



## א. פרוגליחין חנוכה! Part 2



One of the miracles celebrated on Chanukah is the miracle of having found a flask, containing enough pure oil to burn for one day, amongst the havoc the Greeks wreaked in the Holy Temple. The Maccabees wanted to light the Menorah with sacred olive oil, and knew it would take eight days to produce a new batch. Pragmatists may have assessed that since it is apparently impossible for one days' worth of oil to remain aflame for eight days, one should either light one-eighth of the oil each day, or have the Menorah lit for fewer hours each day, or other compromising possibilities. The Maccabees no doubt knew their options, yet decided to light the Menorah in the most preferred way. This was done despite the fact that it entailed exhausting their entire supply of pure olive oil on the first day, leaving them with the probability of not being able to maintain the highest standard they so aspired to reach. But they decided to do their maximum with the resources they had, and let the Al-mighty take care of the rest. There is a deep message here for us today. How many worthwhile endeavors are cast along the wayside because we are not guaranteed total success? Yet, the result of inaction due to fear of failure, is failure by default. We can learn from the Maccabees that when there is a worthwhile goal to achieve, one should let go of immobilizing perfectionism, and instead capitalize on existing assets and do one's utmost under the circumstances.

This Chanukah, you can transform the Maccabees' legacy into your own. Choose an important goal which you have been pushing off due to fear of failure, and try to accomplish whatever you can. Don't worry whether complete success will be yours. Just give it all you've got at the moment and leave the degree of success to Hashem. For just as Hashem let one day's worth of oil burn for eight, His Divine assistance can enable you to realize your objectives - even those you believed to be beyond your grasp. And that's a real miracle.

*Written by Reb A. Kramer, Aish HaTorah*

### Week in Review

Kita Beis is flying high around the world in a most literal sense! As our world class travelers jet set across oceans and continents, they visit various countries and learn about Middos Tovos along the way. With passports in tow- Kita Beis has already traveled to France where they learned about middas hazerizus and have recently returned from England where they were introduced to the midda of savlanus. Currently, kita beis is visiting Canada where they are immersed in the middah of Kiddush Hashem. Our boys are truly developing and cultivating their middos tovos in a most exciting and relevant manner.

Ask any of our second graders and they will gladly point out the front and back door keys, as well as the shoshon of each word as they complete their "Daily Dose of Dikduk." Kita beis is becoming proficient in "breaking apart" words then putting them back together; identifying the prefix, suffix and shoshon (root word) - using words from their own Chumash psukim in Sefer Bereishis. Kita Beis is steadily sharpening their Dikduk skills as they plow through the psukim in Chumash with pride.

A sense of giddy anticipation filled the boys' school as the students counted down the minutes to 10:30. At the appointed moment, lines of smiling, eager faces followed their reb-beim down the hall to the Chanukah Mesiba.

### Parnes Hayom

A day of learning was sponsored on  
 Thursday, Dec 6, 2018 - כ"ח כסלו  
 in the 3rd grade boys  
 Dedicated  
 לזכות מאיר בן שרה  
 by Mr. & Mrs. Mayer Lati

### FYI

• Parent Teacher conferences in the boys school will be on Wed, Dec 12th. 7:30 – 9:30pm. Please call the boys school to schedule your appointments. Middle School parents can schedule appointments from 6:30pm and on.

• On Tues, Dec 25th & Tues, Jan 1st, there will be no bussing and all divisions will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

• 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.

2) Sun, Dec 30th - Father/Son Learning Program for grades 6-8. 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.  
 3) Sun, Jan 6, 2019- Boys' School Brunch. Details to follow.

• Chai Lifeline's Toy collection continues until Thurs, Dec 13th. Collection areas are available in all three Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion buildings.

• No Pirchei or Bnos this Shabbos.

• The Boys' Night Seder program at the Agudah for 7th & 8th grade boys continues Monday through Thursday after the 8:00 pm 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.

• *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.

### Parnes Hayom

A schoolwide day of learning was sponsored on  
 Monday, Dec 3, 2018 - כ"ה כסלו  
 in both the Girls' and Boys' Divisions  
 Dedicated להצלחה for  
 משה ושרה & שלמה בן ייבט

### Parnes Hayom

A day of learning was sponsored on  
 Tuesday, Dec 4, 2018 - כ"ו כסלו  
 in the Boys 4th Grade Class  
 לעילוי נשמת  
 אבא מנדל בן יחיאל ז"ל  
 Dedicated by  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Milrom & Abe

### Preschool Jottings

**YST OUR SCHOOL THAT MAKES US  
 SPARKLE  
 A GLEAMING SPARKLE  
 SPARKLING SO BRIGHT**

Dressed in sparkling costumes, the YST Preschoolers marched onto the stage singing and standing so proud! Chanukah candles were lit and the performance began. Thank you to all parents and grandparents who joined for the morning and special thank you to the mothers who lended a hand and helped dress the youngsters in their costumes and who helped put out the breakfast delicacies.

**A SPARKLE TODAY IS A SPARKLE  
 FOREVER!**

Chanukah activities are ongoing in all the classrooms - making spectacular menoros, decorating candles, coloring Chanukah items on our "wallpaper," eating latkes for lunch, singing Chanukah songs, playing whose dreidel can spin for the longest and baking Chanukah cookies.

The entire school sat down to plates of latkes, nosh and soda, followed by an inspiring student d'var Torah. Chanukah music began to play and the boys jumped up to their feet. Boys held hands of their classmates and 8th graders pitched in to help the pre 1a'ers - the beautiful dancing was a sight to behold. The cherry on top was the inter-class competitive game show with MC Rabbi Teichman. As they watched as different students and custodial staff answered Chanukah trivia in a prerecorded video, each class placed "bets" on which contestant would answer correctly. The boys cheered their teams on and filled the room with leibadig ruach. What a spirited taste the boys left the lunchroom with. Students and staff had such a great time!

The heroic example set by the Maccabees was the inspiration for Mrs. Rabinowitz's first grade boys as they delved into the concept of courage and how bravery can be expressed. They grasped the idea that a courageous person is willing to act in spite of the challenge he may face or any scared feelings he might be experiencing. On the heels of numerous class discussions and reading a slew of books on the topic, the boys pondered the times they have shown courage and wrote about their encounters with bravery. This first grade is a valiant group of boys, indeed, as they faced flu shots, first rides on a two-wheeled bicycle without training wheels, swimming in the deep end of the pool, and amusement park rides undaunted. Please stop by the bulletin board outside the first grade classroom to read their narratives.

### ***in the girls' school...***

The week of Chanuka is celebrated with a blend of extra curricular activities that run the gamut from the serious to the sensational. Each day, grades 5 - 8 gather together for davening and the singing of Hallel, followed by a mini *kumsitz* of Chanuka favorites. Each day this week, different classes are treated to the special events that they won during the Chanuka Chinese Auction, plus other extra-curricular activities in honor of the *Chag*.

On Monday, the girls in grades Pre1A - 4 learned how to melt crayons to custom design their own decorative *Shamash* taper. Watching each girl make careful decisions about color choices and wrapping options was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to practice respectful discourse and share ideas in a comfortable setting. Meanwhile, Morah Rubinfeld and the 5th grade created an adorable class music video that highlighted each girl's personality.

The 2nd graders were very busy this week working on their Chanukah wall mural. This joint effort is an opportunity for camaraderie and great teamwork. The girls LOVE the challenge of picking beautiful colors and creating such a magnificent product. Whoever walked by their classroom ooh-ed and aah-ed over their progress during the week!

It was a huge treat to have Morah Govhari back in YST for a truly thought-provoking workshop featuring all kinds of Chanukah-related artifacts. In a brilliantly designed "gallery walk," the girls were challenged to connect all the items on display to their individual packets of פסוקים, phrases and מאמרי חז"ל. It was delightful to watch the wheels of the girls' brains turning as they made the right connections. Yes! The full-size window screen was a hint to פרטומי ניסא and the Hebrew-English dictionary on display connected to תרגום שבעים. And, of course, the girls were tickled by their contrasting class photos that exemplified הזמן הזה בימים ההם! Meanwhile, the 1st graders felt very honored to be visited by Rabbi Klugman, their very special Guest Story teller (thank you Backenroth family!) and were enthralled by his presentation. Very special thanks to Mrs. Gross (and her mother!) who did a lovely beading activity with the 6th graders.

The highlight of the Chanuka celebrations in school revolve around the annual grade 5 - 8 Chagiga! The YST lunchroom was transformed in accordance to the theme of בית תפילתי into a gala venue, a delicious supper was served and the audience ready! Morah Adina Neustadt started the evening with a meaningful D'var Torah, drawing a direct parallel from the oil in its flask to the soul in its body, and what lessons we can learn from that. Then, after weeks of patient practice, under the inspired direction of our own talented 8th graders, the girls join for a magical showcase of performances that includes each and every student in the participating classes. The menu includes an audio-visual presentation, drama and choir, acrobatics, song-dance and ensemble. Every performance was wonderful,

each girl glittered, and the wonderful glow of spending precious time with classmates to celebrate a night of Chanuka together makes the evening so precious that many, many alumnae come back to reconnect with old friends and former teachers. Hats off to Morah Frankl who co-ordinated the multitude of details and kudos to the 8th graders for investing themselves to make the Chagiga of תשנ"ט a stupendous success.

## **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.
- **Motzai Shabbos, Dec 22 - 8:30 PM - Tiferes DVD for women** at the Siegel house, 16 Edgemount Rd. Current teleconference: "Shalom Bayis - Getting it Right" with Mrs. Rivka Katz.
- **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**

- **Rabbi & Mrs. Moishe Birnbaum upon Yosef Shlomo's Bar Mitzvah**
- **Mr. & Mrs. Ira Rosen upon the engagement of their daughter Rikki to Eliyahu Muscat.**
- **Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Winger upon the birth of a son**

## **Catch 'em Being Good**

**Dear Morah Minah:**

**Aviva was having a hard time putting on her pajamas. She was getting a bit frustrated, but then she said "I AM CAPABLE!" and she figured it out! Way to go!**

**Thank you to Morah Rochel and Morah Faige for their amazing lessons for life!**

**- Mommy Ledvina!**

## **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](mailto:womenslearninginitiative@gmail.com)**
- Parsha class by Mrs. Miri Cohen: Class on Tuesday, December 11 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 9; Parsha class on Mon, Dec 10 at 8:00 PM at Cong. Ohr Torah.
- Shimiras Haloshon class by Mrs. Leah Drillman: For status of class on Monday, Dec. 10, please call Ellen at 201-410-1893 or 732-777-6787.
- 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.