

THE
WEEK
IN
WORDS



September 11, 2020

7:10 PM

כ"ב אלול תש"פ

פרשת נצבים וילך



Calendar Notes

Friday, September 18

Erev Rosh Hashana– No Classes

Monday, September 21

Tzom Gedalya– Dismissal at 1:45 PM

Monday, September 28

Yom Kippur– No Classes

MAZEL TOV!

Rabbi Yosef and Miri Deitsch on the birth of a daughter

WHEN COVID TESTING IS NEEDED

The Yeshiva's policy, based on the directives from our Medical Advisory Committee, is that only a PCR Covid-19 Test result is acceptable for re-entry to school. PCR tests are only with nasal swabs or saliva. Any tests with a one hour turnaround (rapid test) are not acceptable. If you need to go for testing, check first with safety@ytcte.org for a list of suggested sites.



AVOIDING UNWANTED SURPRISES

Dear Parents,

Erev Shabbos Parashas Nitzavim – Vayeilech 5780

Many of us have a hard time sincerely and honestly feeling that there is something so amiss in our behavior and *Yiddishkeit* that we become emotionally distraught about it. We go through *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur*, try very hard to shed a tear, but we rarely feel that something is really so broken. We know we could do better, maybe we recognize greatness in others, maybe we are anxious about the threat from the Coronavirus, but at the end of the day, we basically feel – “I’m OK.”

The secret weapon of the *Yetzer Hara*, our evil inclination, is surprise. No matter how hungry we might be, we will not walk into a McDonald’s. I daresay spotting a \$100 bill on the sidewalk during a *Shabbos* afternoon walk will not pose much of a trial for us. We think about *Shabbos* and *Kashrus*, we’re aware and we’re conscious. No surprises there. We are focused on our principles. Where do we trip up – what is the source of our greatest tests? Perhaps it’s in the areas of our behavior that we fail to link to religious obligations. There are activities that due to surrounding circumstances, seem to evade our notice and form a shield against *Halachic* boundaries and moral conduct.

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... but at the end of the day,
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There is an interesting *Chasidische* interpretation of a well-known *Halachic* dictum: We are familiar with the halacha that *Kiddush* on *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov* is to be “*B’Mokom Seudah*” meaning that *Kiddush* over wine has to be in the same place where the meal will take place. (*Shulchan Aruch Orach Chayim Siman 273*). The extension of that idea is: The place of the *Seudah* – is the place where one engages in material pursuits and mundane matters. When one is at work, at play, engaged with friends, etc. The places where one may mistakenly feel ‘religion’ does not belong. It is precisely there that there must be *Kiddush* – one needs to act in those situations with an awareness of ‘*Kiddush*’, that the Torah imperative to be a *mentsch*, follow *Halacha* and be of elevated moral character apply in those places as well.

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One of our greatest tests comes from social media. Surprised? Exactly! We fail to think of the consequences of our chatter. We somehow become oblivious to the requirements to guard our tongue (or keystroke) from speaking ill of another, a group of others, or shuls, *Yeshivos* and organizations. The normal rules against causing pain to another seem not to apply when it’s on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or on a blog. Because we haven’t thought deeply about the implications of our behavior online, we are caught off guard. Surprise!! We remain unaware at our own peril.

This *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur* affords us a golden opportunity to refocus and revisit what we do when we’re tapping away. Now is the time to reexamine the nature of our online communications and relationships. Perhaps if we look at ourselves and our behavior through the eyes of our innocent children, we’ll be jolted into reality.

If we can devote some time to thinking about these issues, we should have no problem shedding a tear this year. Once we take that first step in the *Teshuva* process – that of feeling bad for what we’ve done, we can proceed on the path of changing our ways, making a commitment for the future, earning *Hashem’s* forgiveness and embark on a journey that will bring real joy, satisfaction and *Nachas* to our family, and all of *Klal Yisroel* in the year ahead. And, who knows? Maybe our ‘friends’ will come along for the ride.

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Best wishes for a *Kesiva V’Chasima Tova*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

JuNIOr Pre-K PRESSs

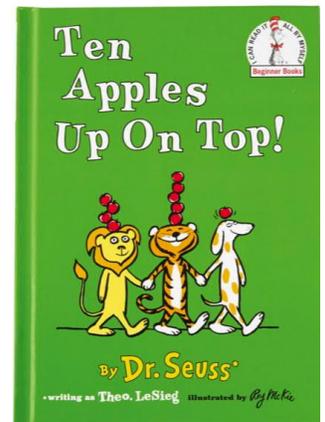
MOROT LINDSAY, NAOMI & RINA

This week in JPK we started to focus on Rosh Hashana! The children enjoyed singing "Apples Dipped in Honey for Rosh Hashana" and "Dip the Apple in the Honey". We cut up red and green apples to taste and even dipped our apples into honey. We discussed how we want Hashem to give us a sweet year and therefore we dip the apple into sweet honey. We also learned that Hashem is our king and Hashem is everywhere. The children danced to "Hashem is here, Hashem is there, Hashem is truly everywhere" and decorated a special crown.

On our sensory table we had different apple activities such as: apple sorting and creating apple trees. We listened to the book 10 Apples Up on Top by Dr. Seuss.

In our art center, we created Rosh Hashana cards and cut and glued Rosh Hashana pictures. Of course we are still practicing being safe and kind and doing lots of Mitzvos!

Have a good Shabbos!



PRE-K PAGES

MOROT NECHAMA, MIRIAM & MORIEL

There is laughter and fun in the air as the Pre-K children continue to learn and play each day.

This week we continued to focus on Rosh Hashana through stories, puppets, songs and more! The children are gaining so much knowledge and are enjoying sharing and discussing new ideas in our circle time lessons. We are really trying hard to do extra Mitzvos and are doing an excellent job at it! We know that Hashem is our King and that He is coming to "visit" on Rosh Hashana. The children enjoyed dipping apples into honey and can now understand what it means to ask Hashem for a sweet new year. We continued reviewing the sounds of the Shofar and saw pictures of a real Ayil with the horns that are used to make the Shofars. The children are also hard at work creating beautiful projects for Yom Tov! They are especially enjoying learning about and trying different art materials and supplies while doing their crafts.

This week's Parshios are Nitzavim and Vayeilech. The children learned how the Torah is special for everyone and heard stories about some special Tzaddikim who did great things in order to be able to learn Torah. The Parsha also speaks about Teshuva which we have been learning about in preparation for Rosh Hashana.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!



MOROT ELYSE & YEHUDAS

This week was all about apples in our Pre-K classes!

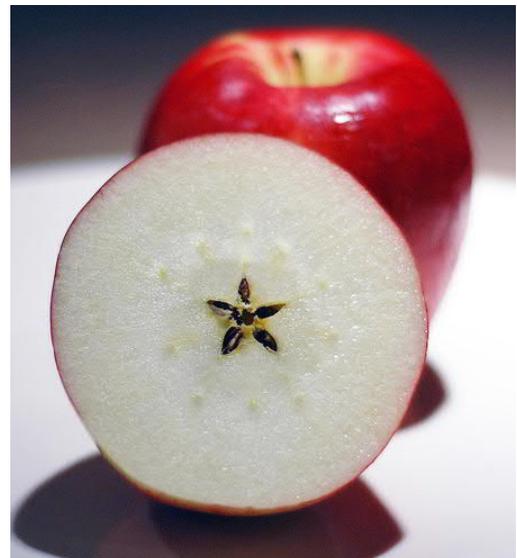
We noticed the different shapes, colors, and sizes, as well as the different parts of the apple, like the stem, core, and skin. We cut our apples open and saw a star of seeds in the middle. We learned that those seeds are the beginning of the apple's life cycle, and that if the seeds are planted and watered, they will grow from seed to seedling, to bud, flower, and apple. We even tasted different colored apples and chose our favorites!

Like the seeds in the apple's core, we learned about five steps that can make us Star Students: Being safe, Breathing, Being the best YOU can be, Being kind, and Being thoughtful. We made special magnets that the children will take home, so that they can practice these star steps at home.

Finally, we also learned how to hold and color using our flip crayons in our Get Set for School workbooks.

Next week, we will learn more about being a star student and continue our apple explorations!

Have a good Shabbos



KINDERGARTEN CORNER

MOROT CHAYA, DEVORAH, ESTHER, ESTY & RENA

With Rosh Hashana just one week away, the Yeladim in Kindergarten have been very busy. We have been learning and singing about many different Mitzvos and Minhagim that pertain to this important Yom Tov. We discussed the different foods that we eat as Simanim for a Shana Tova such as; Tapuchim B'Dvash, Gezer, and a Rosh Shel Dag. We learned that the Shofar is blown 100 times and we must be completely silent when listening to the Baal Tokeah. We are all trying to pack in as many Mitzvos as we can and if we do make a mistake, say "I'm sorry" and do Teshuva. We learned that we start saying Selichos this Motzei Shabbos.

The letters Gimel and Daled were introduced to the children this week. Golden glitter and dots helped us remember the sounds of the Gimel and Daled. We made a domino game to review letters Aleph- Daled to play over shabbos.

This week is a double Parsha. We can't believe how we are almost at the end of the whole Torah! In Parshas Nitzavim, Hashem is telling us to choose to follow the Mitzvos of the Torah. If we make mistakes and follow the non Jewish way of life and believe in their idols, Hashem will punish us and we will be sent out of Eretz Yisroel. We are always Hashem's children and we are able to do Teshuva and return to Hashem. In Parshas Vayeleich, we learned about the Mitzvah of "Hakhel". Once every seven years, the King gathered all the Jews to the Beis Hamikdash and read parts of the Torah to them. Moshe Rabbeinu appointed Yehoshua as the next leader of the Bnei Yisrael who will lead them into Eretz Yisrael.

Wishing everyone a beautiful Shabbos and a Ksiva V'Chasima Tovah!

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MOROT MORAL, PEARLY & RACHELI

This week, we continued to get to know each other and go over some rules and routines. We were excited to meet our new friend, Mama Echo! Mama Echo is an owl puppet that will help us learn our letters this year. We spoke about what the word echo means and why that is her name. The children's job this year is to echo whatever Mama Echo says. We practiced this a few times by saying different words and the children repeating them. We also heard a real echo using a feature on our new microphones!

We continued the week with learning about owls. We learned many interesting facts and watched a video about owls as well. We talked about where owls live, that they have talons to catch their prey, big eyes to see in the dark, and many other facts. Ask your child what else they remember! The class enjoyed painting and creating an owl finger puppet. We also filled out an information sheet about owls and wrote about them in our journals.

As an introduction to Foundations, we talked about the grid we use for letter formation. Ask your child about the sky line, plane line, grass line, and worm line. We pointed our hands straight like pencils and moved them up and down to point to the lines.

Looking forward to another great week!

Have a good Shabbos!





SORRY

ABOUT OUR MESS

BUT WE ARE

LEARNING

HERE!