

Toras Emes E.C.E.

Parashas Yisro

February 1, 2013
5:46 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE:

FAMILY FUN DAY

**HAS BEEN POSTPONED
AND WILL NOT TAKE
PLACE THIS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3.**



Calendar Notes:

February 5—Pre-K Trip to the Museum of Discovery and Science

February 8—Rabbi Yossi Heber Day. NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day.

MAZEL TOV:

Rabbi Moshe and Rena Gruenstein on the engagement of their daughter Gitty to Aryeh Mandel of Lakewood.

Rabbi Ephraim and Mimi Shapiro on the birth of a son.

PURIM WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

CLASSROOMS

Nursery Morah Tami
Wednesday, February 13... 10:15 a.m.

Pre-KI..... Morah Ettie
Tuesday, February 12 1:30 p.m.

Pre-KII..... Morah Heidi
Tuesday, February 12...10:15 a.m.

Pre-KIII..... Morah Ettie
Monday, February 11 10:15 a.m.

AUDITORIUM

Kindergarten I..... Morah Bayla
Tuesday, February 19.....10:15 a.m.

Kindergarten II..... Morah Rena
Thursday, February 1410:15 a.m.

Kindergarten III..... Morah Bayla
Thursday, February 14.....1:30 p.m.

**Come and have a wonderful time
making a Purim craft with your child.
The Kindergarten children will also be
presenting a musical program.**



NURSERY – MORAH TAMÍ

The Nursery children returned to school with wonderful stories of how they spent their vacations. They were so happy to be back with their friends.

The children are fascinated with the story of Purim. They learned about Melech Achashverosh and how Vashti Hamalka refused to come to his party because she was covered with pimples. What a wonderful time they had acting out the roles of the various characters in the Purim story.

Several stories about Purim were read to the children. Our favorites were A Very Special Gift by Shifrah Gettinger and A Purim Story by Linda Davis. We started **working on our megillos and learned the songs “Chag Purim” and “When You Hear The Name Of Haman.”**

When you hear the name Haman-stamp your feet
When you hear the name Vashti-say oy vei
When you hear the name Achashverosh-
put on a crown
When you hear the name Esther-clap your hands
When you hear the name Mordechai HaYehudi-
Shout hurray!

Our new Hebrew vocabulary words for this week were megillah, melech, malka, keter and raashan.

For Parashas Yisro, we learned how the Jews prepared for Matan Torah, and how Hashem chose the humblest of all the mountains as the mountain upon which to give the Torah. We talked about how a Sefer Torah is written and listened to the books The Place Where I Belong by Abie Rotenberg. For our parsha project, we made a picture of Har Sinai and all the beautiful flowers which surrounded it in honor of Matan Torah.



NURSERY - MORAH SUSAN

This week, the Safe Child Program was introduced into our classroom. We started with a unit entitled All About Strangers. We discussed the importance of not speaking to people who we do not know. We learned four important rules about strangers:

1. Stay an arm's distance away from anyone you don't know.
2. Don't talk to strangers.
3. Do not accept anything from a stranger.
4. Don't go with a stranger.

We learned the motto "If You Don't Know, Don't Go." We also listened to the stories Yoni Ploni, The Little Yeshiva Boy Who Never Talks To Strangers! by Yehoshua Danese, The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers by Stan and Jan Berenstain, Safety Town, Strangers by Dorothy Chal and Let's Stay Safe! The Malka and Arthur Krausman Edition part of the Karasick Child Safety Initiative of Project Y.E.S.

During art centers, we made our own clay. We also mixed many different colors of paint together to create the colors green, orange and purple. The children chose the color that they wanted their clay to be.

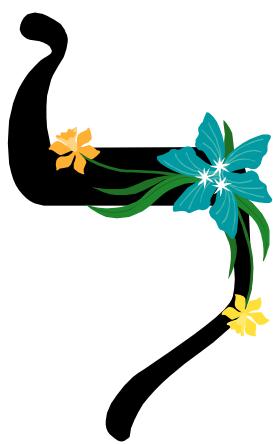
PRE-KI, II & III- MOROT ETTIE & HEIDI

Parashas Yisro taught us about so many mitzvos! We learned how excited Bnei Yisroel were to accept the Torah. We discussed how they prepared themselves for many days for this special gift from Hashem. We spoke about the mitzvah of Kibud Av Va'Em. **The children made a beautiful project depicting Bnei Yisroel standing around Har Sinai.**

Our letter of the week was **ל**. The following words were added to our milon:

לייזן
לולוב
לב
לביבה
לשון
לימונ
לבן

We began learning about the very exciting story of Purim and are very busy transforming our room into Shushan Habira (We would greatly appreciate any dress up or costume items that you might have for our housekeeping center.) We are off to a great start and **can't wait until next week, when Purim preparations will be in full swing!**



PRE-KI, II & III-MOROT JUDY & NECHAMA

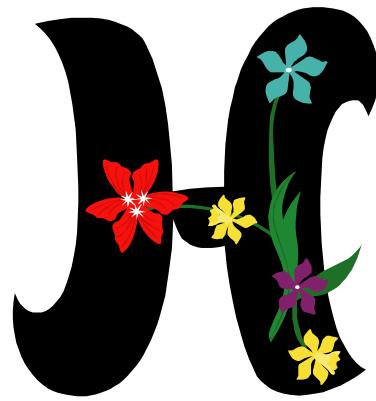
Welcome back to everyone! The Pre-K children were so enthusiastic to return to school. They shared stories about their vacations with one another.

The children were fascinated to discover that their plants are growing so tall. They planted corn kernels before the vacation and were surprised to see how quickly they grew while they were away.

The letter "Hh" was introduced this week into the Pre-K classes. The children can sound out words such as horse, hat, hot, house and horn. They continued to recognize and count numbers on our classroom calendar as well as review the days of the week. They also learned the concept of ordinal positions such as first, second, third etc. This was emphasized as we acted out the story of **The Three Little Pigs**.

We continued our unit on recycling. We made so many fun projects. We created collages out of shredded paper, wrote our names on newspaper and made recycled playdough!

Some of the books that we read this week were **Harrold's Purple Crayon Treasury** by Crockett Johnson, **The Three R's-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** by Nuria Roca and **Our Class Is Going Green** by Mrs. Nickel's Kindergarten Class.



KINDERGARTEN I, II & III-MOROT BAYLA AND RENA

Welcome back! The kindergarten children returned to school with lots of energy, ready to enjoy all the exciting activities happening in our kindergarten classrooms.

Purim songs, decorated classrooms and happy faces were some of the sights and sounds in Kindergarten this week as we started preparing for Purim.

We heard about Melech Achashverosh and how he wanted the Yehudim to come to his party. We learned why Mordechai HaYehudi did not want the Yehudim to attend this party and how the story of Haman Harasha and his plans to hurt the Jews began to unfold.

This week, the yeladim in Kindergarten **discussed the importance of saying “Amen.”** They learned that they must always try to say brachos out loud so that people have a chance to say “Amen.” We listened to a beautiful book of stories called Let’s Say Amen by Tamar Ansh.

As a culminating activity for our brachos unit, we had an amazing brachos snack party. We enjoyed eating food items from each bracha. The children divided up into five groups corresponding to the different brachos that they have learned. Each group made the appropriate brachos for the food out loud and everyone else said “Amen.” We also made beautiful “Borei Nefashos” signs for our kitchens.

Mrs. Funny Face came to visit once again and introduced us to the Tzairah (long A) sound. We worked in our aleph-bais books and played many games to reinforce the ottiyos that we have learned thus far.

For Parashas Yisro, we heard how Moshe Rabbeinu’s father-in-law joined the Jewish nation and the wonderful idea that he had to help Moshe lead the people more effectively.

In Project Derech, we learned it is a mitzvah to ask permission before leaving the presence of a parent.

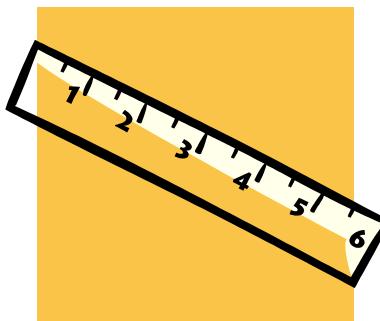


KINDERGARTEN I, II & III- MOROT BERNEY & HEIDI

Everyone was excited to be back after vacation and to share their adventures with their friends. We also wrote in our journals about our vacations. Our letterbook this week featured the last of our five vowels—the “Uu.” **We were amazed at how we could change the vowel in a word and come up with entirely new words such as cat, cot, cut, hit, hat, hot, hut etc.** In our letterbooks, we read the story Tug. We are really getting better at reading. Please review the stories in the letterbooks over the weekend. In honor of the letter “Uu”, **we made unbelievable umbrellas.**

We began a new unit on plants and seeds. The children were so excited to start planting seeds in their outdoor vegetable garden. Each day, they check the garden to see if the seeds have sprouted. It is miraculous to see how a tiny seed can turn into vegetable, plant or tree. We learned that plants come in different sizes, shapes and colors, and that each part of a plant has a different function. Among the books we read were The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss and A Seed Is A Promise by Claire Merrill.

A new math unit on measurement was introduced. The children practiced ordering objects by different lengths, measuring the length of an object using unifix cubes and practiced estimating or guessing how long an object is.





**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 Yisro 5773

Dear Parents,

Our three-year old Nursery students, along with their older counterparts, are coming home this Shabbos well aware of 'Little Har Sinai'. The prerequisite of humility for *Kabbolas HaTorah* (acceptance of the Torah) is a universally recognized Jewish value. In fact, the *Kli Yakar* comments on the *Pasuk's* (*Shemos 19:2*) switching from plural to a singular description of the Jewish People's encampment around *Har Sinai* – ...*Vayeechun Shom Yisrael Naged HaHar*, was to point out that they made peace with each other upon seeing and recognizing the lowly stature of *Har Sinai* relative to other mountains. This was because they realized that *Hashem* desires humility and submission – otherwise the greatest event in human history would have been staged in a more grandiose setting. By recognizing the value of humility, they were able to make peace with each other, and put aside their quarrels and envy, which stem from a self-centered desire for honor and power.

How do we teach humility to our children? Isn't humility a contradiction to self-esteem? These are excellent questions. Inculcating the value of being submissive when appropriate, and being assertive when called for, lies at the center of healthy human social development. *Moshe Rabbeinu* was the humblest person who ever lived, yet this same humble man acted decisively, boldly and firmly when he shattered the tablets in full view of his rebellious followers at the incident of the Golden Calf, and subsequently rallied and saved the rest of *Klal Yisroel* at a moment of great danger.

Teaching humility to our children is first and foremost accomplished through proper role modeling. How do we refer to others at our dinner table, how do we greet strangers, especially *Meshulachim* at the door, how much deference do we show to our *Rabbonim*, do we speak respectfully about authority figures in our, and especially our children's lives? Do we appropriately deflect *Kovod* that comes our way? Do we verbalize our appreciation to *Hashem* for the good things in our lives, and do we accept and submit when things don't go the way we hope for?

Won't greater humility lessen our children's self-esteem? Nothing could be further from the truth. Humility is not self-denigration and feeling lowly. True humility is recognizing one's own self-worth, and valuing one's talents and abilities, together with a realization that all of one's attributes are a gift from *Hashem*, and that a person owes every attribute and accomplishment to *Hashem*. Only a person who is self-confident and self-assured can integrate such a worldview without feeling diminished. We are great, because *Hashem* has endowed us with greatness – therefore we humbly submit to His will and to the realization that we can take credit only for our efforts in spiritual growth – everything else we have is a gift from *Hashem*.

A truly humble person is a happy person, satisfied with his lot in life who harnesses *Hashem's* gifts to reach greater spiritual heights. Leading our children on such a path is the key to their success in life and to an enduring peace and love among all of *Klal Yisroel* and indeed, mankind.

Have an uplifting Shabbos,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

1051 North Miami Beach Boulevard • North Miami Beach, Florida 33162
Girls' Office 305-947-6000 • Boys' Office 305-948-3338 • E.C.E. Office 305-947-4007 • Fax 305-947-0052