is almost here! This is a great time to show Hakaras Hatov to the staff of YST. The deadline is Fri, Feb 23rd. Attached is the flyer for more details.
- School Portrait orders are due February 26th. Visit PictureDay.com, enter code Q381683-3UX45 to access YST pictures.

IMPORTANT DATES!

- 1) Wednesday, Feb. 28 - Ta'anis Esther. Bus dismissal in the girls school is 1:30 pm for grades 6-8 and all other students is 3:30 pm. Dismissal in the boys school is 1:30 pm for grades 7-8 and 3:30pm for all other students.
- 2) Fri, March 2, Shushan Purim - 10:00 am delayed opening with regular Friday dismissal.
- 3) Sun, March 4 - 7:30 pm - Reenas presents "Voices & Choices" for women and girls. 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 at 2:15pm.
- Pirchei and Pirchei Beis Medrash this week will be from 3:15 to 4:15 at the Agudah. There will be a minyan for Mincha before Pirchei at 2:50pm.
- 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).

Who came first - the Rambam or the Rashba or the Sefer Hayashar? Was R' Menachem Mieri a *Rishon* or *Acharon*? "*Shnos Dor Vador*" is a brand new curriculum in the 8th grade that explores different *Rishonim* and *Acharonim*, the times that they lived in, and the *seforim* that they wrote. *Shnos Dor Vador* was designed to give the *talmidim* an appreciation and familiarity of the *Rishonim* and *Acharonim* that they will be encountering most in their *Limudim* of the coming years IY'H. Each week the *talmidim* are introduced to 3 new "personalities" which they add to their *Shnos Dor Vador* note-binders. The boys are B'H enjoying this informative and new *limud* and look forward to it each week (especially the stories that come along with it). It is our hope that it will help prepare them for their futures in *Mesivta* and beyond.

What an adventure the 6th grade girls had, as they made their way up to the moon this Thursday at the Buehler Challenger Science Center under Mrs. Epstein's direction. The students each had a chance to be a member of both the Mission Control and Spacecraft on their "Return to the Moon" Mission. During the flight out of earth, a siren suddenly sounded and the students were frightened to hear: "Mission Control..... we have an emergency. Life support do you copy. Over." With careful teamwork, the students followed each other's directions, figured out various calculations, and were able to save the spacecraft from all danger. The flight ended with a successful, safe landing onto the moon with astronauts and mission control members proud of a job well done. If you're curious to know how it feels to be in outer space and on the desolate moon, just visit the 6th grade and you can hear a firsthand account of their experience. A big thank you to Morah Yaffie and Mrs. Klein for joining our trip and making it so enjoyable! Stay tuned for more 6th grade adventures!

There is a tradition in the 4th grade to learn a song of the 50 states and capitals sung to the tune of **עוֹד יִשְׁמַע**. This year was no different. The girls not only learned all the 50 states and their capitals, but are now making a show based on the song, replete with dances, gymnastics and skits. Feel free to quiz your local 4th grader on their capitals - but be prepared to hear a whole song and dance!

The 7th grade girls have started a language arts unit on consumer culture with Mrs. Epshteyn. Some of the interesting questions they've tackled include: How much "stuff" is enough? When a company says they're in the business of selling "progress," how does that affect customers' feelings about what they already own? And why are so many of us unable to resist the Dollar Spot at Target? Meanwhile, in 8th grade, the girls are reading a series of editorials approaching the question "When do kids become adults?" They are learning to evaluate each argument and determine whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the authors' claims. As you can well imagine, the conversation is rich and engaging!

Pens are scribbling furiously in Mrs. Ukraincik's writing elective. Last Friday, the girls explored how they feel when they are writing. Rachel Aviges made this lovely observation: Writing and Being Quiet: "For some people, it might be hard, but for me, it is very easy. I love to talk and the people who know me very well know I love to talk. I can go on and on for hours, but I only get half their ears. When I write, I feel like someone is really listening, that someone is really interested in what I am writing about and saying. That's how I keep quiet while writing."

Mrs. Baruh's Debate Elective is off to a great start! Last week the girls worked on the first two steps of the debate process: GATHER information and EXPLORE all sides of an issue. They read the short story, Susanna's Auction, that gave them a context for exploring different aspects of taking responsibility. How old is old enough to be responsible? If you say you'll pay for a broken vase, should you really have to? The girls drew on the information in the story to support their views. Many very perceptive and original thoughts were voiced during class. Good work, Bassie, Esther, Leah, Naomi, Pasha and Tzipora (and also Atalia from the week before)!

The old-timers knew it was coming while the newbies were taken by surprise. When the girls got off the bus on Friday morning, they entered a school building that was transformed to resemble a CandyLand game board, with the refrains of "Mishenichnas Adar" streaming through the hallways. The spirited 8th graders led the parade toward the gym where some interestingly bewigged teachers met them for rounds of lively dancing. Looking forward to some clever "shtick" in the next two weeks!

Writer's Corner

The 2nd grader's creativity is shining through very clearly during their unit on Creative Ideas. Please read and enjoy the following creative invention "created" by some of our girls.

Chore Doer

Zehava Blau & Shalva Bannett

The Chore Doer does your chores. Anyone who can talk can use it. You can use it anywhere and anytime, even at midnight, even at 1:00 in the morning. You use it by telling it what you want it to do and it does it. What is so great about the Chore Doer is you never have to do your chores again. The Chore Doer is made so you don't have to do any chores!

Writer

Devora Sorotzkin & Devorah Uhr

The Writer writes what you want it to write. Anyone can use it. You can use it anytime. You can use it at home or at school. You can press a button and it starts moving it's hand and writes. We would use it so our hands will not hurt from writing so much. It is so much fun to use!



Bulletin Board

• **Thurs, March 1 - See That Photo by Esti in Edison** invites you to bring your family and some Purim cheer for a **family portrait** in your costumes. Check for \$30 required for one full resolution digital image per family. E-mail Esti Lamm at seethatphotobyesti@yahoo.com or call 347-251-0200 by Tues, February 27th to book your reservation for Purim morning. 10% of the proceeds to be donated to YST.

• **Sun, March 4 - 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.** - Congregation Ohr Torah will hold this year's community **Shaimos Collection**. The cost is \$20 per large garbage sized bags. Please make all checks out to Cong. Ohr Torah. (Coordinator/questions) Barry Siegel, siegeldad@gmail.net. **Seforim sale:** There will also be a used Seforim sale at this time, Great Bargains!!! **Come find your hard-to-find and/or out-of-print books and stock up your home libraries**

• **Motzai Shabbos, March 10 - 9:00 PM - Tiferes: DVD for women** at the Siegel house, 16 Edgemount Rd. Weekly teleconferences with topics such as shalom bayis and parenting are available to Tiferes members. Current teleconference: "All Different, All Mine". Speaker: Mrs. Mindy Blumenfeld.

How To Keep Your Child's Backpack Organized

Ever wonder how your child's backpack goes from looking fresh and new on the first day of school, to looking like there was an explosion in it? School supplies, snacks, and, odds and ends are thrown together. To prevent your child's backpack from getting disorganized, set a regular time for backpack check-ins. Depending on your child's age, you could do this task together every Sunday night, every two weeks or monthly. Pick a time that's good for you. This is a good time to get rid of all those crumbs and paper build-up. In addition, this would be also an opportune time to take inventory of the supplies, making sure your son has enough sharp pencils, tissues, and any other items on the list you received before the start of the school year. Be sure to label all new items. Enjoy the rest of the year!

Mazal Tov!

- Dr. & Mrs. Mordechai Neustadt upon Aharon's Bar Mitzvah
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yitzchok Lokensky upon the engagement of their daughter Bracha to Shlomi Charach of Brooklyn.

Local News & Shiurim

- Cong Ohav Emeth's Annual Purim Costume Gemach is excited to announce it's 11th year with over 1,000 infants to adult costumes available to borrow. This year, we dedicate the Gemach in memory of our dear friend, Chaya Friedman, ה'ע"ו, who was a proud supporter of the Gemach since its inception. The Gemach opens this year on Sun, Feb 18th at 10:00am- 5:00 pm and continues for 2 more days on Mon night, Feb 19th from 6:00pm- 8:00 pm and on Sun, Feb 25th from 10:00am-5:00 pm. The cost is a \$5 suggested donation to OE's Youth Department per costume borrowed. The Gemach is located at Cong Ohav Emeth, 415 Raritan Ave., Highland Park, NJ. For more information, email costumeagemach@yahoo.com
- On Motzai Shabbos, February 17th, Rabbi Feldman will be giving a shiur for women at the Schein home (334 North Eighth in Edison) at 8:45 pm on the topic of "Purim and our lives -- It's all about seeing the bigger picture."
- Shovavim shiurim for For women will be given by Rebbetzin Aviva Wasser, speaking on halachos and hashkofos of Taharas Mishpacha on Sundays 2/18 and 2/25 at Cong. Ohr Torah at 8:00 p.m. Please submit questions to be answered by Rebbetzin Wasser at the review to parkmikvaevents@gmail.com.
- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: Tefillah class on Sun, Feb 18 at 11:00 AM at the Agudah; Parsha class on Mon, Feb. 19 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: No class on Monday, Feb. 19. Class on Mon Feb. 26 at Janet Rivenson's house, 19 Price Drive, Edison. This will be the last class until after Pesach.
- Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class: No class Tuesday, Feb. 20.
- Rabbi Bassous will be holding his Women's Class this Sunday at 10 AM on the Thirteen Principles of Faith at Congregation Etz Ahaim.
- 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.