

Early Childhood Newsletter

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Parashas Vayakhel

February 21, 2014
Candle Lighting 5:59 P.M.

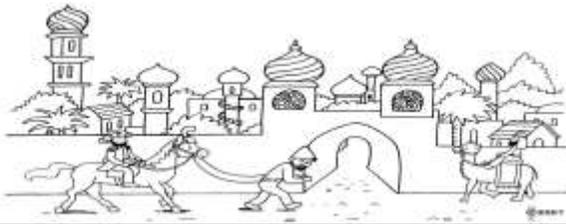
CALENDAR NOTES:

Torahnastics Purim Program
February 26.
Nursery and Pre-K classes.

THANK YOU:

Dr. Jed and Brendy Siev for donating the book Let's Use Them Right-Social Skills for My Hands, Feet and Mouth by Sara Leah Schwartz to the Pre-KI class.

Rabbi Yekusiel and Chana Rochel Stern for donating educational equipment to the Pre-KII class in honor of Chavie's fifth birthday.



PURIM WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Nursery	Morah Tami
Tuesday, March 11.....	10:15 a.m.
Pre-KI.....	Morah Nechama
Monday, March 10	1:30 p.m.
Pre-KII.....	Morah Heidi
Wednesday, March 12	10:15 a.m.
Kindergarten I.....	Morah Bayla
Monday, March 10.....	10:15 a.m.
Kindergarten II.....	Morah Rena
Thursday, March 6	10:15 a.m.
Kindergarten III.....	Morah Bayla
Thursday, March 6.....	1:30 p.m.
Kindergarten IV.....	Morah Heidi
Tuesday, March 11.....	1:30 p.m.

Come and have a wonderful time making a Purim craft with your child.

NURSERY – MORAH TAMI

We continued learning about Purim this week. We talked about Mordechai's refusal to bow down to Haman Harasha and how he saved the life of Melech Achashverosh and was later rewarded for this deed. To help us remember the names of all the Purim characters, we learned the following song:

When you hear the name of
Haman-stamp your feet
When you hear the name of
Vashti-say oy vei
Melech Achashverosh-put on your crown
Esther Hamalka-drop your hands
Mordechai Hayehudi- shout hooray!

The yeladim also learned the following phrases:

המן הרשע
ושתי המלכה
מלכת אסתר
מרדכי היהודי
מלך אחשוורוש

For Parashas Vayakhel, we learned about the Mitzvah of tzedakah. Bnei Yisroel loved this mitzvah and gave generously for the building of the mishkan. We also learned about the importance of Shabbos and how it took precedence over the construction of the mishkan. We talked about the objects which are "mukseh" on Shabbos and how we are not allowed to touch them.



NURSERY – MORAH SUSAN

This week, we began a unit on the Sense of Taste. We listened to the stories Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehler, Taste by Marcia Ruis, The Hungry Thing Returns by Jan Slepian, A Tasting Party by Jane Belk Moncure and Tasting Things by Allan Fowler. We learned that the taste buds on our tongues give us our sense of taste.

During center time, we had a wonderful tasting party. We had a chance to taste salty pretzels, sweet candy, sour pickles and bitter lemons.

The children have been busy at the art center creating a mouth with a long tongue. They used markers to draw dots all over the tongue to represent their taste buds.

During circle time, we learned a new fingerplay:

The Beehive

Here are the beehives
(make two fists)
Where are all the bees?
Hiding away where nobody sees
Here they are
(wiggle fingers)
They are all alive
One, two, three, four, five.

The concept of one to one correspondence of object to object was introduced this week. The children practiced setting the table with each child receiving one napkin, one plate, one fork and one spoon. Once the children understood the concept of one to one correspondence, they could link the numbers with the appropriate number of objects and then count with understanding.

PRE-KI & II MOROT HEIDI & NECHAMA

This week, Parashas Vayakhel will be read in shul. For Parashas Vayakhel, we learned how Moshe Rabbeinu gathered all of Bnei Yisroel together to let them know that Hashem had given them the mitzvah of building the mishkan. Bnei Yisroel were happy to learn that Hashem had forgiven them for the Chet Haegel and that Hashem's shechina would be in the mishkan. Moshe taught Bnei Yisroel that although building the mishkan is very important, they must stop building it when Shabbos is about to begin. We learned why we can't do certain melachos on Shabbos and how this concept is related to work done in the mishkan.

We are continuing to teach the fascinating story of Purim through stories, songs and art projects. New Hebrew vocabulary words that were taught this week for Purim included:

מגילה
מלך
ארמון
מלכה
רעשנים
ליצן
מסכות
אזני המן

The letter Ayin was introduced this week. We learned many new words which begin with this letter such as:

עף
עינים
עט
עוגה
עוגיה
עפרון
עננים
ענבים

PRE-KI & II- MORAH JUDY

This week, the Pre-K children began their unit on "Around The World." They were taught that children all around the world share similarities and differences. Children go to school, have families and friends, and eat meals every day. Children may speak different languages, wear different styles of clothes, but we all agreed that children like to be happy and loved. For the next few weeks, we will be going on pretend adventures to countries around the world. The children will even create their own passports and tickets for our trips. Some of our journeys will be to places such as China, Israel, Africa, France and Mexico. At the end of our adventures, the children will present an Around The World performance to which the parents will be invited.

Our letter this week was "Nn". Some words the children were able to sound out were no, noise, name, nurse, nice, noodles and nickel.

Books that the children enjoyed this week were Bears In the Night by Stan and Jan Berenstain, No Rules For Michael by Sylvia A Rouss and Abraham Lincoln by Brad Meltzer.

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

The letter "nun" arrived in our classroom this week. He added many new words to our ever expanding vocabulary. Nes, neshama, ner and nachas are just a few. We continued working in our aleph bais workbooks and enjoyed combining our new Os (the nun) with all the nekudos that we have learned so far.

With Purim Katan behind us, we are all gearing up for the 14th day of Adar Beis-the day of Purim when we read the megillah and perform the other mitzvos of the day. The story of the megillah is continuing to unfold and we constantly see the hand of Hashem throughout the story of Purim.

The yeladim got dressed up and acted out the Purim story. We're sure that you will enjoy seeing the beautiful photos that we took. Stayed tuned for more nachas.

Many new Hebrew phrases were taught to the children such as:

אני מלך אחשורוש
יש לי כתר על הראש
יש לי שרביט ביד
אני מלכת אסתר
יש לי כתר על הראש

For Parashas Vayakhel, we talked about the concept of the thirty-nine avos melacha. The children enjoyed looking at the beautiful pictures from the book The Thirty-Nine Melachos by Rabbi Baruch Chait.

In Project Derech, we learned that it is a mitzvah to help a teacher.

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

This week, we focused on representing, counting and writing the numbers 11-19. After using objects to represent these numbers, we wrote matching equations to go with our pictorial or physical representations. For example, when making the number 14, we put ten ones cubes in a ten frame and then four more ones cubes under the ten frame. We then wrote the equation $10 + 4 = 14$. The children practiced these math concepts in many different ways, with many different materials. We practiced addition with beads, magnets and rolling dice, adding the two numbers together that the dice landed on.

We began the letter Rr book this week. As usual the students wrote a list of words that they could think of beginning with the letter Rr. The Rr book also reviewed the concepts of rhyming and mixing primary colors to make secondary colors. We learned what primary colors are and experimented with paint to create new colors. We even used magnets to mix primary colors together. Our sight word this week was "get." We practiced reading the word, spelling the word and using it in a sentence.

We continued our magnet exploration this week. As mentioned above, we infused the use of magnets into all areas of learning from math to science and reading. The students portrayed their learning by making two pictures one with a horse shoe magnet and items magnets attract, and one with a magnet wand and items that magnets repel. The children are getting very good at determining what will stick to a magnet and what will not.



Dear Parents,

There was a fascinating article in a copy of Binyan Magazine a few weeks back about a new way that electricity is being generated. It caught my eye for its implications for us and our children, more than any practical use that may come of it.

A unique floor tile has been designed that is able to capture energy produced when it is pressed by a certain amount of force. This means a running or jumping child presses down on the special floor tile and the force of the child's movement is converted into a small amount of electrical power. Just as a solar cell captures energy from the sun and converts it into electricity, special sensors built into the tile take the stomping, jumping, bounding impact of an energetic child and produce a tiny amount of electrical power. A few schools in England actually generate enough electricity through such tiles to power all the lights in the school!

How brilliant! Take an unappreciated, frequently annoying, seemingly useless facet of young children – their incredibly high energy levels and rather than complaining about it or merely tolerating it – some genius is now converting that energy to produce electrical energy! How inspiring to think that among the least likely to be useful phenomena of the earth's existence – bouncy, 'trouncy' children - someone may have enabled such a total paradigm shift, that rather than being a source of exhaustion, those jumpy kids may free the world from dependence on fossil fuels!

Incredible! Now let's take a deeper look into a child's *neshama*. If the latent power of a child can be converted into a force for the powerful benefit of mankind, how much more so a child's inner power. We cringe at a child's temper, impatience, self-centeredness and uncontrolled fearlessness. Perhaps, however, we should be giving thought to the potential positive uses of those energy sources. If a jumpy, hyperactive child's energy can be harnessed to produce useful electricity, what can a restless soul, a free spirit, a fiercely independent young person produce? Do we dare sell our children short by focusing exclusively on the troubles caused by their emotional turmoil? Should we not be looking at the hidden potential contained in an assertive, fearless, impatient young child, an aggressive 'researcher'? That potential may very well translate into the child becoming a titan of industry, bold entrepreneur, great *Talmid Chacham*, leader of a community or teacher of rebellious teenagers!

The greatest gift we, parents and teachers alike, can give our children, is to take a new deeper look at their behavior. If we look through a lens that focuses on the potential sources of compassion, spiritualism, independence, assertiveness, self-assuredness, courage, gratitude and sensitivity for others, we may see an entirely new child unfold before our eyes. Rather than concentrating on their shortcomings, we can focus on these latent power sources and nurture them, develop them and channel them into conduits for real accomplishments in life.

Once we transform our image of a child from that of an endlessly bouncing bunny rabbit, into one of a great turbine generating power to illuminate and energize the lives of others, we can begin to recognize the spiritual greatness and emotional power that lies just beneath the surface of each and every child.

Best wishes for a *Shabbos* of power and illumination,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

Raising a Mentsch in 2014

TIPS ON CREATING HEALTHY,
RESILIENT CHILDREN WITH RENOWN
PSYCHOLOGIST AND EDUCATOR

Norman Blumenthal, Ph.D.



PRESENTED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

Jewish Community Services Yehi Ohr ■ OHEL Children's Home & Family Services ■ The Shul

Tuesday, March 4th, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

The Shul of Bal Harbour
9540 Collins Ave., Surfside



Keynote Presentation: Dr. Norman Blumenthal

- maintains a private practice in Cedarhurst, NY
- serves as OHEL's Director of Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Intervention
- is Educational Director of Harry & Bella Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikha Honors Program at Yeshiva University

Question and Answer Period ■ Suggested Couvert: \$10

Jewish Community Services' Yehi Ohr expands JCS' commitment to South Florida's Orthodox community with specialized programs for all ages. These services include: Counseling, Psycho-educational testing, School-based programming, Senior Services, Employment Resources, JCS Kosher Food Bank, JCS Shalom Bayit Domestic Abuse Program, Emergency Financial Assistance.

For more information:

Contact Zisa Levin, MSW, at zlevin@jcsfl.org or 305.403.6547.

