

Menahel's MessageGetting it Right the First Time



Rashi notes that whereas olive oil used in the preparation of the Mishkan's menachos, meal-offerings,

may be sourced from olives that were crushed and subsequently strained, only pure, squeezed oil was acceptable for use in the *menorah*: "kasis la'maor." Only oil squeezed directly from olives and free from the outset of any remnants or residue could be used to kindle the menorah; the necessity for any subsequent straining would disqualify for use.

The symbolism of this halacha is not lost on the meforshim. Commentators explain how each implement of the Mishkan, and later the Beis Hamikdash, represents different facets in the totality of a Jew's life experience. The shulchan, for example, embodies physical sustenance, and the mizbeach self-sacrifice, while the aron, the Holy Ark secluded in the kodesh hakodashim, represents Torah studied in its purest, unadulterated form.

The light of the *menorah* also represents the wisdom of Torah, but unlike the *aron*, it is not hidden in the Holy of Holies, but rather located in the *heichal*, providing illumination for the sanctuary and beyond. The *menorah* thus represents not simply Torah, but more broadly, the degree to which one who bears the Torah's message may impact others.

And as Torah observant Jews, explains Rav Moshe Feinstein z"I, we strive to emulate the model of the menorah's oil, opting for "pure" behavior towards G-d and our fellow man from the outset, as opposed to actions that, although perhaps technically correct, require subsequent "straining" and explanation to justify. No less should be expected of those illuminating Hashem's world!

Shabbat Shalom!
- Rabbi Ari Jacobson

Menahel/Dean

Important Upcoming Events

FRIDAY-SHABBAT, FEBRUARY 11-12 **8G Shabbaton**

MONDAY-THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14-17

Names, Not Numbers interviews for Eighth Grade

SUNDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20-21

No Sessions, President's Day

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Mother- Daughter Breakfast

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Parent Teacher Conferences

Sunday, March 27 **ASHAR Annual Dinner**

Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

Another busy week full of learning and fun! Parsha

took center stage this week as the children continued to learn about the Mishkan and the special workers who their Avoda there, the Kohanim. We learned all about the Kohanim's clothing, and brought Parsha to life as the children dressed up in the Kohain Gadol's clothing and walked around the room. Do you know what they heard?! Bells ringing from the bottom of the Meil! They realized just how exciting it must have been to see the Kohein dressed in this regal clothing and hear him walking to do his Avoda. Our Nursery children had fun creating their own Choshen Mishpat out of waffles and jelly beans and even more fun eating it! Just as we used our 5 senses to experience Parsha, the children have been busy learning their unit on the 5 Senses. Pajama Parties for the letter "P" with pasta, pretzels, popcorn and more added lots of fun

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

to our week as well.















Childhood Pro

Math

Aleph Bet





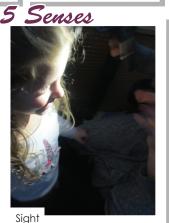






After learning the letter "P" we had a









DIVISION





Girls in 6G presented Chumash review slideshows that they created to the entire class

Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal, Girls Division

I recently walked into the 7G ELA class the girls were presenting research projects about different physical handicaps and disabilities. I was very impressed with the girls' sensitivity to these topics as well and their depth of knowledge.

I was reminded of the story of the sneh, the burning bush. Hashem gives Moshe the responsibility of saving the entire Jewish Nation. In a panic, Moshe tells Hashem that he cannot complete this mission because of a speech impediment. Hashem responds, "Who is it who makes a person clear of speech or lame in speech, hearing or deaf, seeing or blind, but I myself Hashem." Hashem is explaining to Moshe that only He has the power to create people. Hashem gives each individual abilities and disabilities. It is our mission as His nation to see the value in each and every person. Hashem is teaching us that no matter what a person's talents and challenges, we must respect them and treat them kindly.

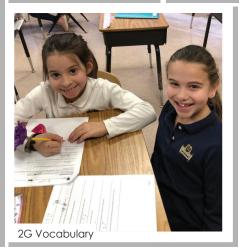
The ASHAR Girls Division works tirelessly to transmit this *middah* to our students. By modeling and reinforcing this behavior, we are confident that our girls will grow, flourish and bring much *nachas* to *Klal Yisrael*.





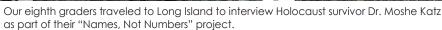


4G gets into the spirit of Adar

















Each Sunday, JJ Zoldan (4B) helps Mr. Grossman of Torah
Treasures provide seforim for people to learn Torah from.

2B celebrates with perek of Chumas

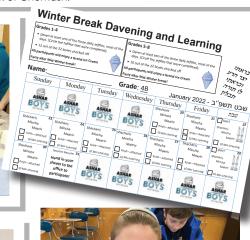


2B celebrates with dancing after a siyum on their first perek of Chumash!



The boys division received delicious banana splits for learning and davening over their mid-winter vacation. A well deserved treat for the more than 45 boys who handed back their completed learning and davening charts!

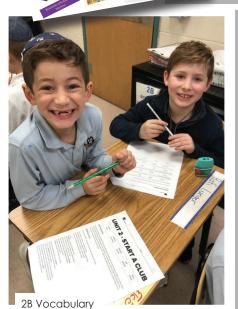




7B students are coding in

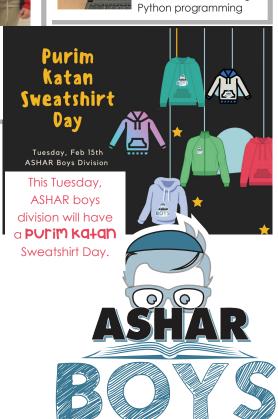












DIVISION



The third round of Torah Bowl has concluded with the girls extending their two point lead to seven points. After 60 questions on Parshas Ki Teitze and Ki Tavo, the girls have scored 43 cumulative points, followed by Hillel with 35 points and Bruriah with 34 points. The remaining four schools have 16 points or less. There is one more round to go, and the winner will represent the Division to play for the Championship. The girls team was led by Michal Benovitz, Ariela Neiman, Sophie Landau and Nava Schechter.

Mazal tov to the team and to their coach, Rabbi Chaitovsky.





Former ASHAR Coach Ken Carter was in attendance as the guest bookie at last night's basketball game. He was there to cheer on the Sharks. "I was especially impressed with the team's ability to transition so quickly from defense to offense,"

remarked Mr. Carter.



Community Wide Brochos Program

Once again, ASHAR students will partake in the annual community-wide ברכות contest called "Brochos Out Loud." The flyers will be sent home soon.

The goal of this contest is to encourage a greater awareness towards reciting סעד out loud and responding with אמן. Students are rewarded weekly with special treats and prizes.

We greatly encourage each student's active participation. In the ברכות properly, may we merit to see 'הקב"ה benevolence in helping רפואות, ישועות, וכל טוב with רפואות, ישועות, וכל טוב.

To RSVP, place an ad in the journal, or learn more, visit www.ashar.org/dinner





Fred and Francie Brinn on the birth of a granddaughter to their children Stevie (Class of '12) & Avital

Ariel Einhorn (NB) on a new baby brother

Hanna Karben (Class of '15) on her engagement to Zach Schreiber







'אדר א ◆ February 9

Wednesday's learning is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Izzy & Elizabeth Tauber

in memory of

Avraham Yechiel ben Mordechai Baruch z''l

Abraham Tauber z"l

Great-Uncle of Yisrael Tauber, Class PKC

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