



ASHREINews



Menahel's Message Priorities



In describing the emotional reunion of Yaakov and Yosef after twenty-two years of separation, the Torah notes one crying upon the shoulders of the other: "ויפלו על צוואריו ויבך על צוואריו עוד" Rashi explains that Yosef cried on the shoulders of Yaakov, while Yaakov recited the Shema.

Why didn't Yaakov also cry on the shoulders of Yosef? Or, alternatively, if it was so important to recite the Shema at this particular juncture, why didn't Yosef do so as well? The answer, suggests the Steipler Gaon, is as simple as it is fundamental.

Yaakov Avinu recited the Shema not out of obligation, but rather as a tangible method of channeling indescribably intense emotions towards Hashem. The tzaddik thus seized an intensely personal moment and utilized it towards strengthening his connection with his Maker.

Though no less a tzaddik, Yosef did not have the luxury of emulating his father's lofty model, for unlike Yaakov, Yosef was bound by the basic mitzvah of *kibbud av*. Channeling a special moment towards elevated *hiskashrus* and spiritual elevation may be admirable, but not at the expense of a fundamental obligation. In Yosef's case, refraining from crying on his father would have been disrespectful to Yaakov, and he therefore had to forgo reciting the Shema.

Human beings are described in the Navi as "mechalchim,"

in constant motion- physically, emotionally and spiritually. Yosef's behavior reminds us of the importance of prioritizing the basics at each stage of one's personal journey.

Shabbat Shalom!
- Rabbi Ari Jacobson
Menahel/Dean



Nothing like the joy of a great kashya! Akiva Malool (4B) asks Rabbi Jacobson, "When Yaakov is talking to the malach, how could the malach bentch him without knowing his name?"



Email dismissal@ashar.org for any dismissal messages.

Important Upcoming Events

WED-FRI, DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 1
No Bus Transportation:
Suffern, Clarkstown

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
No Bus Transportation-East Ramapo
Regular Busing: North Rockland

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
No Bus Transportation;
Grades K-8 BEGIN 8:30 am;
DISMISSAL Grades N-1 11:45 am,
Grades 2-8, T-Class 1:00 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
1G Siddur Play 9:30
1B Siddur Play 12 Noon

MOTZEI SHABBOS, JANUARY 9
General Parent Meeting

THURSDAY-SUNDAY JANUARY 21-31
No School - Mid Winter Break

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Sessions Resume

SUNDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14-15
No School President's Day



Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

We hope that everyone enjoyed their Chanukah holiday. On behalf of the entire Early Childhood and First Grade family, thank you for the thoughtful and generous Chanukah gift. It was greatly appreciated.

We returned from Chanukah into a full week of learning. Parshat Hashavua has been very exciting with lots of important lessons to learn. I enjoyed reviewing Parsha with the children on Friday. Their Torah knowledge is quite amazing! We also spent this week preparing for the completion of Sefer Bereishit and our Sefer Bereishit Siyum which will be held next week. While in the past, we had an amazing Siyum in school with parents and grandparents, this year we will be sending home something very special for all of you! We are very excited! We also introduced winter this week, our new season, and many other units, topics and skills.



Brachot Unit



Parsha



Mat Man



Nachas Notes

Thank you for the beautiful notes about how your children knew the brachot and Chanukah songs so well. Keep the notes coming!

Shlomo knew all the Chanukah and Parsha answers! We were so proud of his beautiful Chanukah! He said the brachot and sang the Maoz Tzor and all the Chanukah songs! Amazing!

Aryeh lit his menorah every night and said the brachos! We always sing the songs from the Chanukah song booklet-he knows all the words and tunes! Great job Aryeh!



Chalav U'dvash



Winter Words in Hebrew too!



Ice painting



Winter Fun!



We made a snowman



Winter art



Watch the snowballs go!



Winter experiments

First Grade Writing artwork inspired by Leo Lionni

Name: Hodaya



Dolup flied in the morning to look at a flower.

"Dolup flew in the morning to look at a flower." by: Hodaya Mizrahi



Lilly the cat walks to the pond to catch some fish because she was hungry.

"Lilly the cat walks to the pond to catch some fish because she was hungry." by: Ella Schwartz



Winter words in Hebrew



"שוקו חם, מעיל, כובע, צעיף, שלג"

Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal of Girls Division



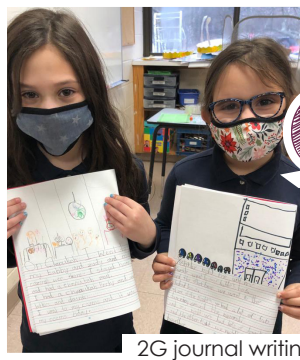
One of the highlights of my day is teaching Chumash to eighth grade girls. We are currently learning Parshas Kedoshim. Yesterday, while discussing the mitzvah of ואהבת לרעך כמוך I showed the girls the Gemara in Shabbos that tells about a gentile who wanted to convert to Judaism. This individual stated that he would accept Judaism only if a rabbi would teach him the entire Torah while he, the prospective convert, stood on one foot. First he went to Shammai, who, insulted by this ridiculous request, threw him out of the house. The man did not give up and went to Hillel. This gentle sage accepted the challenge, and said: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation of this—go and study it!"

Eighth grader, Miriam Rozenberg, inspired me with the following insight. By standing on one foot, the gentile was really saying that he wanted to learn Torah like the angels. Hillel was teaching him that the Torah was not given to the angels. The Torah was given to man because only man could perform the mitzvos bein adam l'chavairo, between man and man.

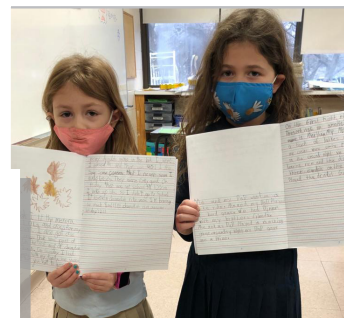
Thank you Miriam for inspiring me and your fellow classmates!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

ASHAR GIRLS DIVISION



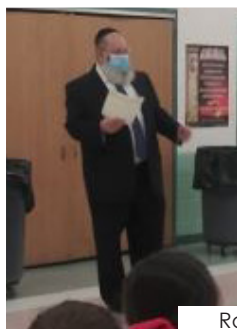
2G journal writing



Torah Bowl practice



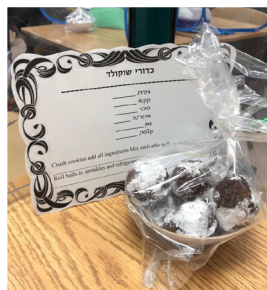
3G dons their fancy glasses after learning the hebrew shresh. ד.א.ה.



Rabbi Jacobson spoke to the 6-8 Grade Girls about the significance of בטבת



4G baked cookies!



3G learned about Mexico and got a real piñata!

Riddle of the Week ? WHO AM I ?

I guaranteed my brother and founded the Yeshiva;
royalty comes from me; I bear Hashem's name.

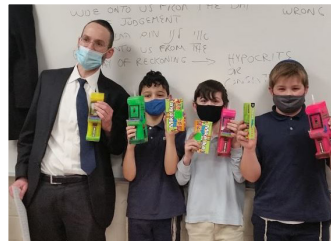
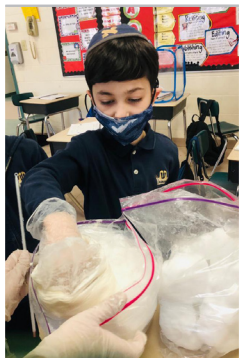
Submit answer in your SMVT sheet for a chance to win a prize! - Last Week's Answer: Chanukah Candles



Wassily Kandinsky Artwork



3B Science experiment with blubber and snow. Can you feel the cold snow?



Mazel Tov to our participants in the Learning by the Lit Menorah Challenge!



Matnas Shabbos

Our special Chanukah edition Matnas Shabbos Program!



Reminder! Bring in your complete sets of your Einei HaEidah Gedolim cards to exchange for tickets for the grand Chinese Auction December 28th!

עיני העדה
Gedolim Cards



ט' טבת ♦ December 24

Thursday's Torah learning is sponsored by Mrs. Judy Cabessa

לע"נ

מיכל אהובה בת גד ויהודית ע"ה

Ahuva First a"h

on her 4th yahrzeit.

May our children's learning serve as an aliya for her neshama.



י' טבת ♦ December 25

Friday's Torah learning is sponsored by the Lazarus Family

לע"נ

מאשע איטקא בת דוד הכהן ע"ה

Grandmother of Mrs. Itta Lazarus

Great-Grandmother of Daniel, 3B; Ari, 1B; and Emma Lazarus, NC

May our children's learning serve as an aliya for her neshama.

Mrs. Mindy Reifer

Director of Curriculum



Mrs. Jennah Schuh

Assistant Principal



Did you Sign Up yet?



Grades 4-8
Writing Competition

<https://boomwriter.com/auth/student>

You can find your class code
posted in Mrs. Reifer's ELA
Google Classroom.

Check out a snippet
from one of our
entrants in the
Girls division



**boom
Writer**
learning

It started off like any other morning. I got dressed and ready to daven. As soon as I opened my siddur, something felt different. It was almost like the siddur was..glowing..? All of a sudden, letters popped out of the book like tiny little spiders. Letters formed words, words formed sentences. Sentences formed paragraphs. Then everything went black.



Mazel Tov!

Mrs. Frayda Salb (5G)
on her new grandson

Reuven Goldberg (7B)
on his Bar Mitzvah

Yehuda Taub (7B)
on his Bar Mitzvah

Maya (KB) & Ezra Friedman (NB)
on their new baby brother

Have any good news to share? email mgoldman@ashar.org



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

MORDY'S

Guitar Lessons

FUN AND EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY

- ALL AGES AND LEVELS
- WILL COME TO YOU
- FLEXIBLE HOURS

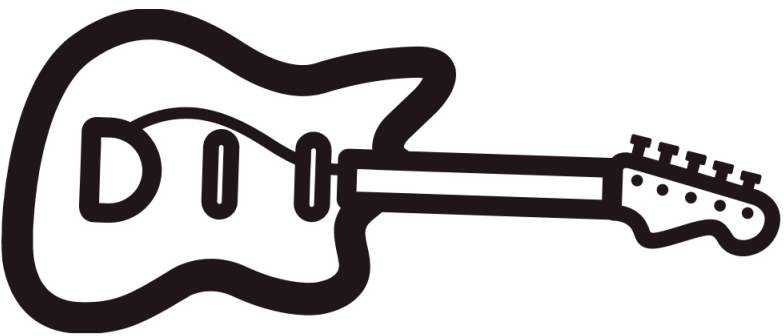


PHOTO BY EZM PRODUCTIONS

FOR MORE DETAILS ON PRICING AND SIGN UP

Text: 845 521 4417

Keep filling your ASHAR Tzedaka Box!

The first BIG Tzedaka Collection will be on
Friday, January 8, 2021



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**There will be a bin in the front
lobby of ASHAR to send in any
new or gently used coats and
winter accessories**

LOCATION

DISTRIBUTING CLOTHING DONATIONS TO COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT ISRAEL WITH DIGNITY AND GRACE