בס"ד

TEAM Spirit

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

Friday, January 21, 2011
Candle Lighting 5:37 PM

פרשת יתרו

★STAR STUDENTS★

Shifra Braunshweiger – T.S.
Yafit Cohen – T.S.
Tzivia Elias – T.S.
Adiel Elkayam – S.S.
Shira Feldman – S.S.
Naomi Klecky – T.S.
Atara Laks – S.S.
Kayla Lefkowitz – S.S.
Aliza Zeines – S.S.
Yaakov Alfassy – S.S.
Levi Haimov – S.S.
Uriel Heiney – T.S.
Netanel Hendel – T.S.
Ezra Kirschenbaum – S.S.
Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz – T.S.
Meir Liberman – T.S.
Noam Peleg – S.S.
Tzvi Rubin – T.S.
Aryeh Leib Thav – S.S.

TEAM PLAYERS

Shira Adar
Tehila Alfassy
Gabriella Chattah
Arielle Chemtov
Chana Dreyfuss
Shira Feldman
Sora Gruenstein
Daniella Katz
Esty Newman
Elisheva Raab
Batsheva Roth
Rivka Shemesh
David Bisker
Ezra Bistritz
Yonatan El-Gad
Moti Froimovich
Moshe Kaploun
Yehuda Lehrfield
Shaya Schwab
Reuven Shaffren
Michael Shmueli
Yaacov Suissa

MID-WINTER VACATION HAS ARRIVED!!!

Classes will resume on Monday, January 31 with regular sessions from 8:00 – 4:00.
Please note: The new Hot Lunch cycle begins on Monday, January 31.

HEADS UP!!

We will conduct a school wide lice check shortly after we return from mid-winter vacation. Please make sure to check your kids at home before sending them back to school.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BRUNCH

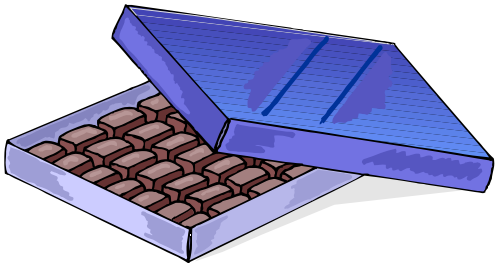
An unprecedented number of Toras Emes mothers and daughters filled the Social Hall on Sunday for our Annual Mother-Daughter Brunch. After feasting on the delicious brunch, the guests enjoyed an incredible performance of magic tricks and illusion by the amazing Marc Levine. An inspiring Dvar Torah was beautifully delivered by Mrs. Chana Rochel Stern.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to Mrs. Bryna Roth and Mrs. Chana Shapiro, the coordinators of this wonderful event. Mrs. Sarah Palgon was kind enough to photograph the event for us.

Yasher Koach to our generous sponsors:

Mrs. Ellen Balgley
Mrs. Bryna Roth
Mrs. Deborah Zisquit

PESACH CANDY SALE



The Pesach Candy Sale is now in progress! The mid-Winter vacation is a great opportunity to sell Pesach candy to all your family and friends. Don't forget to keep the bottom page in a safe place at home. All orders and money collected should be turned in to the office by the February 3 deadline. Please be advised: Macaroons are not for sale!!! We are sorry for any inconvenience.

KONEI OLAM

This week, we followed Yoni to…Lakewood! We learned how someone can do a great Chessed for his friend simply by greeting them the right way. Some of the classes learned many forms of greeting people in different languages and for various occasions through a word find. We will conclude our Chessed unit when we return from our Mid-Winter vacation.

KEEP YOUR BRAIN TURNED ON!

Take advantage of the coming week off from school to study for the Limud Mishnayos Project, upcoming Brachos Bee and Data Bank Quiz, which will take place when we return.

TU B'SHEVAT

Yasher Koach to the entire Sharfman family who, once again, provided beautiful, bountiful baskets of delicious treats for *Tu B'Shevat*. On Thursday, each class received their own platter of fruits to enjoy. The students were very busy putting their *Brachos* Bee knowledge to good use as they recited *Brachos* on all the fruits they tasted.

We were also fortunate to have a very special display of unique fruits, grains and vegetables brought in by Mrs. Cohen for all the classes to peruse. The students tested their skills as they matched the correct *Bracha* to the food.

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

We pray that everyone listed above have a Refuah Shelaima. New names will be compiled beginning with the first newsletter after midwinter vacation. Contact Mrs. Zisquit if you would like a name included on the new list.

VACATION POINTS OF INTEREST

We once again thank Mrs. Naomi Bloom and the E.C.E. Staff for preparing the comprehensive "Guide to South Florida Attractions", listing places to enjoy with your children during the vacation. We thank Rabbi Chaim Glazer for putting the guide into booklet form again this year. Please ask your children for the booklet.

UNIFORM GEMACH

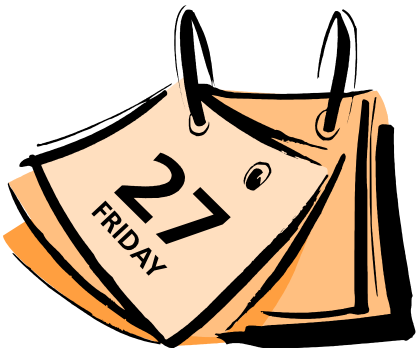
There are lots of uniforms to pick from at the uniform gemach! Many girls' skirts and shirts are available and boys' shirts and pants are also in abundance. Please take advantage of the wide selection of colors and sizes to stock up on for the rest of the school year. Call Mrs. Esta Rosenberg at 305.651.0115.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rohr Middle School will have an Open House for fifth grade boys on Sunday, February 20. Details will be forthcoming.



GENERAL MILLS BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please collect Boxtops over the mid-Winter vacation and bring them to school before the February 21 deadline. Boxtops can be found on all types of products and the more we collect, the more we are able to do for our school. The Boxtops for Education program is ongoing, so please keep collecting and 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

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

בס"ד

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 Yisro5771

Dear Parents,

The mid-point of the school year is a good time to take stock of what our child has accomplished so far this year. We will hopefully be quite pleased when we contrast their levels in September and now. In academics – their skill level and information base most probably has risen markedly. Their coping skills and social interactions are hopefully showing signs of maturing. Their sense of responsibility for their work, their possessions and for personal grooming are also hopefully in a different place than they were at the end of the summer. If they are students who have struggled with schoolwork, and are now in our ACE or Arrowsmith programs, they are probably enjoying the feeling of academic success and growth that they may never have experienced before. If they are academically strong, they have no doubt enhanced and enriched their knowledge and understanding substantially. Those with behavioral challenges, who have received appropriate guidance and support, have learned routines and have adapted to expectations to be more likely able to function effectively in a school setting. Children for whom social interactions pose a challenge have in many cases confronted difficult situations with more self-confidence and poise than before. The child who has previously been very reticent and shy in the classroom may have found his or her voice to a greater extent than ever before.

There are two lessons to be drawn from all this. Firstly, measurable gains over the course of five months consist of nearly imperceptible `baby' steps taken day-by-day. It's for this very reason that we need to take this opportunity to celebrate now, when we have the time and perspective to take a longer view and see clearly what has transpired. Day after day of working consistently, pushing just a little harder to accurately and neatly complete tasks, must be appreciated now as we take the broader view of the overall gains achieved. The realization of growth in maturity, responsibility, social awareness and sensitivity to others should be noted and acknowledged, as nothing breeds success like success.

The second lesson is to appreciate small gains. Your child may not match your expectations of significant, obvious growth. It disappoints you, they are not reaching their potential, or are helping you develop a relationship with the principal far beyond your most pessimistic expectations! You may need to delve a little deeper. If your child used to handle disappointment by stomping his feet, angrily shouting something inappropriate at a parent, and then ran to his room and slammed the door shut, very fiercely, and now stomps, shouts and runs to his room without the door slamming – that's an improvement! By noticing and appreciatively pointing out that slight change to your child, you are laying the foundation for significant change and growth. If your child's grades have gone from 50's to 60's, she is going in the right direction! If you hear from the principal three times in two weeks instead of twice each week, good things are starting to happen!

Raising the `easiest' of children is an extremely difficult task. Raising a `difficult' child who faces significant obstacles in his path to success, can seem overwhelming. Vacation week is a time for everyone, parents and students alike to recharge their batteries and celebrate what has been accomplished so far. Take note of and celebrate the small gains, and you are ensuring continued improvement and ultimate success, IY'H.

Best wishes for a Great *Shabbos* and a revitalizing, celebratory week!

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

Shabbosos Parshios Yisro/Mishpatim Number 337 Index Reference 437

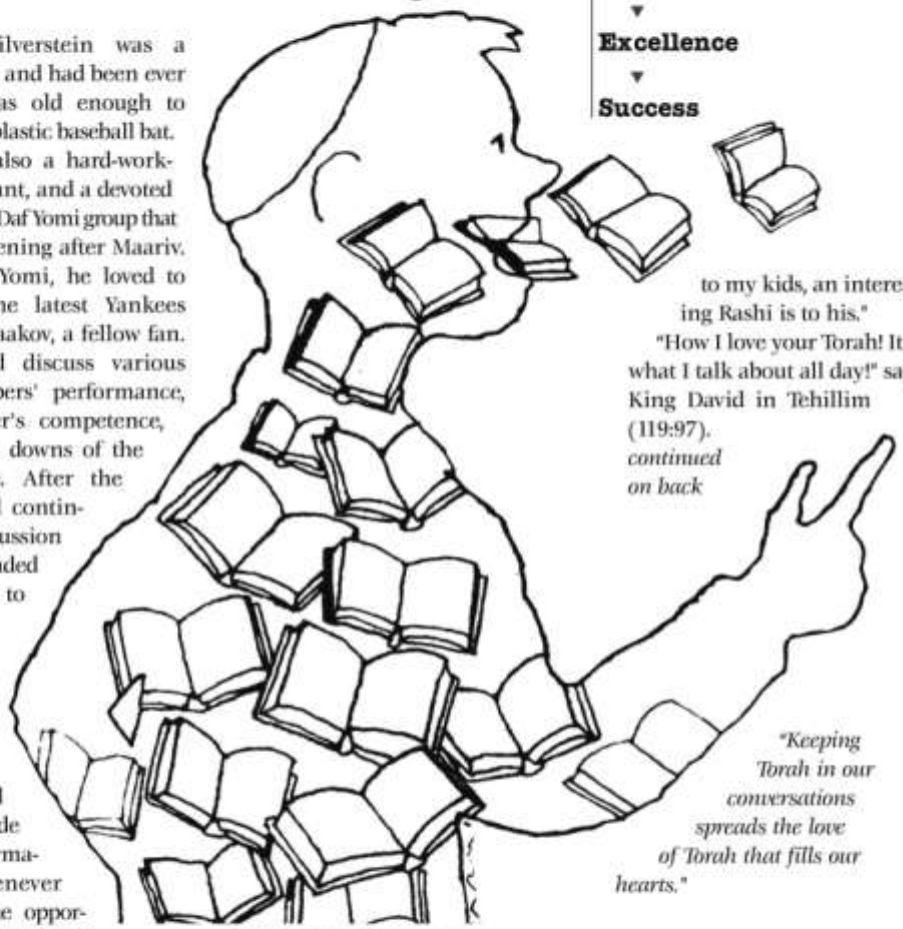
chosen words

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration
▼
Ideas
▼
Excellence
▼
Success

Personal Growth

Your Favorite Subject



Dovid Silverstein was a Yankees fan, and had been ever since he was old enough to hold a little plastic baseball bat. Dovid was also a hard-working accountant, and a devoted member of a Daf Yomi group that met each evening after Maariv. Before Daf Yomi, he loved to exchange the latest Yankees news with Yaakov, a fellow fan. They would discuss various team members' performance, the manager's competence, the ups and downs of the latest game. After the shiur, they'd continue their discussion as they headed to their cars to go home.

Dovid's three sons knew they could count on Dad for all the inside Yankee information. Whenever they saw the opportunity, they'd engage him in a conversation and troll for tidbits with which they could impress their friends.

One evening, Dovid was visiting a client, a friend whose taxes he prepared. As he entered the living room, he found the man's son jumping around him in a familiar, excited manner, demanding, "But WHY, Daddy, WHY does Rashi ask that question?" The father offered his son some possibilities, which the son considered one by one. Finally, the father said, "Michael, we'll have to finish this later. Mr. Silverstein is here to see me now."

Suddenly it struck Dovid: "What a great Yankees game is to my kids, an interesting Rashi is to his."

"How I love your Torah! It is what I talk about all day!" says King David in Tehillim (119:97).

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"Keeping Torah in our conversations spreads the love of Torah that fills our hearts."

Effective Prayer

Real Smart

When a person, during Shemoneh Esrei, asks Hashem for "daas, intellect, what is it he really wants? To be smarter? To be able to outwit the Dow? Understand Shakespeare? Perhaps the goal is more Torah-oriented—to be able to memorize more Chumash or comprehend more Gemara.

In fact, the structure of the tefillah teaches us that the daas we really need is a kind of enlightenment that no amount of study can produce. It's a gift directly from Heaven, given with Hashem's grace. It's what transforms Chumash, Gemara and every form of Torah learning from an intellectual exercise into a channel through which holiness reaches one's heart. That is why the brachah is preceded by the pronouncement: "You (Hashem) graciously endow man with intellect."

Because of the Divine source of daas, it is the kind of intellect that—like Hashem—cannot be corrupted. With it, we can discern truth from falsehood, good from evil, reasoning from rationalization; we can trust the

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Better Relationships

Got A Minute?

Pirkei Avos offers this well-known advice: "Do not be scornful of any person and do not be disdainful of anything, for you have no person without his hour and no thing without its place." A closer look at the Hebrew wording, however, adds another profound layer to this verse. "She'ayn l'cha adam she'ayn lo sha'ah" can also be translated: "For there is no person *for you*, that there is no hour *for him*." In other words, you can't have a connection with someone if you can't find some time for him.

Quality time has been the buzzword of our busy busy age. But Pirkei Avos tells us that when we feed our relationships with nothing but the scraps of time left over from our overwrought lives, we starve those relationships—spouses, children, siblings, parents, friends—all grow distant from us.

Time, Pirkei Avos teaches, is the thread that weaves us into each other's lives. The more threads we weave, the stronger the fabric.

—*CCHF*

Published for Toras Emes Academy of Miami by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation

Dedicated *L'ilui Nishmas* Reva Esther bas Tzvi Hersch HaLevi a'h

Ready, Willing and Able

"Sarah, you left your coat on the floor. It goes on the hook." Sarah was already upstairs in her bedroom, unwinding after a tough day in third grade. Her mother was standing six inches from the coat. The temptation was great—why not pick it up and get it out of sight. But instead, the mother climbed the stairs, went to Sarah and said, "Sarah, your coat is laying on the floor. Please hang it up."

Face to face with her mother, Sarah could no longer pretend she didn't hear. She went downstairs, picked up the coat and hung it on the hook. "Thank you," said the mother. "You made the living room look nice and neat again."

For the moment, the only accomplishment was a reduction of clutter in the house. But in the long-run, Sarah's mother understood that by insisting that the child take responsibility for herself, she was allowing her to feel her own strength, to develop a "can-do" attitude that would get her through life.

> "Parents who encourage their children to use their skills grant them a priceless gift."

The impulse to do for one's children begins at birth when they are indeed totally dependent. Little by little, they develop skills; parents who encourage their children to use these new skills grant them a priceless gift. Chazal say, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" A person who feels he cannot—or need not—do for himself lacks an essential element in his sense of "me."

We can't always give our children an ability. But we can teach them confidence in the abilities they have, by training them to be ready and willing to use them.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What task have you taken on that you felt at first was too difficult. How did you feel when you completed it?

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

Favorite Subject

continued from front

The subjects that are closest to our hearts are what fill our minds and conversations. One who makes Torah his favorite subject fills his own heart, and those of his children, with a sense of its wonder and excitement.

To do: Use stories of tzaddikim, midrashim or other "child friendly" sources to engage the family in Torah-based discussions at the Shabbos table.

Adapted from "The Chofetz Chaim Looks at: The Ultimate Treasure," with permission from Feldheim Publishers

Real Smart

continued from front

workings of our minds to lead us in the right direction and make us worthy of every brachah.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What might be some results of learning Torah without Hashem's gift of "daas."

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

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Dedications

לע"נ
שרה בת ר' מנחם מענדל ע"ה
Mrs. Sara Fogel a"h
נלב"ע כ"ט שבט תשנ"ט
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה

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

His Own Journey

The boat was crammed from end to end with refugees. There was no comfort, no privacy, on the long journey from Shanghai to America at the end of World War II. Yet even under these conditions, Rav Chaim Shmulevitz spent his time learning, engrossed in the complex Talmudic analysis entitled *Shev Shemaitsa*. While others sailed the rough seas, he sailed alongside them on his own fascinating journey through the depths of the Talmud's wisdom.

At one point, a fellow passenger standing nearby wondered what land mass the ship was in the process of passing.

"Where are we now?" he asked Rav Chaim.

"Chapter Three," was his reply.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What was it about Rav Chaim's learning that allowed him to become so totally absorbed in it?

Adapted from "For Love of Torah," by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, with permission from Mesorah Publications

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MOTHER—DAUGHTER BRUNCH

↑ 4 GENERATIONS!!!!! ↑