

#### Menahel's Message No Easy Way Out



While opting for the path of least resistance or the proverbial "easy way out" may yield pleasant short-

term results, sustainable long-term growth is likely compromised when doing so. Growth is a process, a process that is sometimes even more critical than the ensuing result.

The late Gerrer Rebbe zt"l would point out that whereas the halacha allows any Jew to light the menorah of the Mishkan and Beis HaMikdash, only a Kohen was permitted to perform the requisite hatavaremoving the used wicks and preparing the menorah for the new lighting. Apparently, the preparatory process is more highly valued by Hashem than the actual mitzvah, and thus requires a Kohen.

In a similar vein, the Torah at the beginning of Parshas Terumah enumerates the various donations solicited towards the construction of the Mishkan in descending order of value: gold, silver, copper,

techeiles, argaman. Only at the very end, notes the Or Hachaim Hakadosh, does the Torah mention the avnei shoham and avnei miluim, precious gem stones used for the Kohen Gadol's vestments. Though clearly more monetarily valuable than most, if not all, of the preceding metals, hides, and timbers, they are intentionally listed last, for according to Chazal, these stones miraculously originated from the ananei hakavod. The earlier listed items, however, were all earned or otherwise acquired through human endeavor, and are thus more greatly valued by Hashem, regardless of price.

Acknowledge your children's accomplishments, but perhaps even more importantly, embrace and celebrate the process!

> Shabbat Shalom! - Rabbi Ari Jacobson Menahel/Dean

### Important Upcoming Events

MONDAY-THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14-17 Names, Not Numbers

interviews for Eighth Grade

THURSDAY, MARCH 3 Mother- Daughter Breakfast Sunday, March 27 **ASHAR Annual Dinner** 

SUNDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20-21 No Sessions, President's Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

**Parent Teacher Conferences** 

#### Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

It was so nice to welcome all the children back to school after winter vacation. The children returned with smiles on their faces, ready and happy to be in school. It was so how many children shared all the ways they made a

n i c e to see how many children shared all the ways they made a Kiddush Hashem over vacation! We are so proud of them.

We did not waste any time upon returning to class, and immediately delved into fun and exciting learning. ABC's, Aleph-Bet, Math, the 5 Senses, Groundhog Day, and more. The highlights of our week were learning Parsha and our Rosh Chodesh Adar Aleph assembly.

In Parsha this week, the children sat enthralled as Morah taught them about the beautiful house Hashem asked Bnei Yisrael to build for Him in the Midbar, so that we could feel close to Him! We brought this Parsha to life as the children used blocks, props, materials, animals, spices, etc. to build the Mishkan in their classrooms. The children know that the Beit Hamikdash had, and will have once again, the same keilim inside and a similar layout. The difference was that the Mishkan travelled with them, being built and taken apart, while the Beit Hamikdash was like our houses and could not be moved.

We also had so much fun at our Rosh Chodesh assembly. It all began as the children walked down the hallway and noticed the signs telling them to "leap" into the playroom where they learned about the Jewish Leap Year and the two months of Adar. We are so lucky because this year we have 2 months of Adar to celebrate B'Simcha! We learned how Hashem loves when we do Mitzvot with a smile on our face, B'Simcha! We reviewed several Mitzvot we learned about, including: making a Kiddush Hashem, making Brachot and treating each other kindly. We learned how every time we do a Mitzvah, we make Hashem proud and add another brick to the rebuilding of the Beit Hamikdash. Morah gave us each a treat from Eretz Yisrael. Each class made a bracha as the other classes answered AMEN! What amazing Mitzvah children!











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#### Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal, Girls Division

This past week, we celebrated Rosh Chodesh Adar Aleph. Adar, comes from the Hebrew word adir, which means strength. Adar is the month of good fortune for the Jewish

The Midrash tells us that when Hashem commanded Moshe to build the Mishkan he made a request: asei li kiton echad v'edor beineichem (make for me a small chamber, a mishkan, so that I may live in your midst.). The Sfas Emes explains v'edor (and I will dwell) is related to the word Adar. The very name of this month implies that Hashem is dwelling in our midst. Furthermore, all the Torah portions that we read during Adar are connected to the building of the Mishkan. It is this closeness that differentiates Adar

and is supposed to bring us tremendous joy. It is the notion of Hashem's closeness that is the greatest source of simcha.

The Girls Division celebrated Rosh Chodesh Adar Aleph with mounting simcha. We look forward to seeing continued growth from the girls as we celebrate both months of Adar.

Chodesh Tov!













people.











Rosh Chodesh Adar Pajama Day



#### How it works:





<sup>©</sup>DIVISION

- Earn Gedolim Cards from your rebbe.
- Collect Gedolim Cards to make one of the 3 sets (see below for set details).
  - You can trade with classmates for cards that you need
  - Chacham Ovadia Yosef is a wildcard. His card can be used to complete a set. Only one wildcard can be used per set.
- Trade in your sets with Rabbi Freedland or Rabbi Schwartz to earn virtual auction tickets.

BONUS: You can also earn an auction ticket by bringing in a picture of yourself with a gadol, your rav or your rebbe!

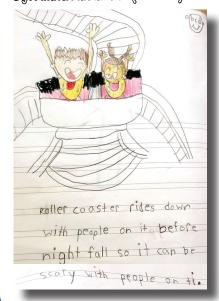
On March 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a grand auction! You will get all the tickets that you earned from your sets and be able to put in tickets to win great prizes!



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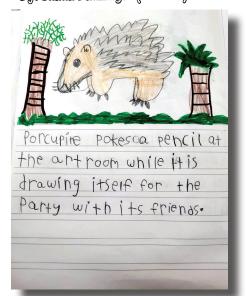


By: Ahuva Auslander (T-Class)



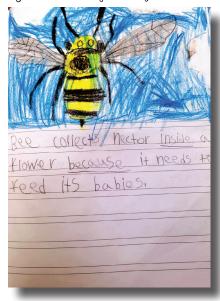


By: Chana Danzinger (T-Class)





By: Ari Zlotnick (T-Class)





Joshua Straus (NB) Ga on his new baby brother

Gabriella Teitelbaum (6G) on her Bat Mitzvah

**Eliana Korn** on her engagement to Y.Y. Trout

# Join us for ASHAR ASHAR ANNUAL DINNER



Parents of MOTTY AND MALKY SAMET



RABBI LEIBLE CHAITOVSKY

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





כ"ח שבט - ה' אדר א' → Jan<mark>uary 30 - February 6</mark>

This week's Torah learning is sponsored by the Chanie & Meir Lax

לעלוי נשמת

#### Bension ben Yakov z"l

Grandfather of Esther Lax (Class 4G)

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

ס"ו טבת - ג' שבט ◆ December 30 - January 5

This week's Torah learning is sponsored by the Pincus Family

לעלוי נשמת

### Bernard Yadlovker z"l ברוך בן יחזקא-ל ז"ל

Uncle of Miriam (Class of '10), Avi (Class of '11) & Rocky (Class of '12) Pincus

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

