



Jan 12, 2018

FYI

• School pictures will be taken on the following dates:

Preschool - Mon, Jan 15th

Girls' school - Mon, Jan 15th

Boys' school - Tues, Jan 16th

• IMPORTANT: GIRLS IN GRADES 1 - 8 WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE BOYS SCHOOL NEXT THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 FOR A FULL REHEARSAL. PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO PICK UP AT 5:45PM. THANK YOU!!

• After school make up dates for girls:

Tues: Edible Arts - Jan 16

Wed: Sewing Basics & Fabric Fun - Jan 17

Thurs: Drawing - Jan 18

• After school make up dates for boys:

Thurs: Team Extreme: Jan 18, 25

The 6 Flags Read to Succeed Reading Program has begun. Attached is the reading log which must be submitted by Feb 20th.

Sorry, no exceptions are allowed.

• **IMPORTANT DATES!**

1) 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." See attached fl.

2) 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. Remember to RSVP to www.ystnj.org!

3) Sunday, Feb 11 at 8:15 pm. Come hear from Ari Sorotzkin, LCSW, YST Preschool about "Sensitive Topics - Talking to Our Children."

• Unmarked Lost & Found coats, jackets, gloves etc. at the boys school will be given away if not claimed by the end of the coming week.

• *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 4:15 at the Agudah. There will be a minyan for Mincha before Pirchei at 2:50.

• Avos Ubonim on Motzai Shabbos is 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

"הירא את דבר ד' מעבדי פרעה הניס את עבדיו ואת מקנהו אל הבתים"

"Whoever among the servants of Pharaoh feared the word of Hashem, chased his servants and livestock into the houses."

The G-d fearing Egyptians had the common sense to take their animals inside. Does this indicate *yiraa Shomayim*, fear of Heaven? This is the 7th plague to have struck Egypt. Moshe Rabbeinu's track record had been perfect. Whenever he foretold about a plague, it arrived in time and with intensity. Only a fool would leave his animals outdoors. In the *Zer Zahav* by Horav Avraham, z"l, m'Teshchinov, the author distinguishes the G-d fearing Egyptian who, upon hearing of the upcoming plague, immediately took action and brought his animals inside, from his counterpart, who waited until the hail came pounding down, wreaking havoc, before he gathered in his livestock. Horav Yitzchak Zilberstein, *shlita*, derives from here that a *yarei Shomayim* is not to come in contact with anything that might lead him to sin. This may be compared to a person who fears fire. He will make sure not to have anything of a flammable nature in his possession. It goes without saying that he will not put his hands in the fire. Taken from *Peninim on the Torah*

Week in Review

On Monday, January 1st, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classrooms hosted many guests. Fathers of our middle school boys were invited to experience a few hours in *yeshiva*. The day started with a most impressive *Shacharis minyan* at 7:30, run by our 8th graders. Then, everyone headed to the "YST Grand Ballroom" for a lavish breakfast. Afterwards, the parents proceeded to their child's classroom for learning. The rebbeim gave a quick rundown of the "*sugya*" and then the fathers and sons learned *בחברותא*. The *קול תורה* of more than 100 people learning permeated throughout and was truly a sight to see. May parents continuously shep much nachas from their children.

The boys in Pre-1A have been busy mastering the alphabet. They have learned 10 letters so far, including three vowels (o, a and i) and their short vowel sounds. If you visited their classroom this week you may have seen the boys sneakily slithering on the floor like snakes and curving their bodies to form our letter of the week, S. The students look forward to center time at the end of each day. These child-directed learning activities reinforce concepts while promoting independent, higher level thinking. We recently launched our iPad center, where the students have an opportunity to review math and language arts skills using various interactive apps.

One of the hallmarks of Mrs. Rabinowitz's first grade curriculum is the flexibility that is built into it. A recent class discussion about the five senses led to a conversation about bats and dolphins. The students' fascination with echolocation is spearheading their upcoming unit of discovery about these two mammals. They will study the bottlenose dolphin and the fruit bat to learn about their habitats, food sources, life cycles and how they socialize and communicate. Their course of study will culminate with a "compare and contrast" activity of bats and dolphins to demonstrate a mastery of their new-found knowledge. They can't wait to get started!

Preschool Jottings

When our kindergarten children are learning the letter *כ*, the most fun and engaging activity is to find Kosher symbols on food packages. And so, Morah Mimi and Morah Irene took their class to Stop 'n Shop to pretend shop for foods that are Kosher. The number of foods that they spotted with symbols was too big to count! Morah Rochel and Morah Faige organized a Kosher Grocery Store in their classroom. The children stocked the shelves (with food they brought from their wholesalers), decided the price of each item and proudly displayed the Kosher symbols.

It was triangles and squares in the nursery class these past two weeks. The children made triangle mats that they placed carefully atop their sailboats. On a fishing expedition, the children noticed that the body of the fish is a triangle and the tail, as well. They were so excited to fish for fish, but much more excited to fish for triangles! A house is a square structure and the children were so busy filling the square with furniture, people and household items.

The Farmer came back to school last week with lots of vegetables and some fruits. We lined them all up in size order. Then we discussed what color the outside of the vegetable is and what color the inside is. The children were fascinated by the purple skin of an eggplant that covered the white flesh, the brown skin of a kiwi that shells the green fruit and the dark green skin of an avocado that covers the green flesh. The farmer gave them each toothpicks and grapes and showed them how to make a structure. Wow! The children could not believe what they could make with just these two items! This week we had a shoe party. Everyone brought in one shoe, we sized them up and talked about who wears each shoe. We had high heels, snow boots, slippers, sneakers, baby shoes, Zaidy's shoes and crocs on display.

In the girls' school... Mazel Tov to Morah Rubinfeld's ה' כתה upon the completion of פּרשׂת וּאֵרָא! What an accomplishment! The girls have worked hard translating פּטרוּקִים, decoding מְרֻשְׁשִׁי, and becoming proficient note-takers. They celebrated with a well-deserved סִיוּם that was a delightful experience. Most important of all are all the life lessons they gained which will hopefully remain with them throughout. The beautiful תּפִילָה in the class was brought to a new level with the addition of שְׁמַע בְּרַכַּת קְרִיאַת שְׁמַע to their davening, May the girls always value each and every תּפִילָה and may all their בְּתוּבָה be תּפִילָה.

Mrs. Epstein's 4th grade students have been hard at work with their multiplication facts. This week was spent with much practice on getting their multiplication tables straight and moving on to more complex word problems and two digit numbers. With continued practice, the students will soon be pros at multiplication and before they know it they'll be tackling division too! Keep up the great work and don't forget to keep practicing those tables!!

In 7th grade science, the girls have completed their fascinating unit on Heredity. The students discovered a lot about the unique traits they have and the genes which control them. They now know all about where their genes come from and how they can have "hidden" genes which do not express themselves. Stay tuned to hear all about our next, exciting topic coming up.....

Everyone knows that Christopher Columbus was the first European to come to America, right? Well, actually, if you ask one of Mrs. Chait's fifth grade historians, she can explain to you why this well known "fact" is actually wrong! In this exciting unit on European exploration, fifth graders are discovering why America is now the "melting pot" that exists today and is not a country of Native Americans. The students are also building up their note-taking skills and are analyzing different perspectives of the same historical events, while using primary and secondary sources for research. Stay tuned for our debate about

Bulletin Board

- **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.
- **Sun, Jan 14 - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Mother/Daughter Dance Party to benefit YACHAD.** Instructors are Marla & Emunah Rottenstreich and will be held at 431 Raritan Ave., Highland Park - upstairs.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Feb 3 - 8:30 pm - Tiferes DVD for women** will be held at the home of Aviva Siegel 16 Edgemount Rd.
- **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.
- **Sun, Feb 11 - 9:30am. - Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley Annual Event - celebrating the opening of the new Guest Residence** will be held at the Pines Manor, 2085 Lincoln Highway (rt. 27) in Edison. Guest speaker: Rabbi Ephraim Elyahu Shapiro. Guests of Honor, Moshe & Debbie Schneider, Gomlei Chesed Awardees, Shalom & Yarden Cohen. For more information, please go to the Bikur Cholim website: bikurcholimrv.org

Writer's Corner

Mrs. Epshteyn's 7th grade language arts class has been studying poems about nature and creating vivid odes and sensory color poems of their own:

Ode to Hot Cocoa
by Peri Jaman

Oh Hot Cocoa!
You are like
liquid hot heaven
on a cold, blustery day.
Hot cocoa,
you are
so relaxing
and you are
creamy, luscious
and
sweet.
Hot cocoa you are
heaven
in a mug.
When I see you, I think
of
the best days of my life.
You take me
on an
exalted journey
through calm.

Blue
by Rivky Nusbaum

Blue is the taste of slippery cold raspberry ices that melt in your mouth under the blazing sun.
Blue is the smell of fresh steaming blueberry pie that warms your heart while you dive into it.
Blue is the sound of the bright singing with joy birds chirping favorably while the fresh breeze cools the air.
Blue is the sight of the shimmering ocean that ripples and hums in the long summer days.
Splash!

Ode to Snow Days
by Eliana Dersovitz

Dreading the next long, tiring day of everlasting school, you continue to finish your homework.
Waking up alarm clock screaming in your ear.
Immediately rushing to catch the bus, only to walk out to snow sparkling in the sun.
Snow so blinding, delicate yet powerful.
No bus, no school, just fun.



Library Additions

- **Don't Turn the Page** donated to YST 1st Grade Girls in honor of Rachele Burk's author visit by the Goldfinger Family
- **Rebbe Mendel Wheel's & Deals** in honor of Naomi Weitovich's 10th birthday

Local News & Shiurim

- Rabbi Hillel Feldman will be giving the next in his series of women's shiurim on Sun night (1/14) at 8:30 at the Rottenstreich home, 11 Harrison St. in Edison). *"Digging Deeper into Others, Part II: Influencing Others through Seeing their Good."* Save the date for the next shiur in the series, planned for Motzai Shabbos February 17.
- Shovavim presents a part 2 and 3 of the 3 part shiur for married men on the halachos of Taharas Hamishpacha given by Rabbi Hillel Feldman at the Agudah – on Mondays: 1/22, 2/5 at 8:20PM.
For women: Rebbetzin Aviva Wasser will be speaking on halachos and hashkafos of Taharas Mishpacha on Sundays 2/4 and 2/18. Time and location info to follow. 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, Jan. 14 at Rebbitzin Eichenstein's house, 20 Simpson St Edison; Parsha class on Mon, Jan. 15 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: No class on Monday, Jan. 15
- Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class: No class on Tuesday, Jan. 16
- 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.

Mazal Tov!

- Rabbi & Mrs. Boruch Sorotzkin upon the birth of a son
- Mr. & Mrs. Ari Lockspeiser upon the birth of a daughter
- Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Feuer upon the birth of a grandson
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yossi Sirote upon Tehila's Bas Mitzvah
- Mr. & Mrs. Noam Waltuch upon Ahuva's Bas Mitzvah
- Rabbi Dovid & Mrs. Esther Lyba Bak upon the engagement of their son, Sruly to Mindy Wexler from Lakewood
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avi Bodlander upon the engagement of their daughter, Adina to Binjamin Brill