



ASHREINNEWS

תזריע



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Rabi Daniel Isaacs: Second Grade Rebbe, Middle School ELA

“החֲדָשׁ הַזֶּה לְכֶם רֹאשׁ חֲדָשִׁים רֵאשׁוֹן ... לְכֶם לְחֲדָשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה”
This is the special *maftir* that we will be reading on Shabbos. At its simplest level, it's ה' telling Moshe and Aharon about the mitzvah of sanctifying the month. Our חֲכָמִים, however, give even greater, deeper importance to these words. Rashi, ז"ל, at the beginning of Bereishis says that the Torah could have begun with these words! What, then, is the deep message and power behind them?

The ר' Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, ז"ל, notes that the word רֹאשׁ, which we usually take to mean “head”, also has the meaning of “most important.” Thus, Moshe is being told that נִיסָךְ is the *most important* month of the year. R' Berlin explains that the day on which a thing is created is the day that is most providential for it. For that reason, Rosh Hashana is the day that the world is judged: judgment came into the world on the day that Adam sinned. Sukkos is the holiday of physical provision, because Tishrei is the month when Adam was ordered to work the land, as produce would now grow through Adam's toil (by ashem's blessing).

Nisan is the month when Avraham, Yitzchak & Yaacov's children became a nation, separate and distinct from every other nation in the world. Nisan is the point in the year furthest removed from Tishrei, because we are an Am Kodesh, whose essence and focus need to be on Hashem and the spirituality of the world. Even as the entire world, Jews and non-Jews alike, think of the physical rebirth of the Earth – plowing and planting and the eventual harvests ahead – our uniquely spiritual powers allow us to make Nisan our month, לְכֶם רֹאשׁ חֲדָשִׁים. It's the most important month of the year to us, in a way that only we can celebrate.

This blessing and challenge run through every aspect of Pesach. Can we do the physical preparation work – the dirty, drudge-y, *menial* manual labor – while feeling the exhilaration and joy of preparing for our ultimate spiritual birth? Can we leverage the physicality of the Seder – the 4 Cups, the Matzah, the Maror (not to mention the groaning Shulchan Oraich!) – to fuel a celebration of becoming an Am Kadosh, children to Hashem?

May Hashem grant us a Pesach full of growth; may our children's sincere questions elevate our understanding and appreciation of Hashem's miracles and kindnesses.

Adaptive Design, Part I

Mrs. Debby Jacobson: Principal, Girls Division

One of my most favorite times of the school year is the period leading up to Pesach. The excitement in the ASHAR halls is palatable. Singing can be heard wafting in and out of the classrooms. *Haggados are being created, divrei Torah are being shared, and the ten makkos are being dramatized.*

I walked into a classroom this week as the children were listening to the story of the *sneh*, the burning bush. At that point Hashem gave Moshe the responsibility of saving the entire Jewish nation. In a panic, Moshe tells Hashem that he cannot complete this mission because of a speech impediment. Hashem responds, “Who is it who makes a person clear of speech or lame in speech, hearing or deaf, seeing or blind, but I myself Hashem.” Hashem is explaining to Moshe that only He has the power to create people. Hashem gives each individual abilities and disabilities. It is our mission as His nation to see the value in each and every person. Hashem is teaching us that no matter what a person's talents and challenges, we must respect them and treat them kindly.

In an effort to instill this concept in our middle school students, a special trip has been added to our curriculum. This past Thursday the seventh and eighth grade girls visited the Adaptive Design Association Studio in Manhattan. (The seventh and eighth grade boys will participate in the same trip this upcoming Tuesday.) The Adaptive Design Association ensures that children with disabilities receive the customized adaptations they need to achieve their fullest potential. Our students created slant boards to be donated for use by children with disabilities. Using simple materials such as cardboard, paper and glue, our students created writing easels that will allow a disabled child to sit up straight while writing, instead of hunched over a flat desk. After *Pesach*, our students will be visiting special education classrooms at the East Ramapo public schools in order to present these desks.

Chesed is a foundation of the Jewish people. At ASHAR we work tirelessly to transmit this *middah* to our students. By modeling and reinforcing this behavior, we are confident that our children will grow, flourish and bring much *nachas* to Klal Yisrael.

Thank you ASHAR parents and friends for making our dinner so memorable!

A publication of ASHAR

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Riddle of the Week

(submit answer in your SMVT sheet for a chance to win a prize)

Who am I?

I am mentioned at the Seder, I take precedence over Shabbos, I was first for 99, I was also for 13.

I am the first, I am the seventh, This year I am the eighth, I am for redemption.

Last Riddle:

I was a mitzvah this week, I will kill you in the Bais HaMikdosh, I bring out your essence, I work like money and anger. Answer: Drinking wine.

I am for food, Nowadays I am for phones, I could even be for a sheitel, I have many symbols. Answer: Kosher

Pesach Preparations: Haggados and more



Dissecting Owl Pellets in 5B



Congratulations boys who received orange belts!

Circuits in 3B



Adaptive Design Association 7-8G



Dissecting
Owl Pellets
in 5G



GIRLS

Pesach Prep: Knowledgeable • Inspired



5G



3G



6G

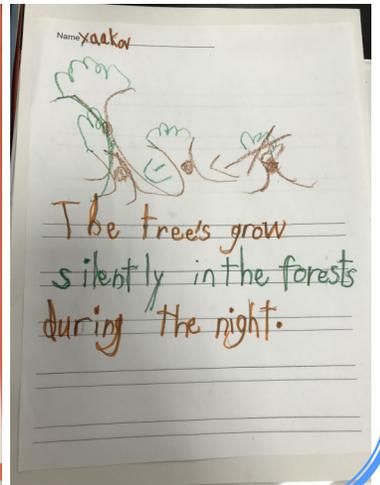
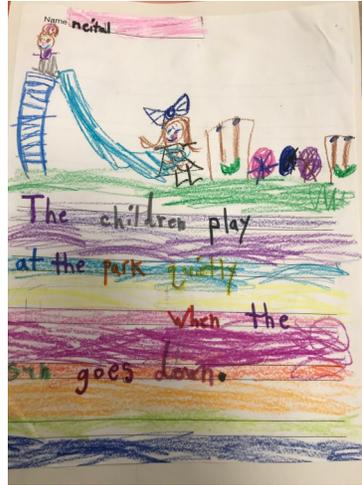
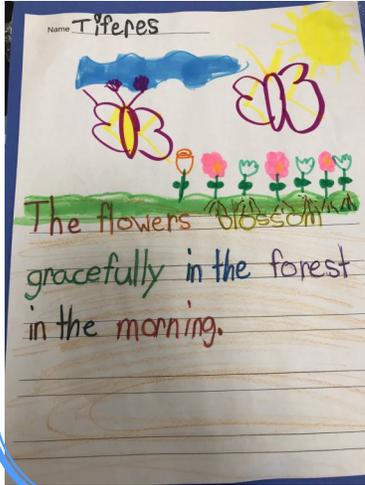


5G

First Grade

writing

The "Framing Your Thoughts" curriculum methodically guides students toward proper sentence structure to create writing that paints a picture in the readers mind. First graders wrote about spring and drew beautiful pictures to accompany their writing. WOW!!!



GIRLS

On the Map!

The Junior Varsity Girls in unprecedented play, once again, won back to back games this week.

Winning against MDS 28-19 on Tuesday and then again last night against SAR 14-12. the JV Girls Team, together with Coach Kate, is now 4 and 1 (4 wins 1 loss). We are ready for Ramaz next Thursday. It has been many years since we seen a team of this caliber and you have put ASHAR back on the basketball map.....so steer yourselves to the Playoffs!!!!!!



Gabe Salamon (1B)
on the birth of a brother!

Pe'er Friedman (7B)
on his Hanachat Tefillin!

Aron Sabol (7B)
on becoming a Bar Mitzvah!

Rafi Morrison (7B)
on his Hanachat Tefillin!



Remember Maos Chitim

Donate Used Uniforms!

uniforms@ashar.org

bags may be sent to school
include your name for gmach credit

Alumni News

Mazal Tov to Yehuda and Shoshi Fein ('04)

upon the birth of a daughter

Mazal Tov to Raphi Levy ('97)

on his appointment as CFO of cancer bio-tech firm, *Alpha Tau Medical*

ניחום אבלים

Condolences to Mrs. Abby Wiener (Class of 1960), Rabbi Leonard Levy (Class of 1963), Mrs. Rena Turoff (Class of 1968) and Mrs. Liz Muschel (Class of 1972)

upon the loss of their mother, Mrs. Shirley Levy a"h, who together with her late husband, Rabbi Irving Levy z"l, were among the founders of our yeshiva, and active, principled leaders over the ensuing decades.

* This week's graphic is meant to resemble a mother holding a newborn inside of a number 8. I wish I could credit the artist, but I do not know who he/she might be.

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Bringing Your Seder to Life

Practical Methods for Creating a
Meaningful, Memorable, and Engaging
Pesach Seder for Your Children

Presented by:
Rabbi Aaron Spivak
Educator, Author, and Mental Health Counselor



Tuesday, April 9, 8:30 p.m.
ASHAR
360 New Hempstead Road
New City, NY 10956

Presentation will include:

- The perspective of *Chazal* regarding the focus of the Seder
- Innovative and fun ways to transmit the *Emunah* of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* to even the youngest of children
- Shopping guide for “Seder Props”
- Tips for making the Seder work for mixed age groups
- Visual-aid demonstrations

עיקר האמונה תלוי ביציאת מצרים

The foundations of faith are rooted in *Yetzias Mitzrayim*
(ערוך השולחן או"ח ס' תע"ב סע' ט"ז)

Individual: \$18

Couple: \$25

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to *tzedaka*

For more information, email ajspivak@gmail.com