

FYI

• Chanukah is a wonderful opportunity to show our *hakaras hatov* to the teachers and staff of YST who give tirelessly to our children everyday! As in years past, we are hoping for 100% participation from our families. Please see attached flyer for details or go to ystnj.org. The deadline is Fri, Nov. 23rd.

• Parent Teacher conferences in the girls school will be on Tues, November 27th. Appointments are being scheduled. If you have a preference for earlier or later time frames, please email: cbrudny@ystnj.org.

• Save the Dates:

- 1) Wed, Dec 5th - Girls Chanukah Chagiga
- 2) Motzai Shabbos, Dec 22 - The PTA "Around the Table" Program is back with Mrs. Brudny at 8:00 PM in the Preschool Building. This program is for women only.
- 3) Sun, Dec 30th - Father/Son Learning Program for grades 6-8.
- 4) Sun, January 6, 2019- Boys' School Brunch. Details to follow.

- Once again, a women's only lifeguarding course is being offered. Please see attached flyer for details.
- Chai Lifeline's Toy collection is in full swing. Please send in a gift for a sick child, any price range, and remember: Toys must be brand new and should not be gift wrapped. Collection areas are available in all three Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion buildings starting Monday, Nov. 19th through Thursday, December 13th.
- Pirchei (Grades 1-5) and Pirchei Beis Medrash (Grades 6-8) take place each Shabbos from 3:15 to 4:15 at the Agudah. There is a minyan for Mincha before Pirchei at 2:50.
- Avos Ubanim starts this Motzei Shabbos, Nov 10th from 6:45pm-7:45pm at the Agudah.
- Bnos this Shabbos, Pre-1A through 5th grade are invited to join at the Agudah from 2:15- 3:15.
- 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.

Parnes Hayom

A day of learning was sponsored on
 Friday, Nov 9, 2018 - א' כסלו -
 in the 7th grade boys class
 in memory of
Esther Bas Victoria, a"h
 by Mr. Freddie Tzadka



Parsha Points



If We Are Persistent We Will Succeed

In this weeks *Parashah* we read about the episode of the wells. The Torah tells us that "The servants of Yitzchok **dug** in the valley and they found there a well of fresh water. And they (the shepherds of Grar) **quarreled**... And they **dug** another well and they **quarreled** And they **dug** another well and they did not quarrel over it". The Chofetz Chaim points out that although the Torah does not elaborate on stories, still, when there is a lesson to be learnt, even small and seemingly inconsequential details are expounded upon. With this the Chofetz Chaim explains the importance of the details of this episode of the wells. It comes to teach us a valuable lesson regarding our own personal success, especially in learning Torah and areas of *Avodas Hashem*. These *Pesukim* teach us that we must keep on trying, even if we are not successful at the beginning. If we are persistent, we will succeed.

Week in Review

It was a week to remember in Rabbi Gutman's 5th grade, starting with the presentation of the גמרות on Sunday with parents, grandparents and friends that came to join in this amazing שמחה. Rabbi Herskowitz welcomed everyone and shared an amazing story of how Reb Shmuel Birenbaum זצ"ל asked אביי and רבא for their help. After 50 years of learning their תורה and not asking for anything, he requested they help make his ברכה become a reality. Rabbi Gutman spoke about not limiting oneself when it comes to learning Torah, and the significance of continuous hard work to gain the necessary "Torah Muscles" to become a גבול תורה. R' Komet שליט"א, who is also the father of Moshe Komet, inspired everyone as he told the story of the קיש מהר"ם and how he persevered through years of not understanding his learning even though he put forth tremendous efforts. Eventually he went on to become the great גדול that he was. R' Komet then handed each boy to his own beautifully wrapped gift, their first גמרא. The students unwrapped them and together recited the משנה and then proceeded to be taught their first question and answer in their גמרא. This gathering was a tremendous שמע שמים כבוד that is sure to leave an indelible impression on the children's minds. On Monday they jumped right into the התלמוד עם with the learning of the first גמרא. By Tuesday the classroom was already like a בית המדרש with the give and take and questions and answers of true budding תלמידי חכמים. There are no words to describe the עלייה that the class has experienced this week.

A large percentage of Rabbi Neiman's 7th graders are well into their "Talmud B'yado". This program, which follows the model of the nationally acclaimed "והערב נא" program, offers Bnei Torah the ability to taste the sweetness of their learning. Through much חזרה, the learner gets to really know and appreciate his learning. This voluntary program had boys review all their learning to date, up to 14 times(!!!), earning them many chances to win exciting prizes at the end-of-program Chinese Auction. Past תלמידים reported having completed the entire מסכת dozens of times, which fostered a genuine connection and ownership of the מסכת.

Preschool Jottings

WHEW! WHEW! Move over! Watch out! Here comes something big and red! The nursery children welcomed Firefighter Gershen and Firefighter Miguel and their really big fire engine. The children watched the firemen don their fire gear, climb up the ladder and even go into the bucket that took them onto the roof of our building! They were so friendly and allowed each of the children to explore inside and outside the truck. Thank you to Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Daled danced into the Kindergarten class this week! And there go all the children....dddancing dddown the hallways! The children are graceful and coordinated especially when they dddoo their favorite new dddance of ושאתם מים בששון ממעיני הישועה. The children formed the letter *Daled* out of pretzel sticks and whoa! The *Daleds* tasted dddedicious!

You would never believe how preschoolers can think out of the box! They were on a mission to bring in an item for show 'n tell. It had to resemble the shape/form of the עצי חיים of the *Sefer Torah*. We admired pencils, pens, straws, paper towel holders, pickles, q-tips, hot glue stick and branches. The children were so proud to stand on the stage and talk about their item.



The main objective is clear; with a lot of הדרה – a sense of joy and accomplishment develops from your learning.

YST Boys experienced the thrill of being part of the democratic process as they voted in a close race for school president and vice president on Election Day. The eighth grade, led by the candidates, campaigned in the hallways, debated the issues, and added to the school spirit with *achdus*, positivity, and pride. Congratulations to President Tzvi Eisner and V.P. Mordechai Schiffman!

5th grade clubs are in full swing on Monday afternoons with woodworking, cooking, principles of building structures, and wooden kits. Photos, recipes, and updates will be sent to the 5th grade parents so they can enjoy along with their sons.

7th grade has recently been learning that aside from being a precise science, math is so practical! When playing basketball, many are interested in ascertaining their percentage of shots scored. In a game where a player has succeeded in making 8 out of 13 shots, the boys understand how to use fractions (8/13) and then convert them into decimals to get their shot percentage: 61%! (That's pretty good!) Now this procedure is not just arcane, banal math trivia; it is useful!

in the girls' school...

Two days of *Rosh Chodesh* give the girls double the opportunity to celebrate. . . and who doesn't look forward to *Chodesh Kislev*!! Our talented G.O. girls, Tehila, Peshy, Chani and Ahuva, had grades 4 - 8 thoroughly involved in a multi-step Chanuka Word Find game that was fun, exciting and educational! On Friday, Morah Moller's 3rd graders led a hands-on workshop on creating *dreidels* out of toothpicks, with jelly graders to hold the corners together. Excitement is beginning to mount as *Chagiga* tryouts are underway as well. Stay tuned!

Morah Kamin's 7th grade *Parsha* participants are as cool as cucumbers . . . Over the weeks, they have gathered points for active participation and engagement in revisiting the very beloved *Parshios* of Sefer *B'raishis*. On Thursday, the girls redeemed their points by ordering customized salads from a delectable menu of veggies, dressings and toppings. The greater the point value, the wider the choices and the girls were proud and delighted to gain both greater בקיאות and enjoy a healthful lunch!

Mrs. Chait's fifth grade writers were charged with the task of creating clear persuasive paragraphs, and due to their effort, they did an amazing job! During this assignment, students focused on using proper topic and concluding sentences, as well as establishing good sentence flow. Please enjoy Sarah Malka Shenkman's paragraph about why fifth graders deserve an extra fifteen minutes of recess:

"Fifth graders in Y.S.T. should have an extra fifteen minutes of recess for the following reasons. First, they sit all day in a hot, stuffy classroom and should have more time to run around and exercise. Second, they also have the longest school hours and need to give their brain and hands a break. Third, they will work harder and better if they have more time to relax. In conclusion, fifth graders in Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion should have an extra fifteen minutes of recess."

Mrs. Epshteyn's seventh grade Language Arts class has been discussing bold actions: we've read and written about sailing trips gone awry, debated how far a parent should go in supporting a kid's dream of climbing Mount Everest, and learned what it means to "fly too close to the sun." The eighth graders were on the edge of their seats as they finished reading the horror classic "The Monkey's Paw" and discussed its universal themes of being careful what you wish for, and happy with what you have!

Catch 'em Being Good

Dear Mrs. Brudny,

During our Shabbos group at the Agudah, I sometimes ask the children *Parshah* questions. This past Shabbos, I was so impressed with how well the boys and girls knew the *Parshah*! Ahuva and Yonah Bennett, Ezra Berger, Yael Shiffman, Gavi Rothstein, Dovid Eisner, and Tali Zaslavsky all knew SO much about Yitzchok and Rivka and Eliezer and Besuel, how Eliezer met Rivka and so much more. I was so impressed!! - Mrs. C. Rothstein

Dear Mrs. Brudny:

Racheli (Sorotzkin) had a dentist appointment where they had to do a lot of work. When the dentist saw how well behaved Racheli was, she said "I'm going to give you guys an award! Jewish kids are by far the most well behaved. I think I want to send my daughter to your Jewish school!"

Hurray for all the YST patients of Smile Express for making such a big *Kiddush Hashem*! - Mrs. F. Sorotzkin

Bulletin Board

- **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.

Writer's Corner

The 2nd grade girls are busy "exploring" the country and city, outer space, the desert and camping ground through their Scott Foresman reading program. Please read and enjoy 2 samples of their exploration writings.

I had so much fun going camping. I went on a hike and I saw birds and bears in the forest. I loved when we roasted marshmallows and then we ate them. Before we went to sleep, we looked at the stars and I saw the big dipper. I smelled the woods and the fire. Then we went into the tent and ate hotdogs for supper. I ate one and fell asleep. I really love camping. - Ahuva Bennett

I can't wait to visit the desert! When I am there, I will travel by camel. I think I will hear rattlesnakes hissing. I hope to see some of the cactuses that grow in the desert. I know I would enjoy visiting the desert. - Tehillah Shenkman

Mazal Tov

- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Lasar upon Tzipora's Bas Mitzvah
 - Rabbi & Mrs. Shlomo Nusbaum upon the birth of a daughter
 - Rabbi & Mrs. Dov Mueller upon the birth of a son
 - Mr. & Mrs. Eli Reisman upon the birth of a son
- Rabbi & Mrs. Mordechai Tropp upon the birth of a granddaughter

Library Additions

- *Pinchy & Itchy 5 - Mystery in the Cellar* in honor of Batya Bracha Gertler's 6th Birthday
 - *My Family is Moving* in honor of Rochel Komet's 6th Birthday
 - *Kind Little Rivka* in honor of Rachel Margalit Lee's 7th Birthday
- The following books were donated to the school library by Dr. & Mrs. Aryeh Farkas:
The Accidental Detective, F is for Friendship, 23 Under 1 Roof, The Detective Club, 23 Under 1 Roof, The New House, and Hanna's Harvest

Local News & Shiurim

- Central Jersey Floor Hockey League (CJFHL) is back this winter. 12-week instructional hockey program taking place at RPRY on Sunday afternoons from December to March. Open to boys in grades 3-6. Visit www.JewishYouthHockey.com or email Dzel81@gmail.com.
- **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**
- Rebbitzin Eichenstein's classes for women: No class on Nov 11 or Nov 12.
- Rabbi Weiss' shiur on Tehillim: for men and women on Wednesday nights at 8:30 pm, at Eiserman home, 154 N. 10th Ave., Highland Park.