

THE
WEEK
IN
WORDS





Calendar Notes

January 25-29

Mid-Winter Vacation

February 1

Classes Resume

February 2 & 3

Lice Check

MAZEL TOV

Rabbi Harayl and Mrs. Aliza Askotzky on the birth of a daughter

YAHADUS EXPERIENCE

It was all about Arbeh (grasshoppers/locusts) in Yahadus this week! Using a grasshopper puppet and footage of a real locust invasion in Africa from recent times, the children gained a deeper understanding about the swarms of locusts that invaded Mitzrayim, that were so numerous the sky turned dark. The children also learned how the locusts ate anything and everything in their path that grows. As an added touch we heard a special story about locusts that invaded Eretz Yisrael and only the fields where shmitta was observed were not invaded by the locusts. All other fields in that area were decimated by the swarms.



COVID CORNER

Please be sure to always send your child to school with a mask. ECE children are required to wear their masks to and from the carpool line and during any gatherings larger than just their





HOW TO GIFT A CHILD

Dear Parents,

Erev Shabbos Parashas Bo 5781

As *Bnei Yisroel* were poised to leave *Mitzrayim*, *Hashem* gave *Moshe Rabbeinu* an unusual instruction. He told him to please speak to the people and tell them to approach their Egyptian neighbors and request their gold and silver vessels (*Shemos 11:2*). The *Gemora* in *Brochos 9a*, which is also quoted by *Rashi*, explains that the reason why *Hashem* took pains to ensure *Klal Yisroel* took the riches of *Mitzrayim*, was so that the *Tzadik Avraham* would not have a complaint; that *Hashem* fulfilled His promise that the Jews would be enslaved for 400 years, but He did not fulfill His promise that they would emerge with great riches.

...If Hashem made a promise, He would of course fulfill it.

The *Kli Yakar* has a difficulty with this explanation. If *Hashem* made a promise, He would of course fulfill it. Why does the fact that *Avraham* would have a complaint make a difference? *Hashem* should be true to His word because everything He does is truthful. Based on a statement later in the above quoted *Gemora* in *Berachos*, it appears that the *Bnei Yisrael* were not even interested in the Egyptians' possessions, because they did not want to be burdened with the excess baggage on their travels to *Eretz Yisrael*.

By offering the opportunity to the *Bnei Yisrael* to help themselves to the Egyptians' riches *Hashem* was fulfilling His promise – He made the gold and silver available and then it was up to the Jews to take advantage of the situation, if they so choose. It would not be a breach of the promise if they chose not to take the gold. In terms of *Avraham Avinu*, however, the situation was very different, says the *Kli Yakar*. *Avraham* would not be aware that the *Bnei Yisroel* themselves were not interested. He only knew that the Jews were to be enslaved for hundreds of years, and justice demands that they be compensated. It is not fathomable to an *Avraham Avinu* that such a miscarriage of justice could occur. It was therefore specifically because of *Avraham*, that *Hashem* had to beg *Moshe* to get *Klal Yisrael* to agree to take the wealth of *Mitzrayim* with them.

The *Kli Yakar* then proceeds to ask the obvious question. *Hashem* has a myriad of ways to bestow riches upon *Klal Yisrael*. Why did it have to come specifically from the Egyptians? The answer is that *Hashem* needed to assuage that "Tzaddik" (*Avraham*). *Avraham* was a man of impeccable truth. It was unconscionable that his descendants would be forced into servitude and after it was all over, they would not receive compensation from those who enslaved them for all that work. That's lacking justice. The "great wealth" had to come about in a way that served justice.

This idea of receiving just compensation for work done, helps shed light on the opposite side of the coin – receiving compensation for no work done. That also is a lack of justice, and it also is not how the world works. People don't just have things coming to them without doing something to earn them. This fundamental reality of life should be among the important lessons we teach our children. Unfortunately, too often we do just the opposite.

With the best of intentions, parents give their children many things, usually because they feel gifts and things will make children happy. How the parents actually go about it, makes all the difference. Let's consider the following anecdote, as related by *Rav Yisrael Yaakovson*, the great Israeli *Mechanech*.

...the children feel like they are collecting a debt owed to them, rather than being recipients of a gift."

There was a certain father we shall call Reuven, who reveals that his brother, Shimon, an otherwise good and kind person, does not seem to relate appropriately to his children's requests. He stops and thinks about whether to accede to their requests, and even when he knows he will eventually say yes, he takes a very long time to respond affirmatively. He helps so many people, but when it comes to his own children, he seems to come up short. He should show the children his joy at being able to give them what they want. So says Reuven.

For example - Reuven relates that he and his brother once went on a trip with the children. The difference between them was obvious. He looked for ways to give his children things and expressed great *Simcha* at their enjoyment. His brother, Shimon, as usual, responded deliberately to requests and sometimes made the children wait, when they could have been enjoying themselves. At the end of the trip, Reuven decided he was going to enlighten his brother as to the error of his parenting ways. He turned to his own children and asked: "Did you enjoy? Was it fun?" In place of the enthusiastic response and big smiles he expected, his children unenthusiastically responded – "OK. Not bad."

He then turned to his nephews and nieces to get their feedback. They enthusiastically and smilingly said it was fantastic. Reuven was totally confused and bewildered. His brother Shimon then surprised them and said out loud: "Your children are right. This trip was pretty dull and meaningless. Why bother with all the effort? We should just stay home." What happened next was a shock. In a total reversal, Reuven's children now said emphatically that it really was a great trip, and they quickly enumerated all the details that were so exciting and enjoyable.

How do we understand this? *Rav Yaakovson* suggests that when a parent makes it clear to his children through his words, actions and feelings that it is the parents' obligation to make the child happy, this perception of the situation encourages the child to try to take maximum advantage. He might not show much appreciation, possibly not even acknowledge his enjoyment, because he (consciously or subconsciously) wants more or is pressuring the parent to provide more. Since it's the parent's 'obligation' to bring pleasure and enjoyment to the child, rather than focusing on what he has received, the child will focus on what he doesn't have yet, in order to get more and more.

...avoid the lure of the quick fix of being a toy and goody dispenser to our children."

Quickly and automatically fulfilling children's wishes makes the children feel like they are collecting a debt owed to them, rather than being recipients of a gift. This gives rise to the "Es Kummt Mir" syndrome that says everything is coming to me. We need to understand this dynamic and work to align our responses to the children's wishes in accordance with the justice that *Avraham Avinu* taught us.

We give the children what they need and more, because we love them. We can fulfill their wishes, if we feel it is best for them. However, we need to remain the masters of the 'transaction'. Let's focus on our goal of raising happy, self-assured people, and avoid the lure of the quick fix of being a toy and goody dispenser to our children.

Best wishes for a happy and satisfying Shabbos. Enjoy your break!


Rabbi Kalman Baumann

JuNIOr Pre-K PRESSs

MOROT LINDSAY, NAOMI & RINA

We concluded our Shabbos and Five Senses unit by exploring the sense of smell and learning about Havdalah! The children explored all kinds of different smells from spices like paprika, turmeric and cinnamon to coffee, vanilla extract and more! When we smelled the cloves, a lot of children associated the smell with Havdalah! We learned that just like we welcome the Shabbos by making Kiddush, we make Havdalah to mark the end of Shabbos. We light a special Havdalah candle that has several wicks and smell the Besamim. We sang the song "Shabbos is Going Away" and created a handmade Besamim holder. We finished our unit by completing our Shabbos Book. The children are so excited to take it home and share it with their family members.

In the Parsha we talked about the last three makos Pharaoh received for not letting the Jewish people leave Mitzaryim.

Wishing you a wonderful Shabbos and enjoy the break!



PRE-K PAGES

MOROT NECHAMA, MIRIAM & MORIEL

This week, we introduced our first "End Letter", End Chof. We learned that an End Letter only comes at the end of a word. We practiced the recognition and shape of this letter by using games to stimulate the children's interest and memory of this letter. We also reviewed all of the names and sounds of the letters we learned so far this year.

We continued our unit on Brachos. This week, we learned all about the Bracha of Shehakol, the children enjoyed drinking yummy chocolate milk and had a blast at our ice cream party! They enjoyed using different foods from the housekeeping center to practice all the Brachos that have been taught.

This week's parsha, Parshas Bo, taught us the last 3 makos. It was truly amazing to hear and imagine what it was like for the Mitzrim and for the Jewish people. We learned about the Korban Pesach and how the Jewish people smeared the blood on their doors so the Malach would know to skip over their houses. The children were so happy to hear that Pharaoh finally let the Jewish people leave Mitzrayim!

Have a relaxing and enjoyable vacation!



MOROT ELYSE & YEHUDAS

J Jumping jacks are a lot of fun and also start with the letter J. This week, we learned the letter J! Some of the words we learned that begin with the letter J were jump, jacket, jellybeans, jar, and January. We also made a jacket for the letter J in our letter craft books. We love looking through our letter craft books and seeing all the pictures of the letters that we have learned so far including, L, F, E, H, I, T, U, C, O, Q, G, S, and J.

This week for math we focused on reviewing numbers 1-20 and we also did a fun worksheet with numbers and colorful stickers.

We finished our Author Study this week and listened to two more Mo Willems books. While listening to the books we talked more about the speech bubble and the thinking bubble. We also talked about the size and font of the letters and what message they convey to us readers. We made sure to look out for the question marks and the exclamation marks while reading the books. The first book we listened to was The Thank You Book and the second book we listened to was Let's Go for a Drive.

Lastly, we continued to expand on the concept of compound words. The children were amazed at how they can put two words together to make a new word. Some compound words that we learned were; sunglasses, toothbrush, rainbow, football, fishbowl, and cupcake.

Have a safe and enjoyable winter break!

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

MOROT CHAYA, DEVORAH, ESTHER, ESTY & RENA

This week in Kindergarten the children celebrated learning all of the Aleph Bais with a beautiful siyum. Rabbi Eisemann came to speak to the children about the importance of their accomplishments. The children also watched a video created by our very own Morah Chaya, telling the story of Rabbi Akiva. We sang Aleph Bais songs in unison and started learning our first nekuda. It was a beautiful sight to behold! All of the children joined together to read aloud the letters with nekudos!! We then headed back to our classes to enjoy delicious treats. A beautiful and meaningful time was had by all.

The children have been hard at work reviewing their Aleph Bais so that after midwinter break they can come back strong, ready to start their new kriah book with nekudos.

During our parsha circle, we reviewed all of the makkos and discussed Yetzias Mitzrayim. For a parsha project the children made Moshe's matteh/staff that "turns" into a snake. They had so much fun with the craft.

The bracha for this week was Ha'adamah. Many of the classes enjoyed different Ha'adamah treats such as, french fries and vegetable skewers. The children are learning all of the different brachos we say and enjoying the opportunity to taste lots of different foods as well.

We look forward to seeing the children after Mid-Winter vacation refreshed and ready to learn!!

Have a beautiful Shabbos!!

MOROT MORAL, PEARLY & RACHELI

What a fun and exciting time we had in kindergarten this week! Firstly, we started learning how to blend words! We use our fingers to tap out each sound, and then blend the sounds together to read the word. Ask your child to show you how! We practiced this technique with many different CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words.

We also started reading groups this week. Each child received a reading folder with two books in it that they took home. Each group meets once a week to go over and read the books together in school. Then they take it home and they need to read both books each night. The children were so excited!

Last, we spent lots of time reinforcing many of the skills we have learned so far. Each class played different hands on math games to help practice addition sentences. We also continued practicing rhyming, sentence structure, phonemic awareness, sight words, and syllables. We did this through many games and fun activities. It was a great week.

Have a good Shabbos and enjoy
Mid-Winter Break!

DO THESE BELONG
TO YOU???



LABEL YOUR “STUFF”

PLEASE BE SURE TO LABEL ALL
ITEMS THAT ARE SENT TO SCHOOL!

THIS INCLUDES:



. MASKS



. WATERBOTTLES

. LUNCHBOXES AND BACKPACKS



. SWEATSHIRTS



. YARMULKES



(AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WANT YOUR CHILD
TO BRING BACK HOME!)

THANK YOU!