

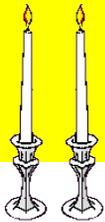
TEAM Spirit

STAR STUDENTS

פרשת כי תבא

CANDLE LIGHTING

7:06 pm



Yael Aminov – S.S.
 Miriam Bisker – T.S.
 Esther Simcha Botton
 Chani Dreyfuss – S.S.
 Miriam Dreyfuss – T.S.
 Pesha Dreyfuss – T.S.
 Chaya Ora Goldenberg – S.S.
 Tzipporah Leah Greenberg – T.S.
 Abby Heller – S.S.
 Noga Libson – T.S.
 Tamar Mindick – S.S.
 Adina Schwartz – S.S.
 Esti Schwartz – T.S.
 Esti Weinberger – S.S.

Yosef Alber – S.S.
 Aviel Bayles – S.S.
 Jacob Benchetrit – S.S.
 Ezra Berger – S.S.
 Shalom Deutsch - T.S.
 Elisha Fuchs – S.S.
 Daniel Heiney – T.S.
 Benjy Heller – T.S.
 Eli Mizrahi – T.S.
 Yehuda Pomper – T.S.
 Zohar Reboh – T.S.
 Noam Richmond – S.S.

TEAM PLAYERS

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Hadara Balgley
 Shifra Braunshweiger
 Tamar Brody
 Odaya Cohen
 Abby Dennis
 Tzivia Elias
 Ariella Fellus
 Abby Heller
 Tamar Hyman
 Sophie Jacobs
 Malky Koot
 Tziporah Pam
 Batia Segal
 Shira Suissa

Moshe Botton
 Dani Franklin
 Moti Froimovich
 Daniel Heiney
 Yosef Nemani
 David Oumanski
 Noam Peleg
 David Sharbani
 Isaac Zafrani
 Nochi Zeines

KIDS FOR KOSHER FOOD BANK

As noted last week, we are participating this month in a food drive to help stock the JCS Kosher Food Bank's shelves for *Yom Tov*. Every student and family is asked to help by bringing a can or other packaged food item with proper Hashgacha (detailed above) at least one time between now and *Rosh Hashana*. Specifically, the food items requested for *Yom Tov* are: honey, gefilte fish, honey cake, applesauce, and marmalade.

For more information, contact the school office, or Mrs. Paola Leonoff at 786.281.1133 or via e-mail at

paolalipo@hotmail.com. Thank you for your help. *Tizku L'Mitzvos!*



CHOOSE CHOSEN WORDS

We hope you are enjoying this year's edition of "The Chosen Words," which appears in this TEAM Spirit newsletter. This inspirational newsletter by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation enhances your homes every other *Erev Shabbos*. An opportunity for sponsorship of this newsletter is available and your help would be greatly appreciated. The \$360 sponsorship, in memory, in honor of, or for a *Refuah Shelaima*, will be printed at the bottom of each Chosen Words that appears in our weekly newsletter for the entire year of 5772.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Liba

Bracha Elka *bas* Maryasha Rivka

Zev Meir *ben* Yael Sara

Rivka *bas* Sarah Raizel

Yosef Simcha *ben* Zaka Basya

Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Osna



WISH LIST

The boys' office would appreciate a few yarmulkes that can be kept in school for emergencies.



IMPORTANT LUNCH INFORMATION

We would like to remind you that meat lunches are served on Mondays and Wednesdays and dairy lunches are served on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In order to adhere to proper *Kashrus* standards, it is necessary to understand that on Mondays and Wednesdays, when meat lunches are served, even if the lunch appears to be *pareve*, (i.e. French fries), in actuality, the lunch is *fleishig*. On meat days, the food is prepared in *fleishig kalim*(utensils) and/or fried in oils used with actual *fleishigs*. Therefore, dairy snacks or side dishes cannot be eaten either with the lunch or afterwards.

Please remember this when sending snacks to school and ask your children to be mindful of not sharing or trading food.



DATA BANK

Six times a year, each child will receive a Data Bank sheet providing interesting facts and information appropriate for children in the elementary school. They have ample opportunity to study these sheets and after *Rosh Hashana*, they should be prepared to demonstrate that they know the information on the first data bank quiz.

In order to be a winner, the child must know all of the information. Please use the next two weeks to encourage your children to look over the fact sheet in order to participate and excel in this contest. We will announce the winners in an upcoming newsletter.



T.E.A.M. HEADBANDS FOR SALE!

We are excited to offer a beautiful accessory that will complement the girls' school uniforms and keep them comfortable and neat in school. Beautifully embroidered T.E.A.M. headbands are available in navy or white for \$6.50 each. Attached is an order form for your convenience.



ASSEMBLIES

The first monthly assemblies of the year are scheduled for October 5, featuring presentations by the second grade girls and third grade boys. **Girls' assembly is at 1:30, boys' at 2:45 in the school auditorium.** Assembly Day is also Official Uniform Day.



CALLING ALL MOTHERS

The Parents' Association is now hiring volunteers to act as class mothers for this school year. No experience necessary. If you can help please call Mrs. Esta Rosenberg at 305.651.0115. (Qualified fathers can apply as well!)





**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 Ki Savo 5771

Dear Parents,

The reading of the *Tochacha*, the warnings and admonitions of what will ensue if the Jewish People veer from the path of the Torah, are a potential source of fear and uncertainty. Reading it this *Shabbos*, less than a week after the 10th Anniversary commemorations of the tragic and still shocking events of 9/11, and following a summer of unspeakable tragedy for our people, a parent would do well to ponder how or if to share bad news with children. Should they shield or should they share?

As a wise person once said – a good question has more than one correct answer – **but one needs to find the answer that's more correct**. Shielding has the benefit of keeping a child away from anxiety and disquieting thoughts. It avoids dredging up fundamental questions of faith, fairness and justice that a child may be too young to tackle. On the down side – **there's always the probability that the child will hear the news anyway** – from a source that will bring greater anxiety and more confusion.

Sharing with a child has the benefit of being able to bring a measure of comfort and perspective, and the all-important reassurance that you **are still here, the core of the child's life is secure, no matter what 'monsters' may be circulating nearby**. On the other hand, sharing may also bring unnecessary fear and awareness of evil at a point in life that's too early for a child to digest in a healthy manner.

When confronted with such a question, the answer must be – it depends. There are so many factors to consider, not the least of which is, **how close the child is to the situation**. **The child's age, emotional maturity, your self-confidence** in sharing, the purpose in sharing and your ability to project a brave, resolute and calm demeanor, despite your sadness, are important points to consider.

If the situation warrants sharing, the next question will be – how to give over the information. Speak calmly, choose your words carefully, **show it's OK to cry when you're sad, but don't lose control of your emotions**. **Have a clear vision of how much you want to share**, and be prepared to answer questions, but not to reveal more than necessary.

Introducing the concept of the *Tochacha* could be helpful at this point. One might show in general terms how the Torah has prophecies that if **Hashem's** commandments are not followed, there will be times of trouble. Like the trouble of 2,000 years of a long-suffering *Galus*. **We don't know why any individual suffers, we don't judge and we don't presume to know**. **But in the broader picture, we know we suffer** not because things happen randomly in this world or because things happen for no reason. *Hashem* knows why it is necessary to happen. And through it all He cares, and He is still there for us – and that knowledge is already a great source of comfort.

Life includes unexpected events, fearful happenings and tragedies. Our job as parents is to be prepared before anything occurs, to sort out our thoughts, to work on our own *Emunah* and *Bitachon*. **We need to understand that when the unexpected happens, there's no obvious, single approach – rather because of or despite a tumultuous occurrence, we'll be called upon to think clearly and then act decisively** to help our children cope with the realities that life has thrust upon us. May we quickly merit the final redemption and need suffer no more tragedies.

Have a comforting *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

chosen words

Personal Growth

The Winner

A famous football coach is widely quoted for his slogan: "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing." Generally, the world accepts that judgment. The also-rans and wannabees can never achieve the status of those who make it.

But then there's Yohonasan, the son of King Shaul. Yohonason spent his life working toward three goals, and he failed to meet any of them. He wanted to make peace between his father and David; instead, the rift grew ever more bitter. He wanted to protect David; instead, David spent years fleeing for his life. He wanted to serve King David when he assumed the throne; instead, he died before David's reign began, in a losing battle against the Philistines.

Yet the story of Yohonasan is the only haftorah that may be repeated several times in the yearly cycle. It is read whenever Rosh Chodesh falls on Sunday, pushing aside the regularly scheduled haftorah for that week. Rosh Chodesh is briefly mentioned in the reading, but the story appears to have no other relevance to the inauguration

of a new month.

A deeper look, however, reveals that Yohonasan is the perfect model for us as we begin a new month. As on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we are obligated on Rosh Chodesh to consider our deeds and resolve to improve. But on a monthly basis, this cycle of resolutions and failures can become overwhelming and depressing. How many times a year can one re-energize to try again?

The story of Yohonasan is there to give us that energy. He tries; he fails. But we learn that in Heaven, his efforts earn him an eternal crown. When one's

Effective Prayer

Beyond Heaven

Two of the day's three tefillos are tied to natural events. Shacharis comes with the rising of the sun, to thank Hashem for the new day and the opportunities it presents. Maariv comes with the appearance of the stars, as we prepare to place ourselves under Hashem's protection for the night.

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration

▼ Ideas

▼ Excellence

▼ Success

intentions are for Hashem, when one's actions are for the sake of Klal Yisrael, there is no wasted effort. Hashem alone determines whether our efforts will result in success, but for a Jew, trying is both everything and the only thing.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What do failed efforts accomplish?

Adapted from "What's Wrong With Being Human," by Rabbi Yisrael Miller, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Better Relationships

Showing Your Face

Eli walked into the bakery on a Friday morning and resigned himself to a long wait in the line that snaked around the store. Fortunately, he noticed that right in front of him stood his old neighbor Aaron.

"Aaron," he called. Aaron turned around halfway, gave Eli a weak smile and a weaker handshake, and said, "Hi." Then he turned back around.

The rest of the wait was torturous for Eli, as he dealt with the rejection and wondered what he had done to cause it. Meanwhile, Aaron continued to stew about an argument he had just had with his partner, completely unaware of the chain reaction he had set off in his old friend.

Pirkei Avos instructs us: "V'hevei mikabeil es kol ho'odom b'seiver panim yafos," "Greet every person with a pleasant countenance." Rabbi Avigdor Miller, shlita, explains that the key words in this verse are also the key to personal relations. "Seiver" refers to the forehead, which smooth or furrowed, expresses our thoughtful concern toward someone. "Panim," face, means turning one's whole face toward people. And "yafos" is the beauty of a smile.

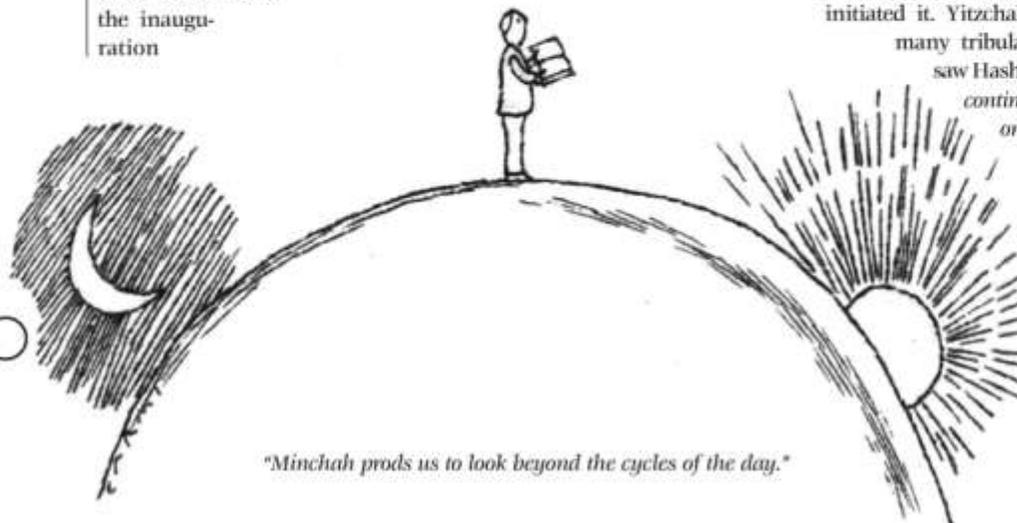
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Through both of these tefillos, we learn to see Hashem's hand in the cycles of nature.

Minchah has no such link to natural events. It floats in the difficult, middle part of the day, when the energy of early morning has already dissipated, and the release of late night has yet to come.

The character of this tefillah is embodied in Yitzchak, who initiated it. Yitzchak endured many tribulations, but saw Hashem's hand

continued on back



"Minchah prods us to look beyond the cycles of the day."

Speed Limits

A young man, sharing remembrances of his beloved uncle, made these simple observations: The uncle, a merchant, tied each customer's package carefully, checked each invoice twice, and "never allowed himself to be rushed."

That final statement, that he never allowed himself to be rushed, is a remarkable one. When there's much to do and little time in which to do it, how does one choose whether or not to be rushed?

As a result of all the "labor-saving" devices our generation enjoys—the fax, beeper, cell phone, e-mail—the interval between thinking and doing, considering and acting, wanting and getting, has become infinitely briefer.

Not only do we demand instant response, we feel that we too must respond to every demand instantaneously.

Patience is in short supply. "Stressed out" is a description today not only of a person in crisis, or a heart surgeon who performs life-and-death procedures every day, or a CEO, or a world leader. It's a description of normal life for normal, average people.

And if this is the case, there's cause for alarm. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato wrote that one of the yetzer hara's most effective strategies is to keep a person in a state of tumult. With no time to contemplate one's choices, mistakes are inevitable.

So how does one refuse to allow himself to be rushed? By recognizing the difference between being busy and being rushed. Families, jobs, communal and religious life all create demands. But nothing is gained by entertaining all those demands at once, or by performing any required task in a tense, hurried way. By refusing

"How does one refuse to allow himself to be rushed?"

Just for the Mitzvah

Rabbi Moshe of Kobrin was walking down the street when he noticed a pauper sitting by the side of the road. He ran to give the man money and began to walk away. But after a few steps, he turned back and handed the man more money.

When asked the reason for giving twice, the rabbi explained: "The first time I gave, it was because I had been moved by pity for his plight. The second time, it was completely with the intention of fulfilling the mitzvah of giving charity."

There are times when we are filled with inspiration to perform a certain mitzvah. Then there are times we are not. Rabbi Moshe of Kobrin illustrates that, while inspiration can move us in the right direction, it should not be the prime motivation, because inspiration often fails. Beneath it all, inspired or not, we do what we do to fulfill Hashem's will.

Shabbos Table Discussion: What thoughts might help you perform a mitzvah when you're not inspired?

Adapted from "Something to Say," by Rabbi David Goldwasser, with permission from Mesorah Publications

to rush, one accomplishes so much more. One rediscovers the satisfaction in the task at hand, and the joy in life.

Shabbos Table Discussion: What are some strategies to avoid feeling rushed?
Adapted from "Candlelight," by Avi Shulman, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Beyond Heaven

continued from front and sought Hashem's will in each situation. He looked beyond the course of events to the Cause of events. Through his mid-day prayer, he illustrated that, while we should seek Hashem's presence in the sunrise and nightfall, these are only manifestations of an all-encompassing power.

Minchah is the time to think beyond the sun and stars, past the "heaven" we perceive with our eyes, and into the Heaven we perceive in our neshamos.

Adapted from "The Artsroll Siddur Overview," by Rabbi Nosson Scherman, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Showing Your Face

continued from front Even when preoccupied, using these three ingredients tells others that you value them. A proper greeting leaves no room for misinterpretation, no feeling of rejection. It keeps open the channels of love and kindness that are the essence of Klal Yisrael.

—CCHF

Dedications

לעיני
מִן הַגִּהִיז
יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאִדּוֹר בֵּן
ר' אֲרִי' זָאב הַכֹּהֵן זְצוּקֵלֶה"ה
הַרְפֵּץ חַיִּים
כִּי"ד אֵלּוּל

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Total payment enclosed \$ _____

Please include cash or check made out to Toras Ems.

Headbands will be sent home with the child indicated on the order form.

