



ASHREINews

פורים Edition



Menahel's Message

All for One and One for All!



In the course of petitioning King Achashverosh for the right to exterminate the Jewish People, Haman depicts us as a nation that is "mefuzar u'meforad"- dispersed and divided. Not only were we scattered throughout the Persian Empire, explains R. Shlomo HaLevi Alkabetz in his classic *Manos HaLevi* commentary to the Megillah, we were also divided from within. Haman's dastardly plan was thus predicated upon a lack of unity among Jews, and it is therefore not coincidental that his plan was foiled only after Esther requested Mordechai to gather her coreligionists on her behalf- "lech k'nos es kol haYehudim".

A recommitment to the ideal of *achdus* was a prerequisite for salvation, a *yeshua* that would ultimately be celebrated through the unique group of Purim mitzvos geared towards bringing us closer together. *Mishloach manos, matanos l'evyonim* and Megillah read en masse- *b'rov am-* all

celebrate a sense of unity that transcends petty differences and removes superficial barriers. According to the Kol Bo, even the mitzvah of drinking (in moderation!) is intended to spread good cheer and camaraderie among Jews.

Over the course of our two thousand year *galus*, there have always been divergent opinions and attitudes among Jews, and- for better or for (probably) worse- there has always been a degree of *machlokes*, discord, between brothers and sisters. Purim reminds us annually that while two Jews may have three opinions, much more will always unite us than divide us. **L'Chaim!**

Shabbat Shalom, and a Freilichin Purim!
-Rabbi Ari Jacobson
Menahel/Dean



Thank you to the ASHAR PTA for the beautiful mishloach manot!



THE ASHAR PTA
WISHES EVERYONE
A HAPPY PURIM!

Important Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
No School Purim

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28
No School Shushan Purim

THURSDAY, MARCH 4
Torah Bowl: GIRLS Playoffs

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
Torah Bowl: BOYS Playoffs

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
Parent Teacher Conferences on Zoom
No Sunday Sessions

MONDAY, MARCH 15
Parent Teacher Conferences on Zoom
Regular Sessions

WEDNESDAY-MONDAY, MARCH 24-APRIL 5
No School Pesach Break



Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

We have been very busy in school and are so excited that Purim is here! The children completed all their Purim projects and can't wait to show them to you. Enjoy their Megillot, graggers, Mishloach Manot, and more. Ask your children to share the Purim story with you; you will be proud to hear how much they know. To heighten our excitement and joy for the upcoming Chag, the Jewish Wonder Theater came to ASHAR and presented an amazing Purim Puppet Show. The children impressed all by answering the Purim riddles and truly enjoyed watching the story of Purim come to life. On *Ta'anit Esther* we paraded through the gym in costume as we walked into King Achashveirosh's palace, threw water balloons at Haman, made crowns, received *Shaloch Manos* from the PTA, and so much more! The children received special stickers with the four Mitzvot on them. The children know the *halachot* of each Mitzvah and are excited to partake in the Mitzvot *B'simcha!* On behalf of the entire Early Childhood and First Grade family, I would like to wish you a *Chag Sameach and a Frelichin Purim!*



Early Childhood Program
Where children are nurtured with Midos and Mitzvot every day



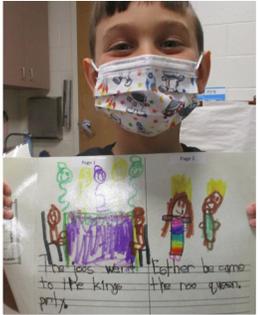
Building Shushan



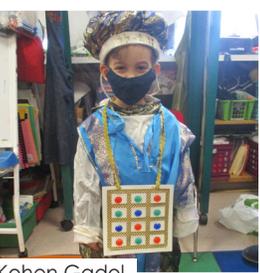
Purim Centers



Megillah



Parsha



Kohen Gadol



Building the Mishkan



Morah Malky

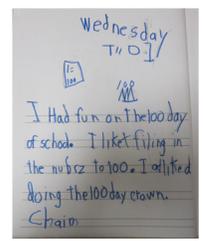
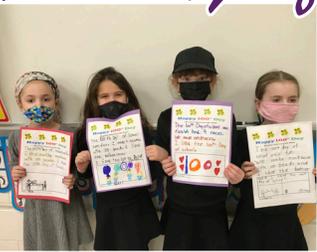


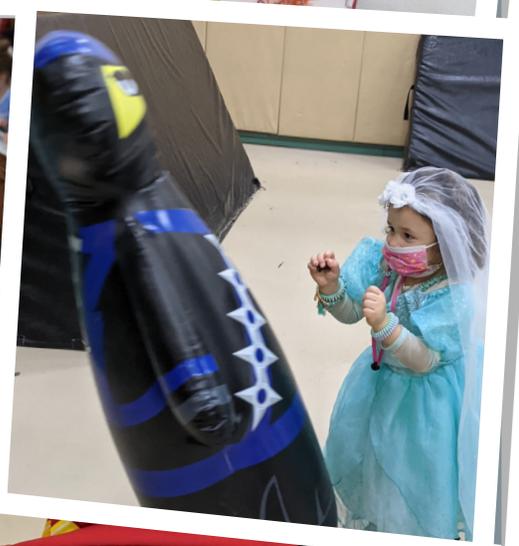
Chalau U'dvash



Headband game

100 Days of School





Purim Carnival!



Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal of Girls Division



ASHAR GIRLS DIVISION

U'Meforad - scattered and separate." The Jewish people weren't as united as we should have been. The solution comes later on when Esther directs Mordechai, "Leich K'nos Es Kol HaYehudim." Go and gather all the Jews. In order for Hashem to save us from Haman's evil decree, we had to first learn the lesson of unity. Indeed, in the zechus of the Jews gathering together in prayer and fasting, Haman's evil plot failed and the Jewish people were saved.

This lesson of *achdus* was evident this week at ASHAR. The spirit of friendship and unity was obvious as our girls counted down to Purim. Big sisters read bedtime stories to their younger grade sisters. Middle school students showed off their talents to the elementary grades. Teachers and students joined together in celebration and *simcha*. What a wonderful week and what a terrific lesson for our girls.

When Haman convinced Achashveirosh to wipe out the Jewish people, Haman described the Jews as "Mefzar Sfas Emes explains that this was to criticize the Jews. The

solution comes later on when Esther directs Mordechai, "Leich K'nos Es Kol HaYehudim." Go and gather all the Jews. In order for Hashem to save us from Haman's evil decree, we had to first learn the lesson of unity. Indeed, in the zechus of the Jews gathering together in prayer and fasting, Haman's evil plot failed and the Jewish people were saved.



Our fourth through sixth grade girls created Purim packets for young adults in group homes and seniors in nursing homes.



BIG Sister
LITTLE Sister



Mazel Tov **Michal Benovitz, Faiga Gordon** and **Nava Schechter** on their siyum Mesechet Megilla! Every morning, before class the girls meet and learn in the Morning Mishna Madness Club with Morah Ariella.



5G & 6G Mother-Daughter Hamantaschen Baking



Check out our Girls Purim Publication ashar.org/studentpublications





Royalty Day



4G made mishloach manot



Dress up like a teacher day



Riddle of the Week ? WHO AM I ?

My niece was my wife; you can find me in the spices; my enemy was my slave; I was a life saver. Submit answer in your SMVT sheet for a chance to win a prize!

Last Week's Answer: "I come after 6 days and 6 years; I am for the ox and donkey and for the field." *Shabbos*



FATHER-SON LEARNING PRE-PURIM EXTRAVAGANZA



Middle School sushi making



Middle School played a game of Purim Taboo

משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה



Wacky
Hat Day!

Mrs. Mindy Reifer

Director of Curriculum



Mrs. Jennah Schuh

Assistant Principal



THE PURIM STORY

What We Are Writing

By: Kineret Greenwald (7G)



It was chaos.
Nobody was listening!
I know we messed up, but we can fix it!
“Guys. Guys! GUYS!” I shouted. “GUYS! LISTEN!”
Everyone turned around and stared at me.
I had their attention, but what do I do now?
I wasn’t the type of person to get up and set everything straight.

I was more the type of person to watch someone else do that.
It might have to do with me being afraid of people, I don’t know. And in front of me was a crowd of people I barely knew.
“Ummm, w...we...well, I know that nothing’s working out but maybe we should all agree on a plan together?” I asked in a quiet voice.

I expected everyone to start screaming at me, but instead they seemed to like the idea.

I mean it’s not like we had any choice, because we were already all out of ideas.

First, we went over what had happened in the past few weeks.
(Four weeks earlier.)

We were worried, but not so worried.

Haman had tried plots like this in the past, and they hadn’t worked.

Mordechai had always saved us with Hashem’s help.

So I didn’t understand why he was so worried.

It was the end of the big feast that Achashverosh had thrown.

I had really wanted to go to it but Mordechai, (My uncle) didn’t let me, or my sister Hadassah go.

All my friends had gone, and they said that the food was delicious.

Not long after the king had stupidly killed his wife while he was drunk, he wanted another one.

That was bad news for my sister and me, because she was the prettiest girl I knew, and everyone complimented me that I was pretty also.

I liked being pretty, but I didn’t like the extra attention.

I like blending into the crowd more.

If you thought I was pretty though, it was NOTHING compared to how pretty she is.

Anyway, Mordechai tried hiding us, and we managed to fool the guards for a little while, but eventually they caught on and forced us to come.

The two things Mordechai did before we left was tell us never to forget Judaism, and he changed Hadassah’s name to Esther, and my name Sarah to Rochel.

That was the last thing he said before the guards took us away.

Before we went in for the king to see us, the guards kept trying to give us makeup and fancy dresses, but that was the last thing we wanted.

I tried to hide my face so he wouldn’t notice me, and hurried out.

Esther tried to do the same,
but he still seemed to notice.

We were kept to live in the castle until the day we dreaded came.

When it came he said, “The new queen and winner of the contest is..... Esther!”

We both looked around to see if he was talking about a different Esther,

but he was pointing right at my sister.

By: Arielle Bennett (6G)



Esther slowly walked to the king dreading what would happen. Esther wasn’t sure what he would do. Would he kill her? Or since he loved her would he do as she would ask? Esther turned the corner and there in front of her was the door to the throne room. Her heart pounded. She knew that she had to look pretty so she had spent hours getting ready. She took a deep breath, quietly said “Shema” and stepped forward. She entered the room, her shoes tapping the floor, announcing her risk. The king sat at a table with an advisor, playing chess. Everyone fell silent. She wondered if she should run.

The king looked up. “Esther, my queen, what brings you here?” asked the surprised Achashverosh. He quickly took his golden staff and tapped Esther. Esther breathed a sigh of relief. He wasn’t going to kill her. She smiled and said, “If it would please the king, can he and Haman come to a party that I have prepared tonight?” The king beamed. “Of course we will come.”



ד' אדר ♦ February 16

Tuesday's Torah learning is sponsored by the Spaeth Family
לע"נ

Meir ben Juliette z"l

on his yahrzeit

Father of Mrs. Julie Spaeth; Grandfather of Netanel (5B) and Lilly Spaeth (6G)

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



ו' אדר ♦ February 18

Thursday's Torah learning is sponsored by **Rita & Marshall Plaut and Harvey Kipper**
in memory of

Miriam Kipper z"l

Grandmother of Dr. Jonathan Plaut; Great-grandmother of Gabriella Plaut, PKA

*May the memory of our blessed mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
always be for a blessing.*

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



ז' אדר ♦ February 19

Friday's Torah learning is sponsored by Mrs. Harriet Wolf
לע"נ

Tuvia Chaim ben Eliezer z"l

on his yahrzeit

Grandfather of Chaim Gershuny, 1B

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



י' אדר ♦ February 22

Monday's Torah learning is sponsored by **Mrs. Ann Cohnen**
in memory of

Rivka Leah bas Shimon Zimmel a"h

Great-grandmother of Eitan Cohnen, PKA;

Micah, PKB; Yonah, 4B; and Ezra 6B Markowitz

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



ז' - י"ג ♦ February 19-25

This week's Torah learning is sponsored by Amitay & Penina Stern
לע"נ

Ora bat Moshe a"h

Great-Grandmother of Kayla Stern, PKA and Gabe Salaman, 3B

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



י"ב-י"ח אדר ♦ February 24-March 2

This week's Torah learning is sponsored anonymously
in honor of the

Morning Mishna Madness Club's

Siyum on Mesechet Megilla,

and its participants

**Michal Benovitz, Faiga Gordon, Nava Schechter,
and their fearless leader, Ariella Benovitz**



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



Alan Rosenstock from Tomchei Shabbos speaks our students about the significance of chesed.



6B loading the boxes on the truck.



Cans for Chesed!

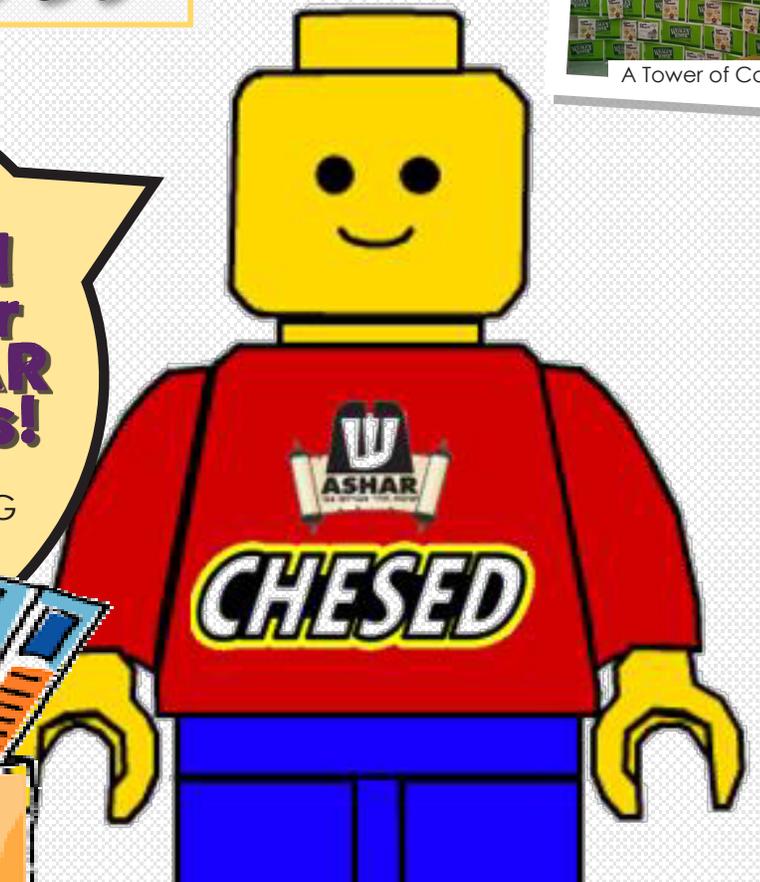
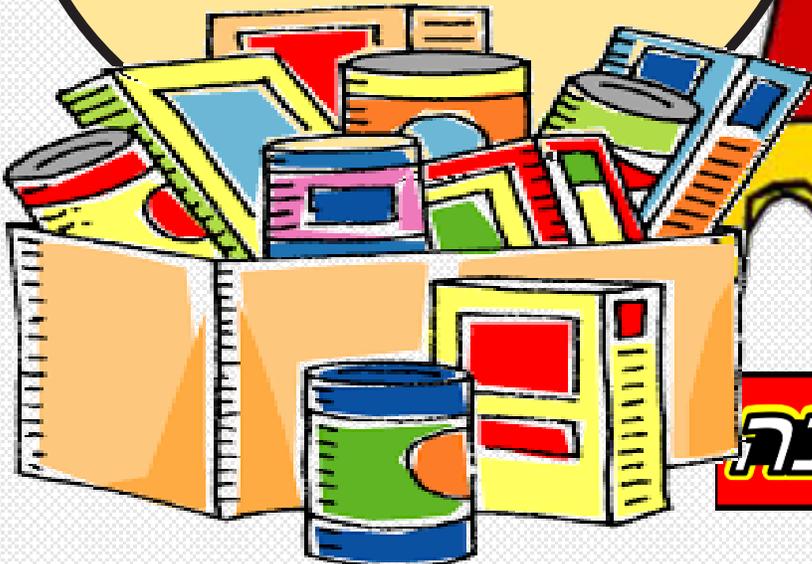


A Tower of Cans!

כי כהן אל!

to all who donated cans in the cans for chesed drive. **ASHAR** collected **2500** cans!

Mazel Tov to our winning classes for collecting the most cans KA, 4B, and 5G



יבנה

חסד

עולם