

Menahel's Message "Happy New Year! (Trees and People)"



Though technically merely an annual cut-off date for requisite tithes- terumos u'ma'asros- Tu

B'Shevat is universally embraced as a celebration of Hashem's bounty generally and the berachos of the Land of Israel in particular. Whether in yeshivos or at Tu B'Shevat sedarim of Sephardic origin, the day has come to mark agricultural rebirth and renewal.

The saintly Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev goes a step further: "Ki ha'adam eitz ha'sadeh." The Torah in Parshas Shoftim likens man to a tree for many reasons (hence the upsherin custom of waiting three years for a boy's first haircut, just like orlah), not least of which is a shared ability to subtly rejuvenate. According to R. Yehoshua in Maseches Rosh Hashana, man was created

on Rosh Chodesh Nissan. The 15th of Shevat, 40 days prior, thus represents the traditional 40 days of conception- arbaim yom kodem yetziras ha'velad. Like a tree in winter, there are no external signs of life, but beneath the surface, processes that will eventually yield beautiful fruit are well underway.

As parents and teachers of nearly perfect children, we sometimes become frustrated. Rosh Hashana L'llanos reminds us to be patient and try to appreciate the very subtle growth processes that will ultimately culminate in beautiful peiros.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy Tu B'Shevat! - Rabbi Ari Jacobson

Menahel/Dean

Important Upcoming Events

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 31
Sessions Resume

SUNDAY-MONDAY, February 20-21

Presidents Day- No Sessions

Sunday, March 27 **ASHAR Annual Dinner**



Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen
Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

The Early Childhood Family would like to wish everyone a wonderful, relaxing and safe winter vacation. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on

Monday, January 31st.

Even though it was a short week of school, it was quite busy! Our Nursery children enjoyed a wonderful Mommy & Me program with Morah Malky. The mommies enjoyed participating in the children's weekly gym class. They also had fun making a special edible Tu B'Shvat plant in class! YUM!

Our PreK children put on the most beautiful Brachot Play for their parents! The children sang and performed so beautifully. They were just adorable in their costumes. They then created their own imaginary trees with their parents. Yasher Koach to all!

On Wednesday, Morah and Mitzvah Man met with the children to wish everyone a happy and safe vacation. We also discussed how important it is for us to make a "Kiddush Hashem" and show everyone how nicely Jewish children behave. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we will behave nicely and respectfully, and will make Hashem (and our parents) proud of us! We read a wonderful story to help us understand this important Mitzvah, "I Can Make a Kiddush Hashem" by Sara Blau. Over vacation, please record details of how your child made a Kiddush Hashem. Please send the paper back to school after the break. I will read them aloud to the rest of the Yeladim!

PreK Brachot Play

































ASHAR









Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal, Girls Division

The Torah tells us. "כי אדם עץ השדה", man is compared to a tree in the field. Trees were created to benefit others. Their wood is used for building. Their leaves give us oxygen. They produce fruit to eat. So too, man is created to do chesed and be kind to others. Trees are always growing. Jews are constantly growing, striving to greater spiritual heights. Trees are well-rooted and can weather many storms. Jews are well-rooted in their emunah and can weather the many challenges that they face.

Hashem loves His precious garden. He waters it with his love and affection. He nurtures it with his warmth and protection and makes sure to watch over the fruits it produces. May we always receive these special *brachos* from Hashem and may our roots and branches blossom for generations.





MC Millman from Monsey Mevaser presents interviewing techniques to our eighth graders as part of Names, Not Numbers.



We love to hear your feedback! Nachas Notes

6 Hi Mrs Seltzer.

I want to thank you very much for all that you taught *Miriam* (Class of '21) in Science. She is now in high school and finding science so easy because of all that she learned from you during her years at ASHAR. Much of what they are learning now, she already knows! We are so appreciative of all that you taught her.

Have a great year and we hope that your students realize how very lucky they are!













After learning Hilchos Tzitzis with Rabbi Bendrihem, the sixth grade boys worked on making their own tzitzis.















2B Science activity finding solids in classroom





hat we Are Writing

Murder on the Orient Express!

By: Michal Benovitz (86)



Beautified by its historical value, sightseeing attractions, and unique museums, Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, definitely earns a spot on my to go list. Zagreb also served as a stop on the Orient Express. During this short stay passengers would disembark, and attend various exhibitions held in Zagreb. One main destination tourists enjoy visiting would be

the variety of galleries and museums Zagreb has to offer. These range from the Museum of Broken Relationships to the Images of War - Photography Museum. Zagreb also holds a rich history dating back to the Romans. The name "Zagreb" was first used in 1094 at the founding of the Zagreb diocese, and the name has stuck ever since. Zagreb's incredible scenery, colorful history, and blossoming future makes it stand out amongst the stops on the Orient Express.

One thing that makes the Zagreb experience extra distinctive is the cultural mix of history and modern-day life. Zagreb has the historic factor of having numerous buildings over 900 years old, while also being a central point for modern means of transportation. Zagreb is also home to the most lively outdoor markets in all of Europe. By attending one of these markets visitors have stated, "The place gave you a real authentic feel for the area." These markets are full of small home run businesses attempting to make a profit. The atmosphere at these events perfectly explains Zagreb as the community it is. Zagreb's mix of old and new, as well as its unforgettable culture, sums up the experience most tourists undergo.

Another remarkable adventure to be endured during one's stay in Zagreb would be to tour a couple of its many museums. In addition to the more common exhibits, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb is also home to some rarer galleries. One example would be the Museum of Broken Relationships. In the Museum of Broken Relationships visitors are taken on a journey through hundreds of emotional breakups, with significant items representing hardship and inner trauma. Each item is given a small plaque on which the tale of the breakup is depicted anonymously. Another interesting museum located in Zagreb would be the Images of War

- Photography Museum. This museum displays real photos capturing the essence of the tragedies war brings on. The Images of War - Photography Museum's goal is to "preserve the past", "influence the present", and "change the future." This museum exhibits pictures from the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Zagreb has many world known attractions, but some of the most popular ones will have to be their engaging museums.

Zagreb has overcome many challenges, economic, political, and social issues over the years, in order to become the blossoming city it is today. Very little is known about Zagreb's very early history, but researchers do infer that during the 8th or 9th century, the Slavs may have built churches and forts on the two hills where Zagreb is located. In 1094 Ladislas, a Hungarian King, established the Zagreb diocese upon one of the hills and began a settlement. In 1242 Mongols invaded, leaving a devastated Zagreb behind. Eventually, once the Mongols cleared out, they left behind a trail of destruction for the Zagreb citizens to clean up. During the 14th and 15th centuries the two hills making up Zagreb had a series of arguments, only unifying for the purpose of saving the economy. In the mid 15th century Zagreb began to fall into the hands of Turkey. By the 16th century Zagreb was clearly established as the capital of Croatia; unfortunately almost the entire country was in Turkey's control. For a brief period in the 18th century the capital moved from Zagreb to Varazdin. During the mid 19th century Zagreb's economy truly began to blossom, theaters opened, universities started, and transportation took off. By the early 20th century Zagreb had over 100 industrial companies, really making a demonstration for how far they've come. During World War Two western Croatia was conquered by German forces. From 1945 until 1991 Croatia was part of Yugoslavia. In 1991 Croatia declared independence, and officially named Zagreb its capital. Clearly, Zagreb and Croatia have endured a lot of major events throughout their history, and yet have still managed to come out the other end with a thriving country.

Zagreb's intense history and memorable sights continue to wow tourists seeking a unique experience. Many aspects of Zagreb's environment are responsible for this, but the many museums are definitely a leading quality. Another reason travelers would take a stop to tour Zagreb would be for the exposure to Croatia's rich history. On top of that, Croatia is known for its beautiful scenery and pristine beaches. Zagreb's varius attractions make it a great place to visit for many people with different interests. Zagreb's fascinating displays earn it its well deserved stop on the Orient Express.



The 8th Grade Boys Varsity Basketball Team took the win Sunday Jan 9th at WTA in New Rochelle. Under the guidance of their Coach Bill Shaw the ASHAR Sharks took a bite out of WTA....winning 35-21. Shout out to the entire team...Ari Frankel, Noey Taub, Ari Blachorsky, Ezzie Hamburger, Ezra Katz, Dovy Schreiber, Azi Samet, Yehuda Taub, Gavriel Laster, Rafael Zimerman, Shmuel Monczyk, Ephraim Jacobson and Moshe Baitz. You played as a team.... you win as a team!!!!!!













ASHAR PTA had another sucessful tzedaka collection this week. Thank you to all the parents and students who contributed!



Devorah Gross (6G) on her Bat Mitzvah

Pearl Sabel (6G) on her Bat Mitzvah

Mark and Elissa Rothman Brodsky (Class of '80) on the marriage of their daughter Tamar to Efraim Klecky.

PARHIES DICHTEOUT















י"ז שבט ◆ January 19

כ"ה שבט Yahrzeit

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

Mordechai Baruch ben Yechiel z"l Manfred Tauber z"l

Great-Grandfather of Yisrael Tauber, Class PKC

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

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י"ב שבט → January 14

Friday's learning is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Izzy & Elizabeth Tauber in memory of

Tirtza Risa bat Ephraim Fishel a"h Theresa Dashiff a"h

Great-Grandmother of Yisrael Tauber, Class PKC

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

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ט"ו שבט ◆ January 17

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

שמואל יעקב בן אברהם יצחק

Great Grandfather of

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

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



SAVE THE DATE



ASHAR ANNUAL DINNER