



ASHREI NEWS



Menahel's Message "The Bigger Picture"



In his opening comments to the Kedoshim Tihyu imperative, the Ramban references one who is a so-called 'naval bi'reshus haTorah,' literally a scoundrel with the Torah's license. Such an individual may scrupulously observe the specific *halachos* of *kashrus* described at the end of Parshas Shemini, for example, or the *dinim* of *taharas hamishpacha* and permissible relationships detailed in the Parshiyos of Metzora and Achrei-Mos, and somehow still remain uncouth, disrespectful and generally unrefined.

The mitzvah of Kedoshim Tihyu, suggests the Ramban, demands that a Jew look beyond the minutiae of an individual precept and grasp the broader messages conveyed by the particular corpus of *halachos*. The fact that the Torah so extensively details parameters of *kashrus* and family purity, to continue with the above examples, demonstrates not only the importance of the many specific laws described, but the general value the Ribbono shel Olam apparently places on moderation, modesty, refinement and self-control. And now that the Torah has commanded Kedoshim Tihyu, one who chooses to "push the envelope" and ignore the implicit spirit of the laws conveyed, is no

longer a 'naval **bi'reshus** haTorah,' but rather a scoundrel **without** the Torah's approbation, a 'naval **shelo** bi'reshus haTorah!'

Rabbeinu Ovadia MiBartenura explains that Pirkei Avos is introduced by a review of the chain of tradition, 'Moshe kibal Torah miSinai,' in order to emphasize the primacy of *mesorah* not only in the formulation of specific laws, but also as the basis for *derech erez* and character refinement, the subject matter of Pirkei Avos.

While it is certainly necessary to constantly remind our children of the importance of *mesorah* as it pertains to specific areas of observance, it is perhaps even more critical to reinforce the less-obvious implications of a very strong Jewish tradition in the realm of Kedoshim Tihyu. Understatement, modesty, moderation, avoidance of conspicuous consumption and common courtesy are not only critical ingredients in the facilitation of healthy and happy personal development, but essential components of our holy Torah's broader message.

Shabbat Shalom!

-Rabbi Ari Jacobson
Menahel/Dean

Important Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

3B Father-Son Mishnayot Mesiba
10:00 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Lag Ba'Omer School Observance

MONDAY, MAY 10

Yom Yerushalayim School Observance

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

ASHAR Virtual Dinner

SUNDAY-TUESDAY, MAY 16-18

No School Shavuot

TUESDAY-THURSDAY, MAY 25-27

8G Trip to Washington

MONDAY, MAY 31

No School Memorial Day

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7-9

8B Trip to Washington

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

8G Graduation 7:15 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

8B Graduation 7:15 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

Kindergarten Graduation 9:30 AM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

PreK Alef Bet Play 9:30 AM

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Nursery End of Year Performance
9:30 AM

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

8G Graduation 7:15 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

8th Grade Algebra I Regent Exam
9:15 AM



Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

This time of year is truly so exciting. Purim, Pesach, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Lag Ba'omer, Shavuot- we are moving so quickly from Chag to Chag! Just as the flowers are blooming, so too our children are blossoming. The strides they have made since the beginning of the school year are evident in how they are performing both academically and socially. This week, Lag Ba'Omer became the big unit of study along with our Spring units (All About Me, Caterpillars to Butterflies) and so much more!

We also began preparing for our end-of-the-year graduations which will, IY"H, take place at 9:30am on the following dates:

Tuesday, June 15th: Kindergarten Graduation **Wednesday, June 16th: PreK Aleph Bet Play**

Thursday, June 17th: Nursery End of Year Performance

ABC



Learning the letter "Y"



1st Grade learned about how to care for the Earth

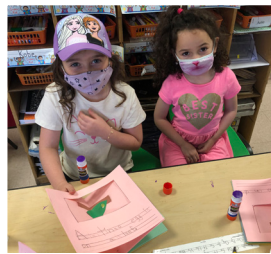


Mat Man

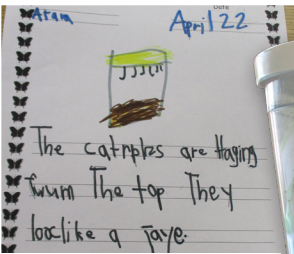


All About Me Book

Butterflies



Caterpillars to Butterflies book



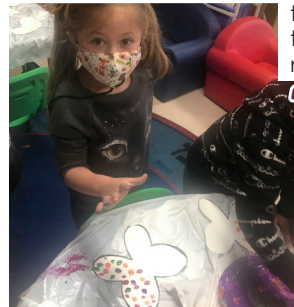
Kindergarten Butterfly Journal-logging their observations of the real living class metamorphosis



Math



Painting symmetrical butterflies



Music & Movement



Name: Resi Giorberg



then 70 dives.
She wanted to protect the sharks. Eugenie Clark when to college to study sharks.

Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal of Girls Division

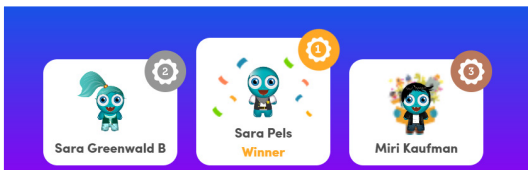


The days between Pesach and Shavuot are known as the days of the Omer. We anxiously count to the fiftieth day; the auspicious day on which we received the Torah. This period is also a time of national mourning. The Talmud (Yevamos 62b) recounts the story of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students that lost their lives to plague during this time of year. The Torah was on the brink of eradication until Rabbi Akiva was able to raise five new students who subsequently restored the Torah to its full glory in that dark period.

Following in Rabbi Akiva's footsteps, our *morot* and teachers have been hard at work educating our girls. From the laws of *lashon harah* to the dissection of the earthworm, our girls are excited to accomplish. Their thirst for knowledge is inspiring.

Looking forward to sharing much *nachas* from our aspiring *talmidos chachamos*!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!



Writing Bee - Middle Chapter Grades 3-5 Winners



4G music

ASHAR GIRLS

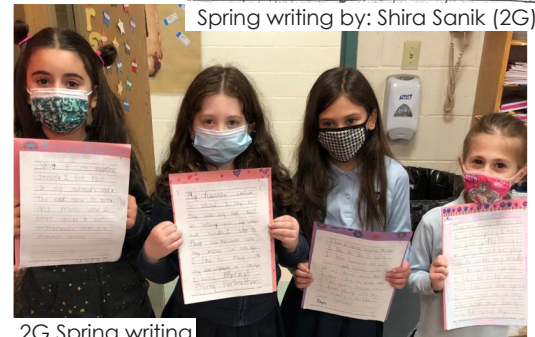
DIVISION

3rd grade Jerusalem, Israel
cityscape collage



There are many things to do in the spring. I like to pick pretty flowers in spring. I get to play outside with my friendly friends in the spring. I like to ride my fast bike in the spring. I can go on a long hike with my family on a hot spring day.

Spring writing by: Shira Sanik (2G)



2G Spring writing

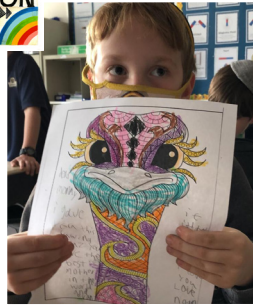
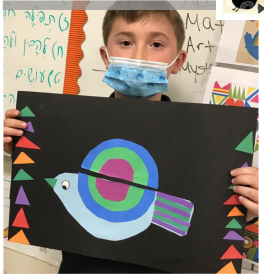


7G dissects worms in Science

Riddle of the Week ? WHO AM I ?

I am for the field, your head, and the poor; I am not for cutting. Submit answer in your SMVT sheet for a chance to win a prize!

Last Week's Answer: **Bris Mila** "I am mentioned at the Seder; I take precedence over Shabbos; I was first for 99; I was also for 13."



Chutz Leseder Update

ASHAR
needs
YOU!

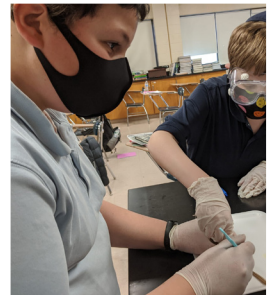
Help us get
there in time
for Shavuot!



Grade	Amount
2nd	2,773
3rd	850
4th	30
5th	988
6th	698
7th	6,633
8th	1,781



7th Grade Science is
dissecting worms.



Birds inspired by illustrator Lisa Congdon, best known for her colorful, graphic drawings.

Matnas Shabbos

קל ההודאות, אדון השלום. מקדש
השבת, ומברך שביעי

ומניח בקדשה
אוי לעם מדשני ענג,
לעם מדשני ענג
זכר למעשה בראשית.



3B practicing for their Mishnayot Mesiba



3B worked on an Earth Day scavenger hunt. They searched for leaves, rocks, garbage, flowers and animals in their habitats.



Thank you Yoel Bando (4B)
for keeping our Earth clean
on Earth Day

Mrs. Jennah Schuh

Assistant Principal



Mrs. Mindy Reifer

Director of Curriculum



Earth Day

April has been a truly scientific month at ASHAR. Spring is always a time to explore nature, discover new growth, appreciate the budding trees and flowers and spend more time outside with the increased daylight hours.



Our curiosity and inquisitiveness of nature begin at a very young age. Many of us spent hours watching and hunting for ants and insects as children. It's no wonder that this enthusiasm translates into a genuine interest in science.

This week the second-grade classes explored the science and importance of recycling with activities and writing connected to Earth Day, held on April 22. It was taken to another level when Mrs. Jacobs's third-grade class went on an EarthDay scavenger hunt on the ASHAR fields. The week ended with an exciting beginning as the third-grade boys and girls (with Mrs. Blachorsky) started their new project, raising butterflies!

Of course, the highlight of this week in middle school science was surely conducted in seventh grade. As part of

the seventh-grade biology curriculum, the students in 7B and 7G dissected earthworms. Under the guidance of Mrs. Seltzer, the students used scalpels, scissors, pins, and magnifying glasses to identify the worms' internal organs including the pharynx, hearts, crop, gizzard, intestine, and reproductive organs. Next week: Frogs!

"the students used scalpels, scissors, pins, and magnifying glasses to identify the worms' internal organs including the pharynx, hearts, crop, gizzard, intestine, and reproductive organs. Next week: Frogs!"





Girls Lose a Heartbreaker! Boys Advance to the Championships!

The last twelve perakim of Bamidbar with Rashi were the subject of a most grueling Zoom competition. The girls, led by **Faiga Gordon, Michal Benovitz, and Raizy Friedman** were amazing in their lightening quick responses to the hardest of questions. Their total of 33 points would have been enough in any of the other five divisions, but fell a few points short in theirs. We admire their performance and we know that the knowledge that they have accumulated will last for a long time. Many thanks to Mrs. Ora Koenig who coached the 8th grade girls and helped them with their preparation.

The boys dominated their division and ended up with a score of 55 points. The boys were led by **Meir Kaller, Chanan Seltzer, Ari Frankel, Shaya Genuf and Yishai Werth**. Also contributing to the team in their preparation were **Ephraim Jacobson, Moshe Steinhart, Noey Taub, Moshe Baitz and Gavriel Laster**. The boys will be competing in the Championships against YNJ, Ramaz, RPRY, Moriah and HALB on May 26th. The subject matter will be the first twelve perakim of Bamidbar.

Many thanks to Rabbi Chaitovsky who helped coach both teams.



2021 Wesley Hills Community Cleanup

Sunday, May 9th

Rain date: Sunday May 23rd

12:00pm - 2:00pm

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

www.keeperocklandbeautiful.org

Meet at the Wesley Hills Village Hall
432 NY-306
Monsey, NY 10952

Registration required - No walk-in's
All volunteers must adhere to COVID
safety protocol

For more info contact Brooke Carter
Brooke.carter@frisch.org
(845) 709-2130

Earn Community
Service Hours

Help the Environment

Free Supplies



• Please bring in sports balls for outdoor recess!



• It is spring! Allergy season is in full bloom, please send in more tissues!



• For any students that are unable to attend school, we offer grab and go lunches. Pickup daily at the front door. Mon-Thurs 1:00-2:00 PM, Fri 12:30-1:30 PM





Virtual Dinner

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST-EVER

ASHAR VIRTUAL DINNER

WEDNESDAY

ד"ח סיון

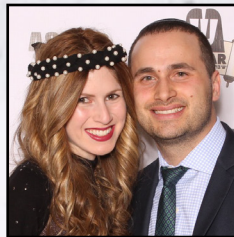
MAY • 12

HONORING ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLE
REBBEIM, MOROT AND TEACHERS
FOR THEIR SELFLESS DEDICATION
OVER THE PAST YEAR.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO



Don-E and Miryam Benovitz
GUESTS OF HONOR



Shragi and Itta Lazarus
PARENTS OF THE YEAR



Morah Miriam Wachs
TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Inaugurating
THE ADAM POLLACK ל"ח
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FEATURING MAGICIAN *Shlomo Levinger*
AND THE STUDENTS OF ASHAR!

www.ashar.org/dinner

