

TEAM.

Spirit

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



Friday, November 13, 2009
Candle Lighting 5:16 PM

פרשת חיי שרה
שבת מברכים

★ STAR STUDENTS ★

Yosef Alber★T.S.
Yaakov Benchetrit★T.S.
Noah Chemtov★T.S.
Yossi Cohen★S.S.
Shmuel Feigenbaum★T.S.
Uriel Heiney★T.S.
Naomi Kalchman★S.S.

Dovid Kaplan★S.S.
Atara Laks★T.S.
Miriam Lesnik★T.S.
Tamar Mindick★ T.S.
Avi Nash★ T.S.
Avital Nightingale★ T.S. & S.S.

Shmuel Dov Palgon★S.S.
Shoshana Sapirman★T.S.
Mindel Weinberger★S.S.
Meital Weisskoff★S.S.

We note with profound sorrow the
untimely passing of our beloved
Mrs. Jeanette Levine, A'H.

Mrs. Levine, friend and mentor to scores of our parents and friends in the community, was a Toras Emes/Toras Chaim Board Member for nearly 20 years, was PTA President for several years, was honored at our Annual Dinner, and most importantly was the elementary school office manager and editor of this newsletter, for nearly 10 years. The format and style of our weekly newsletter continues to bear her imprint. We hope and pray the family finds Nechama (comfort) as they confront this tragic loss.

In addition to the Levaya held in South Florida last night, there will be a New York Levaya at JFK Airport, Cell Phone Parking Lot on Motzei Shabbos at 9PM. Kvura will take place in Har Menuchos in Eretz Yisroel on Sunday evening.

Shiva will take place at the Levine home 3950 N. 50th Ave., HWD. The family members not accompanying the Aron have begun Shiva and will get up Thursday morning. Those accompanying the Aron to Eretz Yisroel return Monday afternoon and conclude Sunday morning Nov. 22.

*Yeshiva Toras Chaim
Toras Emes Academy*

Annual Dinner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010
JUNGLE ISLAND

Guests of Honor

DR. & MRS. NORMAN BLOOM

Kesser Shem Tov Award

MR. & MRS. DAVID GOLDIS

Rabbinic Leadership Award

RABBI & MRS. NEAL TURK

PROGRESS REPORTS & PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Today marks the end of the first marking period. Your children's progress reports should arrive by the end of next week. In order to meet with your child(ren)'s teachers, please be sure to make an appointment by following our online instructions (sent to you via e-mail and hard copy on Tuesday) or by calling Mrs. Tamir in the boys' office at 305-948-3338.



REFUAH SHELAIMA

- Miriam *bas* Malka
- Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- Bina *bas* Chaya
- Libba *bas* Fayga
- Tova *bas* Rochel
- Mordechai *ben* Ora Yehudis
- Yosef *ben* Simcha
- Yossi Yosef *ben* Etti Esther

NICHUM AVEILIM

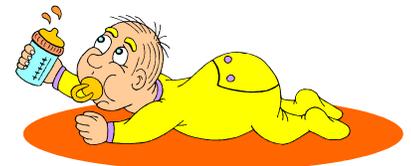
To Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchak Selmar and family on the loss of their grandson, Chaim - son of our alumnus Yaakov and Breindy Selmar.

PROJECT DERECH

In project DERECH, we continue to work and improve the way that we speak. This week's DERECH topic was reviewing the concepts of saying **please** and **thank you**. Please review this topic at home and continue to send in those notes. Thank you so much!

MAZEL TOV

To Mr. and Mrs. Ari Sipper and family on the birth of a son.



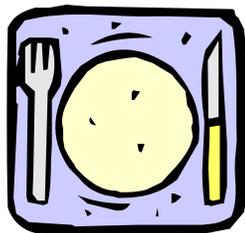
To Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Lehrfield and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their son, our alumnus, Menachem and Sarahle Lehrfield **and** special Mazel Tov to great grandparents Rabbi and Mrs. David Lehrfield.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Gittleson and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their son, our alumnus, Gabi and Sarah Gittleson.

To Rabbi and Mrs. Gedalya Glatt and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their son, our alumnus, Yehoshua Dov and Chaya Glatt.

HOT LUNCH CYCLE

Forms for the second cycle of the Hot Lunch Program were sent home on Tuesday. Cycle II will begin on Monday, November 30. Forms, accompanied by payment, must be returned to school by **Wednesday, November 18**.



To Rabbi and Mrs. Heshy Riesel and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their daughter, our alumna, Malky and Meir Newman.

Delaware and the blue fountain pen represents Pennsylvania. Get it? This is how we memorized the thirteen colonies. Don't you wish you were in fifth grade too?!!

By,
Nechama Bodkins, Tamar Kanter, Miriam Chesal, Shoshana Shapiro, Abby Laks, Shira Steinberg, Chaya Glazer, Alex Brody

FIFTH GRADE DAVENING TRIP

This Sunday, fifth grade boys celebrated another terrific month of davening. We celebrated with a gala breakfast at Jerusalem pizza. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their well earned trip and their davening is as great as ever. The boys sat quietly for two Divrei Torah and made a tremendous Kiddush Hashem! When we left, Dani, the restaurant owner, commented on how great the boys were. Thank you to Mr. Eli Deutsch for chaperoning the trip and to all our sponsors!

ARROWSMITH TRIP TO BOOMERS

On Tuesday, the Arrowsmith students enjoyed a trip to Boomers, which they earned after many hours of productive exercises. They spent the afternoon riding go-carts and doing other fun and exciting activities. Thank you to Rabbi Rotenberg for accompanying the students on this trip. They had a great time on this short, but fun, break from classroom routine.

A NEW WAY!

The fifth grade girls have found a new way to master the first thirteen colonies of the United States:

Let your imagination flow. Imagine an empty room with a delicate chinaware plate and smack in the middle is a blue fountain pen. The delicate chinaware plate represents

3B HANDS-ON LEARNING

3B has been having a blast as we learn! We learned many new concepts and topics and did many related activities. A unit on the solar system, focusing on our planet Earth, culminated with the making of a model solar system out of paper mache. We also learned about volcanoes, the Ring Of Fire, and built and erupted our own volcanoes. Additionally, our reading club is a growing! Our new members each presented a book review on their favorite book and had the opportunity to do so in the costume of their favorite character. We'll keep you posted as we continue learning with such excitement. Please see attached photos of our class in action.

PRE-CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE

All women are invited to a pre-Chanukah boutique in the Toras Emes Social Hall on Wednesday evening, December 2, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. If you are able to volunteer, or would like to exhibit your wares, please call Mrs. Bryna Roth at 786.252.1074 or Mrs. Devorah Lehrer at 646.238.4877.

3B HANDS-ON LEARNING



Guests of Honor

Dr. and Mrs. Norman and Naomi Bloom

With deep appreciation, it is our *kavod* to present this year's distinguished
Guests of Honor - Dr. and Mrs. Norman and Naomi Bloom.

True pioneers of the North Miami Beach community, the Blooms have been part of our "family" since its very inception. The schools that coalesced to form Toras Emes Academy in the 1970s had been beneficiaries of the Blooms' generous support, guidance and leadership. Dr. Bloom served as President of Toras Emes in those early years and in fact is one of three signatories on the original TEAM Articles of Incorporation. In addition to helping found our school, the Blooms were founders and remain leaders of the Young Israel of Greater Miami, the first major shul in North Miami Beach.

Mrs. Naomi Bloom and our Early Childhood Education division (ECE) are one and the same.

A most successful and effective director for 30 years, she has guided the ECE (which has tripled in size) from one small facility on Northwest 2nd Avenue to its present location on our beautiful campus. Both locally and nationwide, the ECE enjoys a reputation as an outstanding program with dedicated teachers, appreciative parents and happy children. The love and devotion showered upon her little charges is Mrs. Bloom's crowning achievement, thus creating a Torah environment where children thrive and flourish.

In addition to their stellar careers, Dr. and Mrs. Bloom have been blessed with four wonderful children, all of whom are accomplished professionals in their own right, and are truly the jewels in their crown -
 eldest daughter Adina, husband Adam and their 4 children (Beit Shemesh),
 daughter Miriam, husband Reuven and their 3 children (Silver Spring, Maryland),
 daughter Yael, husband Donny and their 4 children (Teaneck, NJ)
 and son Rabbi Daniel, wife Ali and their 4 children (New Rochelle, New York).

We congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Bloom, their children and their entire extended *nishpacha* and look forward to a most meaningful and successful event.

GOOD SHABBOS!

Library News



Dear Parents,

We would like to give you the opportunity to recognize your child's birthday by donating a book to the Toras Emes Library. Books can also be donated in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion.

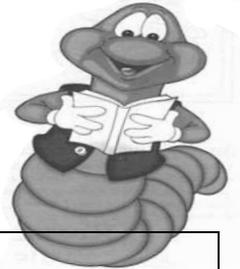


For an \$18 donation, a new library book will be purchased and a bookplate placed in the front of the book inscribed with the person's name and occasion. **Library Birthday** books will first be presented to the children to be enjoyed for a week before we add them to the permanent library collection. A photo of the presentation will be taken and placed in the TEAM Spirit newsletter.



We are now honoring all birthdays from July through November. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office. Thank you for helping our library grow!

Sincerely,
Library Volunteers (and Booker T. Wormington, Library Mascot)
Toras Emes Academy of Miami



Library Birthday Club

1. <u>Name:</u> _____ <u>Grade:</u> _____ <u>Birthday</u> _____	2. <u>Name:</u> _____ <u>Grade:</u> _____ <u>Birthday</u> _____
3. <u>Name:</u> _____ <u>Grade:</u> _____ <u>Birthday</u> _____	4. <u>Name:</u> _____ <u>Grade:</u> _____ <u>Birthday</u> _____

Other Library donations:

1) Name: _____

Occasion: e.g. in memory of, in honor of _____

2) Name: _____

Occasion: e.g. in memory of, in honor of _____

Please feel free to use the back of the form for more entries.

\$18 enclosed for each book - Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please return form with money to office

chosen words

Personal Growth

The 48 Essential Qualities for Learning

If you want to acquire Torah, all you have to do is study. Right? Surprisingly, Pirkei Avos tells us that study is just one of 48 qualities necessary to successfully acquire Torah.

Among the others named in the Mishnah are joy, modesty, and closeness with peers.

According to Rav Chaim Volozhiner, you attain Torah in direct proportion to your efforts in developing these traits. Without them, Torah can't be fully grasped.

Quality # 9:

Articulate Speech

Walk into the library of Harvard Law School. There's a hush, broken only by the sound of computers clicking, papers shuffling and the occasional muted voice. Walk into a large, well-attended Beis Medrash and you hear thunder. Hundreds of men, learning out loud, gesturing, swaying with the chant of the Gemara's words.

At Harvard, they're studying the inanimate words of law. At the Beis Medrash, they're learning the living words of Torah.

They're absorbing each word, analyzing it, explaining it to themselves and their learning partners. And in the process, the holy, living words are nourishing their souls.

The quality of "b'arichas sifosayim," literally, "arranging the lips," is the quality that separates Torah learning from any other intellectual endeavor. Studying aloud, even when learning alone, clarifies and imprints the words permanently on one's mind. To simply read them to oneself would be

Effective Prayer

The Hardware of Prayer

One sometimes wonders: "If I'm not so sure what I'm saying, if my mind isn't on the words, if this is becoming rote,

wouldn't I be better off praying in my own words?" But we learn that the Men of the Great Assembly, who composed the words of tefillah, were able to harness a powerful force in the words they chose to use. The words are so precisely designed that, even if we say them without as much feeling and understanding as we would like to have, they operate on their own to reach their destination and convey the messages of our souls.

A modern-day analogy is the modem. It takes an intricate understanding of many laws of physics and mathematics to invent such a machine. The person who clicks "send" may have only the

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration

▼ Ideas

▼ Excellence

▼ Success

Better Relationships

Excuse Me

Everyone makes mistakes. When that "everyone" is oneself, the typical response is to feel regret, but also to feel that, given the situation that led up to the mistake, you should be excused and forgiven. You know you didn't set out to do any harm. You know you're still a good, worthy person whose positives far outweigh whatever negatives might occasionally show themselves.

In the verse "V'ahavta l'rei-acha kamocha," "Love your neighbor as yourself," the Torah teaches that we are required to extend this same understanding to the mistakes others make. As much as we feel protective our own reputations, we should feel protective of someone else's. As much as we accept our own excuses for ourselves, we should look for possible excuses for the seemingly improper acts of others.

When someone else's honor means as much to you as your own, there is no possibility of speaking disparagingly about him. You would no sooner say something to lower him in the eyes of others than you would say something to damage your own reputation.

Where Ahavas Yisrael is the seed, Shmiras Haloshon naturally blooms.

continued on back



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Heritage Foundation

"Learning, like a song, must be given a voice to fully come alive."

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Break Your Chains

Why do people explode in anger over relatively insignificant incidents? One reason is that, through a lighting-quick chain of thoughts, they inflate the incident far out of proportion to reality.

Sometimes the chain reaction leads to a massive inflation of a problem: A small child comes home from school, takes off her coat and drops it on the floor, refusing your gentle request for her to pick it up. Your mind clicks into action: "She's in a bad mood. She's going to be challenging me all afternoon long. I don't have the energy to argue with her over every little thing that needs to get done. Why do I have to endure this difficult child when I'm so busy and tired? I'm putting a stop to this right now before it goes

any further." Your anger is proportional to all the trouble you anticipate from the child, and your own resentment of it all, but it's far beyond reason for her infraction at the moment.

Other chain reactions are based on psychological baggage. A person who grew up with overly critical parents might overreact to even the smallest piece of advice: "Why don't you try keeping your store open later?" asks a well-meaning friend. The struggling store-keeper's inner reaction: "Why doesn't everyone mind their own business? Does everyone think I'm incompetent? What makes him think he knows better than I do?"

It only takes a split second for these thoughts to shoot down their well-worn path-

"If you take some time to analyze your reactions, you can stop yourself."

ways of grievance. But fortunately, the cycle can be stopped with a fairly simple cure: awareness. If you take some time to analyze your reactions, you can stop yourself. Perhaps not immediately, but certainly before things get out of hand.

To Do: Think of a one-sentence thought to tell yourself to help you break the chain-reaction.

Adapted from "Anger: The Inner Teacher," by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, with permission from the author

Prayer

continued from front

dimmed awareness, or no understanding at all, of the concepts that cause his message to go through. Yet, because the circuitry is constructed as it is, the message goes where it should. In essence, the Men of the Great Assembly constructed the circuitry and machinery that carry our prayers to Hashem. When we use their words, our avodah is transmitted in the most effective way possible to its destination.

Adapted from "Shemonch Esrei," by Rabbi Avraham Chaim Feuer, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Excuse Me

continued from front

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Someone moves into town who uses words your community views as crude. How could you help the newcomer?

Adapted from "Chofetz Chaim: A Lesson a Day," by Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz and Rabbi Shimon Finkelman with permission from Mesorah Publications

Dedications

לע"נ

מרדכי בן בן ציון משה ז"ל

יעקב בן יהודה זאב ז"ל

שלמה יעקב בן ברוך ז"ל

מלכה בת יעקב ע"ה

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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

For Shabbos

Yosef Mendelewitz, a prisoner of conscience during the Soviet era, clung to the oasis of Shabbos, even as he languished in the depths of the gulag. But there, without the food, singing, finery and peace that enhance the holiest day of the week, creating a sense of Shabbos seemed a near-futile endeavor. Still, Mendelewitz was determined.

Each prisoner was issued one outfit of clothing. Among the items included was a single white undershirt. Mendelewitz set this one item aside as his "Shabbos shirt." He refrained from wearing it all week long, and on Shabbos, donned it on top of his usual shirt, thereby paying honor to Shabbos. With that one undershirt, he managed to keep the taste of Shabbos in his otherwise bleak prison life.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

When we honor Shabbos, we are repaid in many ways. What are some of the "dividends" you see from the things we do to honor Shabbos?

Adapted from "Something to Say," by Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser, with permission from Mesorah Publications

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HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board

Rav Naftoli Jaeger, shlita, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor

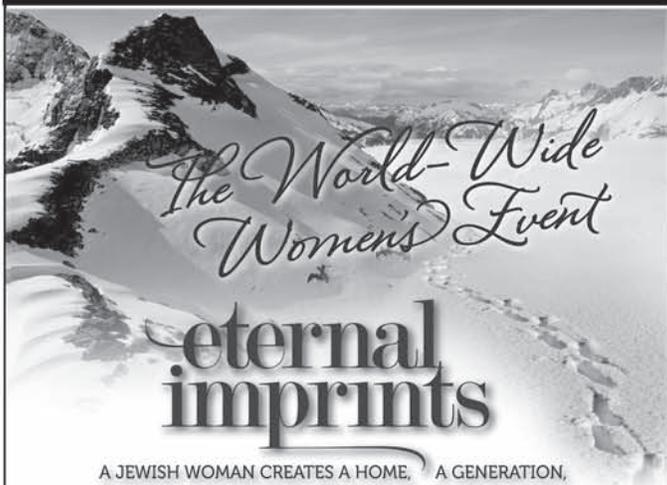
Chosen Words

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A JEWISH WOMAN CREATES A HOME, A GENERATION,
AN IMPRINT THAT LASTS FOREVER.

NOVEMBER 21
Motzei Shabbos
Parshas Toldos

Rejoice & refuel with
insights on your role in your home.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF INSPIRATION