

TEAM Spirit

**TORAS EMES
ACADEMY OF MIAMI**
Samuel Aba & Sisel Klurman
Elementary School
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Friday, October 16, 2009
Candle Lighting 6:35 PM

פרשת בראשית
שבת מברכים

★ STAR STUDENTS ★

Shira Adar★T.S.
Rebecca Balgley★S.S.
Zev Berkowitz★T.S.
Racheli Breier★S.S.
Shalom Deutsch★S.S.
Shmuel Chaim Dreyfuss★T.S.
Raizy Dudovitz★T.S.

Raquel Elgavi★T.S.
Yehuda Gassner★T.S.
Yochanan Gittleson★S.S.
Yecheil Goldman★T.S.
Yonatan Kalendarev★S.S.
Tamar Kanter★S.S.
Abby Laks★T.S.

Shmuel Len★S.S.
Tehila Palgon★S.S.
Zohar Reboh★T.S.
Benyamin Rubinov★S.S.
Eli Sandhaus★T.S.
Mindel Weinberger★T.S.
Sara Winter★S.S.

THE CALENDARS ARE HERE!!!!

The annual calendars have arrived! Copies were sent home on Thursday with your youngest child. Please be sure to check their backpacks for your calendar.

THE WEEK AHEAD

A full week of school!

Thursday, October 22 - Mini assemblies and school photos.

While we wait for our auditorium to be available for assemblies, we will gather all the classes for a short program and a group photo of everyone in each division. (individual and class photos will be taken in early December).

OFFICIAL UNIFORMS ARE REQUIRED ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22.

PROJECT DERECH - BACK ON THE PATH!

Year two of our 2 year program to enhance Kovod and Yirah - Honor and Respect for parents and teachers, begins this coming week. Look for information and materials next Erev Shabbos.

HASMODA PROJECT

We are proud of our many students who participated in the Sukkos Hasmoda Project. If you have not already done so, the Hasmoda sheets should be filled out and returned to the Torah Studies teachers by Monday.

LEV L'ACHIM

The children did such a good job raising money for P'eylim Lev L'Achim, that we are still tallying up the collections! If you have coupons and/or money to send in to school please do so immediately. Stay tuned to next week's newsletter for the final tally!

CHUTES AND LADDERS IN THE LUNCHROOM?

This week we started a new program in the lunchroom for the boys and girls - our very own version of "Chutes and Ladders"! After bentsching, each class has an opportunity to answer a question correctly. They then get a chance to roll the dice. Whenever any class reaches 100, they will receive a mystery prize. Some of our classes have already gotten close to the halfway point. Currently, 4B is leading the boys and 5G is in first place for the girls. Good luck to all our classes!



BRUCHIM HABAIM

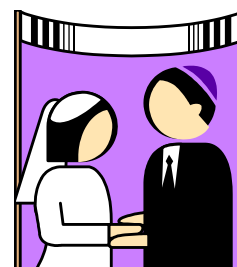
To our new assistant teachers who have joined the staff since the beginning of the school year:
Mrs. Devorah Lehrer - 5th Grade Boys Secular Studies
Miss Liba Levin - 3rd Grade Boys Torah Studies and 1st Grade Girls Secular Studies
Miss Tova Wulwick - 5th Grade Girls Secular Studies

REFUAH SHELAIMA

- Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- Chaya Yachet Elka *bas* Chana Rochel
- Bina *bas* Chaya
- Liba *bas* Fayga
- Mordechai *ben* Ora Yehudis
- Yosef *ben* Simcha



To Rabbi and Mrs. Yisroel Niman and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Yechiel.



To Rabbi and Mrs. Mordechai Fried and family on the engagement of their son Moshe to Miriam Novak of Far Rockaway.

FRESH FLOWERS FOR FRIDAY

The Rohr Middle School students will be selling beautiful floral bouquets for Shabbos at both ECE and Elementary carpools, on a weekly basis. Please be on time for carpool to ensure availability and selection. Your purchase will support the eighth grade boys' fundraising efforts on behalf of their graduation trip.



GENERAL MILLS BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

To date, the General Mills Boxtops for Education Program is going great! Please remember that the next deadline is October 30 so we would appreciate having the boxtops in the office by Monday, October 26.

Collect and save all of the boxtops and send them in to school with your children. Please bear in mind, the more we collect, the more we are able to do for our school! Grandparents and neighbors love to help collect...don't forget to remind them as well. The Boxtops for Education project is ongoing, so please keep collecting after the October 30 deadline. We can continue to benefit throughout the year.



TORAS EMES
ACADEMY OF MIAMI
 Samuel Aba & Sisel Klurman
 Elementary School

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

Rabbi Noam Grossman
Assistant Principal

Dr. Deborah Lerer
Secular Studies Principal

Mrs. Naomi Bloom
Early Childhood Director

Erev Shabbos Parashas Bereishis 5770
 Oct. 16, 2009

Dear Parents,

A school year consists of approximately 180 school days. A quick calculation reveals that more than half of the days in a year are non-school days! I raise this point to emphasize how very important it is to make the most of the next few weeks and months, in which most of the school days fall.

Summer vacations and trips and *Yom Tov* inspiration and bonding time are wonderful and indispensable, opportunities for our children to blossom. But now the school year really begins in earnest. We may moan and groan as we wake up early each morning to a myriad of responsibilities and chores, but the daily routines of our lives are where we build or break our life's mission. Academic growth and development is the result of consistent, focused effort on a day-by-day and week-by-week basis. This is especially true of children, who grow each day, imperceptibly, but grow they do. Though this growth isn't recognized day-by-day, no one would ever let their child go a single day without proper nourishment for their body. This should be true of their emotional and academic nourishment as well.

We are entering the time of year that provides the greatest opportunity for our children to develop *Midos* of responsibility and to grow academically. We need to work hard to help them develop good habits that will maximize that growth. Homework needs to be completed consistently and brought back to class as required. Arriving at school on time, well fed, in clean clothes with all necessary materials are keys to and signs of a successful student. This does not come so easily to all parents, all of the time. However, we need to understand how important this routine is in the ultimate success and self-esteem of our child. For those of us for whom this is difficult – we need to recognize how important it is to overcome this challenge and seek guidance and exert greater effort in organizing our household, bed-times and schedule.

No one claims that the only road to a successful, happy life is through academic achievement. On the other hand, I don't think there is an educator to be found who does not know that an organized, put together, responsible student is the profile of a child most likely to succeed in school, regardless of their intelligence. Considering the multiples of 180 day school years that lie ahead for your precious child, the investment in effective routines is a guaranteed winner.

Have a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
 Principal

chosen words

Effective Prayer

With Love

Part of a Series on Preparing for Prayer

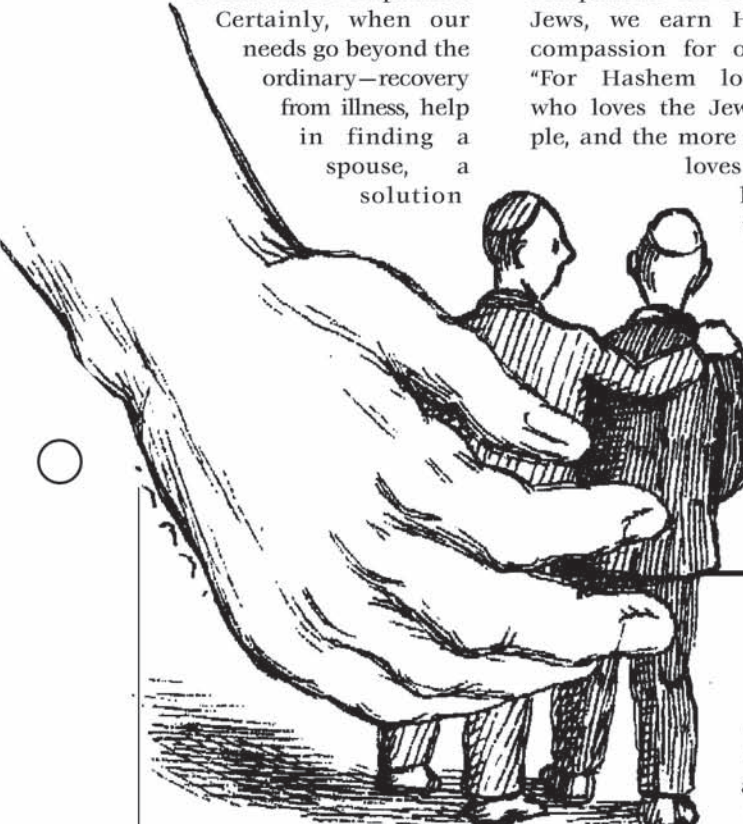
Every moment, our every breath and heartbeat depends on Hashem's compassion.

Certainly, when our needs go beyond the ordinary—recovery from illness, help in finding a spouse, a solution

you get.

When we show love and compassion for our fellow Jews, we earn Hashem's compassion for ourselves. "For Hashem loves one who loves the Jewish people, and the more a person

loves his fellow Jew, the greater is the



"Opening your heart to others opens Heaven to your tefillah."

to financial problems—our need for Hashem's compassion is even more apparent. By what merit, we may wonder, do we deserve that these miracles, major and minor, be performed on our behalf?

The one sure source of that merit is love of one's fellow Jew. "V'ahavta l'reiacha kamocho," "Love your neighbor as you love yourself," is the key to opening Hashem's store of compassion. That is because Heavenly justice works on the principal of "middah k'neged middah," "measure for measure." What you give,

ing as we wish. The challenge arises when someone hurts us, disappoints us or acts in a manner that needs to be addressed and corrected. Everyone—parents, teachers, children—face such situations every day at home, school or work. The Torah teaches that reproach should always be given in a way that it will be accepted, but how does one find that way?

Hashem Himself teaches us how to approach a wrongdoer. "Where is Hevel, your brother?" he asks Kayin after he kills his

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

love that Hashem showers upon him." (Mesillas Yeshorim 19) That is why the Arizal recommended that, before davening, one should state aloud, "I hereby accept upon myself the mitzvah, 'V'ahavta l'reiacha kamocho'"

Shabbos Table Discussion: What are specific ways to build a feeling of Ahavas Yisrael in yourself? How can tefillah itself help foster this feeling?

—CCHF

Personal Growth

Open Lines

It's easy to be calm and kind when everyone is behaving

brother. The question, Rashi explains, was meant to keep the lines of communication open with Kayin, to give him a chance to repent. Were he to feel crushed by Hashem's wrath, he'd have no avenue to return.

Kayin in essence killed off one quarter of the world's population. But even for this grave crime, Rashi points out that Hashem came to Kayin with calm words, with a question, not an accusation. By emulating Hashem's approach, we preserve the dignity of those we reprove. It's that self-respect that ultimately makes the person feel capable and worthy of fulfilling his potential.

—CCHF

Better Relationships

Overheard

You're at the wedding of a friend's son. Some young men are reminiscing about high school, and you hear your son's name mentioned. "He was the worst," says one young man. "He was always in outer space." Then he tells a few anecdotes to illustrate the point, much to the group's delight.

What would you think? No doubt, you'd be hurt and ashamed for your son, angry at the people laughing, and furious at the person ridiculing him. How different would it have been to overhear the speaker talking to your son privately, with concern, saying, "I know you had trouble concentrating back in high school. How are you doing now? Are you still learning?"

We all have a Father who is always listening. He, too, suffers when He hears the names of any of His children disparaged in front of others. The more His constant presence becomes a reality to us, the more likely we are to watch what we say about His children, not just because Hashem sees the aveirah, but because He feels His children's pain.

continued on back



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Dedicated in the z'chus of a Refuah Shleima for Chaya Yachet Elka bas Chana Rachel

The Good Way

Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai, in Pirkei Avos, tells his five students to go out into the world and determine "which is the good way to which man should cling." Each was impressed by a different trait, which he felt was the key to one's ability to live a life of Torah and mitzvos. This is the final segment of a five-part series examining these traits.

Said Rabbi Elazar: A Good Heart

A good heart, a "lev tov," is a heart that seeks out what is good, loves what is good and intuitively grasps the good in every situation. This, said Yochanan ben Zakkai, is the trait that encompasses all others. A person who clearly perceives

what is good and has the innate desire to head in that direction has the roadmap to spiritual achievement. He is someone who won't get sidetracked or confused by competing priorities.

"The Torah sees the heart as the seat of freedom, from which our decisions are made."

Given the heart's emotional nature, void of intellect or logic, it would seem to be the wrong vessel to carry out our most important spiritual function. But the Torah sees the heart as the seat of freedom, the location in which our decisions are made. Ultimately, when all the facts have been processed through our brains, it's our hearts that decide.

But how can one cultivate a good heart? How can one be sure that the decisions his heart makes will be good

ones? By "educating" the heart, though performance of mitzvos. Every time a person does a mitzvah, he is training his heart in goodness, teaching it to see the good and strengthening its desire to do good.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What is the difference between being a "nice person" and having a "good heart?" Adapted from "Ethics From Sinai," by Rabbi Irving Bunim with permission from Feldheim Publishers

The Best Response

Reb Yisrael Salanter, the renowned father of the Mussar movement, was known for a fear of Heaven that pervaded his every thought. One day in Vilna he spent quite a while in idle conversation with a Jew on the street, even telling jokes to get him to laugh. As this seemed to be greatly out of character, one of his disciples worked up the courage to question his rebbi's actions. Reb Yisrael responded that this Jew was depressed and embittered. There was no better response than to take the sting out of his sadness.

Overheard

continued from front

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What might you have said or done if you were in the group listening to the stories about the poor student?

Adapted from "Chofetz Chaim: A Lesson a Day," By Rabbi S. Finkelman and Rabbi Y. Berkowitz, a project of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation and Mesorah Publications

Dedications

לע"נ

ר' יוסף בן משה הלוי ז"ל

Mr. Joseph Rosenberger z"l

גלב"ע ד' חשוון תשנ"ט

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

We gratefully acknowledge our generous sponsors for making this publication possible.

The Holiest Tzitzis

Rav Mordechai, who lived in Neschitz in the 1700s, longed for some tangible connection to Eretz Yisroel. He decided to obtain a piece of wool from the Holy Land; the fabric would be made into tzitzis.

He saved his money and, undeterred by the difficulties, arranged to obtain the wool. When at last it arrived, he entrusted the fabric to his student to be fashioned into tzitzis. The student, in his nervousness, didn't notice that the fabric was folded in half. He cut the opening for the head, and to his horror, discovered that the garment now had two holes.

In misery he went to the Rav to confess his mistake. Tears filled the Rav's eyes, but he quickly wiped them away and smiled kindly. "Obviously," he said, "these tzitzis were meant to have two holes. One to put my head through, and one to test my control over my emotions."

Adapted from "Positive Parenting," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, M.D. and Ursula Schwartz Ph.D. with permission from Mesorah Publications

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HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board

Rav Naftoli Jaeger, shlita, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor

Chosen Words

Editor: Shaindy Appelbaum

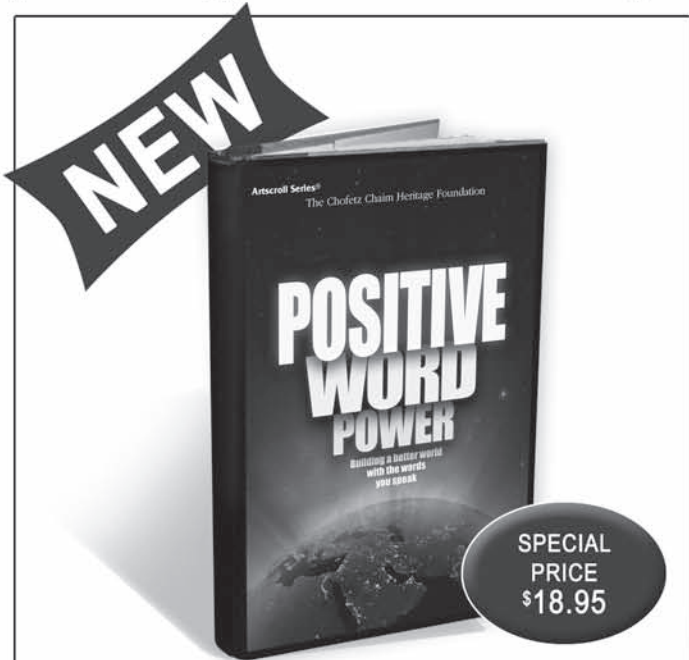
Writer: Chana Nestlebaum

Graphic Artist: Heidi Ort

Illustrator: Giora Carmi

We welcome your comments!

Letters to the Editor
Chosen Words/CCHF
361 Spook Rock Road
Suffern, NY 10901



Our words are our most valuable – and most powerful – possession. **Positive Word Power**, based on the classic work, *The Power of Words*, by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, shows us how to use our words to nurture and uplift. In beautifully crafted daily lessons that use everyday, real-life situations, **Positive Word Power** examines the terrifying effects of on'a's devarim, hurtful speech. The book explores our on-the-spot daily interactions, and helps us build within ourselves the power to enrich our relationships, to avoid being a source of pain and darkness, and instead, light up the world we create all around us

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