

TEAM Spirit

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



Friday, April 1, 2011
Candle Lighting 7:19 PM

פרשת תזריע
שבת החודש
שבת מברכים

★STAR STUDENTS★

Leah Baroukh – S.S.	Zev Bistriz – T.S.
Shira Feldman – T.S.	Shalom Deutsch – T.S.
Cila Ginsparg – S.S.	Avrami Flamholtz – T.S.
Hadassa Grossman – T.S.	Yochanan Gittleson – S.S.
Tamar Hyman – T.S.	Asher Goldenberg – S.S.
Chaya Sora Koot – S.S.	Yechiel Goldman – S.S.
Simcha Leonoff – T.S.	Avos Greenberg
Batel Levi – T.S.	Ariel Hahn – S.S.
Esti Schwartz – S.S.	Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz – T.S.
Meital Weisskof – T.S.	Yehuda Lehrfield – T.S.
Aliza Zeines – S.S.	Yosef Steinberg – S.S.

TEAM PLAYERS

Chana Alber	Ephraim Berkowitz
Tehila Alfassy	Yossi Cohen
Ariela Aronov	Yonatan El-Gad
Ellee Benchetrit	Simcha Gassner
Naomi Bursztyn	Yackov Greenberg
Aliza Feldman	Benny Kanoff
Yokheved Krispin	Moishe Kessler
Leah Lind	Tzvi Lehrer
Yasmin Reboh	Reuven Shaffren
Shoshana Sapirman	Shelomo Sutton
Shira Suissa	
Tamara Yeshurun	

EXODUS EXPERIENCE



The Exodus Experience trip is this Tuesday, April 5. We must have a signed permission slip and payment for each student in the office by Monday in order for your child(ren) to participate. Official uniforms are required.

SCHOOL PICTURES

If you have not yet paid for your child's photos, please send \$10 to the school office or return the photos by this Monday.



HASMODA PROJECT

We are looking forward to our Annual Pesach Hasmoda Program for all of our elementary school children.

With less than two weeks of school until Pesach, we are issuing our semi-annual call for sponsors to dedicate this program for a Refuah Shelaima, in memory of a beloved departed, or simply to honor someone. Sponsorships are welcome, beginning with a \$50 contribution. Please call Rabbi Baumann in the school office.

KONEI OLAM

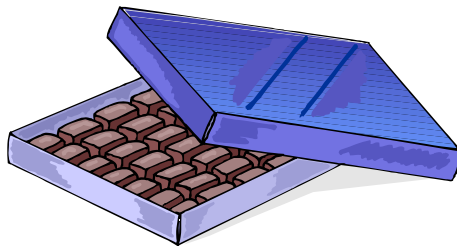
We're finishing our trip to Russia. We spent our last week learning about how part of being "Noseh B'ol" is noticing when your friend is in an uncomfortable situation and doing your utmost to help. We will resume our travels after Yom Tov.

REGISTRATION 2011-12

If you have not yet registered, we strongly encourage you to register as soon as possible so as to reserve a spot for your child(ren), and to avail yourself of the largest possible tuition reduction available to you. Please be reminded that after this Wednesday, April 6th the registration fee increases. As a reminder, in order to facilitate immediate processing, tuition reduction forms and supporting documentation need to be returned together with the registration and fees.

THANK YOU

To the following parents who provided invaluable help in distributing the Pesach



chocolates on Monday, under the able leadership of Mrs. Adina Dreyfuss.

Mrs. Chanie Deutsch
Mrs. Rochel Heiney
Mrs. Esta Rosenberg

Yasher Koach! We couldn't have done it without you!

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Yekusiel Stern and family on the birth of a daughter.



REFUAH SHELAIMA

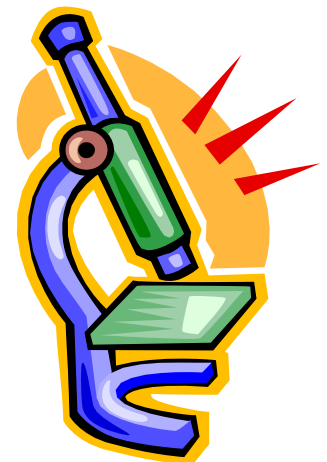
- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga *bas* Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Rachel *bas* Bryna
- ◆ Aliza Sara *bas* Chaya Freida
- ◆ Racheli Maya *bas* Shoshana
- ◆ Atara Kreindl Chava *bas* Roiza
- ◆ Leon *ben* Esther
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Asna
- ◆ Aryeh Leib *ben* Genendel
- ◆ Yosef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

NICHUM AVEILIM

To Mrs. Rena Gruenstein and family on the loss of her mother. Upon Mrs. Gruenstein's return from Lakewood, Shiva will be observed at the Gruenstein home on Sunday, April 3 from 5:00-10:00 PM. Mrs. Gruenstein can be reached at 786.897.2502.

SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

We are eagerly anticipating our Science Fair on April 4-6, where we will have an opportunity to view the fourth and fifth grade projects on display. Awards assemblies will take place on April 6.



ONGOING PROGRAMS

Weekly Parsha Class

Thursday mornings 9:15-10:00AM

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

Note: No class this Thursday, April 7.

Class will resume on May 5.

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

Tuesday (1G-3G) & Wednesday (4G&5G), 4:05-5:05PM

Note: This cycle of sessions runs through May 18.

Mrs. Selmar 305.479.7269

CHINESE AUCTION



We are eagerly anticipating the Chinese Auction which **will take place, IY" H, on Sunday, May 29.** The Chinese Auction books are in the mail. You can view the prizes and order at www.ytcteam.org/auction

COMING SOON!

SEFIRA/KABBOLAS HATORAH TV/ VIDEO CONTROL

We look forward to our third and final TV/Video Control Program of the year, which will run from *Rosh Chodesh Iyar*, Thursday, May 5 through *Rosh Chodesh Sivan*, Friday, June 3 - during *Sefiras HaOmer*. Those students who complete this TV Control Program (participation in previous programs not required) will celebrate at a banquet and show during an upcoming school day. Details will be forthcoming.





**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 Tazria, Parashas HaChodesh 5771

Dear Parents,

I was shown some video footage this week of the recent tsunami hitting the coast of Japan. While the shock and horror of watching an entire town being inundated and destroyed was an overwhelming experience, there were several lessons I came away with that may be worth sharing.

The most striking and obvious impact I experienced was, naturally, an increase in the depth of my *Kavana* (intent) when reciting the *Bracha* of *Roka Ha'Aaretz al HaMoyim* (*He extends the dry land over the waters*) during the *Birchos HaShachar*, the morning blessings. Watching the seemingly unending crashing of the sea over the seawall and flooding the surrounding area made me realize how we take for granted the fact that the oceans that surround us don't threaten us. In fact, they are only held back from inundating dry land because of the will of *Hashem*. There's no guarantee that the sea will remain where it is, so we thank *Hashem* everyday for keeping that status quo going.

In the particular clip that I observed, something subtle, but ultimately extremely powerful struck me. This video was obviously filmed by a person who was undergoing the experience of watching his world being destroyed around him, not knowing how bad it would get, how long it would last or whether the videographer himself would be in personal danger. During the five minutes or so of footage, voices could be heard in the background, and it was those intermittent voices that struck me. The voices were calm, understated and seemingly matter of fact. I obviously don't understand the words spoken in Japanese, but the tone was unmistakable. The greatest calamity these people ever experienced was unfolding before them, and there was no screaming, no shouting or wailing, just some seemingly random comments and observations.

There was nothing intrinsically good or bad in these reactions, what is to be learned from here is how strikingly different people's behavior is from one locale, one culture to the other. People are born with essentially the same traits of fear, courage, love, loyalty, sentimentality and hope, to name a few. Within a few short years, however, they learn to manifest these emotions in startlingly different ways. We all can easily imagine the reactions that Europeans, Americans, Middle-Easterners, etc. would have to such an experience. Assuming anyone would have the presence of mind and self-control to quietly video the destruction of their world, there would undoubtedly be crying, wailing, screaming, shouting and general sounds of panic emanating from surrounding people, accompanying any visual images.

The fact that this is so should fill us with great motivation and optimism. No one is 'destined', 'pre-determined' or 'forced' to act and react in a certain way. It is a learned response. One's life experiences and surrounding influences weigh heavily in forming these traits and behaviors. If that is true, it follows that there is much we can do to improve our behavior and *Midos*, and our children's emerging traits and values. Never accept the status quo of poor *Midos*, incompetence or negative behavior – people can change, grow and improve, under the right circumstances.

While we may be in awe of the Japanese people's fortitude and resilience, we can do ourselves the greatest service by realizing that since human behavior is not pre-ordained, it's in our hands, with *Hashem's* help, to work on elevating ourselves, our family and our surrounding community.

Best wishes for a grateful and uplifting *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

chosen words

Personal Growth

How High Can We Fly

When Hashem ordered a malach to split the Yam Suf, the malach protested. "These (the Egyptians) and those (the Jews) are both idol-worshippers." The Gemara teaches that, living among the Egyptians, the Jews had become much like them, descending to the 49th level of impurity. Why, then, did they deserve to be saved by a miracle?

Rabbi Dov Kushilevsky answers the question with a parable. There once was a chicken farmer whose whole life revolved around his farm. Beyond chickens and eggs, he knew little about anything. One day, he felt the urge to wander, and went for a walk in the forest. There, he found a recently hatched eagle egg, with the hatchling still inside. Never considering that it could be anything but a chicken, he brought it home and placed it in the coop.

"Everyday in saying 'Oz Yoshir' we proclaim that Hashem's miracles never cease."

The eagle, surrounded by chickens, learned to be a chicken, too. It strutted and pecked and never learned to fly. Then, one day, a hunter stopped at the farm and asked for a place to sleep for the night. He noticed the eagle, and confronted the farmer in dismay. How could he keep an eagle cooped up like a chicken? The farmer adamantly insisted that this was a chicken.

That night, the hunter crept into the chicken coop and rescued the eagle. He brought it to a mountain and set it free. There, the eagle began to flap its wings, at first achieving only short hops off the ground, and

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

finally taking wing to soar among the mountaintops.

In the same way, the Jews learned lowliness from their surroundings in Egypt. But underneath, they remained Israel—the progeny of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov. When we remember who we are and what we're capable of, we're not bound by the limitations of the world we live in. Seas will split and bonds will fall away. Then, we can soar.

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Better Relationships

Fellow Travelers

The Haggadah teaches that the splitting of the Yam Suf was actually comprised of 50 individual miracles. One of these was that the sea separated into 12 different tunnels, one for each tribe. In a further miracle, the walls between each of these tunnels were transparent, so that the tribes could see each other as they progressed together across the sea.

Why did they need to see each other? So that they wouldn't worry about the other tribes. The see-through walls were a message of Ahavas Yisrael, of caring about the progress of our fellow Jew. We don't just grab our success and run ahead, without concern for others who are struggling.

The question then arises: If Hashem wanted the tribes to see each other, why didn't He simply have them cross in one group? The answer is that we need our separate paths; our love and concern aren't limited to those walking the same path as we are. As long as we are all heading toward the same destination, our concern must extend to every Jew, no matter what path he pursues.

—CCHF

Effective Prayer

Daily Miracles

"Oz Yoshir," the Song of the Sea, expresses Israel's exuberant gratitude on wit-

nessing the dramatic parting of the Yam Suf. Although we have never witnessed a miracle on that scale, we say this verse every day as part of the morning prayer. And while many prayers refer to our redemption, 'Oz Yoshir' has a particular message to impart that goes beyond our rescue from Egypt.

The opening verse tells us that "Moshe sang this song, saying..." and the question is asked, why is the word "saying" used? The Midrash explains it to mean "to

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

Free to...

On Pesach, we celebrate our freedom, and one fundamental of being free is the ability to choose your priorities in how you spend your time.

Chol Hamoed is one of the rare times of year in which most families have time to spend together. But how does it get used? Often, busy parents are happy if the children can just find ways to "keep busy," even if those ways are non-productive, or even destructive. Do the hours spent in front of a computer screen or video monitor reflect the value of this great gift of freedom?

Believe it or not, even when children say, "There's nothing to do," there really are many exciting, enriching options.

"Often, busy parents are happy if the children can just find ways to keep busy."

The group Parents Concerned With Media Influence ran a contest at Yeshiva Eitz Chaim,

Toronto, in which the students in each grade were challenged to come up with a list of things to do. The suggestions ranged from the simple (First grade: Have an indoor picnic, write letters to Bubbie and Zaidie) to the creative (Fourth grade:

Put messages in balloons and send them into the sky), from the practical (Third grade: Water the plants) to the ambitious (Sixth grade: Learn a new language).

Any family can compile its own list of activities, with each member contributing ideas appropriate for his or her age. Then, when it seems

there's nothing else to do but fend off alien invaders on a computer screen, a customized suggestion list is at the ready.

Gaining our freedom was the miracle. What we do with it is the challenge.

—CCHF

Daily Miracles

continued from front

repeat." The song should be repeated for all time, whenever Klal Yisrael or any Jew is rescued from distress. It should be repeated and proclaimed, to announce out loud to the world that our help comes solely from Hashem.

The Zohar adds that "Oz Yoshir" is part of our daily prayers because Hashem redeems us from trouble everywhere, every day. Our very existence is a continuous miracle, best expressed by the words the Jews sang as the seas crashed behind them and, filled with love and awe, they followed Hashem into the wilderness.

Adapted from "The Call of The Torah," by Rabbi Elie Munk, with permission from Mesorah Publications

How High

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Shabbos Table Discussion:

How does the Torah give all Jews the wings on which to soar? What are some everyday examples?

Adapted from "Shabbos Stories," by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Dedications

לניני
תלדה בת ר' אפרים עי"ה
Mrs. Shulamith Katz a"h
נלביע כבי אדר תשס"ט

Lovingly dedicated by her family
on her second yahrzeit

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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

A Garden of Gratitude

Rav Yisrael Gustman, zt"l, rosh yeshivah of Yeshivas Netzach Yisrael in Jerusalem, stood in front of his house one day, watering his garden. Several students walked by and noticed the rosh yeshivah busy with his task.

Eager to serve him, they asked if they could take over, but Rav Gustman replied that he preferred to water them himself. Several days later, the scene repeated itself. The boys wondered why this great talmid chacham would spend his time gardening, and finally, one boy asked him.

Rav Gustman explained that, during World War II, he had been forced to hide in the forest. Because he had learned how to live off the wild plants, he was saved from starvation.

"I feel obligated to show my appreciation to the plants that saved my life, and therefore, I water them personally," he explained.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What good does it do to show thanks to plants or other objects?

Adapted from "Visions of Greatness," by Rabbi Yosef Weiss, with permission from C.I.S.

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We welcome your comments!

Letters to the Editor
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TORAS EMES ACADEMY OF MIAMI

April 2011

אדר ב'-ניסן תשע"א

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 כ"ו	2 כ"ז פרשת החודש תוריע Candle lighting 7:19
3 כ"ח MISHNAYOS PROJECT AUCTION	4 כ"ט SCIENCE FAIR	5 א SCIENCE FAIR "EXODUS EXPERIENCE" OFFICIAL UNIFORMS ROSH CHODESH	6 ב SCIENCE FAIR & ASSEMBLIES Girls 2:00 Boys 2:45	7 ג	8 ד Candle lighting 7:22	9 ה מצורע
10 ו	11 ז	12 ח ASSEMBLIES featuring 2G-R, 2B & 4B OFFICIAL UNIFORMS Girls 1:30 Boys 2:45	13 ט	14 י PESACH VACATION BEGINS HASMODA PROJECT BEGINS	15 י"א Candle lighting 7:26	16 י"ב אחרי מות שבת הגדול
17 י"ג	18 י"ד EREV PESACH Candle lighting 7:27	19 ט"ו PESACH	20 ט"ז PESACH	21 י"ז CHOL HAMOED	22 י"ח CHOL HAMOED Candle lighting 7:29	23 י"ט פסח
24 כ CHOL HAMOED Candle lighting 7:30	25 כ"א PESACH	26 כ"ב PESACH	27 כ"ג ISRU CHAG HASMODA PROJECT ENDS	28 כ"ד CLASSES RESUME REGULAR SESSIONS 8:10-4:00	29 כ"ה Candle lighting 7:33	30 כ"ו קדושים