

TEAM Spirit

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



Friday, February 19, 2010
Candle Lighting 5:59 PM

פרשת תרומה

★STAR STUDENTS★

TEAM PLAYERS

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Chana Alber★T.S. | Malky Koot★S.S. |
| Yaakov Alfassy★T.S. | Chaim Len★T.S. |
| Avia Bennett★T.S. | Batel Levi★S.S. |
| Yaakov Deutsch★T.S. | Avi Nash★T.S. |
| Shira Feldman★S.S. | Noam Peleg★S.S. |
| Yehuda Gassner★T.S. | Ezra Pomper★S.S. |
| Yechiel Goldman★T.S. | Yitzi Rotenberg★A.S. |
| Riki Grossbard★S.S. | Mordechai Shapiro★S.S. |
| Ariel Hahn★S.S. | Ruth Shmueli★S.S. |
| Koby Hertz★S.S. | Yocheved Sobol★T.S. |
| Ezra Kirschenbaum★T.S. | Tziporah Wechsler★T.S. |

- Malka Anton
- Ariella Aronov
- Tzvi Atkin
- Miriam Bisker
- Simcha Bistriz
- Shui Braunshweiger
- Yehuda Gassner
- Yechiel Goldman
- Sarah Goodman
- David Grinman

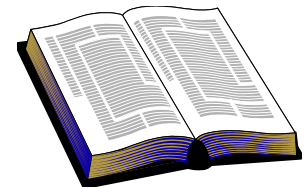
- Benny Kanoff
- Tamar Mindick
- Avi Nash
- Yasmin Reboh
- Shoshana Shapiro
- Boaz Sobol
- Yocheved Sobol
- Ma"ayan Tzur
- Sara Weberman
- Orel Zaig

PLEASE NOTE

★TAANIS ESTHER-REGULAR SESSIONS.
 ★ FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26-REGULAR SESSIONS
 ★SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28-PURIM NO SCHOOL
 ★MONDAY, MARCH 1-SHUSHAN PURIM CARNIVAL, BBQ, COSTUMES SESSIONS 9:00-2:00

FIRST GRADE CHUMASH PARTIES

The first graders' big day has arrived! Parents, grandparents, and siblings will join in the celebration on Wednesday, February 24. The girls' party is from 10:00 – 11:00 AM and the boys will be celebrating from 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Mazel Tov on this tremendous milestone!



MISHLOACH MANOS

For those of you who have not yet responded to our Mishloach Manos gift baskets for faculty and staff, the deadline has been extended to this Monday, February 22. There are order forms in the office for your convenience. Please note that the following names were inadvertently omitted from the list: Miss Rachel Harrold (158) Mrs. Sue Hirsch (161) Dr. Allan Jacob (162) Mrs. Rifka Jaroslawicz (163) Rabbi Mechoel Sheinkopf (281). Volunteers are still needed for packaging the baskets. Please call Toras Chaim. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

OD YOSEF CHAI

We are proud once again to be collecting Matanos L'Evyonim for Od Yosef Chai. Please participate in the Mitzvah of this most worthy Tzedakah by sending in your cash or check, payable to Od Yosef Chai, as soon as possible. **Deadline is Friday, February 26.** Let's set our goal high and try to top last year's collection! Tizku L'Mitzvos.

REGISTRATION 2010-11

By now you should have received your registration packets for the coming school year. Please be reminded that the **early bird registration ends March 4**. After that date, the registration reverts to the standard \$500 for the first child and \$450 for additional children.

As space in our classes is very limited, be advised that those who do not make the March deadline may lose their priority for a space.

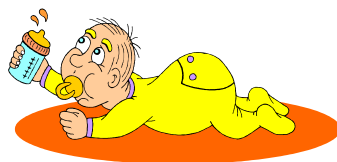
PROJECT DERECH

This week we concentrated on the theme of holding a door open for someone who is older or more important. It makes the older person feel great, and it is a good opportunity to create a Kiddush Hashem.

MAZEL TOV

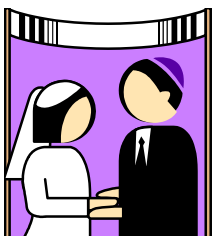
To Mr. and Mrs. Avraham Klecky and family on the birth of a son.

To Drs. Stuart and Marcy Bernstein and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their son, our alumnus, Mordechai and Tirtza Bernstein in Israel.



תינוק

To Rabbi and Mrs. Heshy Riesel and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their son, our alumnus, Yanky and Maya Riesel in Israel.



To Mrs. Yosefa Berkowitz and family on the forthcoming marriage of her daughter, our alumna, Melissa Krainis to Josh Sumner.

SAVE THE DATE

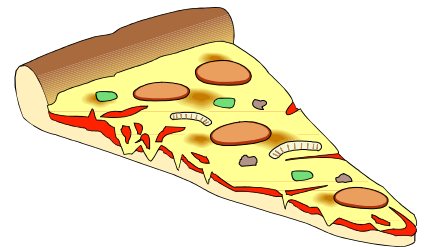
Wednesday evening, April 21 - Community wide gathering on Internet safety. Details forthcoming.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

- " Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Liba
- " Bina *bas* Chaya
- " Chana *bas* Shaindel
- " Zelda Masha *bas* Itta Anna
- " Shalva Yakira *bas* Yardena Meira
- " Mordechai *ben* Ora Yehudis
- " Moshe Chaim *ben* Chana

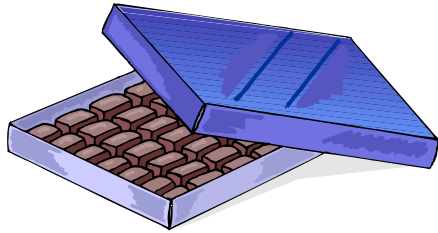
PIZZA

Order forms were sent home today for the next pizza cycle, which begins next Friday, February 26. If you would like your child(ren) to receive pizza, please fill out the order form and send it in with payment by Thursday, February 25. Remember: If you would like your child to purchase canteen items with their pizza (chips and seltzer @ .50 each), please send a dollar with each child on Fridays.



PESACH CANDY SALE

Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Adina Dreyfuss, who once again took on the Herculean task of chairing this year's



Pesach Candy Sale. The distributing, collecting and tallying of the orders for both candy and prizes is a tedious job which requires dedication and attention to detail. Yasher Koach to Mrs. Dreyfuss for her hard work. Our thanks to Mrs. Toby Goldman and Mrs. Brachie Bergida for their help with reviewing all the orders. Together, our students raised \$2900 in profit for the school. Yasher Koach to our top class, Fifth Grade Boys, who will earn an ice cream party next month, and our runners-up, Fourth Grade Girls, who will get to enjoy extra minutes outdoors at an upcoming bonus recess! Stay tuned for the exact delivery date.

SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

It is time for the Science Fair preparations to begin for grades 4 and 5. Students have been given instructions for the different phases of the project. The completed Science Fair display boards are due on March 15. Display boards may be purchased in either office at a cost of \$5.00 per board.



The Science Fair will take place, IY"H, on **March 16-18**. Thank you in advance for your dedication and support during these next weeks. Your child will truly appreciate it.

GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS

Just a short time left to get all those box tops in! We cannot afford to slow down now... the February 28 deadline is just around the corner! Any box tops still lying around the house or sitting in your 'junk drawer' should be sent in to school immediately. We will be mailing in all of the box tops next week for our semi-annual reimbursement check.

Please remember to continue to collect box tops after the deadline. The collection will continue through next year as well, so do not throw away any box tops! You'll be surprised at how many you will find while you are Pesach cleaning! Yasher Koach and thank you for the continued incredible success of this project!

PURIM CARDS

Now is your chance to order beautiful Purim cards which are available from the Parents Association, through the school office. Suggested donation is \$2.00 per card (including envelope) or 10 cards for \$18.00. I



ZAYIN ADAR OBSERVANCE

Yasher Koach and Tizku L'Mitzvos to the dedicated members of our Chevra Kadisha and their spouses. This Sunday is the "Day of the Chevra Kadisha" when members of the Chevra fast and then gather in the evening for a Special Seuda in their honor. This year's Seuda will be at Toras Emes beginning at 7:00 PM. Divrei Chizuk will be delivered by Rabbi Dovid Sharfman, Mashgiach Ruchani of Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Bais Medrash Zichron Ezra. Members of the community are encouraged to participate by helping sponsor the Seuda. Donations begin at \$50. Kindly contact the girls' office.

ELECTIVES - CHULENT IN HALACHA!

At 5B, our new “elective” program is well underway! Once a week, the boys split into 3 groups and spend time working on either “Art”, “Bar Mitzva Preparation”, or “Chulent in Halacha”. Every 4 weeks the groups are rotated. This week’s focus will be our Chulent in Halacha group. The boys spend some time each session learning about different aspects of chulent as they relate to Hilchos Shabbos or other Halachos. This week the discussion was about the correct Bracha to make on chulent. The boys learned that this mainly depends on the ingredients and size of the pieces in the chulent. After the discussion, the boys are actively involved in preparing the chulent all the way from peeling the potatoes to putting in the final spices. The next day, the boys get their favorite part—to eat the fruits of their labor. Below are some pictures of our chulent group sharing their chulent with the rest of 5b on Thursday afternoon. The boys had a delicious time!





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



Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

Dr. Deborah Lerer
Secular Studies Principal

Rabbi Noam Grossman
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Naomi Bloom
Early Childhood Director

Erev Shabbos Parashas Terumah 5770

Dear Parents,

In this week's *Parsha* we are introduced to the *Mishkan* – a sanctified place uniquely suited for approaching and serving *Hashem*. And, although the absence of our Temple is the centerpiece of our long-suffering *Galus*, thankfully we are blessed with *Batei Knessios* – synagogues and *Batei Midrashos* – *yeshivos* and *kollelim*, our mini sanctuaries. We don't have the *Mishkan*, but let us ask ourselves how well we are handling our opportunities, our special places to serve *Hashem*.

Davening with proper *Kavana* is a major challenge for many adults and children. Equally significant is the lack of awareness of the *Mitzva* of *Mora Mikdash*. What is *Mora Mikdash*, you ask? Exactly. The *Torah* tells us (*Vayikra 19:30*) ...*Umikdoshee Tirau...* The *Sforno*, along with most *Rishonim* says this *Mitzva* of guarding the sanctity of the *Mikdash* refers not only to the *Beis Hamikdosh*, but to any place of *Torah*, *Tefilla* and *Avoda*. Our awareness of and care for the inherent sanctity of our *shuls* and *shtieblach* is sorely lacking. There are clear *Halachos* concerning permitted and forbidden activities within the confines of a *Beis Knesses*, and this is even not during the time of *Tefilla*.

Tackling the enormous challenge of talking during *davening* that is tragically commonplace in many *shuls* in our community and around the world is not the point of this letter – but anyone who minimizes the devastating impact that talking has, would do well to read the words of Rabbi Yonasan Eibeschutz in *Yaaros Devash* as he places blame for the destruction of Prague's synagogues, whose beauty was unparalleled anywhere in the world, on the sin of talking during *davening*. Even more compelling, is the special *Mi Shebairach* of the *Tosfos Yom Tov* in reaction to the cataclysmic events of 1648-49 in Eastern Europe.

What I would like to address is the *Chinuch* (educational and training) aspect of *davening*, and more specifically when it is appropriate and when it is not appropriate to take children to *shul*. Too many parents look at the world as black or white. Some things and places are unacceptable, to be avoided completely. Other situations are okay, and therefore no restrictions or limitations need be placed on their children's involvement. *Shul* going, especially on *Shabbos*, falls into the second category, that of okay activities. Going to *shul* is a spiritually positive experience, so let's all go! But what are your goals and objectives in taking children? Can a three year old learn anything about the sanctity of *Beis Knesses*, or are we training him to view the *shul* as an exciting and intriguing playground? What are we teaching a young child when we bring him to a house of prayer – but he's completely unable to pray? It is not *chinuch* to simply have a child in *shul* – he must learn the proper way to behave in *shul*. When a child is brought at too young an age – we are teaching the exact opposite of what we intend!

What about elementary aged children – they can read, so therefore they can *daven*. But let's ask ourselves some questions. The few minutes that the child can (hopefully) remain focused, are a tiny fraction of the time spent in *shul*. What happens the rest of the time? It's play time – and the playground is the *Mikdash Me'at*! What happens as the child grows older – have we trained him or her that the *shul* is a sanctified place requiring awe and reverence because it is *Hashem's* house – or have we initiated yet another recruit of adult shulgoers to not show respect to the shul, and helped a new generation of talkers and interrupters to emerge from our ranks?

Our children don't need to be in *shul* before the age of 9 or 10 in order to feel comfortable in a synagogue – that is simply not a challenge for them, given the *frum* environment they are growing up in.

There are times that the mother is feeling exhausted and overwhelmed, and her husband feels it his obligation to take the children off the mother's hands. That is indeed a laudable attitude, and emergencies do happen, but bringing children to *shul* for babysitting purposes constitutes a very negative *chinuch*. Perhaps a more appropriate solution to this problem, which many of our parents employ, is to go to a *Netz* (sunrise) *Minyan*, get home early and take care of the children at home. The wife is helped, the children nurtured, and the *mispallelim* including the husband, can really *daven*.

You may ask – the *shuls* provide babysitting and activities *Shabbos* morning – it must be children are being encouraged to come to *shul*! Be careful not to confuse the attempt to find safe and wholesome activities to fill our children's *Shabbos* Day, with proper *Chinuch* in *davening*. Think through what you want your child to feel and do about *Davening* to *Hashem* when he or she is 18 years old, and then examine whether the way you're exposing your child to *Tefilla* and *Shul* is enhancing that goal, or *Chas V'Sholom*, subverting it.

Perhaps you are eating the *Shabbos Seuda* in *shul*, or are invited out to join a family from *shul*, and the entire family therefore needs to come to *shul* anyway. Arriving at the very end, for a few minutes of *davening*, under your careful supervision, is certainly preferable to an extended amount of unstructured time around the *shul*. *Davening* at home, quietly, with *Ima* before stepping out, can be a much more meaningful and constructive approach to developing good *davening* habits.

May *Hashem* enlighten us to provide the best possible *Chinuch* to our children, in all areas of life. May our efforts to show greater *Kavod* to our *Mikdeshai Me'at* help us to merit the rebuilding of the *Beis HaMikdash*, *Bimheira*.

Have a *Kedusha*-filled *Shabbos*,



Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal