בס"ד

TEAM Spirit

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

Friday, November 27, 2009
Candle Lighting 5:11 PM

פרשת ויצא

★STAR STUDENTS★

Dovi Braunshweiger★T.S.
Hodaya Cohen★ T.S.
Sarah Cohen★T.S.
Fayge Deutsch★S.S.
Miriam Dreyfuss★ T.S.
Avrami Flamholtz★ T.S.
Shua Jeger★S.S.
Naomi Krispin★S.S
Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz★T.S.
Bat-Or Perets★S.S.
Yitzchak Rotenberg★T.S.
Eli Sandhaus★ S.S.
Yenon Moshe Sharaby★T.S.
Chaya Sharfman★T.S.
Rivka Shemesh★S.S.
Ruth Shmueli★T.S.
Ahuva Spero★S.S.
Shaya Steinberg★ S.S.
Baruch Moshe Weinberger★ S.S.

Reminder:

School begins at the regular time 9:00AM this Sunday for boys Grades 3-5.

Mishnayos Kick-Off Brunch listed on the school calendar is not taking place.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim
Toras Emes Academy
Annual Dinner
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010
JUNGLE ISLAND

Guests of Honor
DR. & MRS. NORMAN BLOOM

Rabbinic Leadership Award
RABBI & MRS. NEAL TURK

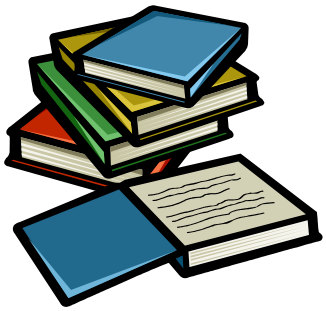
Kesser Shem Tov Award
MR. & MRS. DAVID GOLDIS

CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE

We are pleased to present the 2nd Annual Chanukah Boutique in our Social Hall on Wednesday, December 2 from 7:00-10:00PM. There will be a wide variety of merchandise available for purchase including books, jewelry, hair goods, and novelty gifts. Enjoy this one-stop shopping experience and take care of your Chanukah gift list while benefitting our school. See attached flyer.

BOOK FAIR NEWS

Our Book Fair will begin this Friday, December 4 and run through December 11. We are still looking for volunteers who can help both before and during the Fair. If you are available, please call Mrs. Racheli Grossman at 305.651.6541. Attached is a class visitation schedule.



ASSEMBLIES

Our assemblies on Wednesday featured a poignant, entertaining, but eye-opening DVD regarding bullying and its damaging effects. It was part of our annual review of bullying issues, that includes a survey, in-class discussions and general consciousness raising regarding this issue.

In addition, we enjoyed some regular features of our monthly assemblies, including Poetry Recitation, Mishnayos Ba'al Peh and Library Research certificates.

LIMUD MISHNAYOS PROGRAM

Our Limud Mishnayos program is off to a great start as boys in grades 3-5 are steadily filling in their charts with Mishnayos they are learning. Our Masmidim (voluntary Mishmar) program for boys in grades 4 & 5 begins this Thursday. In order to attend you need to register first!

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Elchonon Goldenberg and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their daughter, our alumna, Bracha and Uri Cohen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Brass and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Yosef.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

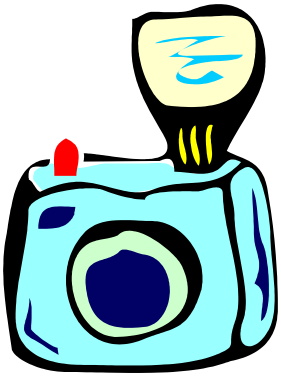
¨ Miriam *bas* Malka
¨ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
¨ Bina *bas* Chaya
¨ Libba *bas* Fayga
¨ Tova *bas* Rochel
¨ Rachel Leah *bas* Guta Raizel
¨ Chaviva *bas* Simcha
¨ Mordechai *ben* Ora Yehudis
¨ Yosef *ben* Simcha
¨ Yossi Yosef *ben* Etti Esther

CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

Our Parents Association is undertaking a Chanukah project that will bring joy to needy children in our school and our community. We are collecting monetary donations with which they will purchase beautiful, age appropriate gifts for Chanukah. Your cash or check (made out to Toras Emes) in any amount can be dropped off at any of the school offices from now through Friday, December 4. See attached flyer for details.

READY, SET .....SMILE!

Individual and class pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 for the girls and Wednesday, December 9 for the boys. All students are required to come to school in their official school uniforms on their respective days.

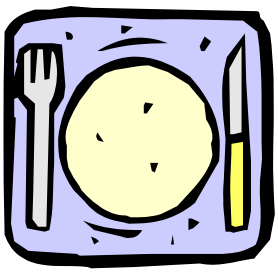


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Toras Chaim/Toras Emes is looking for someone to spearhead our Shalach Manos project. If you are able to help please call 305.944.5344.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM-UNIDENTIFIED ORDER

If you paid $40 cash for the coming cycle of the Hot Lunch program, please contact Mrs. Tamir at 305.948.3338 regarding your order.



PROJECT DERECH

Due to this week's abbreviated schedule, we will not be learning a new DERECH topic. Instead, we are using the time to reinforce what we have already learned.

A POET COMES

5G meets Robert Frost through his adventurous poems. " A Time To Talk" is one of Robert Frost's meaningful poems. It talks about how to show your fellow man that he really counts. Also, "The Road Not Taken" is another poem that we memorized. It shows us how to make the right decision in life. Robert Frost's poems have many powerful words that make our minds go wild!

By, Elisheva Fellus, Avital Cohen, Zelda Bernstein, Miriam Lesnik, Naomi Krispin, Ruth Shmueli, Sarala Dudovitz.

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

When we reviewed the Derech Update Sheet, Dovi gave great answers to the questions on addressing adults by their proper title

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: Dovi Schwartz Gr: 5

Parent's Signature: [illegible]

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Kayla knows not to say her Rnt's 1st name. She also calls all the neighbor's moms "Mrs---" Yay, Kayla!

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: קיילא ברכה לבקובה Gr: 1 B

Parent's Signature: [illegible]

Miriam treated our guests with Derech Eretz, and she always addressed older adults in a respectful manner. She calls an adult the proper names.

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Yechiel called his uncle - "Uncle David" instead of just saying "David."

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: Yechiel Goldman Gr: 1B

Parent's Signature: Joly Gold

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: MIRIAM Birker Gr: I

Parent's Signature: [illegible]

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Ma'ayan addresses her aunts and uncles with their proper titles. For example, she addresses her aunt Deborah as "Auntie Deborah."

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: Ma'ayan Tzur Gr: 2G

Parent's Signature: M. Tzur

When we went out for the Meal on שבת, Tzvi was very careful to say "Mr. + Mrs" to his friends parents

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: Tzvi Lehrer Gr: 1

Parent's Signature: D. Lehrer

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Malky שיחי calls her mother's friend "Mrs. Schwartz"

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: Malky Koob Gr: 2G

Parent's Signature: R. Koob

Ezra addressed Mrs. Tokayer as "Mrs. Tokayer" when he asked her a question on Shabbos.

I reviewed the precept of "calling adults by title,"

with: Ezra Kirschenbaum Gr: 2B

Parent's Signature: Julie Kirschenb

Shabbosos Parshios Vayeitzei/Vayishlach

Number 307 Index Reference 407

בס"ד

chosen words

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration
▼
Ideas
▼
Excellence
▼
Success

Personal Growth

The Taste of a Mitzvah

A "*chok*," such as the law of the Parah Adumah (the red heifer), is usually defined as a mitzvah we perform with no understanding of its reason. The fact that Hashem commanded it is the sole motivation for performing a *chok*.

But the term used to describe the "reasons" for mitzvos, "*ta'amei mitzvos*," shows us that in reality, every mitzvah is done solely to fulfill Hashem's will. The literal translation of "*ta'amei mitzvos*" is the "taste of mitzvos."

What is meant by the taste? The obvious comparison is food. We eat to nourish our bodies, without knowing why Hashem built us to use certain nutrients. However, Hashem wanted the process of feeding our bodies to be pleasant. So, we have taste buds, and food has a pleasant taste. Still, it could never be said that the reason we must eat is to experience pleasant tastes. Even if our taste buds were destroyed, we would still have to eat to maintain our physical health.

Mitzvos are the food of our spiritual health. Just as we have no idea why human beings were built with a need for potassium or iron, we have no idea why our souls have the need for any particular mitzvah. That wisdom resides solely with our Creator. However, Hashem wanted the performance of mitzvos to be palatable to us. So, he gave each mitzvah a taste—a concept or lesson—that we can understand.

"Tastes," however, cannot be confused with reasons. Never can we imagine that we fully understand a reason for a mitzvah, and conclude that the mitzvah doesn't apply to us, or our community, or our time in history. In essence, every mitzvah, even those with a discernible "*ta'am*," is really a *chok*. We do it, not because we like the taste or understand the reason, but because it's Hashem's will. Only when that motivation underlies the mitzvah can it be performed to perfection.

Adapted from "Outlooks and Insights," by Rabbi Zev Leff, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Better Relationships

Getting What's Due

When we examine the idea of being hurt—having our honor or our financial status diminished—we see that it is based upon a false assumption. We're assuming that this honor or money would have been ours, had this wrongdoer not done his damage. But the Gemara teaches that no one has the power to alter the amount of money or honor Hashem has designated for us, not even by a hairsbreadth (Yoma 38a).

King David epitomized this belief when he was cursed by Shimi, a member of Saul's household. King David's general proposed revenge, but the King would not allow it: "So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'"

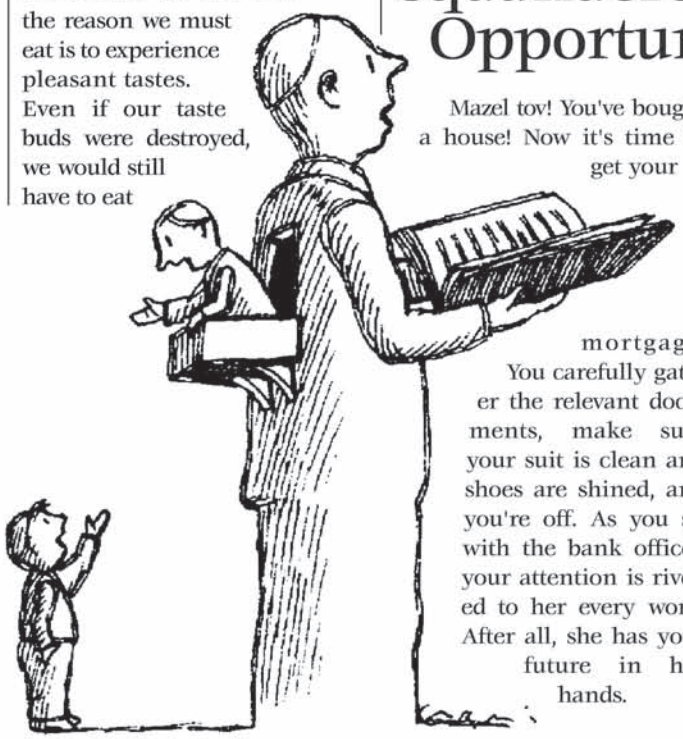
Bitachon, trust in the ultimate good of everything Hashem does, is a vital component of shmiras haloshon. The desire for revenge, which often leads to loshon hora, becomes an irrelevance once we understand that nothing was lost through the acts of the wrongdoer. Although he still bears the guilt for his wrongdoing, and we still need to take appropriate

continued on back

Effective Prayer

Squandered Opportunities

Mazel tov! You've bought a house! Now it's time to get your mortgage. You carefully gather the relevant documents, make sure your suit is clean and shoes are shined, and you're off. As you sit with the bank officer, your attention is riveted to her every word. After all, she has your future in her hands.



"No time for a chat."

Then, in walks a neighbor. You jump up out of your seat and greet him, spend five or ten minutes chatting, and then stroll back to your seat. The incredulous loan officer immediately hands back your papers and suggests you look elsewhere for your mortgage.

A ridiculous scenario. People do not squander their future for a chat with a friend.

Every day, three times a day, our personal futures and Klal Yisrael's future are on the agenda of a far more important meeting. These meetings are precious opportunities to reach out to Hashem, Who determines

continued on back

Published by
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Deflating an Insult

An essential part of most people's self-image is the way in which other people treat them. If people like you, you're likeable. If they look up to you, you're respectable. If they ask your advice, you're smart.

That is why hostility or rejection from others is so painful. Not only do we suffer from the unpleasantness of the encounter. We also suffer, usually much more deeply, from the sense that maybe they are right to some degree. Our sense of competence and worthiness suffers when someone else's anger—even unjustified anger—is aroused against us.

But hostility need not make a person feel unworthy. When someone else speaks to us with anger and disrespect, we feel diminished. But behind nearly every hostile, angry attack is someone who is suffering himself with feelings of depression, unworthiness, or insecurity. When you realize the problem is with the attacker, and not with you, the hostility loses its ability to deflate you. In reality, it's not even about you.

> "Behind nearly every hostile, angry attack is someone who is suffering himself."

A put-down need not be accepted. It need not become a chink in the mirror we use to view ourselves. It can, and often should, just pass into history.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What are the strongest, most reliable foundations for a person's self-esteem?

[Note: At times another person's hostility can be excessive or destructive. If this seems to be the case, it is worthwhile to seek a knowledgeable, objective opinion.]

Adapted from "Success," by Rabbi Moshe Gans, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Squandred Opportunities

continued from front

every breath we take, every cent we earn, every morsel we eat; Who determines whether we live in peace or war, poverty or plenty, freedom or oppression. Who can afford to walk away, even for just five minutes?

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Look at the blessings of Shemoneh Esrei. How do the things we pray for make a difference in your life?

—CCHF

Getting What's Due

continued from front

steps to improve the situation, the results he brought about were Hashem's desire. When we see a setback as a way to learn what Hashem wants from us in this world, we will not see it as the fuel for loshon hora.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What is the difference between having bitachon, and passivity or inaction in the face of a problem?

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

Dedications

לע"נ
צבי אלימלך בן שמואל ז"ל
Reb Herschel Waldman z"l
נלב"ע כ"א כסלו תשנ"ח
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה

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In Perspective

Count Pototsky, the "Ger Tzedek" of Vilna, was considered a traitor by the Church. Tracked down to his hiding place in a Lithuanian village where he had devoted himself to learning, he was sentenced to burn at the stake. Before he died, he put his executioner's act in perspective.

"As a child, I carefully built some clay soldiers, which another child destroyed. I thought that when I got older, I would take revenge. But once I had grown, the incident seemed trivial." That, he explained, was how his earthly torment would appear in the light of his Heavenly reward—a mere triviality.

And though most of life's situations are far less dramatic than this, the truth remains that, in perspective, many of our seeming "torments" fade into triviality when given a little perspective.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Why does the passage of time—even just an hour—sometimes take the urgency out of an upsetting situation?

Adapted from "Dearer Than Life," by Rabbi Abraham Twerski, M.D., with permission from Shaar Press

Index Reference 407

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HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board

Rav Naftoli Jaeger, shlita, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor

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We welcome your comments!
Letters to the Editor
Chosen Words/CCHF
361 Spook Rock Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Chanukah is right around the corner please join us in our

4TH ANNUAL CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

Now through Friday, December 4th.

This year we will be collecting monetary donations in any amount, to be used towards purchasing age appropriate gifts to be donated to children in OUR SCHOOL.

No donations are too small, every penny counts.

This would be a great opportunity for our children to get involved and a wonderful way for us to instill the value of giving.

For your convenience you can drop your donations off in either the preschool or elementary offices

For more information please call
Rachel Breier (305)999-9666 or Malky Gordon (305)491-5028

2nd annual

Toras Emes Chanukah Boutique

Where: Toras Emes Social Hall

1051 North Miami Beach Blvd.

When: Wednesday, December 2, 2009

7 pm - 10 pm

Fashion and Contemporary Jewelry, Apparel , Books, Judaica,
Home Accessories, Hair Accessories, and many more fun and unique gifts!
Food also being sold by Jerusalem Pizza!

Get all your Chanukah gifts under one roof and help support
local small businesses.
A portion of the proceeds to benefit Toras Emes.

Vendor opportunities still available please call:
Bryna (786) 252- 1074
or Devorah (646) 238- 4877
or e-mail: teamchanukahboutique@gmail.com

TORAS EMES ACADEMY OF MIAMI
BOOK FAIR
NOVEMBER 2009
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

CLASS	DAY/TIME	DAY/TIME
1B	FRIDAY, 9:00 AM-LIB	WEDNESDAY, 11:00 AM
2B	MONDAY, 10:00 AM-LIB	WEDNESDAY, 9:00 AM
3B	TUESDAY, 2:00 PM	WEDNESDAY, 3:00 PM-LIB
4B	MONDAY, 3:00 PM-LIB	WEDNESDAY, 1:15 PM
5B	TUESDAY, 3:00 PM-LIB	WEDNESDAY, 12:30 PM
1G	FRIDAY, 11:30 AM -LIB	TUESDAY, 12:30 PM
2G	MONDAY, 2:15 PM-LIB	THURSDAY, 1:15 PM
3G	TUESDAY, 1:15 PM	WEDNESDAY, 2:15 PM-LIB
4G	TUESDAY, 10:15 AM-LIB	THURSDAY, 9:00 AM
5G	MONDAY, 1:30 PM	THURSDAY, 3:00 PM-LIB
K-1	THURSDAY, 12:30 PM	
K-2	MONDAY, 12:30 PM	

Each class is assigned to attend the Book Fair two times. Once with Ms. Grossman during the regularly scheduled library period or a special period, and an additional time with the classroom (secular studies) teacher.

TORAS EMES ACADEMY OF MIAMI

December 2009

כסלו-טבת תש"ע

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 י"ד	2 ט"ו *Chanukah Boutique*	3 ט"ז BEGIN MASMIDIM PROGRAM BOYS GRADES 4,5	4 י"ז BOOK FAIR Candle Lighting 5:12	5 י"ח וישלח
6 י"ט BOOK FAIR	7 כ BOOK FAIR	8 כ"א BOOK FAIR	9 כ"ב BOOK FAIR	10 כ"ג BOOK FAIR	11 כ"ד TV CONTROL BEGINS BOOK FAIR Candle Lighting 5:13 ערב חנוכה	12 כ"ה שבת מברכים וישב חנוכה
13 כ"ו CHANUKAH VACATION חנוכה	14 כ"ז CHANUKAH VACATION חנוכה	15 כ"ח CHANUKAH VACATION חנוכה	16 כ"ט חנוכה	17 ל 1G SIDDUR PARTY MINI ASSEMBLIES OFFICIAL UNIFORMS חנוכה	18 א Candle Lighting 5:16 חנוכה	19 ב TV CONTROL ENDS מקץ
20 ג	21 ד	22 ה	23 ו	24 ז	25 ח Candle Lighting 5:19	26 ט ויגש
27 י ASARAH B'TEVES REGULAR SUNDAY SESSIONS	28 י"א	29 י"ב	30 י"ג	31 י"ד		