



Join us this Sunday, May 6th for the
Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion
28th Anniversary Dinner
at the Woodbridge Renaissance Hotel
Honoring Mrs. Rivka Adler -
Staff Appreciation Award,
Mr. & Mrs. Avi & Yael Kamelhar - Parents of the
Year Award, and Rabbi & Mrs. Shloimy & Esty
Schwimmer - Alumna of the Year Award.

YST News

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Candle lighting: 7:38

FYI

• The PTA Shavuot morning "Coffee & Connection" program for women is Sun, May 20th at the Preschool. Deadline to register your children for babysitting is Mon, May 14th. Go to ystnj.org to register. See attached flyer for details.

• After-School Program make-up dates:
Boys: Kids in the Kitchen - Thurs. May 10
Girls: Mon: Kids in the Kitchen, Gymnastics & Multi-Media - May 7
Tues: Edible Arts - May 8
Wed: Gym - May 16, 23, 30, June 6
Art - May 16, 23

• This week we received a check from Boxtops for \$367.00 Please don't forget to keep sending in your boxtops - even over the summer!

• **IMPORTANT DATES!**
- Tues, May 22nd - Isru Chag Shavuot. Delayed opening at 10:00 a.m.

Boys Division:

1) Due to a series of professional development workshops, please see the following changes in the boys school schedule:

Sun, May 6, 13 - 11:15 a.m. dismissal. An extended learning program for 6-8th grade is being sponsored by The Posy Family.

2) Fri, May 11th - Pre 1A Boys' Siddur play.

3) Sun, May 27th - PTA Boys Bike-a-thon. Deadline to register a biker is Friday, May 18th!! To register or sponsor a biker, go to ystnj.org.

Girls Division:

1) Wed, May 9th 9:30 am. - 4th grade Birchas Yaakov presentation.

2) Sun, May 13th 9:30 - 11:30am - Come and cheer on our 3rd and 4th grade Sole Sisters' classmates as they complete their 5K at the HP HS Track.

3) Wed, May 16 - 1st Grade Chumash Play

4) Thurs, May 31 - Pre-1a Siddur Play

• *Achoseinu*, the girls' grades 4-8 Shmiras Halashon Group will continue on Friday nights at 7:15 p.m. This group is led by our alumna, Golda Ayelet Glinn at her home 162 North 8th Ave.

• Bnos Malka this Shabbos is from 2:15- 3:15 pm.

• 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.

• The Boys' Night Seder program continues Mon through Thurs. Please note new times! Mon./Wed./Thur. from 8:40pm to 9:10 pm and Tues. 8:40 pm - 9:10 pm with a shiur a 8:50 pm. There will be a new minyan added for Maariv afterwards at 9:15. Refreshments are served.



Parsha Points



In this week's *Parsha* we learn about the *Mitzvah* of *Sefiras Ha'omer* – the *Mitzvah* to count the days from the second day of *Pesach* until *Shavuot*. The *Sefer Hachinuch* explains the reason for this *Mitzvah* as follows: the essence of *Am Yisroel* is the *Torah*. The Jews were taken out of Egypt in order to accept the *Torah* and do its *Mitzvos*. Counting the days from *Pesach* until *Shavuot* is an expression of the importance of the *Torah* to *Am Yisroel*. Just as a person who is enslaved but knows the future date of his freedom will count each day until he finally receives his freedom, so too we count the days remaining until we will receive the *Torah*. Counting the days shows our strong desire to finally reach that day of accepting the *Torah*. The more appreciation one has for the *Torah*, the more he will learn it. Realizing the importance of *Torah* will help us put in more time and effort into learning and mastering it. We remind ourselves of this everyday during *Sefirah* by counting the days until *Shavuot*.

Week in Review

It was a *שבת* to remember for the 7th grade boys. The boys spent this past *שבת* in Edison with their Rebbe for a very uplifting and inspirational time together. The *תלמידים* acted as young men, participating and helping out. *שבת* ran very smoothly, as each *תלמיד* contributed with his own personalized job. They had, and ran, their own *מנין*, with each *Bar Mitzvah* boy receiving an *עלייה* and they ate their delicious *סעודות* together, all in the YST Preschool Ballroom. A hot *Kiddush* was served for the fathers and brothers as well. The *סעודות* not only provided food for the body, but the "*hartzige*" and "*leibedige*" *זמירות* sung supplied music for the soul as well. Some participated by saying *דברי תורה* while others helped out by setting up, cleaning up and waiting for the *סעודות*. The *שבת* was topped off with a very competitive basketball on *שבת* at the YST boys gym and followed with a *מלכה* of pizza and ice cream. Thank you Rabbi Herskowitz for arranging it all!

The tremendous excitement the *תלמידים* had last *שבת* totally overshadowed and probably caused them to forget about another special event the 7th graders had this week. They took a trip to Lakewood, where they were fascinated at the hands-on session of *ספרות* by the *סופר* R' Dovid Berger. He showed them the various workings of *תפילין*, *ספרי תורה* and *מוזות* and hopefully it gave the *תלמידים* a greater appreciation for the *תפילין* that many of them recently began wearing. The *תלמידים* took it all in, as well as the pizza and fries from the pizza shop as a *סעודת מצוה* for completing yet another *פרק* of *גמרא* in *מסכת*. Their last stop was at Gourmet Glatt, a huge supermarket at the entrance to Lakewood, where the boys were given a 15 minute shopping spree. The *תלמידים* and the Rebbe were all treated "on the house" to free danishes from the bakery department, as the beautiful impression the boys made in the store earned them this special treat.

Lag B'omer in the boys school had a very special flavor. Everyone understood that a fun day begins with a session of learning. Before the entire school assembled in the lunchroom, the day began with a resounding *Kol Torah* in each and every classroom. Rabbi Gutman then held everyone spellbound as he delivered a powerful story with a meaningful message about being careful with

Preschool Jottings

Our trip to Kidztopia was an amazing Lag B'omer outing for YST Preschoolers! How apropos! Party 'n Play changed its name to Kidztopia...because it knew that the preschoolers were coming on the week they were learning the letter ק!

The friendship that the children displayed one to the other, as they took turns down the slides, in the ball pits and on the rock climbing wall was remarkable. When we returned to school, there was a barbecue lunch ready for the children. Special thanks to Mrs. Carol Federman and Mrs. Shira Shenkman for giving of their time to help set up and prepare the meal.

The kindergarten children enjoyed their *קידוש* – very, very much, more so than any other *קידוש* that they ever attended, because this *קידוש* they prepared by themselves! They worked hard to peel, chop and make the kugels! Actually, the only thing that the children did not do was shop for the supplies.

The nursery class is learning the sense of sight. They searched for bugs and studied them carefully, searching for their antennas, their spots and their little legs. They actually have a "bug pool" that you are welcome to come SEE for yourself!

someone else's feelings. Rabbi Gutman then led the singing of the famous songs about Bar Yo'chai. Off they went to the park to enjoy class baseball games with *achdus* and spirit! While the boys were playing a group of very able volunteers were preparing a most delicious cookout. The entire operation was exceptionally impressive. By the time the boys returned from their "heated" games their special lunch was ready to be enjoyed. Tables were set, hot dogs and burgers were grilled and hot delicious food was served in a most organized and enjoyable way. As the younger boys finished eating they joined the older boys for some tasteful dancing. After Bentsching was recited the boys went on to enjoy the park with their G. S. teachers. One of the highlights was watching so many boys seize the opportunity to show *mentchlichkeit* and make a *Kiddush Hashem*. When the request was made that each boy pick up three pieces of garbage, the entire picnic area was perfectly cleaned in less than two minutes! We all have a lot to be proud of!! Special thank you to Mr. Lutzky, Mr. Dani Sabo, Mrs. Fogel and Mrs. Gruenebaum for their help and their super efficiency.

Our budding scientists in first grade have turned their inquisitive eyes to their unit on living things. They are reading and learning about the life cycle of plants. In class, the boys meticulously peeled away the seed coat of a lima bean, carefully split the bean in half and used magnifying glasses, and inspected the dormant plant nestled inside. Dovi Reider was a keen observer and noticed the embryonic leaf. The class created greenhouses in which they "planted" beans. They are well versed in what their beans require to flourish and grow and will observe the progress of their plants daily. The boys cannot wait to transplant them at home!

in the girls school...

Appropriate to the days of *ספירה*, Morah Halberg's *ר' כיתה* are focusing on taking their *אדם לחברו* up a notch. The girls have come up with different goals for each week that help them, perfect their *מידות*. Through skits, stories and discussions, *ר' כיתה* is learning to zoom in and focus on the feelings of their friends.

As part of the cross-curricular unit on Holocaust study, eighth grade girls are beginning to read Jennifer Roy's free-verse novel, *Yellow Star*, in Mrs. Mrs. Epshteyn's Language Arts class. Each student chose and reflected on a verse that she found particularly impactful or important to the text. Here is Chavi Crystal's response:

The verse "Women's Work" is meaningful because it shows that no matter how much the Nazis make you feel like trash, family values everyone. No matter how bad things are, families will always stick together. Sylvia's father says, "You are valuable to this family, and that is enough" (page 16). This shows that family is all that matters, and nothing can bring them apart.

The whispers of "color war is coming" got louder and louder during the course of the week, finally erupting into roaring cheers of "COLOR WAR IS HERE" after Wednesday's video presentation. Mrs. Werner announced the names of the teams, *אש* and *מים* and the excitement was up and running. Captains Shevy Malitzky, Tari Gottlieb, Michaela Feiler and Rina Kraus all rose to the occasion of organizing their respective teams, delegating jobs effectively and keeping a (tired) smile on their faces. Indeed Color War and Lag B'Omer fit together as perfectly as the hamburgers and buns that the girls heartily consumed during their midday break at Roosevelt Park. The morning team activities of sports, cheers and Divrei Torah were followed by afternoon roller skating to create a balance of friendly competition and excitement. Despite the "fiery" temperatures in the park, the teachers made sure to have the girls continuously drink for the ample supply of cooling "waters." Very special thanks to the wonderful crew of grillers: Mrs. Lebovits, Mrs. Neuwirth, Mrs. Bloom, Dr. Malitzky, Mrs. Neimark, Morah Shelley and Morah Yaffie.

Mazal Tov!

- Dr & Mrs. Mordechai Neustadt upon the birth of a granddaughter
- Mr. & Mrs. Avi Milgraum upon Chava's Bas Mitzvah

Bulletin Board

• **Sun, May 6 - the Friendship Circle** will be holding its **10th annual Walk4Friends** at the Vonage campus on Route 520. 12:00 registration, 1:00 walk. Great day for the whole family with food, rides, arts & crafts, etc. The Friendship Circle provides social & recreational friendship programs for individuals with special needs. For more information go to www.walk4friends.com/chazfam.

• **Motzai Shabbos, May 12 - 9:45 PM - Tiferes DVD for women** will be held at the home of Aviva Siegel, 16 Edgemount Rd.

Writer's Corner

Yes, Morah Blumie's first graders were super excited about their first YST Lag B'omer trip. But they decided to delve deeper into the background and history of this special holy day. The read stories about *רבי שמעון בר יוחאי* and *רבי עקיבא*, charted information and completed their own writings.

Please enjoy some excerpts below.

רבי שמעון בר יוחאי היה צדיק. רבי שמעון בר יוחאי למד הרבה תורה כשהוא יושב בחול. הוא נפטר בל"ג בעומר והקבר שלו במירון. ד' שמר על רבי שמעון בר כותב דף יוחאי ואלעזר במערה. ד' הציל אותם מהרומאים רבי שמעון בר יוחאי ונתן ליונה.

Shira Scott

רבי שמעון בר יוחאי היה צדיק. רבי שמעון בר יוחאי ישב בחול במערה. רבי שמעון בר יוחאי היה התלמיד של רבי עקיבא, לרבי שמעון בר יוחאי יש בן. לרבי שמעון בר יוחאי היה הרבה תלמידים. רבי שמעון בר יוחאי היה חכם.

Ahuva Bannett

Local News & Shiurim

- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No class on Sun, May 6; Parsha class on Mon, May 7 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- Mrs. Leah Drillman's Shmiras Halashon class: Class on Mon, May 7, at 7:30 PM at Ellen Smith's house, 407 North 8th Ave, Edison.
- Mrs. Miri Cohen's Parsha class: Class on Tuesday, May 8 at 9:30 AM at the home of Leah Epshtein, 253 Lawrence Avenue, Highland Park.
- Rabbi Bassous gives a Women's class every Sunday at 10 AM on Pirkei Avos at Congregation Etz Ahaim.
- Rabbi Yisroel Weiss' shiur, "Living with Tehillim", for men and women: Wed evenings at 8:30 PM Eiserman residence at 154 N. 10th Ave.
- The women's Tehillim group is meeting on a regular basis at 5:00 PM at Etz Ahaim, 230 Dennison St, Highland Park.
- The Edison/Highland Park gown Gemach, L'iluy Nishmas R' Yitzchok Ben Binyomin, is open for business! The Gemach houses a wide selection of gowns for children, pre-teen, teens and adults. Please note the Gemach is still looking for donation of gowns in very good condition. Tax deduction is given and pick up of the gowns can also be arranged. For more information and/or to schedule an appointment please call Sara Scott at 516-526-0941.

המקום ינחם...

- Mrs. Lauren Levy upon the loss of her father, ז"ל
- Mr. Dovid Pchima upon the loss of his brother, ז"ל