

# TEAM Spirit

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



Friday, January 14, 2011  
Candle Lighting 5:32 PM

פרשת בשלח  
שבת שירה

TEAM PLAYERS

★STAR STUDENTS★

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leah Corcos - T.S.       | Boaz Abramson - T.S.      |
| Chaya Sora Koot - T.S.   | Ethan Aronov - S.S.       |
| Simcha Leonoff - S.S.    | Yehuda Bloom - S.S.       |
| Leah Lind - S.S.         | Yochanan Gittleson - T.S. |
| Elisheva Raab - S.S.     | Yehoshua Herzek - S.S.    |
| Yasmin Reboh - S.S.      | Avraham Homnick - T.S.    |
| Penina Rosenbaum - S.S.  | Tzvi Lehrer - T.S.        |
| Batsheva Roth - S.S.     | Yosef Steinberg - S.S.    |
| Elisheva Sharfman - S.S. | Aryeh Leib Thav - T.S.    |
| Rivka Sheinkopf - T.S.   |                           |
| Yocheved Sobol - T.S.    |                           |

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Pnina Bergida       | Adam Dennis       |
| Miriam Bisker       | Yitzi Eisenberger |
| Devorah Cohen       | Reuven Evgi       |
| Odaya Cohen         | Yackov Greenberg  |
| Abigail Dennis      | Natan Mizrahi     |
| Raizy Dudovitz      | Nathan Oropesa    |
| Shaindel Farmer     | Binyamin Rubinov  |
| Eliana Haimov       | Tzvi Stern        |
| Kayla Lefkowitz     | Akiva Yeshurun    |
| Yardena Reboh       | Avner Yeshurun    |
| Sara Salame         |                   |
| <b>Ma'Ayan Tzur</b> |                   |

JOIN US  
THIS SUNDAY MORNING !!!!

All daughters, mothers, & grandmothers  
are invited to our annual

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 16  
10:30—12:30

Toras Emes Social Hall

\$25 mother/daughter pair  
\$10 each additional guest  
Sponsorship \$50

### ANNUAL TORAS EMES/TORAS CHAIM JOURNAL-DINNER

Our 26th Annual Journal-Dinner this past Sunday evening was a most memorable and successful event. Enjoying the delicious food and warm atmosphere, nearly 500 people shared in this outstanding evening showing appreciation to our Guests of Honor, Mr. and Mrs. Marcos and Tiffany Lapciuc, and our Kesser Shem Tov Awardees, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron and Randy Groffman.

Once again, the dinner enhanced our feeling of pride for Toras Emes and Toras Chaim, and captured the essence of our ultimate goal – to imbue our talmidim with a love of Torah, Midos Tovos and intellectual growth.

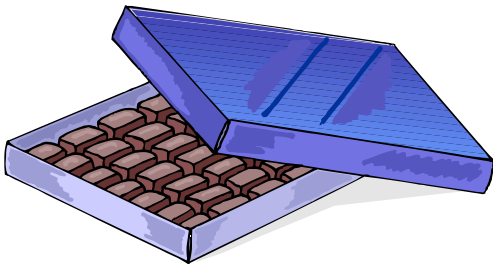
The many parents who participated in the journal and attended the dinner are the linchpins of our success. We are sorry for those who were unable to attend the dinner – you missed a spectacular evening.

## KONEI OLAM

This week, we continued learning about *Chessed* when we visited the U.S. mint! In Yoni's Yoman he discussed how *Chessed* is something money can't buy. Some of the classes discussed a beautiful story about the Bobover Rebbe's tremendous desire to do *Chessed* even when he was in a situation that he could not walk or even talk!! Some classes received their backscratchers for remembering to "lend a hand" to others when an opportunity for *Chessed* comes up. Next week we're off to Lakewood!

## PESACH CANDY SALE

The Pesach Candy Sale is now in progress! Thank you to Mrs. Sarah Goldsmith and Mrs. Racheli Grossman who got this project off to a great start, under the leadership of Mrs. Adina Dreyfuss.



All orders should be turned in to the office by the deadline on Thursday, February 3. Please remember to return the top two pages of the order form in the envelope with the money collected. Check that all orders and tallies are correct, your child's name and grade is written clearly and that the amount collected corresponds with your order. Keep the bottom page in a safe place at home so you will know who to deliver the candy to when it arrives.

Along with the prize incentives that your children will earn by selling candy, the top class will win an ice cream party! Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

## MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchak Lefkowitz and family on the birth of a son.



To Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Wasserman and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Meir.

## REFUAH SHELAIMA

- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana bas Esther Leba
- ◆ Sara Nechama bas Chaya Yehudis
- ◆ Moshe ben Miriam
- ◆ Shlomo Leib ben Miriam
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas ben Asna
- ◆ Yosef ben Allegria
- ◆ Tzvi Hersh ben Chana Bayla
- ◆ Yaakov Leib ben Feiga
- ◆ Baruch Mordechai ben Tessel
- ◆ Yocheved bas Tzirel
- ◆ Penina bas Ashira
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga bas Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Shayna Batya bas Sara

## NICHUM AVEILIM

To Dr. Eli Berman, Mrs. Goldie Berman's husband, upon the loss of his mother.

## THINK ABOUT INK!

Please remember to send us your used printer cartridges for recycling through the Miami-Dade County Recycling Program. This is an easy fundraiser for our school and a great way to do your part for the environment.

## GENERAL MILLS BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

To date, the General Mills Boxtops for Education Program is going great! Please remember that the next deadline is February 28. We would appreciate having the boxtops in the office by Monday, February 21. Over the midwinter vacation, collect and save all of the boxtops from the food and health & beauty products you use and send them in to school with your children when school resumes. Check for Boxtops on all types of products - **you won't believe how many you will find!** 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 February 28 deadline. We can continue to benefit throughout the year.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### Weekly Parsha Class

Thursday mornings 9:15-10:00AM

In Rabbi Baumann's Office (Girls' Bldg.)

### Homework Club

Monday-Thursday 4-5PM

Miss Rottman [tobirottman@gmail.com](mailto:tobirottman@gmail.com)

### Girls' JAG

Tuesday 4-5 PM for girls in grades 1-3.

Miss Gruenstein at 786.357.0210

### Boys' After School Sports

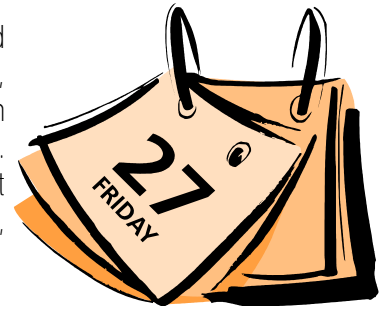
Monday & Thursday, 4-5PM

Coach Melamed 786.356.8063

Mr. Harkavy 631.612.7532

## MID-WINTER VACATION

School will be closed from Sunday, January 23 through Sunday, January 30. Classes will resume at 8:00 AM on Monday, January 31.



## FAMILY FUN DAY



We are hoping to enjoy, once again, our annual Family Fun Day—a day filled with fun, food and festivities for the whole family! In order for it to take place, as scheduled on February 6, we need parents to volunteer their time and talents to help coordinate the event. If you are able to help us out, in this capacity, please contact Rabbi Baumann or Mrs. Esta Rosenberg at 305.651.0115.



**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 Beshalach 5771*

Dear Parents,

An article in last weekend's (Jan.8) Wall Street Journal entitled "Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior," caused quite a stir.

The gist of the article, written by a self-described "Chinese Mother," compared and contrasted child-raising approaches in Chinese society and in Western societies. It highlighted the "Chinese" approach which emphasizes the child's need to succeed at almost any cost in academics and music. It demands perfection from children, even when failure appears imminent. It is based on the belief that "nothing is fun unless you're good at it." Where a "Western" parent would praise a child for coming home with an A-minus, the "Chinese" parent would "gasp in horror and ask what went wrong." Where a "Western" parent would be very concerned with a child's self-esteem and would praise, not criticize for a less than perfect grade, a "Chinese" parent would assume any shortcoming is a result of the child's not trying hard enough, and force the child to practice until perfect.

Who is right? Doesn't the Torah support self-esteem on the one hand, and striving for perfection, seemingly on the other? Don't the "Chinese" have a point that "Western" parents are too indulgent of children's imperfections? Don't the "Western" parents have an equally strong point that forcing a child to persist in an endeavor that is heading for failure will do great damage to the child's self-esteem?

As with so many other examples of "wisdom among the nations," these ideas, valid in their own right, take on a life of their own and become the basis for extreme, destructive forces and philosophies. Self-esteem for its own sake, with no basis in accomplishment or attributes is worthless and ultimately counter-productive, when a child realizes it is an edifice built on quicksand. At the same time, forcing a child to achieve perfection in something that neither interests him nor matches his strengths is abusive and destructive.

Where does the Torah approach fit into this equation? Can a person really have a healthy self-esteem if he is not at least near-perfect in important areas of life? Can a person observe so many others who seem smarter, stronger, faster, more talented and more skilled than he or she, and still feel good about himself? The answer is a resounding YES. Every human being can and should have a healthy self-esteem. The reason is because our value lies not in our accomplishments, nor is it dependent upon praise from others. Rather our value stems from the fact that we are creations of the Almighty, who has imbued us with a unique *Neshama* (soul). A child must be taught the maxim brought in the *Gemara* in *Sanhedrin 37a* – *Bishvili Nivra HaOlam* – "The World was Created for Me." Similarly, the well known (2<sup>nd</sup> half of the) *Pasuk* in *Parashas Kedoshim (Vayikra 19:19)* – ... *V'Ahavta L'Rayecha Kamocha, Ki Ani Hashem* – ... and love your neighbor as yourself, for I am *Hashem*. As explained by HaRav Noach Orlowek, *Shlita*, it is assumed you love yourself. Why? Because *Hashem* said so. Rav Orlowek concludes: "Love of self is therefore not an expression of haughtiness, but rather, a recognition of the intrinsic, G-d given goodness which is shared by all of humanity." (Raising Roses Among the Thorns pps. 219-220)

Our children, without exception, possess a G-d given potential for greatness. We should neither carry them on our backs nor push so hard as to have them collapse at the finish line. Our job is to open the pathway and encourage the journey. May we share much nachas.

Best wishes for a Great *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

# FIRST GRADE GIRLS BAKE YUMMY COOKIES!

