



Parsha Points

Reb Leib Bakst Zatzal points to an important lesson we can learn from Yosef's response to his brothers after revealing his identity to them. We all understand that when someone wrongs another person he must follow the Torah's protocol and correct what he did (i.e. pay back what he stole). What we do not always realize is that the person who was wronged must also react in the proper, Torah way. We sometimes assume that because someone else wronged us, we have the right to yell at him, embarrass him publicly, speak Lashon Harah about him, etc. After all, he is the one who did something wrong - not me!

We can learn from Yosef Hatzadik that this is not the way one should act. There is no one who had more wrong done to him than Yosef. Yosef had the most legitimate reasons to react harshly to his brothers. They threw him into a pit, sold him as a slave to Mitzrayim, where he was sent into jail for 12 years. Yosef could have reacted sharply to them and lecture them for the pain they caused him. However, when Yosef saw their remorse, he spoke calmly and softly to them. He assured them that they are not at fault, and all that happened is because Hashem wanted it to be that way.

Even though at times we might feel very justified to react with sharp words or actions to someone who did wrong to us, we must try to learn from Yosef Hatzadik.

Week in Review

Rabbi Cohen's תלמידים enjoyed a variety of Chanuka festivities. The highlights included the ג' כחה Chanuka מסיבה and donut decorating with an array of toppings. In addition, the boys were charged with the mission to "light up" their Chanuka in the most literal sense - while learning our *heilege* Torah. Rabbi Cohen introduced the L.E.D- (Learn Every Day) program as an opportunity to engage in voluntary learning over the week of Chanuka. The extra hours of learning accrued collectively by our ג' כחה talmidim was both impressive and inspiring. After learning about *Rochel Imieinu's* פטירה in *Parshas Vayishlach* the boys enjoyed a virtual trip to Eretz Yisrael where they visited *Kever Rochel*. Stay tuned for next week's gala *siyum* on *Parshas Vayishlach*! Looking forward to sharing in ג' כחה's *shteiging* חיל.

The second grade has begun an exciting unit in science - nutrition! They are learning about the different food groups and the importance of developing healthy eating habits. The unit started with carbohydrates, which give us energy. In Science Lab they tested various foods using iodine. If the iodine turned black it showed that the food was a carbohydrate. The boys are looking forward to more exciting experiments!

6th Grade in Jeopardy! The Middle School boys at YST go head to head each semester to test their wits and their general knowledge in a friendly grade vs grade competition of Jeopardy. Each class is divided into teams, which work together to solve riddles, recognize obscure geographic locations or features, show off their vast *b'kiyus* in the world of Torah, identify various historical events or individuals, or take their best stab at any number of other interesting topics that come up in our bi-monthly Jeopardy rounds. Each grade's averages are then

FYI

• On Tues, Dec 25th & Tues, Jan 1st, there will be no bussing and all divisions will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m. **IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE THAT** On Tues, Jan 1st, there will be no sessions in the girls' school due to a Staff Professional Development Day.

• After School Make-Up-Dates:
Boys' Division - Bricks for Kids - Jan 3
Girls' Division
Mon - Edible Arts - Jan 14
Tues - Fun in the Kitchen - Jan 22
Thurs - Sewing & Advanced Gym - Jan 10

• Save the Dates:

1) Motzai Shabbos, Dec 22 - The PTA "Around the Table" Program is back with Mrs. Brudny at 8:00 PM in the Preschool Building on the topic of "Fostering Confidence to Make Good Choices." This program is for women only. See attached flyer.

2) Sun, Jan 6, 2019 - Boys' School Brunch. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact Miriam Goldblatt at (732) 322-3211 or Tzippy Reider at (718) 541-4710. See attached flyer.

3) *Change in Date* - Sun, Feb 10th - Father/Son Learning Program for grades 6-8.

• Bnos this week is from 2:15 - 3:15pm at the Agudah.

• Pirchei (Grades 1-5) and Pirchei Beis Medrash (Grades 6-8) this week will be from 3:05 to 4:00 at the Agudah. The minyan for Mincha before Pirchei will be at 2:45. Pirchei membership fees go toward the purchase of refreshments and prizes every Shabbos. Please consider membership (\$50 per child / max \$100 per family) to help defray the costs associated with running Pirchei. For more information please contact Arya Eisner at pircheiedison-hp@gmail.com.

• The Boys' Night Seder program at the Agudah gives 7th & 8th Grade boys a chance to experience Beis Medrash learning with a Chavrusah. Join us each night from Monday through Thursday after the 8:00 Maariv. Mon./Wed./Thur. from 8:15 to 8:45 and Tues. from 8:15 to 9:00 (Shiur at 8:45). Refreshments are served. For more info, or to sponsor a week, please call or text Arya Eisner (732-547-4994).

• *Achoseinu*, the girls' grades 4-8 Shmiras Halashon Group is starting this Friday night 15 minutes after candle lighting. This group is led by our alumna, Golda Ayelet Glinn at her home 162 North 8th Ave.

Preschool Jottings

So what's the big Mazal Tov in YST Preschool? Yes, you are right! It was a **חתינה**! Hashem made the Jewish calendar with our kindergarten class in mind, because **חנוכה** always falls out exactly when we are learning the letter **ח** and there is always seems to be a **חתינה** that week. But this year, the **חתינה** was more joyous than ever. Perhaps it was because of the **חתן** and **קallah**. Perhaps it was because of the delicious **חלות** that were served. Perhaps it was because of the remarkable **חברה** of **חברים** that came to dance and celebrate. Mark your calendar, because next year when we learn the letter **ח**, we will once again celebrate **חנוכה** and someone else's **חתינה**, **אי"ה**.

The nursery children added the color yellow to their long list of colors. They designed a school bus out of egg cartons. The bus has a driver, passengers and even the words Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion painted on it.

Our unit of "pic" fun has already featured pickles and toothpicks. We did so many activities of sorting, counting, designing, painting, coloring and building using our PIC items. Next week, we will move on to our next "pic" word - picnics! The children can't wait to see how we are going to make the picnic really happen even though it's cold outside!

tabulated and compared to the other grades, with the winning grade earning a free period for that semester. This year, for the first time in YST history, the 6th grade has prevailed! It's true that the margin of victory was quite small (just 55 points more than the 8th grade), but it is still quite a feat. Special mention should be given to the team consisting of Moshe Lax, Levi Roscher, Shmuel Jaffe, and Avraham Reisman, which achieved a near perfect board, something that has only been done twice before in the last eight years that these competitions have been played. Still, all in all, the biggest winners are all the contestants, as they engage not only in healthy competition, but broaden their horizons and knowledge regarding a vast array of topics. Stay tuned to see if the 6th grade can hold on to their title in the 2nd semester. They need to be careful, however, as their lead is certainly in Jeopardy!

in the girls' school...

"The odd dad." "The dog is in." Morah Devorah's Pre1a girls can read all these phrases by themselves. With only five letter books completed and ten see & say words, they are well on their way to becoming proficient readers. They've learned the sounds of each letter and how to blend those sounds into words. Not only are they readers, but they are becoming mathematicians as well. The girls learned about graphing and how to read graphs in addition to the concept of more than, less than and equal. Of course, they are continuing to perfect our number writing as well. Everyday, the girls leave school with a little more knowledge than the day before!

Morah Krauss' ד' כתה has begun their exciting journey of learning ברכות יעקב. If you pass by in the hallway, you will enjoy hearing what they've memorized so far. In נביא the girls learned about the יהושע sending the מרגלים to spy out ujrhr, Next is learning about the בני ישראל crossing over the ירדן! Stay tuned!

As a kick-off to ו' כתה's Bas Mitzvah Learning Program, the girls enjoyed a trip to Morah Halberg's house in Lakewood. There they were privileged to hear inspiring words from Mrs. Penina Rosenberg. Mrs. Rosenberg encourage the girls to channel their own unique talents and strenghts towards benefitting others. She reminded them, as they each turn 12, to focus on developing themselves into a "Huge You!" Using their creativity, the girls decorated picture frames, displaying the message of "כתבם על לוח לבך?". "What will you write on the pages of your heart?" ו' כתה is anticipating much growth as they embark on learning בת ישראל in preparation of their מצוה בנות.

While most of the Chinese Auction prizes keep the girls school well entertained during the week of Chanuka, there are just too many fun activities to squeeze into a mere one week's worth of school. So, some of the special events trickle through the winter months. One of the outstanding prizes was the ever-favorite Fancy Hairdo Day, which was celebrated Friday morning with great success. 8th graders, Eta Bodlander, ably assisted by Peri Jaman, started their salon hours bright and early and managed to send home a class full of tiara-bedecked young ladies, ready to greet the Shabbos Queen!



Bulletin Board

- **Sun, Dec 16 - 12:00 Noon - RJJ Ladies Luncheon and Chinese Auction** honoring Mrs. Rachel Silber & Mrs. Fraidi Silberberg. The Guest Speaker will be Rabbi Shmuel Silber from Baltimore. The luncheon will take place at Cong. Ohr Torah 48 Edgemount Rd. in Edison.
- **Sun, Dec 16 - 11:00am - 1:00 pm - Unarmed Response to Active Shooter** - For men, women and teens age 13 and older. The instructor for the class is Eilon Even-Esh special forces of the IDF & served as Captain in the U.S.Marines. Class will be given at the Chabad House, 170 College Ave in New Brunswick. Text RSVP to 917-834-6665. For more info contact Rabbi Carlebach at 732-296-1800. \$10 adission, free with Rutgers Student ID.
- **Mon nights starting Dec 17 - 8:15pm** - A series of highly inspirational videos called **ILLUMINATE YOUR LIFE**, by Tammy Karmel, a very special woman who has inspired and changed many lives, will be presented for women only at the home of Mindy Billowitz, 98 Leslie St, Edison on 6 consecutive weeks. These videos of Mrs. Karmel, who is currently suffering from ALS and is only able to communicate with her eyes, were taken when she could still speak. The minimum \$10 tax deductible donation per showing will be used to help offset her huge financial burden. There is no commitment, one can attend any or all of the showings. Any questions please contact 917-583-2756.
- **Sat night Dec. 22** - starting at **7:30 pm** lasting approximately 3 hrs. **An Adult/Child CPR with AED class** will be offered on The class will be held in the Ohr Torah social hall. American Heart Association certification will be provided. Cost is \$50. Class size is limited. Contact Marc Hanfling docdad@aol.com for registration and information.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Dec 22 - 8:30 PM - Tiferes DVD for women** at the Siegel house, 16 Edgemount Rd. Current teleconference: "It's all in your Head! Reality Thinking and Positivity". Speakers: Rabbi Jonathan Rietti and Mrs. Zehava Lefkowitz.
- **Sun, Dec 30 - 9:30am - Highland Park Community Kollel Breakfast.** The Guests of Honor for this year's Breakfast will be Mr. & Mrs. Akiva & Sara Scott. The breakfast will iy'H take place at Cong Ohr Torah. Formal invitations to follow.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Feb 23 - Park Mikvah** presents a **Melave Malka for women**. Guest Speaker: Charlene Aminoff from @galicouturewigs. Details to follow.
- **Save the Date! Sun, March 17 - 9:30 AM - Bikur Cholim of Raritan Valley Breakfast** to be held at the Pines Manor in Edison. **Guest Speaker will be Rabbi Shay Schachter.** More details to follow.

Mazal Tov

- Mr. & Mrs. Avi Kamelhar upon Rivka's Bas Mitzvah
- Mr. & Mrs. Yankie Fried upon the birth of a grandson
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yossi Kanelsky upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son
- Rabbi & Mrs. Moishe Birnbaum upon Yosef Shlomo's Bar Mitzvah

Local News & Shiurim

- Women's Learning Initiative now offers customized Torah learning partners! For a personalized study program of your choice email your contact information to womenslearninginitiative@gmail.com
- Parsha class by Mrs. Miri Cohen: Class on Tuesday, December 18 at 9:30 AM at the home of Leah Epshteyn, 253 Lawrence Avenue, Highland Park. Babysitting is now available at the shiur; call / text Leah at 917-763-1848 to reserve.
- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No class on Sun, Dec 16; Parsha class on Mon, Dec 17 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- Shimiras Haloshon class by Mrs. Leah Drillman: Class on Mon, Dec 17 at 7:30 PM at the home of Janet Rivenson, 19 Price Drive, Edison.
- Rabbi Weiss' shiur on Tehillim: for men and women on Wed. nights at **7:30 pm**, at Eiserman home, 154 N. 10th Ave., Highland Park.