



TEAM SPIRIT



*Happy
Chanukah!*

Friday Miami Candle
Lighting
5:12

Thursday
December 10, 2020
כ"ד כסלו תשפ"א

Through the
Classroom Door
Pgs 4-6

The Week Ahead

Friday, December 11 - Monday, December 14 -
Chanukah Break - No Classes

Tuesday, December 15 - Classes Resume Regular Time

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
 Yehudis bas Chasiba
 Yochanan Baruch ben Fruma Etta
 Aharon Moshe ben Tili
 Zisle bas Sarah
 Miriam bas Rivka
 Eliezer Yitzchak ben Sara
 Yehuda ben Rivka Leah
 Tinok ben Elisheva Miriam

COVID CORNER

Before your children will be able to return to Yeshiva on Tuesday, December 15th, following Chanukah break, we will be asking families to complete an affirmation via the parent portal.

In order for your child(ren) to be admitted to campus after Chanukah break, **you must fill this form out for each child**. Please lookout for an email from the school with the affirmation link and information. If you answered "yes" to any of the questions, your child(ren) **will not be admitted to Yeshiva** and the COVID Safety Team will be in touch with you regarding the next steps.

If you are able to answer "no" to all the questions, **your children will be admitted to Yeshiva on Tuesday morning**. Please complete the affirmation on Monday, December 14th. **If you have not completed the affirmation, your children will not be admitted to Yeshiva until the affirmation is completed**.

THANK YOU!

The teachers and staff would like to thank the PTA and all the parents for their generous Chanukah gift!

From the desk of Rabbi Baumann



IN THOSE DAYS, IN OUR TIMES

Dear Parents,

Erev Shabbos Parashas Vayeishev Shabbos Chanuka 5781

The celebration of *Chanuka* this year should be different than any in recent memory. Not because we need to abide by Covid restrictions and conduct our family and community celebrations in a very unusual manner, which of course, we will do. Nor because of places and people we won't connect with this year, to our deep regret.

What should be different is our mindset and understanding of the *Mesiras Nefesh* of the *Chashmonaim*. When confronted with a direct attack on the core values of Torah Judaism, and in light of the abandonment of those values by a large number of their co-religionists, *Mattisyahu*, his family and a relatively small number of followers abandoned the security of their homes and community, and with incredible determination, fled into the wilderness and, in fear for their lives, hid in caves for an extended period of time.

Not content to merely preserve their own personal way of life and values, they endangered their lives again and again by venturing forth in battle against overwhelming odds. This was not a short-lived military campaign, but one that dragged on for years and years. How does one remain committed to a cause for such an extended period of time? From where does one draw the inner strength to not weaken in his or her resolve as time passes and a return to 'normal' remains elusive?

We are experiencing our own battle that threatens not only our health but our ability to maintain and strengthen a robust Torah community and spiritual way of life. We have not disappeared into caves in the wilderness, but we have been confined to our homes with greatly limited ability to join together as a community of Torah committed, *mitzvah*-observing members of *Klal Yisrael*. As the months drag on in this surreal experience, are we able to summon up the inner strength to maintain our level of *Mesiras Nefesh* that we demonstrated back in the spring? Has "Corona Fatigue" set in and brought with it a malaise and lethargy when it comes to maintaining our physical and spiritual well-being?

We should utilize the lessons from the *Chanuka* story to help us reflect upon the reality that has been thrust upon us. How did the *Chashmonaim* do it? Were they just some super-heroic *tzadikkim* to whom we cannot possibly relate, or were they committed, sincere Jews who consciously chose to follow their higher values and not compromise. Even without super-hero standing, they were Jews who didn't let someone else worry about the

**Has "Corona Fatigue"
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it a malaise and
lethargy...?**

future of the Jewish people, rather they decided to fight the complacency that was all around them. It is perhaps not so well known, that the backdrop to the *Chanuka* story, as explained by the *Bach* in his commentary to the *Tur Shulchan Aruch* (*Orach Chayim* 670) was an atmosphere of complacency about the service in the *Beis Hamikdash*. People were no longer animated or passionate about the daily sacrifices. They took them for granted, going through the motions in rote compliance of the *Halacha*. This less than desirable approach resulted in

Hashem taking away the opportunity to perform the service, until the fire and passion of the *Chashmonaim* brought back the holy service to the Jewish People.

Is it perhaps our complacency about the wondrous gift, in our day and age, to be able to practice our *Yiddishkeit* with full legal protection in a country that is kind and compassionate towards us, and that has enabled us to advance materially with no restrictions, which has caused those foundations to be shaken to the core? Have we become so comfortable that we are unaware of our historically tenuous existence in *Galus*? There are numerous parallels that can be drawn between the circumstances surrounding the experience of Greek oppression and how we should be reacting to the current pandemic.

At minimum, we can gain a greater appreciation for what the *Chashmonaim* endured and accomplished. We can hold up their successes and reflect them upon our trials and tribulations. Torah Judaism survives and thrives because when *Hashem* sees that Jews won't have it any other way, and are prepared to sacrifice comfort, security and safety for it, He brings about a miraculous salvation. Our ability to remain focused on our personal and communal spiritual growth will put us in a league with the great *Maccabees* and will give us the fortitude to fight fatigue and complacency of any kind.

Our current difficulties provide us with a strikingly teachable moment – to show our children what "*Netzach Yisrael Lo Yeshakeir*" ("the eternity of Israel is not a falsehood") is all about. The heroes of *Chanuka*, the heroes of our recent past all teach us that with resolve, faith, determination and solid *Bitachon*, we are a nation of winners in the epic battle to bring *Hashem's* truth to the world.

May the light of *Chanuka* be the light at the end of our tunnel and may that light enable us and our children to find the true path to happiness, that awaits all of us.

Best wishes for a *Chanuka* filled with light, joy and good health,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

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Through the Classroom Door

2G Chanukah Projects!



3G Chanukah Museum



Through the Classroom Door

5B-3 Language Arts

Mrs. Schwartz's 5th grade boys are sewing and creating toys as a response to our Fountas & Pinnell story called, Let The Celebration Begin. This story was about women in a concentration camp who used their own pieces of their clothing to make toys for the children in the 'dorm'.



4B Science - Moon Phases



Through the Classroom Door

כבוד Connection

Our KES students excitedly began working in their Kavod workbooks. Each child received a special mirror to place at the beginning of their Kavod Atzmi section. They were able to choose from different stickers labelled with unique *middos* and qualities to best describe how special they are!





Chai Lifeline SOUTHEAST

This Chanukah, gift a smile.

CHAILIFELINE toy drive
Brighten a sick child's life by donating a toy today.

When: December 1 -December 16

Drop off location:

YTCTE - KES Girls Office (sent in with student)
1051 North Miami Beach Blvd NMB

In person drop off location- Chai Lifeline Office
2609 Stirling Road Suite B 303
Fort Lauderdale Fl. 33312

Send a gift for a sick boy or girl
Infants through teens,
in any price range.

For a drop off location, to have your toys picked up
or for any questions, Call Chai Lifeline at:
305-956-9990 or email: LFEINTUCH@CHAILIFELINE.ORG.

An Important Chanukah Safety Message from Hatzalah

THE MENORAH IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION.

It is, however, important to ensure the safety of your family and avoid fire hazards when lighting your menorah.

- Choose a menorah that's sturdy and made of fire-safe materials.
- Clear the table from all flammable materials like papers and plastic items where you put your menorah.
- Never put your menorah in closed areas like spaces between cabinets or bookshelves.
- If you are to display your menorah in your window, make sure that your curtains are not too close to the candle's flames.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Do not let children or pets play around the area where the menorah is placed.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher in your home for emergency use.
- Don't use PRE-FILLED PLASTIC CUPS.
- Know where your fire extinguisher is located! WATER WILL NOT PUT OUT AN OIL FIRE.

In case of fire, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!



NOW MORE THAN EVER...

savor the moment

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SAVORTHEMOMENT@TAG.ORG

FOR MORE INFO, CALL OUR OFFICE AT **732.730.1824**

OPEN YOUR נשמה TO THE SHINE OF THE נרות AND EXPERIENCE THE *True essence of חנוכה.*