



# ASHREINews



## Menahel's Message

### Looking Out for Number One?

The *berachos* of Yakov Aveinu to each of the twelve tribes represent not only a father's prophetic personal aspirations for each of his sons, but eternal lessons in priorities for all.

When blessing Asher, Yakov references the bountiful bread of his tribe's portion: "מֵאֲשֶׁר שְׂמִינָה" לחמו". For Asher, explains the Alshich Hakadosh, plentiful bread was apparently more than adequate. Yet note the same verse's concluding words: "וְהוּא יִתֵּן מִעֲדָנֵי מֶלֶךְ" – "And he shall give (to others) *delicacies* of kings." Asher was content to subsist on bread and other basic staples, but when it came to giving to others, only the choicest delicacies would do.

The Gaon of Vilna derives a similar lesson from the Torah's presentation of the *mitzvah* of *matza*. In commanding each Jew to personally eat *matzot*, *tochlu*, the word "מצת" is written חסר – without a vav: "בערב" "תאכלו מצת". Yet when commanding the obligation to ensure that *matzos* be eaten by others, *tocheilu* in the passive, *matzos* is spelled fully מלא- , with a vav: "שבעת ימים" "מצות תאכלו". Skimp for yourself (*chaser*)- but no cutting corners (*maleh*) when it comes to others!

Food for thought.

*Shabbat Shalom!*

-Rakhi Ari Jacobson  
Menahel/Dean



## Important Upcoming Events

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20  
4B-5B Trip to American Dream Mall

MOTZEI SHABBOS, DECEMBER 25  
PTA Ice Skating Event 7:30PM

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

MOTZEI SHABBOS, JANUARY 8  
General Parent Meeting 7:45PM  
BINGO Parents Night Out 8:00PM

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19  
PreK Brachot Fair 9:30AM

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 20-30  
Mid-Winter Break

MONDAY, JANUARY 31  
Sessions Resume







## Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal, Early Childhood and First Grade

The highlight of our week was celebrating the completion of the first book of the Torah at a Siyum. After learning *Parshat Vayechi* and reviewing all the previous *Parshiot*, the children in our Early Childhood Program came to school with Torahs in hand all ready to celebrate together. We hugged our Torahs and gave them a kiss. When Morah asked us why we love learning Torah, we answered: "It makes us happy! It makes us smart! It makes us STRONG!" We reviewed the *Sefer* together and sang all of our Parsha songs. We then danced with our Torahs into the hallway where we had so much fun making edible Torahs with graham crackers, pretzels, fluff, Aleph Bet cookies and colored sprinkles - because learning Torah is also so sweet!

Our 1st graders enjoyed a wonderful Siyum in class with their Morahs. Each child was given a *tafkid*, either to dress up as a person from one of the *Parshiot* or to bring in a food item related to something in *Sefer Bereishit*. The children were so creative! One child brought in marshmallows and pretzels to create the ladder & rocks in Yaakov's dream, black & white cookies for the first day of creation, rainbow licorice, animal crackers, animal jellies, lentil candy, challah and more. They dressed up as the Avot and Imahot, rainbows, Eisav, a wolf, Noach and his Taiva, and more. It was such a great review as each child shared with the class who they were or what they brought in.

The 1st graders also enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Challenger Learning Center where they worked together as mission specialists to travel in a simulated voyage to the moon and back!



### *Siyum Sefer Bereishit*



### *Aleph Bet*



### *Chalav U'dvash*



### *Parsha*



Chazak Chazak V'Nitchazek!



### *Shapes*



Circle hunt-Look at all the circles we found in our classroom

### *Barebone Sentences*



### *Kriah*



### *Music & Movement*



Catching circles



### *Math*



PreK learns #5



# ASHAR GIRLS

## DIVISION

**Mrs. Debby Jacobson**

Principal, Girls Division



This Shabbos, we will read *Parshas VaYechi*, the last *parsha* in *Sefer Bereishis*. Shuls throughout the world follow the widespread custom of calling out "Chazak venitchazeik"

will  
chazak

What is the reason behind this beautiful *minhag*?

The *Pri Chadash* suggests that this practice is based on a passage in *Gemara Berachos* – "Four things need strengthening: Torah, good deeds, *tefillah*, and *derech erez*." Torah requires strengthening, so as we finish a book of the Torah we publicly strengthen ourselves and the Torah that we represent.

This past week was full of excitement as many of our girls classes celebrated *siyumim* on *Sefer Bereishis*. May the Torah that the girls have learned bring them much strength as they continue to learn and grow.

*Mazel tov!*



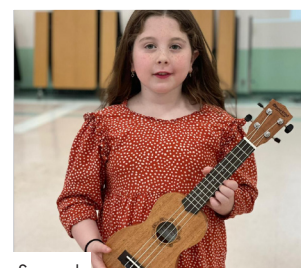
The girls in Grades 2G-4G enjoyed a Masquerade Siyum Sefer Bereishis! The girls dressed up in costumes related to various topics in Sefer Bereishis.



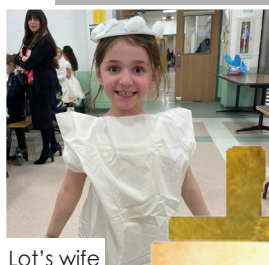
Eisav



Noach's Teivah



Serach



Lot's wife



Yosef and Paraoth's Butler



Sarah



1G trip to the Challenger Center



Middle school girls bracha acharona initiative

In honor of  
**סייום בראשית**  
2G-4G enjoyed a Masquerade  
Siyum Sefer Bereishis



4G won a pizza party after winning the Clean Your Room Project, a schoolwide initiative to help keep our classrooms in good condition.



In the ASHAR Art Room with 3G





In October, our 7th-grade boys had the opportunity to participate in a music video produced by Rabbi Benzion Klatzko of shabbat.com promoting Tom-chei Shabbos and their Shabbos boxes. Check out the newly released music video here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEDgmVrtfas>



1B Trip to Challenger Center



2B celebrates their win of the Cans for Chesed Campaign with Pizza

# What's



**LESSON #1**  
**LOOKING FOR THE TRUTH**


One way to know that God created the world is to recognize the great wisdom in His creations. List and describe three things that you recognize were created with great wisdom that display to the world that Hashem related them.


Have discussed numerous strategies a person can use to recognize Hashem's greatness. List and describe three things that you recognize Hashem's greatness. List and describe three things that you recognize Hashem's greatness. List and describe three things that you recognize Hashem's greatness.

This month we launched the middah of Emunah and Tefilah Initiative where the boys will watch weekly videos from Torah Live featuring Siddur Guy. The boys will reflect on what they watched with some follow-up worksheets.

**LESSON #1**  
**LOOKING FOR THE TRUTH**

We learned that it is an obligation to search out and know that God exists. As every person is different, having different strengths and interests, every person relates to God in a different way. Give two examples that relate with you that God exists:

1. 

2. 







By: Layla Gross (6G)

## The Wandering Times

9 Av

Since 2448

### BREAKING NEWS: Eretz Canaan Worst Place Ever



Meraglim with grapes ~ WT

After 40 days of checking out this new land, we must report that this land is not suitable for human-sized people. It's full of terrifying giants and we felt like grasshoppers compared to them.

To prove this incredible fact, we brought back some fruit, and it took 8 men to carry one bunch of grapes. I don't want to call out anyone, but *some people* refused to help.

I know we all want to get out of this desert already, but unfortunately Eretz Canaan is not an option. At all. Ever.

~Nachvi ben Vofsi, reporting for WT

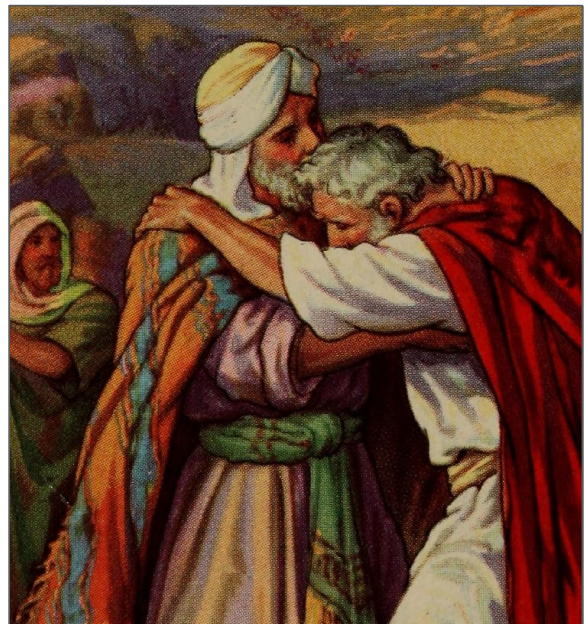
### No, We Are Not Okay - Dealing with the Eretz Canaan Report

By: Peleg ben Terah  
Middle of Nowhere, Midbar

I'm scared. That's it, the plain and simple truth. Look, we've all seen that report by now. We sent a dozen people to investigate this supposedly amazing land that will be given to us, and they returned with disturbing stories and giant grapes as proof.

We were promised an amazing land flowing with milk and honey, but nobody said anything about having to fight giants for it. I don't know about the rest of you, but wandering around in the desert was bad enough, I don't want to add fighting giants to my to-do list.

In my opinion, which is shared by many people of Bnei Yisrael, Eretz Canaan is just not an option.



Peleg ben Terah crying on his brother's shoulder. ~ WT





ט"ו טבת ♦ December 19

Sunday's learning is sponsored by Reuven & Libby Goldberg,  
לע"נ

# אסתר בת אברהם יצחק הכהן

Great Grandmother of

Maor (7B), Chovav (3B) and Asaf Goldberg (1B)

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

# Mazel Tov!



Chanan Seltzer (7B)  
on his Bar Mitzvah

Reva Schreiber (6G)  
on her Bat Mitzvah



# THE ANNUAL ASHAR PTA

**FREE Admission**  
**Skate Rental Included!**

**Pre-Order Pizza:**  
[ashar.org/ice](http://ashar.org/ice)

## ICE SKATING EVENT

**Questions?**  
[pta@ashar.org](mailto:pta@ashar.org)

**Suggested**  
**Donation \$10**

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

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

**Pizza & Drinks Available**  
**at the event for purchase**  
**While Supplies Last**



**PLEASE ADHERE TO THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE GUIDELINES**





# PARENTS NIGHT OUT



Saturday Night  
**JANUARY 8**

ASHAR Gym  
**8:00pm-10:00pm**

**RSVP Required**  
[www.ashar.org/bingo](http://www.ashar.org/bingo)

Questions?  
[events@ashar.org](mailto:events@ashar.org)



**COCKTAILS FROM BAR SIMCHA**  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

• BINGO

43	17	
3	52	44
9	25	FREE

• BINGO

5	7	
49	65	
9	25	

• BINGO

13	43	17
13	52	44
9	25	FREE

• BINGO

55	71	
13	72	
29	25	FREE

• BINGO

35	87	3	3
9	65	64	78
25	FREE	5	
55	41	11	

• BINGO

5	7	6	11	77
49	65	64	71	59