



ASHREINews



Menahel's Message "Substance over Style"

Each time Moshe Rabbeinu approaches Pharaoh, he is accompanied by his brother Aharon, who serves as his spokesman. As we know, Moshe was k'vad peh- he had difficulty speaking- and his older brother was selected by Hashem to serve as his mouthpiece. Why couldn't Hashem have made Moshe physically perfect? If G-d can split the Red Sea, would it have been so difficult to make sure that the greatest of prophets

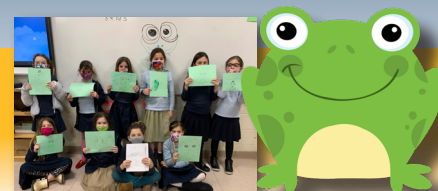
was also articulate?

Rabbeinu Nissim, in his classic *Derashos HaRan*, suggests that G-d purposely selected a leader and *navi* who was not an eloquent orator in order to ensure that the Children of Israel gravitate to Moshe solely based on their belief in Hashem and their recognition of Moshe's innate righteousness rather than being attracted to a charismatic showman. The leader destined to lead us out of slavery and bring down the Torah would per force have to be appreciated for what he was and not for how he presented himself. Moshe, as the Chumash later reports, was "*anav mi'kol ha'adam*," as *anivus* encompasses not simply humility in the limited sense but more broadly, substance over style.

When initially approached by Hashem to lead B'nei Yisrael out of Mitzrayim, Moshe demurs: "*mi anochi ki eilech el Pharaoh*." Hashem responds "*v'zeh l'cha ha'os ki anochi shlachticha*." Your ever-present reluctance born out of humility will serve as a constant indication that I have sent you. One who is truly humble and understated, explains the Meshech Chochma, best represents Godliness and is most likely to enjoy an especially close relationship with the Ribbono Shel Olam.

Contemporary society embraces charisma and typically overlooks those who do not promote themselves- and by contemporary society, I refer to the Jewish world as well. Teach your children to pay attention to all, and to learn especially from those who get more points for substance than for style. Those are the people cut from the mold of Moshe Rabbeinu.

Shabbat Shalom!
-Rabbi Ari Jacobsen
Menahel/Dean



Please join us for a GENERAL PARENT MEETING: SCHOOL UPDATES by professional and lay leadership

and a special presentation by
Rabbi Aaron Spivak, LMHC
ASHAR Rebbe, and Rav of Kehillas Bais Yehuda

**Modeling Civility: Chinuch,
Politics and Your Children**



Motzei Shabbos
January 16, 2021 **8PM**

Zoom ID: 845 357 1515
Password: Ashar2020
Dial-in: (646) 558-8656

Questions can be emailed in advance to
confquestions@ashar.org

Important Upcoming Events

MOTZEI SHABBOS, JANUARY 16
General Parent Meeting 8:00 PM

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

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 18
No Bus Transportation MLK Day

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Sessions Resume

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Friday Dismissal Taanit Esther
Grades N-PK 1:30, Grades K-8 1:45
No Bus Transportation: East Ramapo



***Current New York State regulations require any individual traveling to any state other than New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and Pennsylvania, or internationally, for a period longer than 24 hours must:

1. Take a negative COVID-19 test at your travel destination within three days prior to returning to New York, and
2. quarantine for three days upon return to New York, and then take a negative COVID-19 test. No child or staff member may return to school without doing so.



כ"ח טבת ♦ January 12



Tuesday's learning is sponsored by **Reuven & Libby Goldberg**
לע"נ

דבורה הדס בת צבי חיים הלוי

Great Grandmother of Kedem Friedman (8B) and
Maor (6B), Chovav (2B) and Asaf Goldberg (KB)

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



ראש חודש שבט ♦ January 14



Thursday's Torah learning is sponsored by **Deena Moscovitz**
לע"נ

ירוחם פישל בן ישעיה הלוי ז"ל

Gerald N.F. Charness z"l

Grandfather of Deena Moscovitz; Great-grandfather of
Calev, 2B & Yishai Moscovitz, 6B

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



ב' שבט ♦ January 15



Friday's Torah learning is sponsored by
Miriam, Yishai, Akiva and Noah Shalom Malool

in the זכות of a complete *refuah shelaimah* and successful surgery for

יהודה בנימן הלוי בן לאה

May our children's learning merit him good health and long life.

Riddle of the Week ? WHO AM I ?

I was proof of Hashem; I was tiny, from a finger, and came from the sand.
Submit answer in your SMVT sheet for a chance to win a prize! - Last Week's Answer: Tzoraas



6B enjoys their well-deserved ice cream party from winning the Middah of the Month program



4B and 5B are working hard on their 3D food trucks in Art



Our third graders learned that insects have a compound eye. The straws act as the many lenses they use to see.



6th Grade is learning about volcanoes!



Celebrating Kriah with a reward

Mrs. Mindy Reifer

Director of Curriculum



Mrs. Jennah Schuh

Assistant Principal



Grades 4G-5G



Gitty Elbaum Y

2



Yakira Cohn

Winner

1



HINDE BENSON

3

boom
Writer
learning

Grades 6G-7G



Maya Shatkin

2



Esther Weinstein D

Winner

1



Ariela Neiman

3

Grades
4G-8G

Writing
Competition

Grade 8G



Miriam Rozenberg

2



Aviva Taibe

Winner

1



Faiga Gordon

3

Winners!



Contest Winner

#1 By: Yakira Cohn (5G)



It started off like any other morning. I got dressed and ready to daven. As soon as I opened my siddur I felt something. It wasn't a pleasant feeling. I must've fainted or something because when I opened my eyes,

I was lying on the ground. I looked around myself and saw Hebrew letters everywhere. I stood up to make a run for it but something stopped me. I looked up but nothing was there. I continued to run. This time I got pushed. I looked around once more but there was still nothing there. I heard a voice saying, "You do not daven properly. Until you learn to daven properly, you will remain stuck in this siddur." I told myself that it's all a dream. I pinched myself, but I was still in the siddur.

"How do I get out!?" I called out to the invisible voice.

"You must learn to read the words of davening carefully, and stop thinking about anything else but G-d," said the voice.

"How will I ever learn?" I cried out.

"Follow me" said the voice. "How?" I said "I can't see you." Suddenly, right in front of me there were puffs of smoke leading somewhere. I decided to follow the smoke. Coughing and wheezing I followed the trail of smoke all the way to a large door.

"Open it," said the voice. When I opened the door, not only did I see myself, but I saw my whole class and my teacher, Mrs. Cohen. They were davening.

I looked around and realized that it was me and my class yesterday. The voice said, "Shall we see what Meera is davening for first?"

Before I could answer, I could hear Meera's thoughts. I heard, "Please, Hashem, I want my sister to feel better because she is very sick." I was shaken. I didn't know Meera's sister was sick.

"Should we continue," said the voice. I think I want to hear what Tova is davening for next. It was quiet for a second, and then I heard, "Thank you, Hashem, for making me and my family healthy, and thank you for everything you do."

"Next," said the voice, "I want to show you what YOU were thinking yesterday." I heard, "Hmmm, I wonder what's for dinner tonight. I hope it's meatballs and spaghetti." And, "Whoa! I like Avital's new shoes. I wish I had them." The voice said, "That's what you were thinking about yesterday. Not about Hashem, not about davening, but about dinner and shoes!"

"I'm sorry! Just please let me out!" I pleaded.

"I will," said the voice, "that is if you pass the test."

"I'll do whatever you want," I said. "Just please let me out!"

"OK. You have to daven and only think about Hashem," said the voice. "You can stay there, but if you don't daven nicely, I will take you back and you will get punished."

I felt the same unpleasant feeling I felt when I first got sucked into the siddur. I held my breath so I wouldn't faint. It worked! The next morning I got to school and opened my siddur. I was davening loudly and clearly, but most of all, I was only thinking about Hashem. I thought it wouldn't hurt to just say hello to my friend Dini.

I said, "Hi," but before I knew it, we were in a full-fledged conversation. I felt that unpleasant feeling again. I was back in the siddur, with a door in front of me but no voice. I opened the door. I couldn't believe who was standing in front of me.

Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal of Girls Division



ASHAR prides itself on its extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Co-curricular refers to school programs that complement something that our students are learning at school. At ASHAR, we work with the whole child, providing an environment that connects *limudei kodesh* and general studies curriculum. Co-curricular activities enhance the intellectual, social and spiritual development of our students. By providing a full complement of co-curricular activities, we allow each child to excel in his or her areas of strength. This week our students celebrated *Rosh Chodesh Shvat* with a brand new writing project. Collaborating with their Morot and ELA teachers, the girls were challenged to write a moving *tefillah* that could be said by others. The girls were excited to get started. We can't wait to see their inspiring results.



DIVISION



7G and 8G celebrated
Rosh Chodesh with
Bowling
01/14/2021





7th and 8th Grade girls created these artworks of watercolor animals inspired by Artist Tamara Phillips



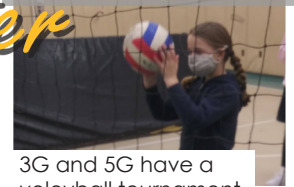
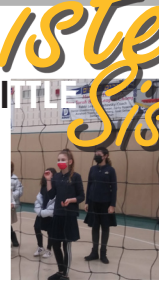
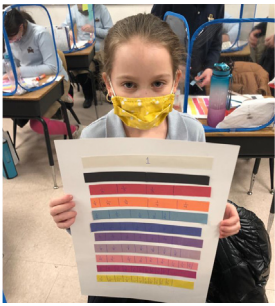
5G reads books to 1G as part of their Big Sister Little Sister program

ASHAR GIRLS

DIVISION



BIG Sister LITTLE Sister



3G and 5G have a volleyball tournament

5G learns hands-on fractions in Math Applications



3G is learning about Brazil and they created their own carnival masks



6th Grade is learning about volcanoes!





Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

Our First Graders received their Siddurim at a beautiful Siddur Mesiba this past Sunday. The children sat together with their parents and enjoyed watching the video performance of them singing and sharing what they daven to Hashem for. It was beautiful and heartwarming. The children received their Siddur, decorated a beautiful cover, and took home delicious siddur cupcakes and a beautiful program brochure. Mazel Tov to all of the children and their families!

Here are some quotes from the children. I daven to Hashem ...

- for the Beit Hamikdash to be built very soon
- for my family to be healthy
- that doing Mitzvot will be easy for me
- for everyone to be safe and happy
- that poor people should have money
- for the Coronavirus to be over
- for Mashiah to come
- for us to all stop wearing masks
- for Him to make me a good artist
- to have the best Morahs each year
- for nothing bad to happen to my family
- for my Zeidy to come back when Mashiah comes

Our Early Childhood family began learning all about Tu B'Shvat, and continued learning Parsha, all about Winter and their ABC's and 1, 2, 3's. The highlight of our week was our Rosh Chodesh assembly on Thursday. We celebrated the children with Shevat birthdays and learned about the Chag that comes on the 15th day of the month. Tu B'Shvat is the birthday of the trees! We enjoyed seeing and touching a real tree trunk. We even counted the rings on the trunk to see how old the tree was. We saw pictures and videos of people planting trees in Eretz Yisrael, and sang a song about the Sheva Minim that grow there. We know that we have to thank Hashem for all of the food we have, that's why we wait several years to eat the fruit that grows on the trees in Eretz Yisrael, to remind ourselves that everything we have comes from Hashem!

Please enjoy the following pictures from our week of learning and fun!



Pajama Day for the letter "P"



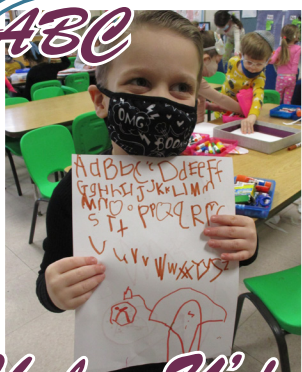
Parsha



Mazel Tov First Grade on receiving your first siddurim!



ABC



Chalav U'dvash



Eric Carle



Music and Movement



Rosh Chodesh Shvat



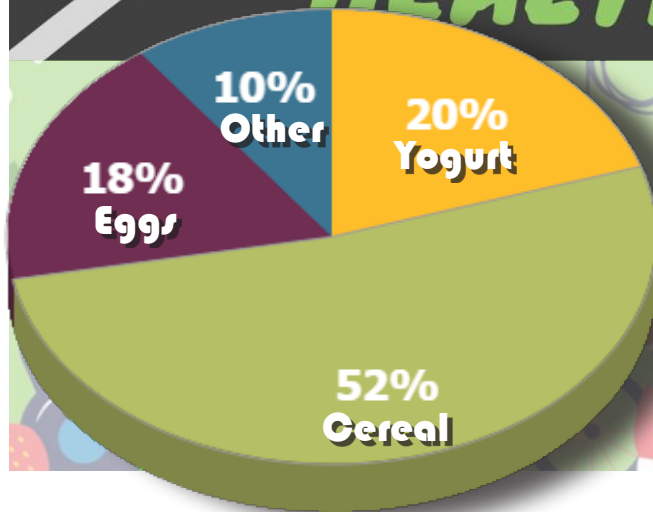
We learned the parts of a tree

Recycle Paper

ונשמרתם מאוד לנפשותיכם



HEALTHY HABITS



What did you eat for breakfast?



Mazel Tov!

Yishai Werth (7B)
on his Bar Mitzvah

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

KAWAI PIANO FOR SALE

(914) 391-0238

- Like new black ebony perfect finish.
- Small apartment sized unit.
- Very reasonable price.

