

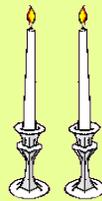
# TEAM Spirit

פרשת שמני

שבת מברכים

CANDLE LIGHTING

7:21 pm



## WELCOME BACK!

We hope that everyone enjoyed a restful , uplifting and inspiring Pesach break.

It is a pleasure to see the students back at school refreshed from their time away and with renewed enthusiasm for learning.

May the next ten weeks of school be productive and fruitful for everyone at Toras Emes.

## HASMODA/CHEMDAH PROJECT

We are so proud of the many students who participated in our Pesach Hasmoda & CHEMDAH Programs. If you have not already done so, please send in your completed charts on Monday. Boys should mail their Pirchei Hasmoda sheets directly to the address on the form.



## LICE CHECK THIS MONDAY

As a post Yom Tov follow up, we will be checking all students for nits and lice this Monday. In the meantime, please continue to check your child(ren) carefully at home, and if necessary treat accordingly. If you do find nits on your child(ren), please notify the office so that we can follow through with your child(ren)'s classmates. Thank you for your cooperation.

## READY, SET.....WALK!

Monday, April 29 is the date for our special Lag B'Omer festivities, including a walkathon and a BBQ. All students are to come to



**school in a hat of their choice. We can't wait to see the creative creations that will adorn and protect our children from the sun!**

As always, parents are invited to participate with us, as well as to help with the walkathon and BBQ in various capacities. Volunteers are needed in the morning. If you would like to help, please call the school office. Further information including sponsor sheets and BBQ order forms will be forthcoming.

### RAISING G.R.E.A.T. CHILDREN

**Rabbi Baumann's Parenting Class** takes place on Tuesday mornings, 8:45-9:30, in the Library.

Please join us!

**This week's topic:**  
TEACHING CHILDREN TO SHARE

## REFUAH SHELAIMA

Aharon Dovid ben Chaya  
Yechezkel ben Tova  
Yosef ben Rus



## REGISTRATION DEADLINE

We want to remind all parents that regular registration is over as of April 18, 2013. Registrations received after that date will be assessed at the late registration fee of \$600 per child. In addition, please note that if you have not registered yet, your child may be at risk of losing his place in the class. Please be sure to register this coming week!

Additionally, as a reminder, anyone requesting Tuition Reduction must go to our website at [ytcteam.org/facts](http://ytcteam.org/facts) and follow the link to the FACTS website. All forms need to be filed online by April 18. After that date, registered students for whom tuition reduction is being requested but have not submitted the accompanying paperwork to FACTS will lose their priority status and are at risk of losing their spot in the class to a new student. (If you have no internet access, please contact the office at [\(305\) 944-5344](tel:3059445344) ext. 221 for a tuition reduction form.)

## MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Gedalya Glatt and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their daughter, our alumna, Bracha and Nachshon Aronovitch.



To Mrs. Sara Tamir and family on the birth of a grandson, born to her daughter Rachel and Tzvi Hyman.



## CHINESE AUCTION

We are eagerly anticipating the Chinese Auction which will take place, IY"H, on Sunday, May 26.



**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 Shemini, 5773*

Dear Parents,

**In analyzing the classification of birds forbidden to be eaten, as discussed in this week's Parsha, the Ramban (11:13) points to their possessing a cruel and vicious nature as one explanation for their prohibition. By consuming and digesting such creatures the person absorbs that cruelty and viciousness, and therefore the Torah forbids them to a Jew. Our mission is to raise ourselves above the animalistic tendencies of the animal world, and by refraining from ingesting the animal, we are insulating ourselves from those characteristics that could drag us down, and stunt our spiritual growth.**

There is one forbidden bird, whose inclusion on the prohibited list is a curiosity. In *Perek 11, Pasuk 19* the Torah mentions the *Chasida*, which many translate as a stork. *Rashi* questions why this bird is called a *Chasida*, and he answers it comes from the word *Chesed*, so named because this bird does *Chesed* with her friends, sharing her food with them. This raises an obvious difficulty; if animals and birds are prohibited to us because of their cruel and destructive nature, how does a creature defined by the *Chesed* she does fall into the same category. A *Baalas Chesed* should be precisely the type of creature that we should be encouraged to eat!

I recall hearing from one of my *Rebbeim* that there is a very powerful lesson here. A careful reading of *Rashi* **shows that this bird's Chesed** is reserved specifically for her friends. The bird is not an equal opportunity *Baalas Chesed* – she only helps her inner circle, her *Chaveiros*. She picks and chooses the recipients of her largesse and benevolence. Therefore what she does is not about true *chesed* – it is about exclusivity and privilege. We can now understand why this bird is prohibited to us – she embodies and represents one of the ugliest *Midos*; that of leaving others out, making them feel like outcasts. You can be kind and loving to your inner circle – **but if it doesn't extend to others who are not exactly like you, it's not kindness – it's meanness.**

-continued-

Our children struggle mightily with this tendency. Excluding others or being excluded yourself is amongst the cruelest and most painful facets of childhood. Adults can generally choose with whom they want to be. When it comes to our children, however, we place them in a school or camp, and no matter how like minded the other families are; differences in temperament, culture and abilities among the children are realities they have to live with. As parents our role is to strengthen the children; their sensitivity and tolerance of others who may be different, their ability to stand up for fairness and compassion to all, and their inner strength to remain unbowed by others who have not imbibed this lesson. And we need to strengthen ourselves to model these same behaviors; to catch ourselves before verbalizing criticism of others and other groups, of **denigrating others' customs or religious standards. Because, what may seem to be intellectual banter among adults, translates into cruelty and pain among the children.**

**Let's appreciate the beauty and depth of our precious legacy** – the *Torah*, and realize that the centrality of *Kashrus* in our religious world is inextricably tied to the centrality of *Midos Tovos* and kindness to others.

Have an inclusive Shabbos!

  
Rabbi Kalman Baumann