

THE
WEEK
IN
WORDS





Calendar Notes

Tuesday, November 10 & 17

Zoom Parent Teacher Conferences

Please be sure to visit the parent portal to sign up!

Wednesday, November 11

CALENDAR CHANGE

REGULAR CLASSES!

MAZEL TOV!

Rabbi Dovid and Rivka Waxman on the birth of a son
Ilana Zvida on the marriage of her daughter Ariella Fellus

YAHADUS EXPERIENCE

This week in the Yahadus Experience, the children were delighted to be visited by "Avraham Avinu" who came with a 4-door tent to teach us about the Mitzvah of *Hachnasas Orchim*. We learned how we can do this Mitzvah today for the guests that may come to our door for a short visit or to sleep in our house. The children all got turns to be part of the Mitzvah by either welcoming the guests, serving food or drink, making a bed or by helping to prepare for the guest whatever they might need to make them comfortable for their stay in your house. It was an enjoyable learning experience for all.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Please go to ytcte.org/ptc to schedule your zoom conferences.

If you run into any technical glitches during conferences, send an email to: dlsupport@ytcte.org.

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.



HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

Erev Shabbos Parashas Vayera 5781

Dear Parents,

Dealing with change is a significant challenge for most of us. We are creatures of habit, and our sense of security hinges to a large extent on consistency, stability and therefore predictability. Things are OK today, so I'm confident they'll be the same OK tomorrow. This can explain some of the emotional and mental strain the current pandemic is having on us. We're used to our lives following certain predictable patterns. The pandemic is anything but predictable.

The static mindset that things will continue 'normally' "same-old, same-old," and the potentially devastating consequences of such an attitude, are strikingly illustrated in this week's *Parsha*. *Lot* heard from his two guests the dire warning of *Sodom's* destruction and immediately approached his sons-in-law and described the fearsome prediction in an attempt to persuade them to flee the city along with *Lot* and the rest of the family.

The Torah tells us what the reactions of the sons-in-law were – (*Bereishis 19:14*) ...and it was as if a joke in the eyes of his sons-in-law. The *Medrash (Bereishis Rabba (50:9))* elaborates on their reaction. *They said – there are various musical instruments around* (as if to say there's music playing). *Rashi on the Medrash* explains their words: *The city is filled with merriment and tranquility, and you say it will be destroyed?*

Our *Rosh HaYeshiva, HaGaon HaRav Alter Chanoch Henach Leibowitz zt'l* pointed out that the sons-in-law did not deny belief in *Hashem* nor were they questioning *Hashem's* ability to destroy *Sodom*. What they could not fathom was such a dramatic turn of events. Everything was peaceful and joyful. Calm and merriment abounded. The city's entertainment district was filled with concerts, theaters, cafes, crowds of revelers. This was about to change? Impossible. To advance the idea that this was about to become undone could only be a joke.

We learn from the *Medrash* that this attitude sealed their fate. It wasn't their attachment to *Sodom's* values or a particular love for the city. They were stuck in the present and were in total disbelief that what would come tomorrow could be very different from today. It wasn't even an inflexible attitude or a rigid character. Their world view took in the present circumstances and could not contemplate a different future.

We can manage with whatever challenges there are at the moment.

So many of us suffer from a similar worldview, or at least we did until recently. Living in the present, caught up in the way people do things now, one can get entrenched, even unconsciously, in contemporary lifestyles and mores and be unable to imagine circumstances ever being different. Our way of interpreting events and people as being the only reality can cause us to mimic the styles

and attitudes of the current generation, without applying the proper perspective and analysis to their real value. This is not the Torah approach, and it is not the attitude we want to inculcate within our children. One silver lining of the times we are living through, is that current events are showing us so vividly that life can be unpredictable. Things can and do change abruptly and therefore we need to remember that contemporary life and current values cannot be the ultimate goal of the human experience. Only the eternal values of Torah and connection to *Hashem* are unchanging.

This is especially relevant to helping children cope with adversity, since they live totally in the moment. They don't imagine things being different than they are right now. If someone does something a bit unkind to them, their reaction will be "he hates me" or "she's always so mean." What's happening now is, in the child's mind, the permanent state of affairs.

We have it within us to harness the difficulties we have been experiencing for more than half a year now and use them as a positive force. We can help our children internalize the lesson that the circumstances we find ourselves in right now are not going to be the same forever. Therefore, they need not overwhelm us. We can and we will, with *Hashem's* help, manage with whatever challenges there are at the moment.

Our ultimate focus needs to be that *Hashem* is in charge, He conducts the affairs of mankind for our ultimate good and the best approach to life is to cling to Him and feel and sense His presence in whatever vicissitudes or triumphs we experience. *Hashem* loves us and is watching out for us. By internalizing that perspective, our families and especially the children will be healthier, happier and ultimately more successful.

Best wishes for enjoying the eternal gift of Shabbos,


Rabbi Kalman Baumann

Things are OK today, so I'm confident they'll be the same OK tomorrow.

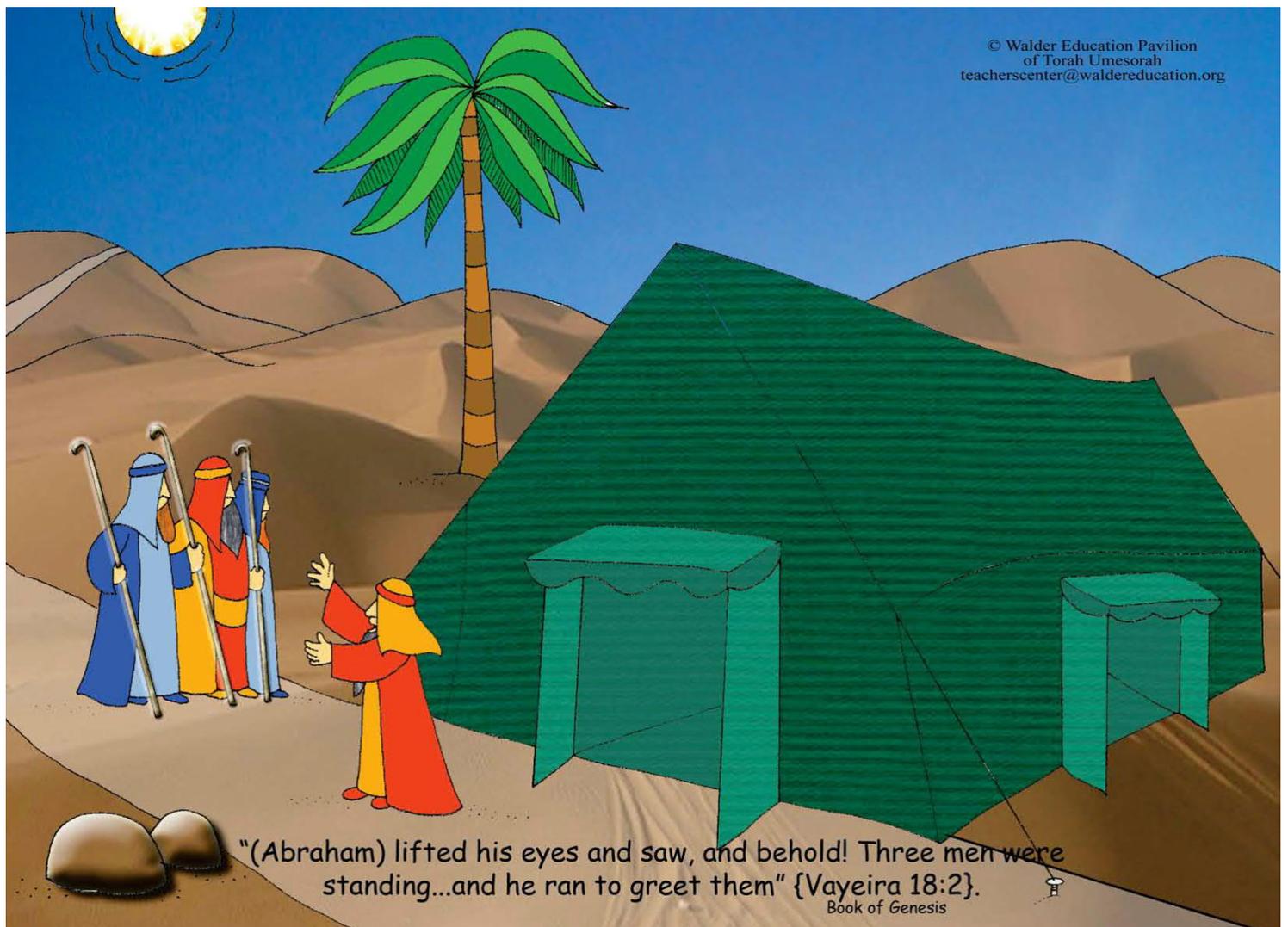
Our ultimate focus needs to be that Hashem is in charge, He conducts the affairs of mankind for our ultimate good ...

JuNIOr Pre-K PRESSs

MOROT LINDSAY, NAOMI & RINA

We had a very busy week in Junior Pre-K. We started off the week by learning all about the different animals that live on a farm. We explained to the children that just like our parents take care of us at home, the farmer is the one who takes care of the animals on the farm. When the farmer wakes up in the morning, he milks the cow, gathers the eggs from the chickens and gives hay to the horses. The children enjoyed doing different crafts which represent the different animals that we learned about.

In the Parsha, we focused on the Mitzvah of Hachnasas Orchim. The children learned many different things about this special Mitzvah, starting with how we prepare for guests. During circle time, the children gave different ideas as to how they would prepare their houses for guests. We thought there would be no better way to practice this Mitzvah than to invite another class to be our guests.



PRE-K PAGES

MOROT NECHAMA, MIRIAM & MORIEL

This week we introduced the twin of the letter Bais, the letter "Vais". We taught the children that the letter "Vais" is missing the ball in its belly, "Oy Vey"! We also learned that the letter Vais is found only in the middle or at the end of a word. The children learned "Vais" words such as,

דוב, לב, צב, סביבון, לולב.

We created the letter Vais using velvet paper strips and placed it in our Aleph Bais Sefer. We played a memory game to review the letters we learned already using velcro letters. Another review game was to sort the letters Bais and Vais.

In Parshas Vayeira, we learned about the Mitzvah of Hachnosos Orchim. Avraham waited for guests everyday even when he was in pain from his Bris Milah. He treated every guest well and gave them the best food and drinks. We discussed ways we can do Hachnosos Orchim in our homes too. Hashem sent three Malachim to Avraham to be his guests, each one with a special mission. One of them healed Avraham, one told him and Sara that they will be having a baby. We then learned what happened when the Malachim went to Sedom and how the people of Sedom did not do Hachnosos Orchim. We learned how Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt when she turned around and looked back as they were leaving Sedom.

Have a wonderful shabbos!

MOROT ELYSE & YEHUDAS

Hip, hip, hooray! We learned the letter H in Pre-K! H is for habitat, hamster, horse, happy and house. In math this week we reviewed our numbers 1-10 and worked on recognition as well as counting. The children were given various ocean theme items and had to count how many were in each category. Then, they placed those objects on their corresponding number card. On Wednesday, we wrapped up our unit on Ocean Animals. We reviewed facts about our favorite animals and then worked together to create our very own book of ocean animal riddles. We look forward to bringing the book home next week. On Thursday, we began to learn about rhyming words and played games to help us understand how to rhyme. Our read aloud this week was A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle. The children enjoyed the story and were excited to see many of the animals that they learned about in the book. We are so excited for next week and can't wait to find out what our new unit will be about!

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

MOROT CHAYA, DEVORAH, ESTHER, ESTY & RENA

Kindergarten Kodesh is moving full steam ahead! With enthusiasm and excitement we continue to take our learning to the next level each day!

Parshas Vayera continues to teach us about the greatness of our ancestors, our Avos! Avraham and Sara emulated the actions/Middos of Hashem and we emulate the actions and Middos of our Avos to be like Hashem. On the third day, after Avraham's Bris Milah, he waited outside to greet any traveler who may need food or rest. It was an extremely hot day and Avraham soon realized that he might not have any guests and became disappointed. Hashem saw how unhappy Avraham was and decided to send three men (angels) to visit him and bring important news. Each angel shared his mission, one of which is that Avraham and Sara will have a baby boy. Sara laughs and therefore names her son Yitzchok from the Hebrew word laugh! We spent time in class discussing the extra special tree that Avraham had, one that was able to tell the difference between a person who was a "good guy" or "bad guy. We learned so many lessons from this part of the Parsha, that we decided to depict it through a "scene." The students spent time creating their scene with puppets, the special tree, and Avraham's tent. Your child will enjoy sharing all that we learned and more using these props to tell the story.

Bikur Cholim was our Mitzvah of the week, as Hashem Himself visited Avraham at the beginning of the Parsha, showing us the importance of doing the Mitzvah of Bikur Cholim. We made sure to put our learning into practice, by checking on our friends who needed to be home this week. We also talked about the many ways that we can do the Mitzvah of Bikur Cholim, even during Corona; Facetime, Zoom, phone call and yes even sending a letter!

The letters Chof and End Chof were introduced to the Kindergarteners this week. With playdough, pickup sticks, blocks, Connect Four, and Around the World, we put our Kriyah skills to the test! The students are so excited to learn the new letter of the day and love the stories and mnemonics that they come up with! Each day we introduce, review and practice our Aleph Bais. We enjoyed doing Partner Kriyah; reading to our partner and then having them sign our paper just like our parents do at home! Please continue to send back the homework folders. The children are so excited to earn their stickers each day.

MOROT MORAL, PEARLY & RACHELI

On November 3, all the Kindergarteners had a chance to go to the voting booths to vote for their favorite candidate for president. Each child registered, went into a private booth, chose their favorite candidates, and put their ballots in the ballot box. Each proud voter got an "I voted sticker." The excitement and suspense filled the air.

This week, we also concluded learning about Weather. We focused on wind and severe dangerous weather. The kids learned that wind is the movement of air. Wind can move at different speeds. At a low speed it can be a light breeze, if the wind gets stronger it can become a hurricane. The children learned about a lot of sports that need wind, such as; sailing, flying a kite, and windsurfing. We used a blow dryer that has stronger and weaker wind and saw how much easier the strong wind can push objects. Each child made their own weather report and wrote about each different type of weather.

In Foundations, we learned the lowercase letters Nn and Mm. The keyword for the letter n is nut and the keyword for letter m is man. Both these letters start on the plane line. The children practiced writing the letters on dry erase boards and on paper.

In Math, we concluded chapter 1. The children used counters and unifix cubes to make the number 5. They also learned that zero has no value.

Our sight words this week are you and to. Please review all the sight words:
I, a, at, is, if, it, and, the, you, to.

Have an amazing Shabbos

Transparency & Communication:

In order to limit exposure in school, it is imperative that all parents and staff be completely transparent regarding symptoms, test results and potential positive exposures. If your child is out of school experiencing any symptoms (even if they are not COVID related) please contact Mrs. Ruchie Berger, COVID Coordinator at safety@ytcte.org. We may advise you to do one of the following: monitor your child for a day or two until symptoms subside, contact your pediatrician and have them provide guidance and clear your child to return to school, or we may require you to obtain a negative COVID PCR test for your child before they can return to school. All situations are evaluated on a case by case basis.

If you or your child are getting tested for COVID (even if that child does not attend YTCTE), no one in the immediate family may attend school while you are awaiting results. **All family members, who are students or staff at YTCTE, are required to stay home until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result.**

Symptoms/When to Stay Home:

Scenario 1- High Risk

If anyone in your immediate family is experiencing one or more of the following high-risk COVID symptoms, all students/staff that attend YTCTE must stay home:

- Fever (100.4 F)
- New Dry/Persistent Cough (or a change in cough baseline for a child with chronic cough)
- Difficulty Breathing
- Loss of taste/smell

What do we do next?

Contact safety@ytcte.org to inform them.

The symptomatic individual must get a PCR COVID test.

The results must be sent to safety@ytcte.org.

If the test result is negative, the family members of the symptomatic individual may attend school.

The symptomatic individual must stay home until symptoms subside and they are fever/symptom free for 24 hours.

If the result is positive, contact safety@ytcte.org so we can advise you when everyone can safely return to school.

Scenario 2- Low Risk

If anyone in your immediate family is experiencing any of the following low-risk symptoms, only the symptomatic individual (student or staff) should stay home from school 24-48 hours and monitor symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Congestion/runny nose**
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea**

What do we do next?

Contact safety@ytcte.org to inform them.

If a family member is experiencing any of the low-risk symptoms as outlined above, **the siblings/family members of the symptomatic individual may attend school.**

As per our regular illness policy, the symptomatic individual may return after they are symptom free for 24 hours.

If symptoms for the symptomatic family member worsen, or a fever develops, contact safety@ytcte.org with an update and keep all family members home from school.