

Early Childhood Newsletter

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Parashas Shemini
Parashas Parah

March 21, 2014
Candle Lighting 7:14 P.M.

MAZEL TOV:

Mr. Yisroel and Sarah Feldheim on the birth of a son.

Mr. Alexandre and Chava Mann on the birth of a daughter.



Deadline to order Pesach gift cards for next week is Monday, March 24 for pickup/delivery by Friday, March 28. You can order online anytime at www.ytcteam.org/scrip or call the Yeshiva office to place an order by phone 305-944-5344 ext. 201. All purchases will be applied to your family obligation on \$5,000.

MODEL SEDARIM

Children should be dressed in Shabbos clothing. We need parents to help prepare and serve the food for the model sedarim. Please call the school office if you are able to volunteer. Nursery parents should send in the food items requested for the Model Seder by Friday, March 28, Pre-K by Monday, March 31 and Kindergarten by Tuesday, April 1.

Nursery Classes.....Tuesday, April 1

Pre-K.....Wednesday, April 2

Kindergarten Classes.....Thursday, April 3

CALENDAR NOTES:

Matzah Factory— Tuesday, March 25. ALL CLASSES

Pesach Vacation— Thursday, April 10— Wednesday, April 23

School Resumes— Thursday, April 24

LEAVING EARLY?

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WILL BE LEAVING TOWN BEFORE PESACH VACATION BEGINS SO THAT THE TEACHERS CAN PREPARE THE BROWN BAGS



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

PICTURE DAY

A photographer will be in school on Tuesday, April 1 to take individual graduation pictures. Please make sure that your child is in school no later than 9:00 a.m.

MEETING

There will be a graduation planning meeting on Monday, March 24 at 1:30 p.m. in the Early Childhood office.

NURSERY – MORAH TAMI

"Mrs. Balabusta" arrived in our class this week hustling and bustling and all a fluster because Pesach is on its way. She taught us about the kinds of foods which are chometz such as:

לחם
ביג'לה
עוגה
עוגיה
קרקר
מקרוני

and how we have to remove them from all the nooks and crannies in our homes. She reminded us that Ima is busy cleaning the house and that we must be careful not to walk around with chometz.

For our first Haggadah page, we made a collage picture of a broom, a sponge and a cleaning cloth. We also cut out pictures of "Chometzdikah" foods from magazines.

To help us understand why our mommies are so busy cleaning, and listened to the stories Everything Is Changing It's Pesach by Julie Jaslow Auerbach and Messy by Barbara Brother.

The story of B'nei Yisroel in the Mitzrayim was introduced this week. We made craft projects depicting Moshe in the teivah and Bnei Yisroel building the cities of Pitom and Ramses.

For Parshas Shemini, we learned how to distinguish between kosher and non-kosher animals. To be considered kosher, an animal must chew its cud and have split hooves. A kosher fish must have scales and fins.

NURSERY– MORAH SUSAN

This week, we started a unit on insects. The children finger painted insects, decorated ladybugs and created lacing cards of beetles. We listened to the stories The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Very Lonely Firefly both by Eric Carle, Quick As A Cricket by Audrey Wood and Effie by Beverly Allison.

The children collected bugs in the playground and looked at them under a magnifying glass. They looked at pictures of ladybugs, fireflies, ants, butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers and bees. During dramatic play time , the children played with insect puppets. They learned the action song "I'm Bringing Home A Baby Bumblebee."

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee
Won't my mommy be so proud of me
I'm bringing home a baby bumble bee
Oh-It stung me!

The children created a new bulletin board on the theme of insects. They will be adding pictures of all the new insects and their habitats to the board.

PRE-KI & II MOROT HEIDI & NECHAMA

The highlight of our week was when the Purim Puppet Theatre came to entertain the children on Shushan Purim. They were treated to a very interactive, fun and informative puppet show which concluded with a glow in the dark juggling performance.

We also began a new unit on Pesach. The children were able to recall that Bnei Yisroel were slaves to Pharaoh in Mitzrayim as well as the many nissim that occurred during krias yam suf. We reviewed the ten makkos and learned some new Hebrew phrases including:

מה אנחנו עושים במצרים?
הינו עובדים במצרים
בבקר עובדים
בצחים עובדים
בלילה עובדים
מי היה פרעה?
פרעה היה מלך מצרים

We also introduced the letter **צ** and added many words to our growing vocabularies. Some of the words that we learned were:

צפרדע
צואר
צפור
צב
צלחת
ציצית

PRE-KI & II- MORAH JUDY

This week, the Pre-K children continued their Around The World adventures. They were excited to travel on make believe airplanes. They have their own passports and boarding passes. As they learn about countries around the world, they are also being taught about cultures that are very different from their own. They are seeing pictures of schools and homes from other countries. Did you know that some children live in huts, and travel to school on horseback?

This week, the children made flags from different countries. They also created their own Pre-K flags using their creativity and imagination.

The highlight of our week, of course, was Purim. The children had a fabulous time at the Purim puppet show and parade.

Our letter this week was the letter "Rr". Some words that the Pre-K children sounded out were roots, rainbow, rabbit, Rabbi, race, read, red, rocket, Renee, Rachel, Rivka and Rafi.

Our Pre-K children have started a class book writing club. They are excited to illustrate and dictate their own original stories. Some of their book titles are "Rocket", "Cupcake Store", "The Princess Party", "The Tree", "The Children That Became Parents", "You Shouldn't Fight" and many more exciting books by Pre-K. We have been encouraging and guiding the children to explore interesting ideas and then turn them into stories.

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

With Purim behind us, we have started preparing for the Yom Tov of Pesach. We discussed the enslavement of Bnei Yisroel in Mitzrayim and the bitterness of their lives. We reviewed the birth and early years of Moshe Rabbeinu.

We enjoyed discussing how we prepare for Pesach in our homes and how we have to be careful not to spread chometz throughout the house.

Our Haggados are beginning to take shape. The yeladim enjoy singing the Mah Nishtana and are also becoming experts in the Simanei Haseder. The yeladim also learned the song Avadim Hayinu and many new Hebrew phrases such as:

עבדים היינו לפרקעה במצרים
בני ישראל במצרים
פרקעה מלך מצרים
משה בתיבה
בת פרעה

We reviewed our ossiyos and nekudos. Every day we are becoming more skilled in our reading.

As this week is Parashas Parah, we learned about the Parah Adumah and listened to the story of Dama Ben Nesinah. For Parashas Shemini, we learned about Nadav and Avihu. We also learned about the characteristics of kosher and non-kosher animals and fish. We enjoyed listening to the story Dovid On The Farm by Michoel Muchnik in which the characteristics of kosher and non-kosher animals are discussed.

In Project Derech, we learned that it is a mitzvah to give your seat to an elderly person.

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

Our week started off with more Purim fun! All the students and Morot came to school on Monday in their Purim costumes and enjoyed a fantastic Purim puppet show. The holiday of Purim and the puppet show were perfect activities for the letter Pp book that we completed this week. In addition to Purim and the puppet show, we learned all about the post office. We even wrote letters to pen pals. We learned about the format of a letter and the different parts of a letter. We learned that each letter opens with a greeting and ends with a closing. We also discussed how to label an envelope and what happens to a letter once it is picked up by a mail carrier.

We learned about two syllable words and practiced identifying how many syllables are in our names during a fun circle game. We reviewed all our sight words by playing our own version of a sight word board game.

In math, we continued to work on addition and we practiced “counting up” to complete addition problems. We connected our past math chapter to our current one by practicing addition with shapes. We also used the skills we gained from the last math chapter to identify the types of letters in our name. We completed a Venn diagram identifying which letters in our names have straight lines, which have curved lines and which have both. After completing our name diagrams, we practiced using the Venn diagram to organize other information.



Roshel HaYeshiva
Rabbi Bennyamin Luban
Rabbi Yisrael Y. Nitman
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

Founding Rosh HaYeshiva
Rabbi Bentzion Chai

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Rabbi Kalman Baumann

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Dr. Jonathan Rubin

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Dear Parents,

In the wake of political turmoil occurring in *Eretz Yisrael* over the past 18 months, great controversies have gripped the Torah community, both in Israel and abroad. The issue of the role and responsibility of the Torah world towards the rest of the Jewish community in Israel has unfortunately become a flash point and focus of disagreement even amongst members of our own community.

As with most situations of *machlokes*, the conflicting point of view in framing the question is usually the point of departure. In the current case, one side considers it a basic point of *mentschlichkeit* to bear equal responsibility with one's fellow citizens with whom one resides, in directly protecting the country militarily. The other side frames the question as one of understanding the primacy of Torah and Torah learning's role in our nation's wellbeing as the issue at hand. Each side blames the other for lacking consistency and honesty in maintaining its professed values and the resentment and animosity builds from there.

What seems to be lost in the mix, however, is the need to place close heed to and reverence for the directives, guidance and leadership of our *Gedolim*, Torah leaders. Many who would not make a move in personal matters or areas of strict *Halacha* without adhering scrupulously to our *Manhigim*, leaders, have no problem voicing their own opinion on matters of state and public policy, relegating the voices of genuine Torah leadership to an equal voice at best, or uninformed, backwards looking, self-absorbed and self-preserving misguided individuals at worst, *R'L*.

This is not a new phenomenon! No less an authority than *Rabbi Akiva*, (who was an extreme 'Rabbi-basher' in his pre-Torah learning days) asks in the *Medrash Rabba* (11:8) (also brought in *Medrash Tanchuma*) in the beginning of this week's *Parsha*, why does the Torah tell us (first *Pasuk*) "And it was on the eighth day, *Moshe* called to *Aharon* and to his sons and to the elders (*Gedolim*) of Israel" (*Vayikra* 9:1). *Rabbi Akiva*, apparently questioning the necessity for the presence of the elders at the dedication of the *Mishkan*, since they served no visibly practical role (as opposed to the *Kohanim*), explains that the Jewish People are compared to a bird, and just as a bird cannot fly without wings, the Jewish people cannot accomplish anything without its Torah leaders. Hence the need for and purpose of the presence of the elders at this seminally important national event.

One of my *rebbeim*, *HaRav Moshe Chait zt'l* (*Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim, Yerusholayim* (and great-grandfather of some very special *Toras Emes* students(!), questioned how indispensable are wings to a bird? It can still breathe, hop, eat and do everything else without wings. It just cannot fly. How is that comparable to "not being able to do anything?" He explained that this indeed is a precise analogy. Observe a bird that cannot fly. He is constantly looking about, constantly in fear. A bird on the ground is most vulnerable and in its greatest danger. Without wings its life is in constant jeopardy. To think a bird can exist without wings is a delusion. Similarly, to think *Klal Yisrael* can flourish without its *Gedolim* is the greatest mistake.

So many "religious" people have a very restricted view of the role of "Rabbis." They (the Rabbis, in their opinion) are great functionaries but are incapable of understanding and dealing with modern life. To think that Jewish life can exist without *Daas Torah* (the Torah point of view as promulgated by the recognized *Gedolim*), however, is a fatal error. The fact that the point of view of the *Gedolim* on a particular issue is hard to understand and difficult to accept, doesn't change the imperative to "not veer from their words to the right or to the left."

The function of respecting and revering the great Rabbis and their opinions has ramifications for our children as well. Much of their learning and development depends on their relationship and respect they have for their own *Rebbe* or *Morah*. A child who grows up in a home where reverence for *Rabbonim* is high, is in a much stronger position to enjoy and succeed in his or her Torah learning.

May Hashem bless you and guide you in the critical area of proper *Kavod HaRav*.
Best wishes for an honorable Shabbos,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann