

THE
WEEK
IN
WORDS



October 30, 2020

6:21 PM



י"ג חשוון תשפ"א

פרשת לך לך



Calendar Notes

Tuesday, November 10 & 17

Parent Teacher Conferences

Stay tuned for more information on how to sign up!

Wednesday, November 11

CALENDAR CHANGE

REGULAR CLASSES!

MAZEL TOV!

Rabbi Gavriel and Estie Grossman on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. Mayer and Esta Rosenberg on the engagement of their daughter Morah Sarah to Ezra Farkas.

Mr. Aaron and Ariella Zacks on the birth of a son.

YAHADUS EXPERIENCE

This week in the Yahadus Experience, we focused on the promise that Hashem made to Avraham Avinu, that his children will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the ground. To help the children understand the magnitude of this concept, the night sky and sand were brought to them through a laser light show of stars on the ceiling and actual sand for them to touch and feel. The children were fascinated and spent time trying to count the sand and the stars, but couldn't. They gained a new appreciation for this special Bracha that Hashem gave Avraham. We also learned a song to help remember this concept: "Can you count the stars? No no no.... Can you count the sand? No no no.... Can you count the children of Avraham Avinu? No no no!!"



YTCTE MASKS FOR SALE!!



YTCTE Mask

\$5.00

If you'd like to purchase an additional YTCTE mask, they are now available online at ytcte.org/store.

Delivery options:

1. The mask can be sent home with your ECE/ KES/RMS child. (Please be aware that after online purchase, it may take a few days to be sent home. Masks will be distributed to children's classrooms on Tuesday and Friday only.)
2. Pick up at the YTCTE Financial office on the Klurman Campus between 9am-3pm, Monday - Thursday. (Please remember that no one besides students and staff are allowed in the Yeshiva. Please come to the window by the front lobby only.)

COVID CORNER

Please remember that if any family member is showing Covid symptoms or awaiting Covid test results, all of your children must stay home.

Please email

safety@ytcte.org if you have any COVID-related questions or concerns.



EXTREME OWNERSHIP

Erev Shabbos Parashas Lech-Lecha 5781

Dear Parents,

Contrasting views concerning the seriousness of the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with the final days of perhaps the most contentious presidential election in memory have filled our consciousness with sounds and scenes of conflict, blaming and fault-finding. It seems as if the citizens of today's default reaction to any difficulty, is to immediately look for who to blame, rather than looking inward to see what they could do better.

We know that is not the Torah way. In this week's *Parsha* we see clearly how our forefather *Avraham* was the exact opposite. Not only did he take responsibility for his own actions, not only did he not blame others for whatever he endured, but he was known in his generation as one who would go to great lengths to help another out of a situation the other brought upon himself. Consider the following: In the war between the four kings and the five kings, the locals in *Eretz Canaan* were roundly defeated. This included *Sodom*, and its citizen *Lot*.

We are familiar with the story. *Lot* was captured. The Torah relates (*Bereishis 14:12-14*) how the "survivor" came to tell *Avraham* that *Lot* was a captive. *Rashi* quotes the *Medrash* that says the "survivor" was *Og*, who came with evil intent – he wanted to take *Sarah* for himself, so sure was he that *Avraham* would go off to try and save *Lot* and undoubtedly not return. By preying on *Avraham's* goodness, he schemed to get *Sarah*. It was apparently well known that *Avraham* was such a righteous, kind and responsible individual, that he would endanger himself to save *Lot*. The same *Lot* who abandoned *Avraham* and *Hashem* and attached himself to the wicked people of *Sodom* (*Rashi 13:11*).

The extent of *Avraham's* attitude and behavior toward others is understood on a whole new level by the *Seforno*. The *Seforno* states (*Pasuk 13*) that *Og* was actually unaware that *Lot* was a relative of *Avraham*. Nevertheless, because they were co-religionists, that was enough to give *Og* the confidence that *Avraham* would be willing to risk his life to save a fellow believer in the teachings of *Ever* (Great grandson of *Shem*, head of the *Yeshiva of Shem and Ever*). Such was *Avraham's* reputation! Who among us would endanger our very life to enter into battle against overwhelming forces to attempt to save someone who turned his back on us, despite everything we had done for him, and is now assimilated into a degenerate community?!

...Avraham personified the extreme sense of responsibility that is so missing from today's world."

Avraham remains a model for us for eternity in all aspects of his greatness. How easy it would have been to rationalize that helping *Lot* in these circumstances was completely not his problem. The reasons to justify inaction in the situation should be obvious. *Lot* was an ingrate, *Lot* took unfair advantage of his relationship with *Avraham*, *Lot* was dishonest, *Lot* went off the 'Derech', *Lot* would not have done the same for *Avraham*. Furthermore, he had no means to fight a war against mighty Kings, chances of saving *Lot* were slim and chances of being killed were great.

Despite all this, *Og*, for one, counted on the fact that *Avraham* would endanger himself on behalf of *Lot*. *Avraham* personified the extreme sense of responsibility that is so missing from today's world. *Avraham* took ownership of problems, *Avraham* confronted a challenge and looked inward for a solution. The blame game was the furthest thing from his mind.

What lessons are our children getting from the current state of affairs? Are they imbibing the teachings of *Avraham Avinu* and taking ownership of their own behavior, or are they being drawn towards the anonymous blogger or the overconfident know-it-alls who spew forth the misguided idea that everyone else is to blame for my problems? Are they learning that every challenge is someone else's fault and they are helpless victims, or are we teaching them that every trial and tribulation is sent from *Hashem* to enable us to grow into greater people? In the midst of the current difficulties and uncertainties, angst and anger, are we building up our children's resilience and good *Middos* or are we perhaps failing to protect them from this destructive attitude that so negates the potential greatness that every human possesses.

There is no doubt, that if we internalize the Torah's perspective that blaming others is diminishing ourselves, we will rise above the foolishness that abounds in today's attitudes and media. We will understand that children of *Avraham Avinu* need to rise above the pettiness and strive for the greatness *Avraham* implanted within all his descendants.

Have a great, ennobling Shabbos

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

...today's default reaction to any difficulty is to immediately look for who to blame...

...are we teaching them that every trial and tribulation is sent from Hashem to enable us to grow into greater people?

JuNIOr Pre-K PRESSs

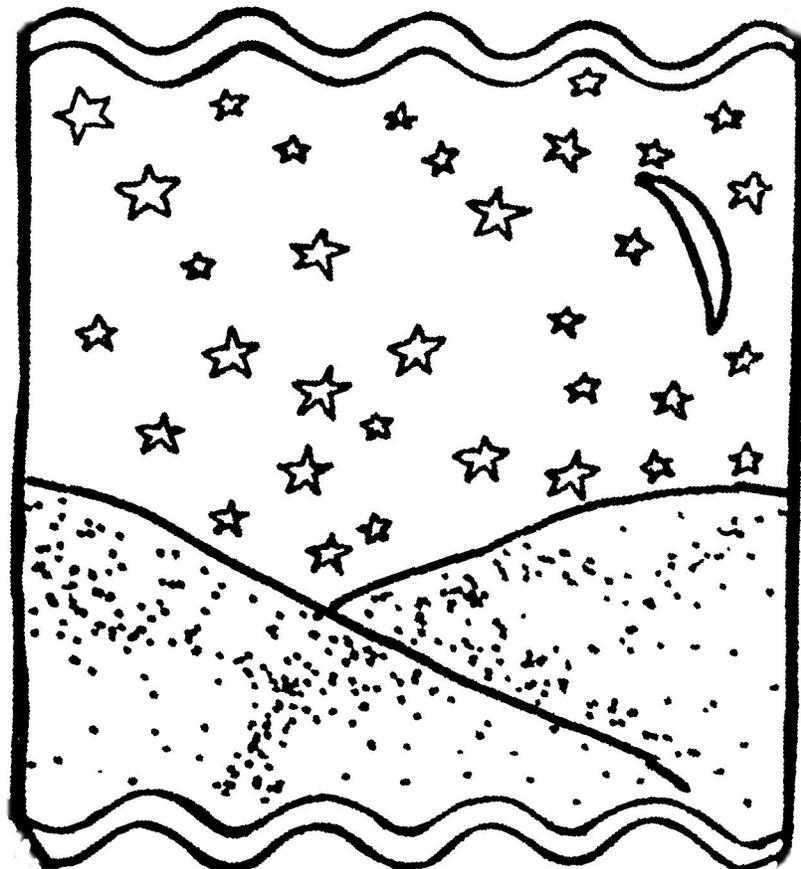
MOROT LINDSAY, NAOMI & RINA

This week we continued our Animal unit. JPK 3 learned about the animals in the jungle, the sounds that they make and the food they like to eat. They also learned all about camels, since those are the animals Avraham used when traveling in the desert. The children in JPK1 and JPK2 explored the wettest animals on the planet - the fish. They learned about the different parts of the fish: fins that help the fish move under water, like we use our walking feet, scales to protect the fish and keep them safe, and gills that help the fish breath under the water. We noticed that some fish are big and some are small, and Hashem made them all with beautiful colors and patterns. Morah Naomi brought in her pet turtles this week and we all enjoyed observing them. We listened to a book about turtles to learn more about them.

In the Parsha, we learned that Hashem told Avraham to leave his house and Avraham trusted Hashem and left, even though he didn't know where he was going. As a reward, Hashem promised Avraham that he would have as many children as the stars in the sky and the sand on the beach.

In centers, we enjoyed making animal crafts, creating our own oceans with blue watercolor and droppers, and sorting animals/ sea animals by size and type.

Have a good Shabbos!



PRE-K PAGES

MOROT NECHAMA, MIRIAM & MORIEL

We had another great week in Pre-K full of learning and exploring. This week's letter was Bais. Bais has a ball in the middle. The children worked with different manipulatives and materials to reinforce the shape and sound of the letter. The Hebrew words we learned this week were: בית, בשמים, בונה, בלון, בית, בספר, ברכה. We learned the importance of the Mitzvah of בעל תשחית and we are all trying very hard not to waste our food.

In conjunction with the Aleph Bais curriculum, we will begin learning about a Gadol whose name begins with the Aleph Bais letter of the week. The children will hear a story and learn some interesting facts about the Gadol. Please enjoy the Gedolim cards that will be coming home weekly and enjoy using the picture key to open a discussion with your child about the Gadol.

For Parshas Lech Lecha, the children tried to imagine what it must've been like for Avraham and Sarah to get up and go without asking any questions to Hashem.

We learned about the argument between Avraham and Lot's shepherds and learned the importance of taking only what belongs to us. The Parsha also teaches us about Hashem's promise to Avraham that his children will be as many as the stars and the sand. The children made beautiful projects as a reminder that each and everyone of us is one of those special stars! Have a wonderful Shabbos!

MOROT ELYSE & YEHUDES

What an Excellent and Exciting week we had in Pre-K!

This week, we learned about the letter E. We discussed different words that start with E, such as: egg, elephant, elevator, and elbow. The children made excellent edible elephants using rice cakes, chocolate chips, twizzlers, and tea biscuits. Of course, the elephants were quickly eaten.

Mat Man came to visit our classroom again to teach us about Math. Mat Man's real body is a blue rectangle, but by moving him around, we changed him into different shapes. When he changed shapes, Mat Man began behaving differently. For example, when we turned Mat Man into a circle, he rolled right out the door. Who knows what shape Mat Man will turn into next?

We also dove deeper into our ocean animal unit this week. The children learned and talked about dolphins, blue whales (the biggest animal on the planet!), octopus, stingrays and sea turtles. We learned so many interesting facts. Did you know that sea turtles can't pull their head back into their shells and that the octopus shoots ink?

The children put their creativity, knowledge and skills to work as they cut, colored, and glued paper to make different ocean animals, plants and coral that we used to make a big ocean mural for the classroom!

Have a good Shabbos!

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

MOROT CHAYA, DEVORAH, ESTHER, ESTY & RENA

Parshas Lech Lecha is chock-full of exciting details and lessons! We learned about the life of Avram from when he was very small and how he smashed the Avoda Zara in his father's store. We followed the story of his life; how he followed Hashem and traveled to Eretz Yisroel and all the tests that Hashem sent him along the way. The Bracha that Hashem gave to Avraham, that his children will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand of the ground, holds true until today and was the motivation of our Parsha project. "Chessed every day, helping people in many ways..." We sang and listened to stories all about our new Midda, which is Chessed. The children came up with many creative and helpful Chessed ideas that they can do every day! Please make use of the Chessed Mitzvah notes that were sent home, to tell us all about Chassodim your child is doing at home!

The letters Kof and End Kof were introduced to the Kindergarteners this week. Cookie Crisp cereal Kofs, kickball games, cup stacking races, and clics were some activities that your child may have enjoyed while reviewing the Aleph Bais letters learned so far. Please continue to send back the homework folders. The children are so thrilled to earn the stickers each day.

Yud Aleph Cheshvan was the Yahrzeit of Rochel Imainu. We talked about the tragic story of Rochel's death and why she was buried on the way in Beis Lechem. We had the opportunity to see pictures of the way Kever Rochel looks now and the way it looked many years ago.

We are learning and growing so much every day! Have a wonderful Shabbos!

MOROT MORAL, PEARLY & RACHELI

What a week we had in Kindergarten! This week in Foundations we learned the letters Bb and Ff. We came up with a few words that started with the two new letters that we learned. We also learned two new exciting sight words: "if" and "at". We went around the class and each gave a sentence with the new sight words. We are sending home a new packet for Foundations with the letters we learned so you can practice writing them at home. We are also sending home a sheet with the sight words that were taught. If the sight word is highlighted please practice it at home with your child.

In Math, we learned how to form the numbers one through five. We learned how to count using our counters and draw our counters in the five frames. We started learning about voting this week. Ask your child after how many years do you vote for a president? (4 years). How old do you have to be to become a president? (35 years old). Where can you vote? (library or school gym). To better understand the process of voting, we voted on snacks we want to eat, books we want to read, and what color playdough we want to play with. We can't wait to vote for President in class next week and see who wins!



