

YESHIVA
TORAS CHAIM
TORAS EMES
KLURMAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEAM SPIRIT

Miami Candle
Lighting
5:11

Friday
November 20, 2020
ד' כסלו תשפ"א

Through the
Classroom Door
Pgs 4-6

The Week Ahead

Thursday, November 26 - Classes 9:00 - 12:00

Friday, November 27 - Boys Sunday Schedule - 9:00 - 12:00

Mazel Tov

To Mr. and Mrs. Avi Koot and family on the marriage of their daughter, our alumna, Chaya Sorah to Yitzy Fishman.

To Mr. and Morah Chaya Sara Polinsky on the birth of a boy.

Nichum Aveilim

To Mrs. Rena Izyaguyev on the sudden loss of her brother in the Ukraine.

Boys Mishnayos Kick-Off!

This week we kicked off our annual Mishnayos program for grades 3 - 5! This extra curricular program is one of the highlights of our year and extends over the next three months until Rosh Chodesh Adar. The boys earn points by learning Mishnayos and being tested on their ability to read, translate, and understand each Mishna. Please see the forms your son came home with for rules and a chart for the program.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our kickoff brunch this Sunday (please disregard this date on the school calendar). However, we are rescheduling the kickoff to a "Midpoint Celebration" to Sunday December 20th. More information will follow. Save the date!

Sponsorships of this program begin at \$250. Please contact Rabbi Baumann for more information.

רפואה שלימה

Binyomin Simcha ben Adina Minya
 Bentzion ben Naomi Rochel Margalit
 Nechama Malka bas Blima
 Dov ben Leah
 Yael Chana bas Sara
 Yaakov ben Malka Rachel
 Shmuel Yitzchok ben Zlata
 Menachem Moshe ben Fraidel
 Mina Yehudis bas Marsuda Marsel
 Refoel Dovid ben Etta Reva
 Avi Mordechai ben Chana
 Yehudis bas Chasiba
 Yochanan Baruch ben Fruma Etta
 Aharon Moshe ben Rivka Tili
 Zisle bas Sarah

Book Fair!

It is with great pleasure that we announce our upcoming **virtual** book fair. It will run from November 23rd through December 1st.

Please visit our book fair at www.menuchaclassrooms.com/YTCTE.

All orders placed through this link will benefit our school.

See flyer for more details.

Donations are welcome to help build up our school and classroom libraries please contact our Librarian, Mrs. Robbin at srobbin@ytcte.org.



HELPING CHILDREN PRAY

Erev Shabbos Parashas Toldos 5781

Dear Parents,

Watching the children's progress as the weeks in school unfold, it is truly uplifting to see their ability to learn quickly and to absorb lessons and information throughout the day. Their motivation and eagerness to learn are enabling them to grow in so many areas, in a relatively short amount of time. There is, however, an area of challenge that seems to present difficulties to so many. That is in the realm of *davening*, the daily *Tefillos*.

There are many reasons educators give for this nearly universal phenomenon, and parents, *Rebbeim* and teachers are constantly searching for insights and explanations for why so many otherwise successful students are struggling with *davening* and what can be done about it. It may be worthwhile to examine what purpose *Tefila* is supposed to serve, to help us unlock a means to help the children (and ourselves).

In the beginning of this week's *Parsha*, the Torah tells us: (*Bereishis 25:21*) *And Isaac entreated Hashem, opposite his wife, because she was barren...* *Rabbeinu Bachya* wonders why the *Pasuk* is written in this order. It would seemingly be more accurate to say first that *Rivka* was experiencing difficulty having a child, and then tell us that *Yitzchak* prayed for *Hashem* to enable them to overcome her inability to bear children and to have a child. *Rabbeinu Bachya* explains that the Torah recounts the events in this order, purposely, so we won't mistakenly think that the main point was *Rivka's* barrenness and in response to that, *Yitzchak* prayed.

Rather, the reality is different, explains *Rabbeinu Bachya*. The prayer is the *Ikar*, the main focus, and in fact, *Rivka's* inability to bear children was secondary to that fact. *Hashem* so greatly desires the *Tefillos* of *Tzadikim*, that He manipulates human events to motivate people to turn to Him in prayer. *The Medrash* states clearly (*Bereishis Rabba 45:4*) that the reason the *Imahos* (Mothers) were barren was because *Hashem* desires the *Tefillos* of *Tzadikim*. The challenges will elicit beautiful prayer to which *Hashem* can bring beautiful answers. So great is the power of *Tefilla*, that the laws of nature are turned on their head, to bring forth more *Tefilla*.

...Hashem so greatly desires the *Tefillos* of *Tzadikim*, that He manipulates human events to motivate people to turn to Him in prayer.

This is a powerful lesson for us. We need to turn to *Hashem* on a regular basis and pray for our needs and for the needs of those we love. We should not wait for a *Tzara* (difficulty) to strike and then begin *davening*. If our *davening* was sufficiently elevated and pure, we wouldn't need the motivation of a crisis or emergency to jolt us into prayer. We also learn from the *Medrash* that when a difficulty strikes, it is *Hashem's* way of telling us: I miss you. I miss your *Tefillos*. Rather than Him pushing us away by striking us, He is trying to get our attention— He is trying to draw us closer to Him.

We need to internalize this message and we can and must share this with our children. If our prayer is focused, as they observe our efforts to understand more, to pronounce the words carefully, to focus on talking to *Hashem*, they will yearn to do the same. *Davening* to *Hashem* is an incredible privilege. It is important to *Hashem* that everyone of us, man, woman and child turn to Him in *Tefilla*. Our children struggle with *davening* largely because it is a seemingly rote exercise, the same day in and day out. We adults need to show in word and deed, that *davening* is so much more than reciting some words, and that it is critical to us and central to our relationship with *Hashem*. It is a tangible sign of how much *Hashem* loves us and how important each person's every *Tefilla* is, each and every day.

When children see how important *Tefilla* is to their parents..., they will develop a different relationship towards *davening*.

When children see how important *Tefilla* is to their parents and the important adults in their life, they will develop a different relationship towards *davening*. They will learn to look at it as a privilege and opportunity, and each in his or her own way, will feel a closeness to *Hashem* that will calm them and fortify them as they go through the challenges of their young life.

Best wishes for a *Shabbos* of connection,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

Through the Classroom Door

2G-3 Siyum!

Mrs. Rosenbaum's second grade girls enjoyed a delicious siyum in honor of finishing Perek Yud Bais of Parshas Lech Lecha!



1G Nekudos Fun!



3G-1 Siyum!

Mrs. Finkel's third grade girls enjoyed a delicious breakfast siyum in honor of finishing Parshas Vayeira!



Through the Classroom Door

2B-1 Siyum!

Rabbi Aroll's second grade boys enjoyed a delicious siyum in honor of finishing Perek Yud Gimmel in Chumash!



1B Kesivah with Chalk!



4B-3 Learns About Asher Yatzar!

Rabbi Mann's fourth grade boys had a special guest speaker, Mr. Avrohom Eliezer Friedman, who came to speak to the boys about his kidney donation. This is in conjunction with them learning about Asher Yatzar.





PRESENTS
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WORDS HAVE IMPACT

An Initiative to help improve
Shmiras Halashon as a
Zechus for Klal Yisroel
during these challenging times

WEEK 3:



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
AT 8:00PM**

Fireside chat with

Mr. Michael Rothschild

Director of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation



WEEK 4: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND - 8:00PM

HaRav Elya Brudny

Rosh Yeshiva, Mirer Yeshiva - Brooklyn, NY and חבר מועצת גדולי התורה



Weekly opening remarks by **Rabbi Yaakov Moskowitx**
YTCTE Director of Adult Education and RMS Rebbe

IF YOU MISSED THE PREVIOUS SHIURIM BELOW IN THIS SERIES
WATCH IT @ YTCTE.ORG/SHIURIM



WEEK 1:

Rabbi Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro

Rav, Congregation Shaarey Tefillo - N, Miami Beach



WEEK 2:

Rabbi Eli Mansour

Rav, Edmond I. Saffra Synagogue - Brooklyn, NY



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chosen words

Personal Growth

The Earth and Us

Besides separating our milk from our meat, our matzah from our chametz, our Shabbos from our weekday, Jewish households today have yet another responsibility, imposed upon them by their municipal governments: separating the recyclables from the garbage. In some cities, this 'halachah' comes with a host of 'chumrahs.' The plastic must be separated from the aluminum. The cardboard must be flattened and tied with twine. Containers must be washed, labels removed.

Not surprisingly, many Jewish families—already quite busy with Torah-derived household tasks—have little patience for these new rituals. Some even feel there's something 'un-Jewish' about this zeal for the environment, and it's true that environmentalism has, in some quarters, risen to the level of idol worship.

There are legitimate questions about whether recycling actually accomplishes its goals, but there's no debate about the Jewish attitude toward those goals. If our job as Jews is to emulate our Creator, then concern for the Earth must be a fundamental Jewish value. "Baruch merachem al ha'aretz, baruch merachem al haberiyos," we say in Baruch She'amar. "Blessed is He Who shows mercy to the earth, and blessed is He Who shows mercy to His creatures."

The brachos we recite

throughout the day train us to appreciate the vast resources Hashem has given us. Our halachos prohibit us from wasting (bal tashchis), from polluting, and according to the Ramban, from causing the extinction of any species. The Torah even establishes zoning laws, requiring that the towns granted to Levi be surrounded by a "green belt" for public enjoyment.

At the least, a Jew must recycle because the Torah requires us to obey state laws for the public welfare. But at best, the exercise can arouse a new appreciation for Hashem's bounty: we have so

Effective Prayer

Piercing the Heavens

In the Torah's account of Yaakov's bequest to Yosef, Yaakov says, "I have given you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the Emori with my sword and my bow." Rashi explains that the sword and bow are prayer, and from this explanation, many commentaries have emerged.

Rabbi Yitzchak Zev HaLevi, the Griz, notes that the sword, which is wielded from close range, can be directed more precisely and powerfully toward its target than can the bow.

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration

Ideas

Excellence

Success

much that even the refuse must be sorted. By emulating Hashem's compassion for the earth, we merit that Hashem will maintain His compassion for His creatures, including all of us.

To Do:

Consider some ways your family can cut down on waste.

Adapted from "What's Wrong With Being Happy," by Rabbi Yisroel Miller, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Better Relationships

Look Who's Talking

The shul's board of directors was immersed in a heated debate. Should they or shouldn't they hire Mr. Rafael Schwartz for the new position of executive director? The newest member of the board, Michael Greenstein, spoke out:

"I know he's not applying for the job of Rabbi, so maybe this doesn't count much. But I think it's significant that, in the ten years I've known Rafi Schwartz, I've never seen or heard of him opening a sefer. How does someone with no regard for learning have the proper appreciation for the priorities of a shul?"

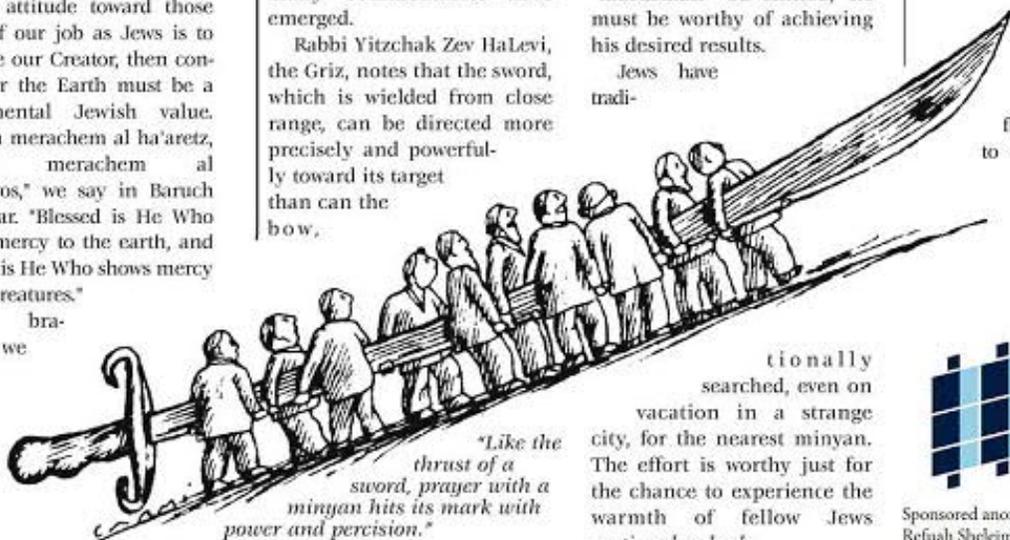
What would seem like a classic example of 'toeles,' speaking negatively for a constructive purpose, was in this case just plain loshon hora. Why? Because the speaker, Michael Greenstein, also fell far below par in his own commitment to learning.

The Chofetz Chaim teaches that we can't go about discussing others'

flaws, even for a constructive purpose, if we ourselves possess the same flaws. Our sensitivity to another person's flaw often arises out of our own
continued on back

which will only succeed if the marksman is skilled. He likens the sword to the formal prayer of a minyan; each prayer is precisely formulated, and when delivered from the heart, it strikes its "target" without fail. Personal prayer, however, requires that the "marksman" be skilled; he must be worthy of achieving his desired results.

Jews have tradi-



"Like the thrust of a sword, prayer with a minyan hits its mark with power and percision."

tionally searched, even on vacation in a strange city, for the nearest minyan. The effort is worthy just for the chance to experience the warmth of fellow Jews
continued on back



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Inner Excellence

Inner Applause

One Sunday a month, Mrs. Freund drives an extra carpool. None of her children are part of the carpool, a fact for which she is grateful. The children she drives are severely disabled, and they go to a Sunday program designed to give them some recreation and their families and caretakers a little time off. Few people know anything about Mrs. Freund's kindness, yet it performs a vital function for many families dealing with severe stress.

Rabbi Bernstein runs the resource room for a local yeshiva. He helps the boys with their Chumash and Rashi, as he is paid to do. But he also takes them out once a week to the park, where he teaches

them the fundamentals of basketball, so that they can move into the mainstream not just academically, but socially as well. Only the boys and their parents have any idea how important that hour is.

"Walk modestly before your G-d," says the prophet Michah. Do what you do quietly, without fanfare, and it will be pleasing to yourself and Hashem

as well. Every dinner has its honorees. Expressing gratitude, both publicly and privately, is a cornerstone of Jewish values. But for the doer, the quiet, unrecognized act is the highest expression of kindness. And pragmatically speaking, it is often the most effective form, because it attracts none of the

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envy or misunderstanding that public acknowledgement sometimes brings. According to the Talmud, the giving of the Ten Commandments illustrates the point. The first tablets, given in the midst of thunder and lightning, were quickly destroyed. The second tablets, given to Moshe without fanfare, were among the Jews for centuries until, prior to the destruction of the first Bais Hamikdash, they were hidden away.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

In what way might a lot of fanfare actually undermine a kind act?

Adapted from "Growing Each Day," by Rabbi Abraham Twerski, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Look Who's Talking

Continued from front

dislike for the same flaw within ourselves. The first order of priority is to fix ourselves. Then, we can see another in a clear, true light.

Adapted from "Chofetz Chaim: A Daily Companion," a project of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation published by Mesorah Publications

Piercing

Continued from front

throughout the world. But beyond that, it provides a vital edge—the edge of the sword—to assure that every heartfelt word of prayer succeeds in piercing the Heavens.

Adapted from "There Shall Be Light," by Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Goodman, with permission from Targum Press

Dedications

Dedicated as a zechus for all those who are still looking for their bashert

חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פיוועל שניאור ז"ל
תנצבה.

We gratefully acknowledge our generous sponsors for making this publication possible.

Life's Lessons

Whose Will?

In the Chofetz Chaim's day, and today still, many faithful Jews seek a brachah from their Rebbe or Rav when faced with a challenge in life. The Gemara states that "A tzaddik decrees and Hashem fulfills," a statement that has been born out in countless reports throughout our history.

The Chofetz Chaim's son often heard others boasting that their Rebbe or Rav was among those to whom this statement in the Gemara applied. And indeed, there were many tzaddikim of great spiritual power walking the earth in that generation. But the Chofetz Chaim's son had learned from his father a different perspective on this Gemara: His father's words came true because whatever Hashem decreed, the Chofetz Chaim fulfilled.

In fact, the two concepts are linked. As Pirkei Avos teaches, "Do His will as if were yours, so that He will do your will as if it were His."

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What can you think or do to turn a mitzvah you find difficult to do into your own will?

Adapted from "The Rosh Yeshivah Remembers," by Rabbi Asher Bergman, with permission from Mesorah Publications

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HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board

Rav Naftoli Jaeger, shlita, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor

361 Spook Rock Road
Suffern, NY 10901

Chosen Words
Editor: Shaindy Appelbaum
Writer: Chana Nestlebaum
Graphic Artist: Heidi Ort
Illustrator: Giora Carmi

We welcome your comments!

Letters to the Editor
Chosen Words/CCHF
361 Spook Rock Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901
Email: cwords@cchfusa.org

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