



Jan 26, 2018

FYI

• The 6 Flags Read to Succeed Reading Program has begun. Don't forget, the reading log must be submitted by Feb 20th. *Sorry, no exceptions are allowed.*

• **IMPORTANT DATES!**

1) The In-Service which was planned at the boys school for Sunday, February 4, is postponed. Classes will be held on a regular schedule. A new date will be announced.

2) Parent Teacher conferences in the boys school will take place on Wednesday, February 7. Please call the office to schedule your appointments.

3) Sunday, Feb 11 at 8:15 pm - The PTA's ATT program is presenting Ari Sorotzkin, LCSW, who will be speaking about "Sensitive Topics - Talking to Our Children." This program will take place at the YST Pre-school building.

4) *Save the date:* Parent Teacher Conferences in the girls school is Tuesday, February 13th. Please let us know if you prefer an early or a late appointment.

• *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.

• No Pirchei or Pirchei Beis Medrash or Bnis this week.

• Avos Ubonim on Motzai Shabbos is from 6:45- 7:45 p.m. at the Agudah.

• Night Seder next week is from 8:15-8:45 every night. There is no shiur this week.

Parnes Hayom

A school-wide day of learning was sponsored on Mon. Jan 22, שבט ו' in memory of

Chaim Yitzchok Kraus, z"l

חיים יצחק בן ישראל דוב הלוי ז"ל

by the Kraus Family



Parsha Points

“ופרעה הקריב וישאו בני ישראל את עיניהם... ויראו מאד ויצעקו בני ישראל אל ה'”

The Torah is telling us that פרעה came close to the *B'nei Yisrael* and they got very scared and they cried out to Hashem. Rashi asks why does the פסוק say ופרעה הקריב which means “and פרעה brought close?” It should have said ופרעה קרב that “פרעה came close.” The *Medrash* answers that פרעה actually brought the *B'nei Yisrael* closer to Hashem. When the *B'nei Yisrael* realized that they were closed in on all sides (the ים סוף, the מצרים running after them, the מדבר full of wild animals) they were very frightened and started davening to ה' as the פסוק says “ויצעקו בני ישראל אל ה'”. The *Medrash* adds that ה' made פרעה chase the *B'nei Yisrael* because He desires the תפילות of ישראל. People may think that תפילה is only a tool to get rid of problems or צרות, and if there would be no צרות or problems at all, there would be no need for תפילה. This *Medrash* tells us that just the opposite is true. תפילה is a purpose for itself! We need תפילה in order to come closer to Hashem. Through davening, we realize the greatness of Hashem and how much He does for us which brings us to a greater level of closeness to Hashem.

Week in Review

This past Monday, ו' שבט, marked the second *yahrzeit* of our beloved talmid and friend Chaim Kraus ז"ל. Under Rabbi Cohen's guidance, our third grade *talmidim* commemorated Chaim's *yahrzeit* in a most meaningful way. The boys took it upon themselves to learn and review extra *psukim* from *Sefer Bereishis*, *leilui nishmas* their friend and classmate, Chaim ז"ל. The boys truly went above and beyond and surpassed their own learning goals. In total, the boys collaboratively learned over 1043 *psukim* in commemoration of Chaim's *yahrzeit*. This impressive show of love of learning and dedication to a friend, is a testament to the sensitivity of the boys in this class. In the *zchus* of the learning of our *tinokos shel beis raban*, Chaim's *neshama* should have an *aliyah*. , חיים יצחק ז"ל בן ר' ישראל דב הלוי נ"י, will always be cherished by our *talmidim* and *Rebbeim* in YST.

As we come to the Mid-Winter break Rabbi Gutman's fifth grade בית המדרש of budding תלמידי חכמים, has reached a momentous occasion in their לימוד הגמרא, with the completion of the מדעת יאוש שלא סוגיא. The boys are mastering גמרא skills, understanding to whom we are bringing a proof and then appreciating how these proofs are later brought into question. They are doing all of this while perfecting the skills of reading and punctuation properly. Many students are asking the upcoming questions of the גמרא or ראשונים and others have been able to give the answers on their own. They closed the semester with an exciting opportunity to show other talents they possess as they acted out the story that they recently learned. The hard work and allowance for individuals to shine was truly remarkable. There were beautiful props, great acting, and lots of creativity. May we all continue to share

Preschool Jottings

You wouldn't even believe what can go on in a classroom when you learn the letter מ In Morah Mimi and Morah Irene's class, each of the children brought pictures of their משפחה and then those pictures became the illustrations in the book that they wrote about their family. The children were able to include many important details about the ages and stages of their family members! Morah Rochel and Morah Faige asked all of the boys and girls to come to school dressed like a מ-ommy! The sheitels, the snoods, the high heels and the jewelry were great enhancements to the day!

Morah Yaffa and Morah Devora introduced a light box to the classroom., as they discovered the star shape. The room was darkened; the children were wearing their pajamas and they were able to play with the stars against the bright light. It was a night that they will always remember!

Our new word of the week will surely be used over mid winter vacation. When we are not in school, sometimes there is just nothing for our preschoolers to do and some children might feel a bit bored. Ah ha! Here come the right words /thoughts. “I can think of something to do!” We made a whole mural of different ideas of things that we can do independently, in our own homes.

much נחת from all of our תלמידים!

It may be wet and cold outside, but the 3rd grade boys' classroom is warm with excitement! The boys are very happy to have Mrs. Cohen back, and are forging ahead. They are enthusiastically learning the multiplication tables by using many modalities, such as the 9 lines method, flash cards, songs, activities, games and math sprints. They are really catching on quickly and becoming multiplication pros!

Last week's magnificent Girls School Melave Malka topped off several weeks of focused practice for all the participants, and it most definitely showed! With poise and confidence, each girl found her place on stage, went through her motions masterfully and performed like a pro. Creating an ambience of *achdus* and camaraderie, while delivering a meaningful message on the theme of אהבה לך, all the while seating (and feeding) a huge crowd was a daunting task. But the sum effort of all the parties that invested their talents working alongside each other towards a common goal paid off with dividends. First and foremost, Mrs. Aviella Neustadt's ability to develop a concept into an inspiring vision, co-ordinating a million and one details to enhance its message, while engaging the girls and making it a pleasurable process for them is awesome. Morah Devorah Botnick, working alongside her, orchestrated motions, line-ups and logistics, with her usual efficiency. The spectacular backdrop, created by Mrs. Mira Septimus, added beauty, depth and emotion, to every scene. Special thanks as well to Rivka Kravitz for editing the video backdrop to the 8th grade performance. On the logistics side, our dedicated PTA heads, Mrs. Rivky Arnow, Mrs. Rochel Gruen and Mrs. Raisy Sirote arranged, re-arranged, and cheerfully re-arranged again the technical details for a smoothly running event. Even as the reservations kept pouring in, creating the best kind of management problems, the troika of PTA presidents kept their cool and recalibrated with a smile. They were supported by the talented, home-grown decor heads, Mrs. Shana Cohn and Mrs. Esty Schwimmer. Kudos as well to Mrs. Leechen Gluck for the successful Chinese Auction and Mrs. Shoshana Sauer for the playbill. Last, but not least, thanks to the YST Boys School staff and students for being such gracious hosts and allowing this temporary girls' takeover!

Pre1A was a bakery - מאפייה this week! For מזונות week we turned our classroom into a bakery. We baked so many מזונות goodies and then we opened our door to some of the older grades and we sold our cookies. They each said a מזונות brocha and they said our cookies were delicious! Our classroom smelled delicious all week too!

Echoes of שירת דבורה can be heard ringing through the hall. The 5th graders have mastered the entire שירה, and many even by heart! The girls enjoyed decorating adirable music cookies and receiving awards in honor of the beautiful achievement. Shining flashlights in our dark classroom during מכת חושך, and seeing the seasons come alive while learning about the עונות in ענימה, are just some of the other exciting things happening in 5th grade!

Mrs. Gross' 7th graders just completed the exciting Pre-Revolutionary War unit in history. The girls wrote diary entries from the perspective of a Loyalist or a Patriot, enabling them to get a realistic understanding of the time period. In addition, they also analyzed primary source documents showing opposing views on events and corroborated them. The girls were then challenged to figure out what they thought actually happened. At the conclusion of the unit, they watched "Johnny Tremain" and saw history come to life! Seventh grade history this year has been so interesting to learn.

After reviewing fraction addition, subtraction and multiplication, Mrs. Spinner's 6th grade math class has been working with percents. As students worked on converting from fraction, decimal & percent and solving percent problems, the valuable application of percent in everyday life was incorporated daily. Applications included tax and tip, shopping and discounts, interest and test grades. The girls are looking forward to when this unit will be completed with a fun percent project!

Bulletin Board

- **Motzai Shabbos, Feb 3 - 8:30 pm - Tiferes DVD for women** will be held at the home of Aviva Siegel 16 Edgemount Rd. Speakers: Rabbi Doniel Frank and Mrs. Debbie Selengut. on the topic of "Relationship Strategies for Ourselves and Our Children".
- **Motzai Shabbos, Feb 10 - 8:30 pm - 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 Eliyahu Shapiro. Guests of Honor, Moshe & Debbie Schneider, Gommei Chesed Awardees, Shalom & Yarden Cohen. For more information and to RSVP, please go to the Bikur Cholim website: bikurcholimrv.org.

Mazal Tov!

- **Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Aharon Eidelman upon the birth of a grandson**
- **Rabbi & Mrs. Boruch Goodman upon Rivky's engagement to Mendel Sarfaty**

Local News & Shiurim

- Rabbi Hillel Feldman will be giving the third and final shiur in his series of Shovavim shiurim for men at the Agudah on Monday, February 5.
- For women: Rebbetzin Aviva Wasser will be speaking on halachos and hashkafos 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 Sunday, January 28 at 11:00 AM at the Agudah; No class on Mon, Jan. 29.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shimiras Haloshon class: Monday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 PM at Ellen Smith's house, 407 North 8th Ave, Edison
- Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class: For status of class on Tuesday, Jan. 30, please call Leah 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.

Catch 'em Being Good!

Dear Morah Blumie,

I was so proud of the way Ahuva and some of her friends cleaned up after the Melava Malka. She went around to all the tables to collect the centerpieces and carefully put them away in the boxes. The girls stood at the edge of the stage & cleaned all the wax out of the candle holders so we shouldn't find them dirty next time we want to use them. Then, without even being asked the girls cleaned all the tape from the floor and the sound system. They were amazing Mitzvah Girls! Wow!

Mrs. Esty Schwimmer