



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: "ויפול על צואריו ועוד על צואריו ויבך על צואריו 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 "*mehalchim*", 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

Important Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
PTA Movie Night 5:30PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16
1st grade Trip to Challenger Center

MOTZEI SHABBOS, JANUARY 8
General Parent Meeting 7:45PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14
Asara b'Tevet Friday Dismissal,
N, PK 1:30 p.m.; K-8, 1:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
1st Grade Siddur Play 9:30AM

MONDAY-TUESDAY, JANUARY 17-18
Midterms Grades 7-8



Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal, 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 began several new units of study, including shapes in Nursery, Brachot in PreK, and Geodes Guided Reading Groups in Kindergarten. B"H, the children are learning, thriving and happy!

ABC



Aleph Bet



Indoor Playroom



Brachot Unit



We made challah after learning the bracha Hamotzi

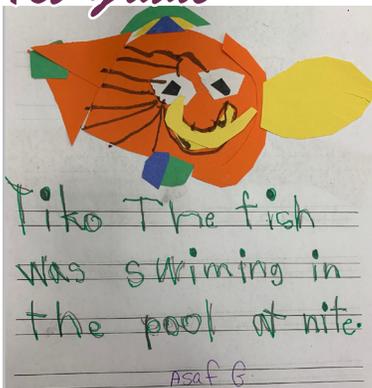


Writing



Kindergarteners began learning how to structure their sentences. In their first lesson they learned about subjects and created collages for each type of subject: person, place, thing, or animal.

1st Grade



Math



Music & Movement



Learning Shapes



Self Portraits



After reading about Leo Lionni the children each created their own paper art and wrote about it. It was a fun & educational assignment. All of the children did beautiful work.

ASHAR GIRLS

DIVISION

Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal, Girls Division



In this week's *Haftarah*, *Yechezkel HaNavi* teaches us about *achdus*, unity. According to *Yechezkel*, the Jewish people must come together as one. After that, Hashem will unite with the people. The *Sefer Chareidim* shares with us an interesting perspective regarding this order. Hashem's oneness can only be appreciated through the oneness of His people. If we are fragmented, our experience of Hashem will be one of division. Each segment of Jews will

view Hashem from their perspective and the sense of Hashem's oneness will never be seen. According to the *Sefer Chareidim*, the perfect unity between Jews is the prerequisite to Hashem's unity with us.

As our wonderful Chanukah celebrations fade into our memories, we *daven* that the sense of *achdus* created brings us one step closer to the day when Hashem's oneness will be recognized throughout the world במהרה בימינו אמן

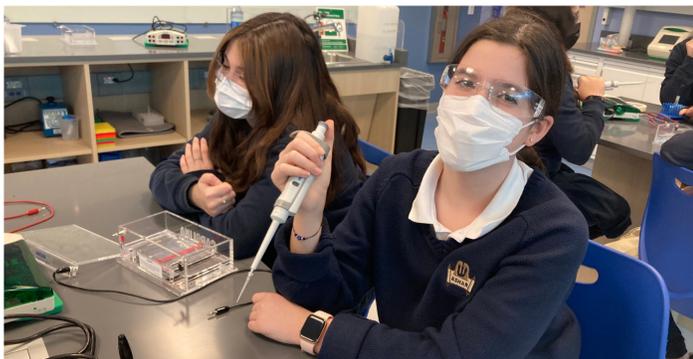
Have a wonderful Shabbos!



Mazel tov 4G on receiving your neviim!



3G-7G writing with Big-Little Sisters



8G paid a visit to the Regeneron DNA Learning Center. The girls took part in hands-on experiments, such as DNA fingerprinting and friction fingerprinting to analyze a 'crime scene' and learned about genetics and molecular biology.



2G experiment with oil and water



Girls team wins this round of Torah Bowl!



3G learns the shresh "ראה"



7G cell projects



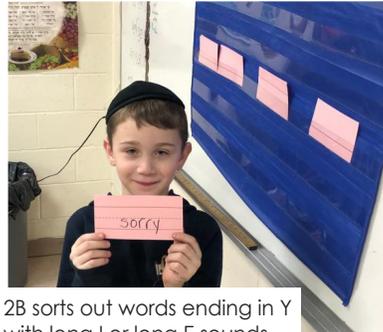
4B starts learning their agriculture unit



4-8B Father-Son Chanukah Extravaganza!



8B learned Maoz Tzur



2B sorts out words ending in Y with long I or long E sounds



7th grade cell projects

6B wrote their first Hebrew paragraphs in Lashon with Mrs. Koenig.



הילד דאסל, הוא חושב על המרחק של סוף השנה. הוא מפתח/הכסף אצלם אין זמן ואמא תהיה צריכה אס הוא כסף. הוא אפילו שואל, ואמא הינה שוארת.

שמי שורץ



הילד דאסל, הוא חושב על המרחק של סוף השנה. הוא יוצא שפאקטור אחר אצלם אין הפחה זמן ללמוד. הוא חושב שאם הוא 'כסף' הוא יהיה צריך ללכת לבית ספר בקיץ, ואמא גם תתן לו אונג. הילד זן ויוצא שאין הרבה כסף והוא צריך לקבל זין טוב.

רמיס 10



השצון מתקתק והילד מליץ. הוא מתרועע לרשעה והוא דאסל, הוא צריך ללמוד את המרחק. בסוף הוא צאר והוא היה שמיח, כי הוא לא צריך ללכת לבית ספר קיץ. אמא שלו גם הינה שוארת.

אליזבר דאסל



הילד שבוך וללמוד למארו. הוא מליץ ודאסל כי הוא מפתח להכסף עוד מציט הפצן לקחת את המרחק. הוא דאסל מאוד. הפצון מתקתק אחר ובסוף הילד נכסף. ההורים שלו היו צריכים והוא קבל אונג.

דנאל סניק



ילד ושאו שבוך ללמוד למארו. הוא מפתח להכסף. כסף אף הוא מתרועע ללמוד. זמן אחר ופתאום זה בוקר. הוא דאסל אלה אשה את המרחק. כאשר הוא זאמר האורה אולאר לו שהוא קבל מאה אחר. הוא היה מאוד שמיח ואולאר תורה לה'.

שראל קאר



הילד שבוך לעשות שצירי בית וללמוד להרוקן. הפצון מתקתק אין זמן, הוא צריך ללמוד. הוא לומד ולומד. כאשר הציץ הפצן להרוקן הוא צפה טוב, והוא מאוד שמיח.

ענני לנדא



הילד דאסל, הוא חושב על המרחק של סוף השנה. הוא מפתח/הכסף אצלם אין זמן ואמא תהיה צריכה אס הוא כסף. הוא אפילו שואל, ואמא הינה שוארת.

אלרמי אולדברגר



What We Are Writing

Chanukah at ASHAR's Girls Division

By: Esther Weinstein (8G)



An eighth grade girl strolls into school in the morning donned in a full fledged shark costume. Three fifth graders dash through the hallways covered in face-paint, giggling with excitement. A group of students add the final touches to their banner, stepping back with pride as they assess their work. In the gym, a magician reads the mind of an unsuspect-

ing sixth grader. Take a look in the lunchroom, and doughnut wars are underway. Outside, a group of girls encourage a crowd of kids into singing the harmony of "Those Were the Nights," by the Yeshiva Boys Choir. Colorful capes fly in the wind, and there's a certain light in everybody's eyes. It is almost impossible not to smile.

Welcome to Chanukah at ASHAR, where something great is always happening.

The highlight of Chanukah at ASHAR is undoubtedly Maccabea. Maccabea is a week-long event, and an annual Chanukah tradition. Similar to Color War, Maccabea features four teams composed of middle school girls, grades 5-8, separated into various colors. The overall theme for Maccabea this year was *aish*, fire. Within that, the four teams had themes of Havdalah, candle-lighting, ***This year, we competed in a wide array of intense competitions and activities, overseen by the ASHAR faculty who kept score. On Tuesday, after we returned to school from Chanukah break, the action kicked off with a competitive game of Kahoot. The teams began to work together on dances, banners, and music videos. "As soon as Maccabea began on Tuesday, I could tell it was going to be full of excitement," eighth grader Blimi Farkas shared. She, along with her fellow students, played a leadership role in

the adventures of this past week. Each of us were given time to shine and display our individual talents towards our team.

Wednesday featured a wacky magic show, and the PTA sponsored cold drinks and snack bags for all of us. After the magic show, we all headed to lunch. Knowing that we had to create something out of the ordinary to keep the magic of the day going, the eighth grade table began to harmonize to some Chanukah tunes. Enchanted by our unison and booming voices, the younger grades soon followed our lead. Even the staff members, who at first stopped dead in their tracks when they surveyed the unexpected scene, clapped along. We raced to the front of the room, still singing, and started dancing to our heart's content. It was a moment of true *Achdus* and it served as a reminder that some things go deeper than Color War.

The rest of the week was filled with other incredible activities such as a Silent DJ, receiving fresh doughnuts and hot cocoa, and baking Chanukah treats. At the heart of it all was the intense preparation for Maccabea presentations, as teams continued to work. The feeling in the air was tense but thrilling as the four groups perfected their music videos, dances, and banners. Each of these areas had to fit the theme of the team; the music video was required to have a plot relating to the theme, the background music to the song needed to do so as well, and the banner needed to illustrate the theme. Each team also needed to prepare a gift; a contribution to ASHAR, something useful and meaningful.

Presentation day arrived. Teams rushed to make last minute preparations and we were all ushered into the gym, where we presented our dances. Then it was off to the lunch room to showcase our gifts, which consisted of a "Sunshine Box," where people place cards for people having a hard day, a tzedakah box to collect charity in the morning before davening, a *netilat yadayim* set, and an appreciation poster for the teachers to hang in their lounge. We then presented our banners, which were all beautifully designed, and our music videos, which were quite the riot and well put together by the students. Later in the afternoon following *Mincha*, the winner was announced... Team Yellow!

The Jewish people are an extremely miraculous nation. With our resilience against the wicked ways of the *Yevanim* those many years ago, their goal to turn us against Judaism forever, we created something eternal. No matter what, we always had hope. As we all know, the goblet held only enough oil to last one day, but because of our burning desire to continue to follow Hashem's ways, He made a miracle, letting the oil last for eight days. The menorah that sits on your windowsill, that you gaze at with admiration, is a symbolization of the light that the Jews created back in the times of the *Yevanim*, our radiance for the Torah and its ways too strong to fade. Here at ASHAR, that light is burning strong.

ASHAR PTA PRESENTS

Disney • PIXAR
RATATOUILLE

FREE EVENT

Nursery-
4th Grade

KIDS MOVIE NIGHT
SUN - DEC 12TH 5:30PM

**A PARENT MUST
ACCOMPANY THEIR
CHILDREN**

SNACKS & DRINKS PROVIDED
BRING PILLOW, BLANKET &
**MAKE SURE TO COME IN YOUR
PAJAMAS!**

Mazel Tov!

Naftali Itzkowitz (NA)
on the birth of a baby sister

Gabriella Lenefsky (NA)
on the birth of a baby brother

Benjamin Guy (7B)
on his Bar Mitzvah

Brooke Levine (Class of '09)
on her marriage to Abe Paniri

THE ANNUAL ASHAR PTA

FREE Admission
Skate Rental Included!
RSVP & Pre-pay for Pizza
Suggested Donation \$10
ashar.org/ice

ICE SKATING EVENT



Motzei Shabbos
Dec 25, 2021
7:30pm-9:30pm

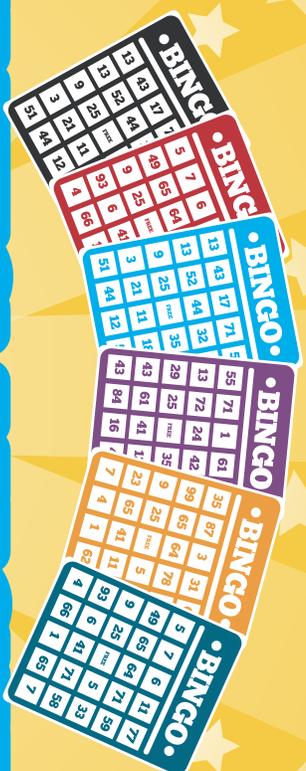
Sport-O-Rama
20 College Road
Monsey, NY 10952

Pizza & Drinks Available
for Purchase
While Supplies Last

Questions?
pta@ashar.org



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT



הַפֶּסֶחַ
January 8

SAVE THE DATE

EMAIL EVENTS@ASHAR.ORG FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



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BOYS **Monsey**

Young Israel of Monsey
58 Parker Boulevard
Monsey NY 10952

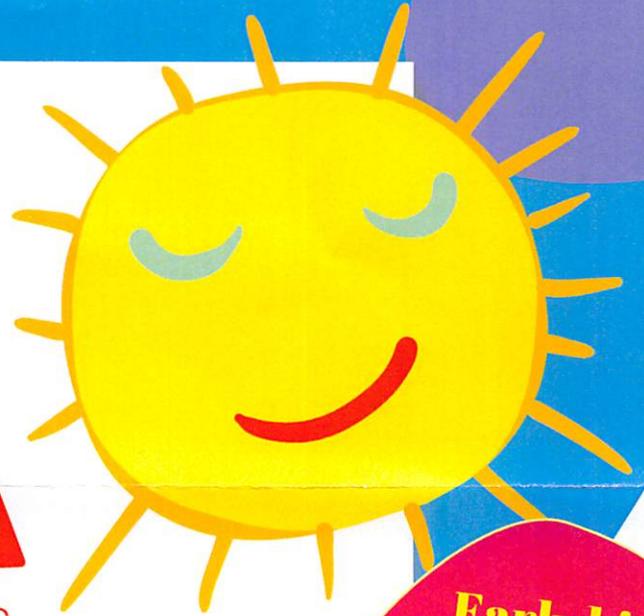
Saturday nights
@ 7:00 pm

Need info? chillzone@thezone.org
Rabbi Braunfeld: (845)-304-1704
Ari Neuman: (732)-569-5007
J B Kula: (443)-897-7304

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**Now forming
bunk for girls
coming out of
first grade**

**Boys ages 2-6
Girls ages 2-7**

**@ Grandview
Elementary School**

**We are proud to welcome back
Mrs Sarah Korman
as Preschool director**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

PLEASE CALL ALIZA, 845.371.1598 OR EMAIL MONSEYCAMP@YAHOO.COM

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