

# TEAM Spirit

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



Friday, May 13, 2011  
Candle Lighting 7:40 PM

פרשת בהר

★STAR STUDENTS★

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Yacov Benchetrit – S.S. | Shira Adar – T.S.               |
| Avrami Flamholtz – S.S. | Tamar Brody – T.S.              |
| Asher Goldenberg – T.S. | Chani Dreyfuss – S.S.           |
| Dovid Kaplan – T.S.     | Tzipporah Leah Greenberg – S.S. |
| Daniel Levy – S.S.      | Yokheved Krispin – T.S.         |
| Natan Mizrahi – S.S.    | Shani Lesnik – S.S.             |
|                         | Yael Lesnik – S.S.              |
|                         | Ella Miriam Liberman – T.S.     |
|                         | Rivky Sapirman – T.S.           |
|                         | Yocheved Sobol – T.S.           |
|                         | Shira Suissa – S.S.             |

TEAM PLAYERS

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Odaya Cohen    | Daniel Akrish          |
| Sarah Cohen    | Shlomo Alfassy         |
| Chana Dreyfuss | Avraham Brass          |
| Meira Entin    | Levi Haimov            |
| Brendel Jablon | Moshe Kessler          |
| Deborah Nash   | Ezra Kirschenbaum      |
| Elisheva Raab  | Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz |
| Batsheva Roth  | Daniel Levy            |
| Esti Schwartz  | Yossi Rosenberg        |
| Sara Seltzer   | Yaacov Suissa          |
| Yael Ungar     |                        |
| Sara Winter    |                        |

ASSEMBLIES

Our monthly assemblies, featuring 5B, 2G-R & 2G-W, were a huge success on Tuesday. Mrs. Ritterman's second grade girls joined forces to perform a delightful play entitled "Let's Go to the Bais HaMikdash." The girls told the story of families bringing bikurim to the Bais HaMikdash, and the performance included a power point presentation about Yerushalayim and the Kohen Gadol. Rabbi Grossman's fifth grade boys performed a play which brought to life the famous *mashal* of "Diamond Island" - a place where chicken fat is revered over diamonds. The story teaches us to value the diamonds (mitzvos) in life as opposed to the chicken fat (riches). Yasher Koach to Rabbi Baumann for his words about a special person from a special place—Eretz Yisroel.

AVOID ALL APPOINTMENTS

Please be reminded that our standardized testing week will run from this Monday, May 16 through Friday, May 20. Please mark your calendars and make an extra special effort to avoid outside appointments for your children during school hours this week.



READY, SET ... WALK!

Our annual walkathon, BBQ and special activities will take place the day after *Lag B'Omer*, on Monday, May 23 at the school. Please help and encourage your children to participate in gathering sponsors for the walkathon. Sponsor sheets were sent home on Tuesday and should be filled out and brought back to school. All pertinent information was included with the sponsor sheet. This year, we will be sharing the proceeds with needy local families affected by the financial crisis.

As always, parents are invited to participate with us, as well as to help with the walkathon in various capacities. If you would like to help, please call the school office.



SEFIRA/KABBOLAS HATORAH TV/VIDEO CONTROL

Our first week of the *Sefiras HaOmer* TV/Video Control program was a huge success with the majority of students eagerly participating. Ices were distributed to everyone who completed the entire week. Those students who complete this TV Control Program (participation in previous programs not required) will celebrate at a banquet and show on Monday, June 13.



The TV Control calendars should continue to be initiated by a parent each day to indicate an entire day **without watching TV, videos or DVD's!** For the current week, which ends this Thursday, all students who reach the one week mark will receive ices and a mystery prize.

The calendar should be kept in one of your **child's Torah Studies folders or notebooks, to be shown** to the teacher upon request. Please continue to help and encourage your child throughout this most meaningful program.

## KONEI OLAM

**W**e are leaving China and moving on to our final destination ..... **Israel!** In Eretz Yisroel we will be learning about the midah of HaKoras HaTov. Stay tuned!

## DON'T DEHYDRATE

**W**e cannot stress enough the importance of bringing a water bottle to school every day—due to the return of the hot, humid Florida weather. We are insisting that all students bring a water bottle to school with them on days that they have PE. Thank you for your cooperation.



## MAZEL TOV



תינוק

**T**o Rabbi and Mrs. Kalman Baumann and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their son, Rabbi Shaya and Shoshana Baumann.

**T**o Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Brass and family on the birth of grandson, born to their daughter, our alumna, Rivka and Moshe Drebin.

## REFUAH SHELAIMA

- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga *bas* Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Aliza Chaya *bas* Sara Freida
- ◆ Tinok *ben* Chaya Sara
- ◆ Yoseph Simcha *ben* Zaka Basya
- ◆ Nina *bas* Victoria
- ◆ Yitzchak *ben* Blima
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Asna
- ◆ Zev Meir *ben* Yael Sara
- ◆ Rivka Miriam *bas* Ahuva Chaya
- ◆ Dovid Mechoel *ben* Yocheved
- ◆ Alter Mordechai Menachem *ben* Esther Frayda
- ◆ Dovid *ben* Etta Riva

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### Parsha with the Principal

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](mailto: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

**D**on't forget to line up your babysitters and join us for the Chinese Auction which will take place, IY"H, on Sunday, May 29. You can view the prizes and order at

[www.ytcteam.org/auction](http://www.ytcteam.org/auction)



**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 Behar 5771*

Dear Parents,

Among the impressive array of information, knowledge and understanding about *Torah* and *Mitzvos* that children from our families and Yeshivas have absorbed at a relatively young age, there is one glaring omission. Contained in this week's *Parsha* is the source of that gap in their awareness – the negative commandment of *Lo Sonu* contained in *Pasuk 17*, which *Rashi* tells us is referring to *Onoas Devarim*, hurting someone with words.

This prohibition includes insulting someone, calling someone by a less than flattering nickname, deliberately giving bad advice, speak disparagingly of his past or his ancestors, in short – any words or gestures that will make the other person feel bad. It's a bit hard to understand why *Onoas Devarim* is not as much of our children's (and our) parlance as *Loshon Hara*, *Tznius* or *Shmiras Shabbos* but that is currently the case, at least until we do something about it!

*Onoas Devarim* is a critically important term, because it identifies the essence of what is so emotionally harmful about the type of bullying known as 'relational bullying'. The old adage of "sticks and stones can hurt my bones, but words will never hurt me" is absolutely false. The image of a bully as a menacing, hulking juvenile delinquent out to beat up a skinny, wimpy kid does not help us realize the many forms bullying can take. Amongst our children, bullying more often takes on more subtle forms, especially through words and gestures that can be devastating to a child.

The *Pasuk* of *Lo Sonu* includes an interesting 'addendum'. The *Pasuk* says *V'Lo Sonu Ish es Amiso, V'Yoraisa Mai Elokecha, Ki Ani Hashem Elokeichem*. *Rashi* explains that when it comes to anything about which a person can hide his true intentions from others, the *Torah* makes sure to tell us that you need to realize you can't conceal anything from *Hashem*. He is well aware of what is really in your heart. *Hashem* is giving a stern admonition – don't try to cover up your hurtful intentions and make believe you meant well, or were 'just joking' or didn't know the other person would take offense from your comments.

Perhaps in addition to the negative connotation that you'd better not do it because *Hashem* will punish you, the *Torah* is appealing to the nobility within us. Our awareness that *Hashem* knows our every thought and intention should imbue us with a great feeling of self-worth. My words and even my thoughts are so important that *Hashem* Himself is aware of them and cares about them. If I'm such an important being, how can I stoop so low as to bring pain to another of *Hashem's* creations.

Our children need to imbibe this lesson! Most (but by no means all) cases of bullying occur when the bully is feeling down on him or herself and has the need consciously or subconsciously, to raise himself up by knocking down the other. By helping our children realize how truly exalted they are, whose thoughts are of concern to *Hashem* Himself, we'll help them fulfill the *Mitzvah* of refraining from *Onoas Devarim* and set them upon the path to a happy and more satisfying life.

Best wishes for an upbeat, positively enjoyable *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann



# Research Club



- Who was the only President to serve two nonconsecutive terms?
- What is the only bird that has two toes on each foot?
- What city is named in honor of Chief Sealth?

These are some of the questions our student researchers have to answer.

How did you do answering them?

Congratulations to the students below who have reached new milestones!

Keep looking it up!

4G	4G	4G	5G	5G	5G	5G	5G
<i>Explorer</i>	<i>Explorer</i>	<i>Explorer</i>	<i>Navigator I</i>	<i>Navigator II</i>	<i>Navigator III</i>	<i>Commander I</i>	<i>Commander II</i>
1,000 points	1,000 points	1,000 points	1,500 points	2,000 points	2,500 points	3,000 points	3,500 points
Esther Pam	Yael Ungar	Hadara Balgley	Natalie Aronov	Rivka Shemesh	Sara Winter	Shoshana Sapirman	Sara Winter
Sivan Zaig	Sofi Leonoff		Chaya Sora Koot			Sara Winter	Shoshana Sapirman

5B

## NEW CATEGORIES

<i>Research Leader I</i>	<i>Research Leader II</i>	<i>Research Leader III</i>	<i>Research Captain I</i>	<i>Research Captain II</i>	<i>Research Captain III</i>
7,500 points	8,000 points	8,500 points	9,000 points	9,500 points	10,000 points
Avner Yeshurun	Avner Yeshurun	Avner Yeshurun	Avner Yeshurun	Avner Yeshurun	Avner Yeshurun

### YASHER KOACH!

Keep up the good work, everyone!

Warm Southern regards,

Ms. Grossman, Librarian/Computer Teacher

# chosen words

## Personal Growth

### Fertile Ground

If you plant a patch of dry sand with grass seed, the grass won't grow. It will blow away, leaving the sand beneath it unchanged. If you plant Torah upon a selfish, arrogant heart, that Torah, too, will "blow away," leaving the soul of the recipient unchanged. For Torah to "take," it must be implanted in an environment made fertile by good middos.

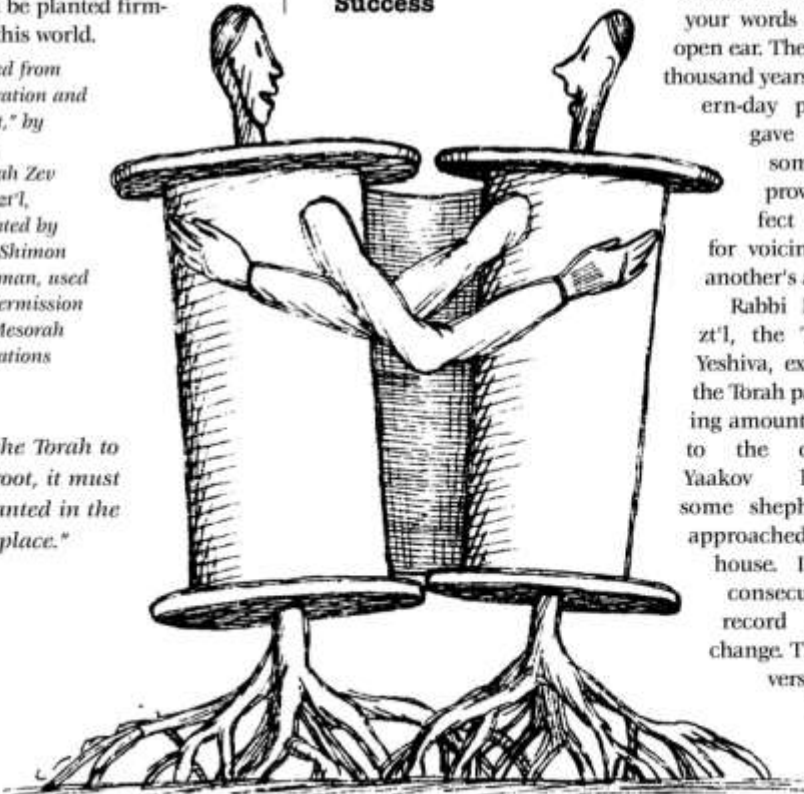
During Sefirah, we mourn the deaths of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students—each a talmid chochom, a potential leader of Klal Yisrael. Their deaths, Chazal tell us, were the result of their deficiency in middos; one did not respect the learning of the other. Yet the loss of this entire generation's sages would seem a steep price to exact. However, the Torah implanted within Rabbi Akiva's students was planted on sandy soil. To cultivate Torah that would take root and nourish the next generation, it was necessary to begin anew on fertile ground.

The vital importance of how we treat each other is illustrated in Parshas Kedoshim. There, Hashem ordered Moshe to "Speak to the entire assembly of the Children of Israel." Unlike other instances, Moshe could not simply impart the mitzvos to the elders. He had to speak directly to every man, woman and child. What was he to tell them? "Do not place a stumbling block before the blind," "Do not be a gossipmonger among your people," "Do not hate your brother in your heart," "Do not take revenge nor bear a grudge," "Love your fellow as yourself." Only by impressing these mitzvos—the essence of a Jew's obligations to his fellow Jew—upon the consciousness of each member of

Klal Yisrael, could Hashem guarantee that the Torah would be planted firmly in this world.

*Adapted from "Inspiration and Insight," by Rabbi Yehudah Zev Segal, zt'l, translated by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, used with permission from Mesorah Publications*

*"For the Torah to take root, it must be planted in the right place."*



## Effective Prayer

### Heavenly Help

A person who is attuned to the wonder of Hashem's creation sees many opportunities throughout each day to thank Hashem for His kindness, and ask Him for help in fulfilling his personal needs. He knows that it is Hashem's protection that keeps his family safe, His generosity that keeps the cupboard full, His mercy that heals everything from a scraped knee to a clogged artery.

Less apparent to most people is Hashem's role in our avodas Hashem. For this essential aspect of life, He also provides the means—opening our hearts

## Torah Tools for Personal Growth

### Inspiration

#### ▼ Ideas

#### ▼ Excellence

#### ▼ Success

## Better Relationships

### How You Say It

It's often not what you say, but how you say it that determines whether or not your words will find an open ear. The Torah, a few thousand years before modern-day psychologists gave the matter some thought, provided the perfect role model for voicing rebuke of another's actions.

Rabbi Mottel Katz, zt'l, the Telshe Rosh Yeshiva, explained that the Torah pays a surprising amount of attention to the conversation Yaakov had with some shepherds as he approached Lavan's house. In all, four consecutive verses record the interchange. The first three verses, in which Yaakov is asking the shepherds for information, begin with, "And he (Yaakov) said to them." But the fourth verse, in which he rebukes them for ignoring their duties in the middle of the day, begins, "And he said." He doesn't address his observation "to them." He merely

Continued on back

Continued on back

  
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

## Shabbos Table Discussion:

In what ways can Hashem help a person grow in his learning, davning and middos?

—CCHF

# An Imperfect World

Our society has been labeled by some a "victim culture," in which the greatest claim to fame is to have suffered some indignity or injustice. Discrimination, poverty, rich-but-absent parents, mental and physical abuse, overemployment, unemployment, old age and hundreds if not thousands of other bad draws from the deck of life give many people the only reason they need for doing less with their lives than they should.

But Jews, in the blessings they give their children each Friday night, take just the opposite point of view. For our daughters, the blessing is that they emulate their Mothers, Sarah, Rivka, Rachel and Leah. We bless our

sons that they should be like Menashe and Ephraim. What is the significance of these choices of role models?

**"All of these ancestors rose to greatness in unholy surroundings."**

The Mothers, it would seem, are an obvious choice since they embody the most exemplary traits of a Jewish woman. But how does that parallel our choice of Menashe and Ephraim for the sons? The answer is that all of these ancestors rose to spiritual greatness in unholy surroundings. All four matriarchs were raised by idol-worshippers. Menashe and Ephraim were raised in Egypt. As the sons of Joseph, second in command to Pharaoh, they were undoubtedly surrounded by all the immorality of Egyptian culture.

In our current society, there would be no expectation of any of these men or women becoming tzadikim. Yet, they all not only overcame the challenges they faced, but flourished and brought the world their immeasurable gifts. So we bless our children: Whatever may come your way, you, like your ancestors, will not only survive, but shine, and bring something special and holy into the world.

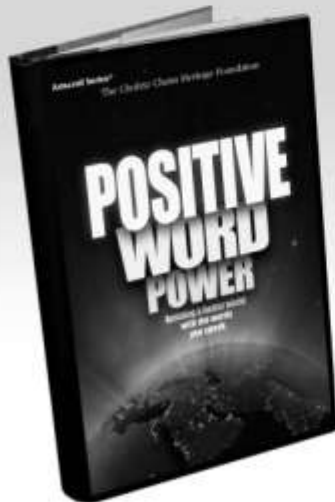
*Adapted from a lecture by Rabbi Reiti, lecturer, Gateway Seminars*

## How You Say It

*Continued from front*  
states what he sees, and leaves them to infer the rest. Because there is no attack, the shepherds need not mount a self-defense. Instead, they heed his words—the best result for everyone.

—CCHF

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# A Kind Rebuke

Rabbi Aryeh Levin once saw a group of people lined up in front of a small ice cream shop in Jerusalem, just a short time before Shabbos. He realized that, for all these people to be served, the store would have to remain open into Shabbos. At the same time, Rav Aryeh recognized what a great temptation the storekeeper would be facing, and how difficult it would be to turn away all this potential business.

He walked straight to the head of the line and spoke to the storekeeper. "Dear Jew, I know the temptation you are facing right now, but it is almost Shabbos and we are commanded to observe it." Before the man could respond, Rav Aryeh was gone. But on Sunday, the storekeeper approached him and said: "Rabbi, you were so kind and tactful in your words that I overcame the temptation and closed my store immediately."

## Shabbos Table Discussion:

What did Rav Aryeh's words accomplish? Didn't the storekeeper know it was Shabbos?

*Adapted from "Words of Wisdom, Words of Wit," by Shmuel Himmelstein, with permission from Mesorah Publications*

Index Reference 445



**Chosen Words is a biweekly publication of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation**

*HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board*  
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361 Spook Rock Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

*Chosen Words*  
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Illustrator: *Giora Carmi*

▼  
**"The words of the wise, spoken gently, are heard."**  
—Koheles 9:17  
▲

## Dedications

לניצ  
בתייה חיה  
בת ר' יעקב הלוי ע"ה  
Rebbetzin Basya Bender a"h  
לכביע י"ב אייר תשנ"ז  
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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

## We welcome your comments!

Letters to the Editor  
Chosen Words/CCHF  
361 Spook Rock Rd.  
Suffern, NY 10901

*...a running Hand of this Master, being convinced that  
to the formal round Method commonly taught. Indeed, I am, I would  
with lead you to the same conclusion.*

**Yeshiva Toras Chaim & Dr. Abe Chames High School**  
would be honored to have you join us at our  
**Commencement Exercises**

אור ליום ד' סיון, תשע"א

Sunday evening, June 5, 2011, promptly at 8:30 P.M.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim  
1025 NE Miami Gardens Drive  
N. Miami Beach, Florida 33179

**Reception following Program**

Please RSVP to the Toras Chaim Office - 305-944-5344

Your presence will greatly enhance this special occasion.

Women are requested  
to dress in accordance  
with strict  
Orthodox tradition.

Our  
Graduates

Meir Balgley

Isaac Mizrahi

Yosef Bizouati

Yitzchak Ouaknine

Josh Blavin

Meir Palgon

Adam Dehri

Yehuda Palgon

Jacob Gassner

Daniel Pomper

Binyomin Goldenberg

Avraham Rhodes

Rafael Goldglanz

Joseph Seif

Yehuda Gruberger

Yaakov Hillel Sharfman

David Hayes

Amrom Steinberger

Ezriel Hoenig

Yossi Turk

Joseph Laniado