

TEAM Spirit

Friday, March 4, 2011
Candle Lighting 6:05 PM

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



פרשת פקודי
פרשת שקלים
שבת מברכים

TEAM PLAYERS

★STAR STUDENTS★

Yael Aminov – S.S.	Daniel Chattah – T.S.
Elishava El-Gad – S.S.	Ezra Bistriz – S.S.
Chaya Ora Goldenberg – S.S.	Daniel Danan – T.S.
Avital Nightingale – S.S.	Reuven Evgi – S.S.
Shoshana Sapirman – S.S.	Moti Froimovich – T.S.
Sara Seltzer – S.S.	Avraham Homnick – S.S.
Chaya Sharfman – T.S.	Dovid Oumanski – S.S.
Mindel Weinberger – T.S.	Kalmi Rosenberg – S.S.
Nechama Wulwick – T.S.	Binyamin Rubinov – T.S.
Tamara Yeshurun – T.S.	Yaacov Sutton – T.S.

Jacob Benchetrit	Natalie Aronov
Dani Breier	Sarah Cohen
Ephraim Dudovitz	Chavi Fried
Moishe Kessler	Chaya Sora Koot
Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz	Shoshana Lesnik
Meir Liberman	Batel Levi
Menachem Oumanski	Rivka Chaya Lisbon
Aryeh Sova	Avital Nightingale
Elisha Steinberger	Esther Pam
Hillel Weinberger	Hadassah Privalsky
	Batia Segal
	Elishava Sharfman

REGISTRATION 2010-11 EARLY BIRD DEADLINE THIS MONDAY!

Please be sure to review all the documents in your 2011-12 registration packet. In order to be eligible for the early bird registrations discounts, all forms and fees should be returned no later than this Monday, March 7th. If applying for tuition assistance, the completed tuition reduction form must also be submitted to receive early-bird savings.

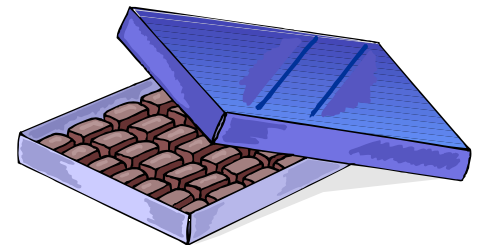
As a reminder, new students to each division (ECE, Toras Emes, RMS and YTC) must apply and be accepted for their 2011-2012 enrollment to be finalized. Please note that current YTC/TEAM families are only given priority for space in our classes, if they apply and/or register by March 7th.

KONEI OLAM

We ended our stay in Australia with a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. We learned the importance of requesting things from our parents in the proper way.

PESACH CANDY ROUNDUP

This year we made more than \$2700 in profit for Toras Emes! The class with the highest sales was 2B and they will celebrate



with a yummy ice cream party soon. 3G was the runner up which earns the class an extra recess. Our thanks to Mrs. Adina Dreyfuss for chairing this project and to Mrs. Toby Goldman, Mrs. Sara Goldsmith and Mrs. Brachie Bergida for their help with reviewing all the orders. Yasher Koach to all the children and parents who participated.

OD YOSEF CHAI

We are gearing up for our annual Matanos L'Evyonim campaign for the needy in Eretz Yisroel. Further information will be sent home with the children early next week.

PURIM CARDS

Don't forget 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**. If you can't come in to the office, order forms are attached for your convenience.



REFUAH SHELAIMA

- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga *bas* Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Rachel *bas* Bryna
- ◆ Aliza Sara *bas* Chaya Freida
- ◆ Racheli Maya *bas* Shoshana
- ◆ Atara Kreindl Chava *bas* Roiza
- ◆ Leon *ben* Esther
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Asna
- ◆ Aryeh Leib *ben* Genendel
- ◆ Yitzchak Shlomo *ben* Mazal

DATA BANK



Yasher Koach to Danny Breier of 2B who was this month's Data Bank winner and has earned a pizza lunch with Dr. Lerer!

NICHUM AVEILIM

To Mrs. Donna Herzek and family on the loss of her father. Shiva is being observed at the Niad home, 4060 N. Hills Drive #24, Hollywood through Tuesday morning. The phone number is 954.367.5503. There is a lock box on the bench to gain access to the building. The code is 16420.

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Lehrfield and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their daughter, our alumna, Shira and Avi Tenenberg. Special Mazel Tov to great grandparents, Rabbi and Mrs. David Lehrfield.



SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

The fourth and fifth grade Science Fair projects are due soon. If you have not yet purchased a Science board, they are available in the office for \$5 each.



UNIFORM GEMACH

Don't forget to avail yourselves of the many items of clothing 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.



ONGOING PROGRAMS

Weekly Parsha Class

Thursday mornings 9:15-10:00AM

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

Homework Club

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 4-5PM

Miss Rottman tobirottman@gmail.com

Boys' After School Sports

Monday & Thursday, 4-5PM

Coach Melamed 786.356.8063

Mr. Harkavy 631.612.7532

JAG is back!

Tuesday (1G-3G) & Wednesday (4G&5G), 4:10-5:10PM

Mrs. Selmar 305.479.7269

THANK YOU!



To Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Kanter and family for their generous donation of a printer/scanner. It is most appreciated!

We are excited to announce the
**PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
MEETING**

for our 2 new buildings

Starting at 6PM on March 14, 2011

Location:

City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers

17011 N.E. 19 Avenue

North Miami Beach, FL 33162

We request your presence in support of our two new proposed buildings, new Educational building for our Middle and Preschool divisions and a new dorm building for Toras Chaim.



Happy Birthday!



Dovid Alber
7 years old



Tzvi Winter
9 years old



Yocheved Sobol
9 years old

This book is
dedicated in
honor of
Your Child
on the occasion of
a birthday
*by you, the
parents*

Pictured here with Ms. Grossman, school Librarian, are children who were honored with donations to the TEAM library on the occasion of their birthdays.

For \$18 you may honor your child's birthday with a book. A bookplate with the student's name is placed on the inside of the cover; the student takes the book home for a week before it becomes a part of the library; the student's picture appears in the TEAM Spirit.

Thank you to all who are participating in this effort to increase the volumes of our library.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dennis, PTA Volunteer



**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 Pekudei Shabbos Shekalim 5771

Dear Parents,

This *Shabbos* we will be reading about the accounting conducted by *Moshe* that verified the scrupulous honesty with which he conducted the financial affairs surrounding the construction of the *Mishkan*. We also read on this *Shabbos* of *Parashas Shekalim* about the contribution of a half-shekel by every member of the Jewish nation as their annual participation in the sacrifices brought in the *Beis HaMikdash*.

Realizing how integral money is not only to conducting the everyday affairs of life, but for properly serving *Hashem* as well, it behooves us to examine our own attitudes towards money, and how to properly train our children in money matters. A proper attitude can be best summed up as: "Neither FEAR nor REVERE." Money is something people should not be afraid of making or spending. They should not live in dread of losing what they have or of what could be done to harm them by those who have more. They should not make themselves subservient to the wealthy. They shouldn't compromise their principles or trample on others in an attempt to make more, nor should they squander the precious days and years of life in its endless pursuit.

It is clear from *Pirkei Avos* (4:1) how we should relate to the question of having money. "Who is rich?" is the question asked. The answer is not an amount of money, a debt/asset ratio or a measure of net worth, rather it is an attitude. "One who is satisfied with his portion," is the *Mishnah's* response. True wealth is not measured by a bank account or property and asset holdings, which can come and go. Real wealth is a mentality that brings contentment and satisfaction with whatever *Hashem* has granted us. We make the effort, we're reasonable about expenditures, but at the end of the day how we feel about what we have is what determines our wealth status, in the eyes of *Chazal*.

How is this taught to children? By role modeling. Children can't be taught to have the proper attitude about money – they observe their parents, experience the contentment or lack thereof in their home, and develop their own feelings accordingly. In an admittedly non-scientific survey I conducted a few years back with young adults concerning whether they felt there was or was not plenty of money available in their home growing up, the responses had nothing to do with the parents' net worth and everything to do with their preoccupation with money issues, stress and tension about money, and a focus on what others' had that they lacked. A good number of children from parents of limited means but positive attitudes never realized they were not as 'well-off' as others. Many of those from families of greater means felt anxious about money and were worried about managing financially in the future.

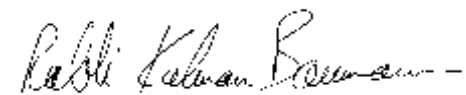
No discussion of children and money is complete without considering the question of an allowance. There's no rule – many people feel it's excellent training for responsible financial management, others want to wait, to avoid a preoccupation with money at a young age. If you do choose to go with an allowance, the question inevitably is "how much" and "how often." That is really not the question; you first have to clarify your objective in giving an allowance – then the "how much" and "how often" will answer themselves.

-continued-

If your objective is simply to teach how to handle money – a small amount will do. If you determine certain categories of items must be purchased only through the allowance money – then you'll know how much should be set aside for that. Whatever the amount, it must be consistent, dependable and not too much – major items that the child needs must come from the household, and obviously the amounts increase as the child grows.

Most importantly, money is the testing ground for a child's developing sense of trust in *Hashem* to take care of his or her needs. Honesty, integrity, de-emphasizing material items, preventing the development of the "gimmies" from over-indulgent, lavish and numerous gifts, a focus on *Tzedaka* and sharing with those less fortunate are the critical components in raising a healthy, well-balanced, "rich" individual.

Best wishes for a *Shabbos* of health, wealth and *Nachas*,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rabbi Kalman Baumann".

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

chosen words

Personal Growth

Kindness Personified

In *Pirkei Avos*, the world is said to stand upon three pillars: Torah learning, prayer, and acts of kindness. "You shall walk after Hashem, your G-d," (Devarim 13.5) is explained to mean that a person should emulate Hashem's acts of kindness that are found throughout the Torah.

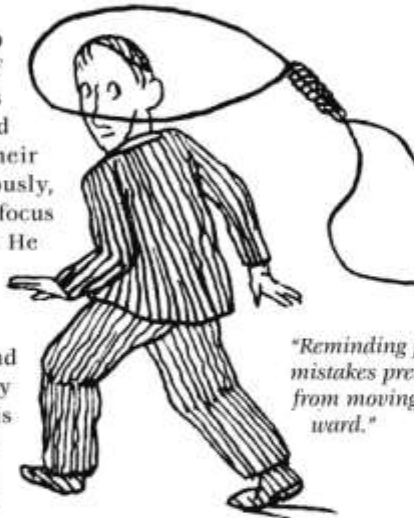
In *Ahavas Chesed*, the Chofetz Chaim defines specific mitzvos of chesed in detail, so that every Jew can understand and fulfill his unique mission in life. This series defines one such mitzvah—*bikur cholim*, visiting the sick.

Part II: What to Do

The purpose of visiting the sick is to uplift their mood and improve their condition. Obviously, the visitor should focus on cheerful topics. He should make sure that the person's surroundings are neat and clean, and bring him tasty food to eat if his condition permits. Visitors are even obligated to take note of whether the patient is receiving the medical care and medicine he needs, and to assist him if he can't afford them. Another aspect of the mitzvah is to ease the patient's mind by providing his family with hot meals or seeing to other household needs.

Essential to fulfilling the mitzvah of *bikur cholim* is praying for the person's recovery. *Yoreh Deah* teaches that the Shechinah, Hashem's presence, stands at the head of the sick. Therefore, while a visitor is with the patient, he can pray in any language, since the words are being received directly. Away from the patient, Hebrew is preferred. The prayer should include a petition for this specific individual among all the sick of the Jewish people.

All of these obligations are especially important if



"Reminding people of past mistakes prevents them from moving forward."

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

the sick person is poor and therefore reliant on others for help. Says the Chofetz Chaim, "...How great is the reward...to one who visits the poor, sick man.... who encourages him not to abandon hope...He will be blessed in many important respects by Hashem...."

Adapted from "Love Your Neighbor," by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin with permission from the author

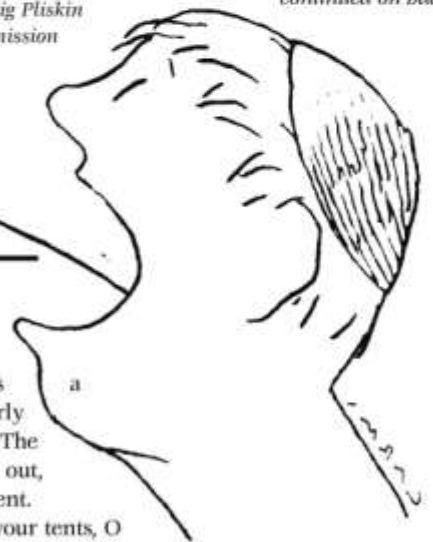
Better Relationships

Halting Progress

In his teenage years, Shimon was trouble. Full of restless energy, he suffered through high school by making his rebbeim, teachers and parents suffer too. Everyone despaired at his irresponsibility, his irreverence, his lack of interest in learning.

Finally, after graduation, he found an opportunity to start his own business. For the first time, his tremendous energy found a productive channel. Within a year, he was the 20-year-old proprietor of a very successful enterprise. Little by little, Shimon began repairing his

continued on back



Effective Prayer

Lived-In

The shul was designed by one of the city's top architects. The interior was a masterful play of light and color, meant to evoke the Heavens. The cushioned seats remained remarkably clean, since they were used only for a couple of hours Friday night and a couple more Shabbos morning. The rest of the time, with the exception of a few old men who met for a morning minyan, the place was eerily beautiful and silent.

Across town, another congregation was bursting the seams of its home. Three morning minyanim churned in and out each day. At night, there were fathers learning their sons, men learning with their part-

ners, a class given by the rabbi, plus a minchah, an early and a late maariv. The lights were rarely out, the room rarely silent.

"How good are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel." To which shul do these words apply? A shul is meant to be a dwelling place—a place full of life, where a live relationship between Hashem and His people is nurtured. And when we dwell with Hashem, then He, who returns our deeds in equal measure, dwells with us.

Adapted from "Living Each Day," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, MD, with permission from Mesorah Publications


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Dedicated U'luvi Nishmas Reva Esther bas Tzvi Heersch HaLevi a'h

The Honoree

"You've got to learn to toot your own horn," is a common piece of advice. A mother might give it to her daughter who's running for class president. A friend might give it to a businessman seeking to establish his company's presence in the market. Pirkei Avos, however, gives us the opposite advice: "Who is honorable? He who honors his fellow men." Don't promote yourself; promote your friend.

What's wrong with trying to build your own reputation with a little public relations? First of all, it's self-defeating. The Talmud teaches that honor eludes one who pursues it. This is not a mysterious phenomenon when we consid-

er the fundamental meaning of honor—that your achievements or virtues are outstanding enough to impress others. If you have to highlight them for others, the attention you receive is not really honor.

Secondly, by seeking honor, a person actually lowers himself. Essentially, he's publicizing what he considers evidence of his greatness, and asking, "What do you think?" He's making his own value dependent on other people's assessment of him.

But Pirkei Avos is teaching us more than the futility of pursuing honor. "He who honors his fellow men" is the one designated as honorable. A person who consistently recognizes and acknowledges the good in others builds a character for himself

"What's wrong with trying to build your own reputation with a little public relations?"



2nd Prize 4 Tickets to Israel or \$3,600 Cash

3rd Prize Magnificent Leather Bound Talmud, Kiki Custom Sheitel, or \$1,500 Cash

DEADLINE: Rosh Chodesh Nissan 5771, April 5, 2011

CALL NOW
for your chance to win
845.352.3505 x 113
or email ozeri@chofetzchaimusa.org



WORLDWIDE INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT SEMIRAS HALOSHON PROGRAMS

A Powerful Emotion

During the Nazi era, Jewish prisoners were assigned to lift heavy logs and load them onto small iron railroad cars. Among the prisoners was Tzvi, a man of ordinary strength, but extraordinary love for his fellow Jew. The exhausting work progressed, when suddenly, the air was pierced by a terrible cry of pain. Tzvi rushed toward the sound, and found that a railroad car had turned over and pinned the foot of a prisoner. Without any hesitation, Tzvi turned his back to the car, crouched to grasp it and rose up, lifting the loaded vehicle off the man's foot.

Stories like this have been heard before—but the hero is usually a mother who finds superhuman strength to save her child. Her fierce love for her child unleashes the flow of adrenaline. But for Tzvi, any Jew in trouble unleashed that strength, because every Jew was the object of his powerful, selfless love.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What are some specific ways of increasing your level of Ahavas Yisrael?

Adapted from "The Holocaust and Jewish Destiny," by Rabbi Gershon Weiss, with permission from Targum Press

that is truly worthy of honor. Whether he receives it in this world or the next, there's no doubt that he will get his due.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What are the pros and cons of accepting an honor from a school or organization?

Adapted from "Ethics From Sinai," by Irving M. Bunim, with permission from Feldheim Publishers

Halting Progress

continued from front relationships. He even resumed learning—this time with real enthusiasm. Marriage and children soon followed.

Nonetheless, Shimon's past wouldn't fade quietly. "Well, you weren't such a saint yourself," an old friend would tease. "They're taking after their father," his wife would comment when the children got rambunctious. "When did I go gray?" his father would joke. "Ask Shimon!"

No one meant any harm. But each reference to Shimon's past created a new tether that held him there. He couldn't shed his old persona. That is why such comments, according to the Chofetz Chaim, trespass the prohibition against onaas devarim—hurtful speech. Our job is not to tie someone down to the mistakes in his past; it's to prod him toward the greatness in his future.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Is there any harm if Shimon doesn't seem to mind the comments?

Adapted with permission from: "Chofetz Chaim: A Daily Companion," a project of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation and Mesorah Publications

Dedications

לע"נ
בן ציון משה בן נטע צבי ז"ל
נלב"ע כד' אדר
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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