



# THE WEEK in WORDS



February 5, 2021



5:49 PM

כ"ג שבט תשפ"א

פרשת יתרו

# FEBRUARY

## Calendar Notes

Monday, February 15

Presidents Day

Dismissal at 1:00 PM

(aftercare until 1:30 for those registered)

Thursday, February 25

Ta'anis Esther

Dismissal at 1:45 PM

(aftercare until 2:15 for those registered)

Friday, February 26

Purim

No School

## MAZEL TOV

Morah Mazi Behar on her engagement to Asher Molavi

Rabbi Tzvi and Etty Ullman on the birth of a son

## YAHADUS EXPERIENCE

This week, in honor of Tu B'shvat (that took place over our Mid-Winter Break) the children learned how Tu B'shvat is the Rosh Hashana for the trees. We talked about how we can help the trees by davening for them that they should have a healthy and fruitful year. We also learned that it is a special time to daven for Eretz Yisroel and the shivas haminim that grow there. The children were treated to a presentation on the shivas haminim and then each child got to choose one of the 7 special fruits to taste.



# From the desk of Rabbi Baumann

Principal: Rabbi Kalman Baumann Director: Mrs. Jalia Levine



## THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

Erev Shabbos Parashas Yisro 5781

Dear Parents,

Today's parents have a difficult time with the fifth commandment – "Honor your Father and Your Mother." (*Shemos* 20:12) That is not to say that there is anything necessarily deficient in the way they treat their own parents, rather today's challenge lies in parents properly training their own children to act respectfully and honorably toward them – the children's parents. There are many reasons for this, and it behooves us to understand the root of the problem, to address it squarely and successfully.

We first need to understand why it is important for children to honor and respect parents: 1) It is a Torah command. 2) Children and all people do well with clear limits and boundaries. A parent who is an effective authority figure in a child's life brings stability, confidence and security to that child's existence. 3) A long-term loving relationship is best served when parents and children have clearly delineated roles within the family and vis-à-vis each other. 4) For every *mitzva bein adam lamakom*, Hashem gave us also a *mitzva bein adam lachaveiro*. Children learn to show honor and *kavod* to Hashem through giving honor and *kavod* to their parents and elders.

So what's the problem? Why do so many children disregard their parents' instructions and wishes? Why are so many parents reluctant to put their foot down and authoritatively redirect their children to appropriate behavior? I believe three factors stand out. We are unfortunately casualties of modern-day Western values and outlook. The modern perspective doesn't nurture self-esteem; as supposed descendants of apes, random outcomes of a random universe, we can't have much purpose or value. In our heart of hearts we feel – "who am I?" that another human being needs to show honor and reverence to **me**? We parents think we are just regular people and we are downright uncomfortable demanding respect from our little ones. Another factor is that we live in a world of unchecked equality. The pendulum has swung so far from the days of princes and peasants that we have trouble asserting ourselves over 3 year olds!!

Furthermore, the value of cultivating relationships has been so exaggerated out of proper proportion that other values such as truth, independence and fairness have taken a back seat. Today's parents will seemingly go to any length to

**Today's parents will seemingly go to any length to preserve their relationship with their children."**

preserve their relationship with their children. To cause one's child to be angry at the parent is, in their minds, jeopardizing the entire connection between parent and child and therefore to be avoided at all costs. Is it any wonder then that the proper *chinuch* for *Kibud Av V'Em* is almost non-existent?

and the parent's discomfort. This is the root of all failures in parenting. If one is concerned about how this affects **me**, how it impacts **me**, how it distresses **me**, then you've left no space in your brain and heart for the question – how does this impact on **my child**, how comfortable is this for **my child**, how important is this for **my child**.

Paraphrasing *Rav Simcha Wasserman zt"l* who was describing the factors that differentiate between a teacher or parent who succeeds or fails to effectively connect to a child: "You can think about how you (the adult) feel or you can think about how I (the child) feel, but you can't do both at the same time." Obviously – we must think about how the child truly feels. Even if they tantrum and outwardly express feelings of anger and resentment, their true, inner feelings are – please be consistent, please project self-confidence in your rules, please act in my best long-term interests.

This requires serious, honest introspection inside the inner chambers of your own heart. Is it possible you're too focused on how your children and their issues impact **you** and not focused enough on **what does my child need?** With this one change in mindset, parenting becomes a whole new opportunity for truly molding greatness within our own four walls, and for raising a generation of children who know how to properly fulfill the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Best wishes for a *Shabbos* attuned to the word of Hashem, aware of our inner motivations and focused on the needs of our loved ones,



Rabbi Kalman Baumann

**...Children learn to show honor and kavod to Hashem through giving honor and kavod to their parents."**

If we were to examine the three factors delineated above we would notice a common denominator – they are each about the parent. The parent's feelings, the parent's fears

**You can think about how you feel or you can think about how I feel, but you can't do both at the same time."**

# JuNIOr Pr e-K PRESS

## MOROT LINDSAY, NAOMI & RINA

The children and Morahs were refreshed and ready to return after winter vacation! It was lots of fun to see how eager the children were to share what they had done during vacation.

This week we started learning Alef Bais! The children were introduced to the letter Alef. We made Alef shaped cookies that were very yummy. Each time we learn a new Alef Bais letter the children will be decorating a special "balloon" with the letter to take home. We also discussed how the Alef Bais letters are different from the Alphabet letters and are found in the Torah and siddur. Each letter has a sound but the Alef is quiet and "shy".

Another exciting thing that happened this week is that we started learning about Purim. The children and Morahs are slowly starting to decorate the room for Purim with different crafts. We have a palace, the Purim characters, and more. They are also enjoying trying on different masks, crowns and necklaces.

For Parshas Yisro the children learned all about Hashem giving the Jews the greatest gift, the Torah! We discussed how Hashem asked the other nations if they wanted the Torah, but they weren't interested. The Jews were eager to receive the Torah and said Na'aseh V'nishma, we will do and we will hear. We also discussed how all the other mountains showed off their sizes and Har Sinai was small and humble and that's why he was chosen for Moshe to receive the Torah on. We discussed how it is not nice to show off and tease others. In honor of the parsha we made a Har Sinai craft with the children's picture on top "receiving" the Torah.

What a busy and exciting week! Have a good Shabbos!



# PRE-K PAGES

## MOROT NECHAMA, MIRIAM & MORIEL

It was great to be back in school this week and the children were ready as ever to start learning and having fun!

We moved right along in Aleph Bais with the letter ל. ל is very long. We learned words like **ליצן, לולב, לב, לילה, לילמן.** We spoke about using our **לְשׁוֹן טוֹב** and how we can try hard not to speak **לְשׁוֹן הרע.** We also took time to review all our other letters. We are becoming Aleph Bais pros!



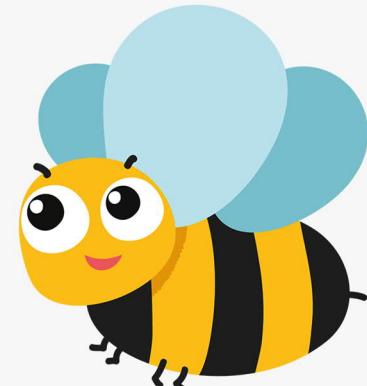
The Pre-K children are starting to have some very excited smiles on their faces! They know that Adar is coming up and they can't wait to hear more about this special month and of course about the Yom Tov of Purim!

In Parshas Yisro, we heard all about Matan Torah. We listened to the book The Very Best Gift by Genedel Krohn which explained how Hashem asked all the nations if they wanted the Torah. Of course, only the Jews wanted it and they said the words Na'aseh v'nishma. We spoke about the Aseres Hadibros and what each one means. Have a wonderful Shabbos!

## MOROT ELYSE & YEHUDES

### Buzz...

Did you hear the news? The Pre-K students began their new unit this week all about



bumblebees! The children learned how honey bees make honey and about the Queen Bee and Worker Bees. We learned how the bees communicate with one another, including the waggle dance that they do. The children then began working on their very own bee books. We can't wait to show them to you next week!

Our letter of the week was D. D is for dog, donut, duck and door. In math, we discussed the idea of 3-D shapes such as the sphere, cylinder, rectangular prism, and pyramid. We spoke about how many things that we see and use daily are made up of 3D shapes. The children were so excited to point out a 3d shape every time they found another example.

# KINDeRGARTEN CORNER

## MOROT CHAYA, DEVORAH, ESTHER, ESTY & RENA

It was great seeing all our friends and Morahs as we returned to school this week! We enjoyed sharing our experiences that took place during winter break.

After one day of aleph beis review we were ready to meet our first nekuda- kamatz! We learned that the kamatz makes the sound "uh." In different classes the children played games and made crafts to review the sound the kamatz makes with the aleph bais letters. Thank you for doing the homework. Daily homework review is necessary in helping us become kriya champs.

We continued our Brochos Unit with the bracha of Shehakol. To help the children remember what to make a Shehakol on, we learned the cute little rhyme, "Anything that does not grow, we say the bracha of Shehakol Nihiyah Bidvaro!" The children are becoming bracha experts. They reviewed all the different brachos and had a great time creating a useful bracha placemat. Many of the classes enjoyed a delicious smoothie at our shabbos party in honor of the bracha shehakol .

For Parshas Yisro, we heard how Moshe Rabeinu's father -in-law joined the Bnei Yisrael and how he helped Moshe judge the people more effectively. Matan Torah at Har Sinai was the highlight of the Parsha and we discussed the Aseres Hadibros. Get ready for super Kibud Av Va'eim children!

Wishing you a wonderful Shabbos!



## MOROT MORAL, PEARLY & RACHELI

This week in Fundations, we practiced tapping out our words. When we do this we use our index finger, middle finger, and our ring finger. Each CVC word gets tapped out and then blended together. We reviewed our letter-keyword-sounds during circle time. The sight word this week is SAID. Have your child give you a sentence with the sight word of the week.

In math, we are starting to learn how to subtract. We're teaching the concept of taking away and the new math vocabulary word, minus. The children also learned how to say a subtraction sentence. For example  $5 - 2 = 3$ , five minus two equals three.

This week, we learned all about America. We learned that U.S.A. is the abbreviation for the United States of America. We learned all about the flag, the statue of liberty, our President and the bald eagle. The children had so much fun beginning their projects and they cannot wait to bring them home next week!



# Machane Miami is back for Summer 2021



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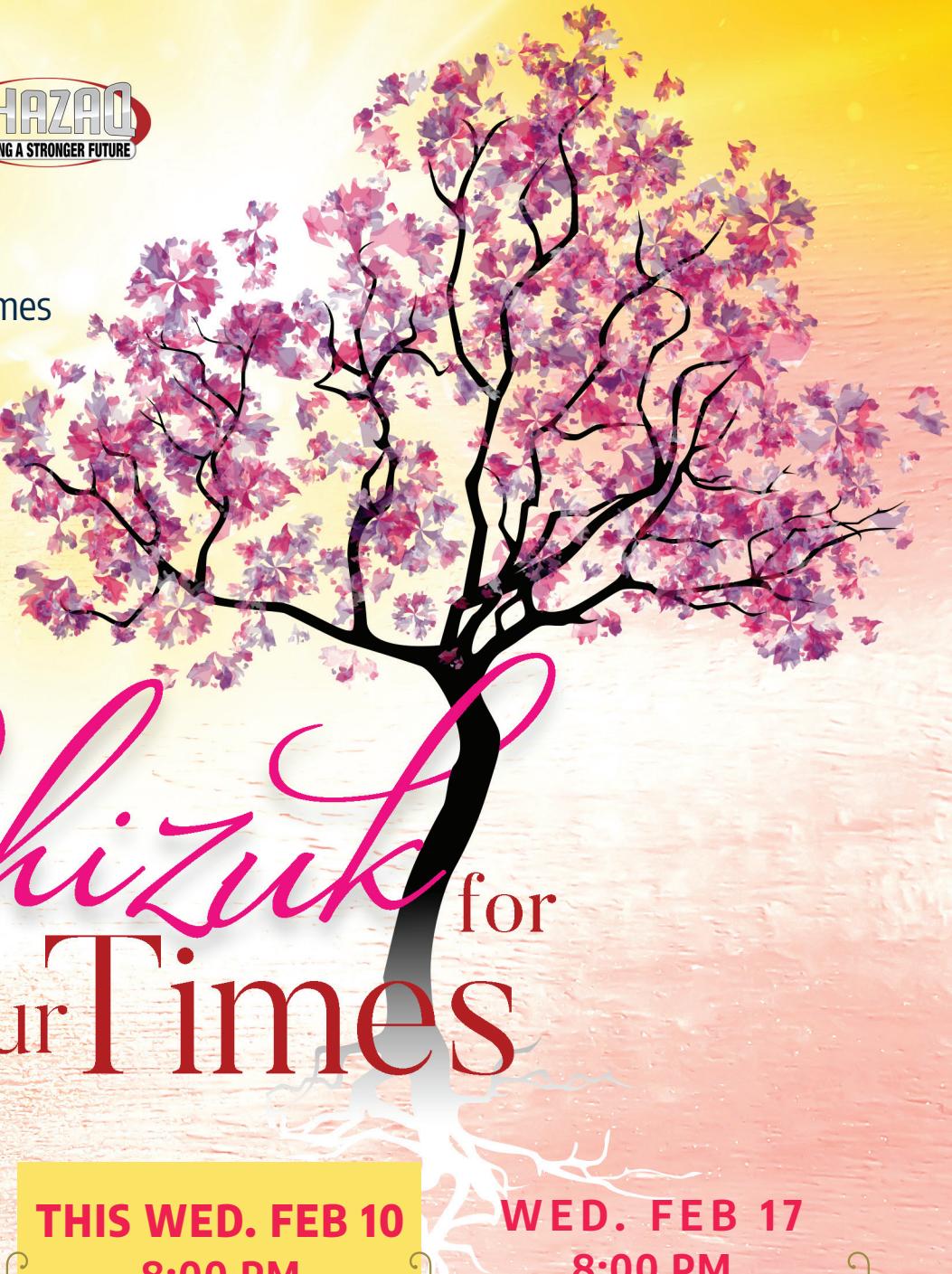
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# Chizuk for Our Times

Rabbi Yaakov  
Moskowitz

YTCTE Director of  
Adult Education and Rebbe



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[YTCTE.ORG/SHIURIM](http://YTCTE.ORG/SHIURIM)

THIS WED. FEB 10  
8:00 PM

Mrs.  
Yaffa  
Palti

THE BLESSING  
OF UNCERTAINTY

WED. FEB 17  
8:00 PM

Rebbetzin  
Yemima  
Mizrachi

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HOME DURING  
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