

Early Childhood Newsletter

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Erev Yom Kippur

September 12, 2013

CALENDAR NOTES

EREV YOM KIPPUR –FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13-
NO SCHOOL

EREV SUCCOS– WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-
NO SCHOOL

SUCCOS VACATION– THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19–
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27- NO SCHOOL

SCHOOL RESUMES– MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30



FOOTWEAR

Please have your child wear sneakers to school. Crocs and flip-flops are not acceptable footwear.



BIRCHAS HABONIM

The blessing of one's children on Erev Yom Kippur is an exceptionally beautiful and meaningful prayer. Let its recitation sensitize us to the profound responsibilities and opportunities that our children bring to us, as well as **allowing the wellsprings of parents' love to be showered** upon them. In the spirit of the Yomim Noraim, the Early Childhood administration and staff would like to ask for forgiveness from parents and children for anything that may have been said or done improperly this past year.



SNACK ALERT

PLEASE ALERT YOUR BABYSITTERS AS WELL AS OTHER CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY NOT TO PUT SNACKS WITH NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS IN THE CHILDREN'S LUNCHBOXES.

MAZEL TOV:

Rabbi Doniel and Devorah Bensoussan on the birth of a son.

Mr. Elliot and Shari Joseph on the birth of a daughter.

LEAVING EARLY?

Please inform the school office if you will be leaving early for Yom Tov so that the teachers can prepare your child's brown bag.



THANK YOU:

Mr. David and Judith Eisenstein for donating educational equipment to the Pre-KII class in honor of Moshe Jaim's fifth birthday.

Rabbi Yisroel and Beth Ruck for donating educational equipment to the Pre-KII class in honor of Yirmi's fifth birthday.

WELCOME:

Lua Kedem who has joined the Kindergarten II class.

NURSERY – MORAH TAMI

The yeladim in Nursery have adjusted beautifully to school. They are making new friends and are having fun exploring the classroom and outdoor play areas.

"Mitzvos" were our focus of the week. We discussed all the different kinds of mitzvos that we can do at home and in school. We were very proud of all the yeladim and yeladot who remembered to do mitzvos at home and brought back mitzvah notes to share with the rest of the children.

Yom Kippur was the theme of the week in the Nursery class. We learned that Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year. Everyone wears white on Yom Kippur. Even the Sefer Torah is dressed in a special white cover. We talked about the importance of wearing sneakers or slippers to shul. The story Sneakers To Shul by Floreva Cohen was read to the children.

The children enjoyed hearing the story of Yonah. Through this story, they understood how all of their actions are observed by Hashem. To reinforce this concept, we **learned the song "Hashem Is Here."**

Hashem is here
Hashem is there
Hashem is truly everywhere

Up, up, down, down
Right, left and all around
Here, there and everywhere
That's where he can be found.

We talked about how important it is for each of us to do teshuva and to say we are sorry to our friends. We held **each other's hands as we sang the song "Let's Be Friends."**

**Let's be friends, make amends
Now it's time to say I'm sorry.**

We learned about the minhag of Kapparos. Some people use a hen for this mitzvah while others use money. All the Nursery children made their own individual hens using real feathers.

NURSERY- MORAH SUSAN

Welcome to our new Nursery class. We had a very exciting week. The children are having a great time greeting each other in our afternoon meeting. They also enjoyed seeing a puppet show at this meeting.

To start off circle time, the children learned a new song:

Touch your head
Touch your shoulder
Pat your heart
Our group time is about to start!

We started a unit on feelings. We discussed with the children various feelings that can be expressed such as happy, sad, angry or lonely. The children were shown many pictures expressing different feelings and **also had the opportunity to play with "feelings puppets."**

During art center, we made faces out of clay to express our different feelings and also created easel paintings.

The children listened to the stories I Was So Mad by Mercer Mayer, Sometimes I Feel Like A Mouse by Jeanne Modessitt and Nobody Asked If I Wanted A Baby by Martha Alexander. The children also selected books from the class library on the topic of feelings.

During music time, we learned the action song **"Rolly Polly Polly"**

Rolly Polly Polly (roll hands)
Up, Up, Up (put hands up)
Rolly Polly Polly
Down, Down, Down (put hands down)
Rolly Polly Polly
Out, Out, Out (put hands out)
Rolly Polly Polly
In, In, In (put hands in)

During circle time, the children enjoyed learning how bees make honey and pollinate apple trees.

PRE-KI & II MOROT HEIDI & NECHAMA

This week in Pre-K, we had a discussion about Yom Kippur. It is a fast day (no eating and drinking) for Imas and Abbas, sisters over 12 and brothers over 13. We learned that we do not wear leather shoes or put on make-up or creams. It is also the day we ask Hashem for forgiveness. The children are all going to try very hard to play quietly at home or sit quietly at shul so their parents could daven and rest. The children decided to be extra careful in the way they play with one another during Aseres Yemei Teshuva. To help us reinforce **saying "I'm Sorry" to our friends, we listened to the stories The Hardest Word by Jacqueline Jules and Sneakers To Shul by Floreva Cohen.**

We learned a new song about Kapparos:

The chicken is special (2)
On Erev Yom Kippur (2)
We use it for Kapparos (2)
That's what it's for (2)

The children were fascinated by the story of Yonah. As a craft project, each child created a big fish and put a picture of Yonah inside.

The children started to learn about Chag Sukkos. We listened to many stories. Our favorites were Lev The Lucky Lulav by Cheryl Gutsher and The Big Sukkah by Peninnah Schram.

We also continued to reinforce our Hebrew Language skills with the following phrases:

אמא\אבא: אסור לאכל ביום כפור
אמא\אבא: אסור לשתות ביום כפור
יש לי לולב
יש לי אתרוג

We would like to wish everyone a G'mar Chasima Tova. May you have an easy and meaningful fast and a year of good health, happiness, mazel and bracha.

PRE-KI & II- MORAH JUDY

The Pre-K children are eagerly getting involved in their daily routine. They are greeted each morning warmly by their Morahs and friends. At the message board, they can write or find their names. They were excited to see new and familiar friends at school.

Our unit "Apples, Bees and Honey" has been a well rounded adventure in math, science, literacy, art and music. The children acted out the jobs of the Queen Bees and the Drone Bees. They learned how the bee makes honey and lives cooperatively in a beehive. The children created a book about bees. They are proud of their accomplishments.

The Pre-K children are excited to write and receive mail in their mailbox. If you are at school, please drop a letter in our Pre-K mailbox. We welcome parents and other family members to be a part of our Pre-K adventures this year.

Our favorite books this week were Best Friends by Miriam Cohen and The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins.

KINDERGARTEN I, II, III & IV
MOROT BAYLA, HEIDI & RENA

Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year is a day to fast and daven. We learned that on Yom Kippur we refrain from eating, drinking, wearing perfume, washing ourselves and wearing leather shoes. Though Hashem judges us on Rosh Hashana, he gives us the Aseres Yemei Teshuva to better ourselves through teshuva, tefillah and tzedakah. We learned the story of Yonah and how he did teshuva and said he was sorry. Though **Yonah was already swallowed by the “Dag Gadol” (big fish)**, he still did teshuva. Hashem always hears our **teshuva wherever we are. We should never feel it’s too late.** We spoke about the mitzvah of kaporos and how the mitzvah can be done with a chicken or money given to tzedakah. We read some stories stressing the mitzvah of tzedakah such as The Best Place For A Penny by Dina Rosenfeld, Quarters, nickels and Pennies by Baila Olidort and Sneakers To Shul by Floreva Cohen.

We are planning to make our housekeeping center into a pretend Sukkah. Eating, drinking, learning Torah and even sleeping in the Sukkah remind us how Hashem protected us in the midbar while we lived in tents. We will learn about the Arbah Minim and **practiced saying the bracha “Al Netilas Lulav.” We will be learning the concept of “V’Samachta B’Chagecha”**-rejoicing during the holiday with special clothing, food and activities. The children will create original flags and **can’t wait to dance with them on Simchas Torah.**

Best wishes for a G’mar Chasima Tova.

KINDERGARTEN I, II, III & IV
MOROT BERNEY, PEARLY & TALIA

During the past couple weeks, our Kindergarten classes reverberated with the happy sounds of excited children entering a brand new world! The children adjusted easily to their morot, new rules and new routines. We composed classroom rules and discussed how important rules are to keep us safe. Kindergarten I even got busy making their own rule books.

A highlight for the children was working in their **beautiful “letter books”**. The first book in the series is **letter book “Cc” (k sound)**. We practiced writing uppercase and lowercase “Cc’s” and **brainstormed** words beginning with C. Some of the Kindergarten **classes went on “K” sound hunts, searching the classroom for all the objects that begin with a “K” sound.** Kindergarten II and Kindergarten IV listened to **stories with titles beginning with the “K” sound.** They really enjoyed listening to the stories Caps for Sale Esphyr Slobodkina and Corduroy Don Freeman.

In Social Studies, we continued working on our **“All about Me” unit.** We discussed our similarities and differences, how each of us is part of a family unit, and yet how each family is different and unique. The concept was carried even further in science, where we explored similarities and differences with our facial features, including different eye colors and nose shapes. We learned a lot about each other while **sharing the “All about Me” bags.**

In Math, we began learning how to count, represent and write numbers 0-5. We counted the number of letters in our names, and graphed the results. We talked about the longest and shortest names in our classes.

Even though we haven’t had a full week of school yet, we have been very busy learning, making projects, working at centers, writing in our journals and becoming important participants in our Kindergarten Community. We would like to wish everyone a **G’mar Chasima Tova.** May Hashem grant all of us a year of good health, happiness, mazel and bracha.



Erev Yom Kippur 5774

Dear Parents,

Roshei HaYeshiva
Rabbi Binyomin Luban
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Nisman
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon
Founding Rosh HaYeshiva
Rabbi Benzion Chait

Principal
Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Director
Mrs. Naomi Bloom
Assistant Director
Mrs. Talia Levine

President
Dr. Allan I. Jacob
President
Dr. Jonathan Rubin
Vice President
Rabbi Moshe Lehrfield

A timely question that many parents ask is, “is it appropriate to apologize to one’s young children?” The answer is a resounding yes, and a resounding no! Like all good questions, the answer depends on a number of factors.

As we intensify efforts to request forgiveness from family, friends and colleagues in the pre-*Yom Kippur* rush, our young children should definitely not be on such a general list. Asking for *Mechila* from our peers conveys that message – we are equals. To apologize to our children for being a strict parent, for taking away privileges, for raising our voice from time to time turns the parent-child relationship upside down. We have every right and it is our responsibility to guide our children in the right path. Reflecting upon a year of parenting with apologies and requests for forgiveness from the children can only undermine our position of authority and respect.

What about during the heat of the moment? We all have occasions when we get upset, we say a sharp word or an unkind word. What happens when we fail to deliver on a promise or when circumstances force us to disappoint a child? These are appropriate situations for an apology – even to a young child, for two important reasons. Firstly, when the focus of the apology is on a specific incident, it is the right thing to do. Apologies for hurting a person’s feelings, intentionally or otherwise are necessary to help fix whatever hurt there is. It doesn’t matter whether the one with hurt feelings is 4 or 104.

Secondly, the most effective teaching is by example. When your child sees that his parent can admit to and takes ownership of a mistake, reaches out to soothe hurt feelings and demonstrates honesty and sensitivity in asking a child to forgive him about something specific, at an appropriate time in the aftermath of the incident, it sends the most powerful lesson imaginable in the area of responsibility, humility, self-respect and kindness.

An apology should be simple, direct and sincere. A parent should demonstrate that when appropriate, an apology should be forthcoming right away. There should be no strings attached. “I’m sorry I mistakenly accused you of hitting the baby, but you do it so often I was sure...” is not acceptable. “I apologize for assuming you spilled the milk and didn’t clean it up – you usually are the one who makes such a mess,” should be better left unsaid.

Apologies, taking ownership of a mistake are appropriate and provide a great role model for your child. The best role model we can be is not to pretend we are perfect, because we are not perfect (and they are going to figure that out,) but to admit we make mistakes (not too many!) and to be an example of one who apologizes and grows and does better. However, being obsequious and putting yourself on a par with your child, showing you are in need of your child’s forgiveness is a dangerous and counter-productive path. Children need to feel secure that we are capable and confidently taking care of them. Common sense and a clear picture of the parent’s role will help establish us as authoritative without being authoritarian, kind and compassionate, without being weak and not in control.

To err is human - to apologize appropriately is to be divinely inspired.

In that spirit, please forgive me and our staff for anything inappropriate we may have said or done, or for anything we failed to say or do and may we all merit, together with our wonderful children, a year of health, growth and *Nachas*.

G’mar Chasima Tova

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM TORAS EMES
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Back to School Night



MEET THE TEACHERS

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Nursery– 7:15 p.m.

Pre-K I & Pre-K II – 7:45 p.m.

Kindergarten I, II, III & IV– 8:15 p.m.

All programs will take place in your child's classroom. The Back-To-School Night Program is the opportunity for you to meet your children's teachers, and