



# ASHREINews

## Menahel's Message "The Surest Thing"



Most of us are familiar with Chazal's account of Matan Torah, in which Hashem offered the Torah to several other nations. Each refused for various reasons, while B'nei Yisrael enthusiastically accepted with a resounding *naa'seh v'nishma*.

Somewhat less famous is what happened next: According to the Midrash, Hashem then demanded guarantors. Who is going to ensure the continued observance of Torah? B'nei Yisrael offered the Avos and Imahos- Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel and Leah- as cosigners; Hashem refused. They then suggested the Nevi'im- Prophets of the generations- and were again rebuffed. "Who else can we summon," wondered the Children of Israel. "How can we possibly find more trustworthy guarantors than our Patriarchs and Prophets?" And then it dawned upon them: Hashem was not looking to the past but towards the future. "We'll offer our children as guarantors," cried B'nei Yisrael. Only then did Hashem finally agree to give the Torah, for, as the Midrash concludes: "אלו ערבאין עבין" - these are indeed the true guarantors of our Torah and nation.

Children are not only our most precious personal gift from G-d, but also

our most valuable national resource. Rav Yosef Kahaneman zt"l, the late Ponevezher Rav, would note that while a child is orphaned upon losing his parents רח"ל, a nation is orphaned upon losing her children. All of us are pulled in so many directions individually; Matan Torah reminds us that we have to make time for our children, and after doing so, then make more time. The Jewish community is likewise collectively besieged by so many worthy causes and critical challenges; Matan Torah mandates that priority must always be assigned to those causes most directly relevant to our children, Am Yisrael's eternal guarantors.

**Shabbat Shalom!**

**-Rabbi Ari Jacobson**  
Menahel/Dean



**Claim in the front office**



To sponsor a day visit [www.ashar.org/parnas](http://www.ashar.org/parnas)

Monday, February 6th Torah learning  
was sponsored by  
Reuven and Libby Goldberg

Wednesday, February 8th Torah learning  
was sponsored by  
The O'Brien, Spaeth, Shollar, Israel,  
Shinensky and Nagel families

## Important Upcoming Events

SUNDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19-20  
**No Sessions** Presidents Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21  
**Mother Daughter Breakfast** 4G-8G

MONDAY, MARCH 6  
**Ta'anit Esther**  
Friday Dismissal: There is busing  
**Grades N-PK**, 1:30 pm (in the back)  
**Grades K-8**, 1:45 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 7  
**No Sessions** Purim

SUNDAY, MARCH 12  
**Parent Teacher Conferences**  
Grades N-8

Please look out for **bus forms** that were sent home and mailed. They require immediate attention for grades K-8. Students who will be **5 years old by December 1, 2023** are eligible for bus transportation from the school district in which they reside. Please be aware that as per East Ramapo, **ASHAR is no longer involved** in collecting and submitting these forms. **The deadline** for these forms is **April 1, 2023**.







## Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal, Early Childhood and First Grade

Our PreK children put on the most beautiful Brachot Play for their parents this week! The children entertained us with a lovely array of songs about Tu B'Shevat and the brachot they have been learning all about. They sang and performed so beautifully, and were just adorable in their costumes. The children and parents then enjoyed a hands-on fair during which they participated in an activity for each of the brachot. Thank you to the 5th grade girls for assisting at the different bracha stations. Fun was had by all who participated. Yasher Koach!



### Tu B'Shevat



### Aleph Bet



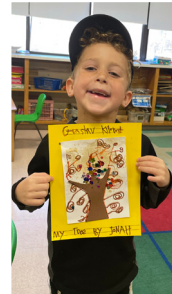
### Centers



### Art



Kindergarten artist portfolio-Gustav Klimt



### Math

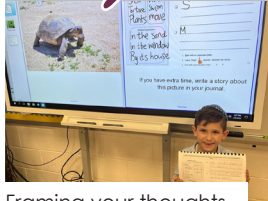


### Shapes



Nursery- learning shapes

### First Grade



Framing your thoughts

### Parsha



Dramatizing Parshat Beshalach



Nursery made bird feeders to thank the birds for Shabbos Shira

### PreK Brachot Play







## Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal, Girls Division



*How do you teach events that defy knowledge, experiences that go beyond imagination? How do you tell children, big and small, that society could lose its mind and start murdering its own soul and its own future? How do you unveil horrors without offering at the same time some measure of hope? Hope in what? In whom? In progress, in science and literature and God?*

- Elie Wiesel

As part of the Names, Not Numbers program, this week, our eighth graders interviewed six Holocaust survivors. First person accounts by survivors find a dimension in Holocaust study not found in any other form. Hearing a story that was lived, as opposed to reading it in a book, deeply touches children. In the past, reflection essays written after the interviews emotionally expressed the very personal impact the combined experience had on them and the life-long lessons they learned about faith, hope, and resilience.

We are excited about giving our eighth graders this opportunity and are confident that the skills developed and the knowledge acquired will undoubtedly last a lifetime.



8G with Holocaust Survivor Marlit Wandel



Names, Not Numbers Emunah session



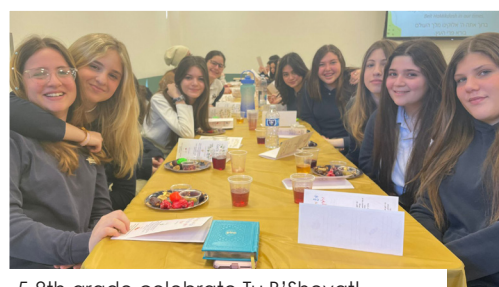
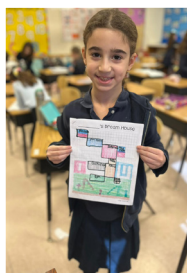
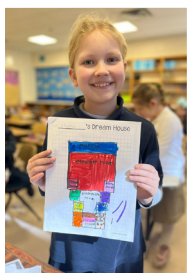
8G created the backdrop for the NNN film



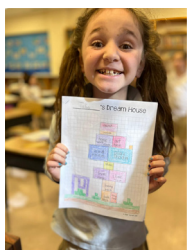
8G with Holocaust Survivor Helen Rubin



Filming techniques session for NNN



5-8th grade celebrate Tu B'Shevat!



3G area- dream house project in math



1st-4th grade celebrate Tu B'Shevat!





8B Getting ready to interview Holocaust survivor Samuel Gross



Filming techniques session for NNN



## Our minyanaires

ASHAR's Minyanaire program incentivizes our boys to daven with a minyan. Each week there is an honor roll system for our top daveners.

6B

Davidi Balouka  
Yoel Bando  
Ari Herschmann  
Yonatan Judkin  
Aryeh Katz  
Liran Kenig  
Akiva Malool  
Yonah Markowitz  
Moshe Steinberger

7B

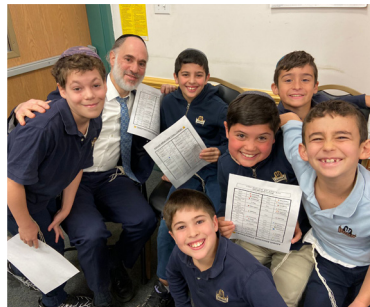
Eliezer Adams  
Raphael Fleischer  
Daniel Frankel  
Yisroel Kaller  
Yisrael Levin  
Eliyahu Machlis  
Yitzi Safier  
Daniel Sanik  
Chaim Schuh  
Daniel Sorotzkin

8B

Moshe Abboudi  
Yakov Baitz  
Benjamin Guy  
Shney Hecht  
Albert Korn  
Baruch Joseph  
Kushner  
Gavi Lerer  
Ezra Markowitz  
Shlomo Reifer  
Chanan Seltzer  
Gavi Weinstein  
Aharon Yaniv



1B-4B and 5B-8B memorizing brachos followed by a Kahoot competition. Then they finished their Tu B'Shevat off with a special treat of Luigi's fruit ices.

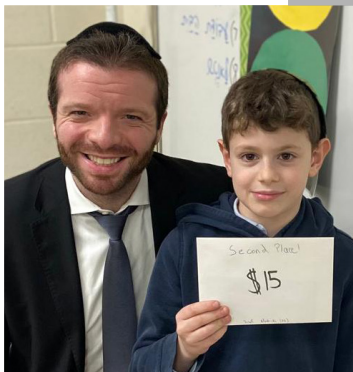


Daven with a MINYAN

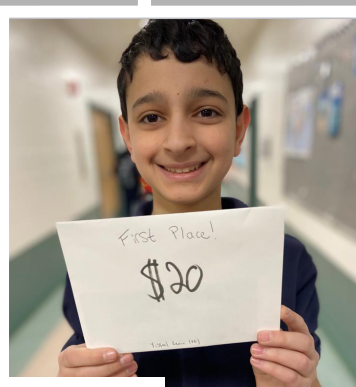
This month's Middle School Minyanaires!

### ASHAR Masmidim Update

Our sixth to eighth grade boys after-school mas-midim are learning up a storm!  
There are still some spots available. Please email [rabbijacobson@ashar.org](mailto:rabbijacobson@ashar.org) to sign up.



Tu B'Shevat Kahoot Brachos Challenge Winners!





# What We Are Writing

## Should kids have gym class everyday of the week?



By: Mazal Schwartz (4G)



There are many reasons why kids should have gym class every day but these are my reasons why. One reason is it helps build sportsmanship, friendship, and teamwork. Another reason is it's healthy for the body! For example, it helps with anxiety and stress. After a good run, you feel calmer! Lastly, it's super fun! You get to play fun games! Clearly, kids more likely need to have gym class every day.

By: Rachel Hershkowitz (4G)



There are many reasons why students need more P.E. in school. Here are a few of them. To begin with, it's not healthy to just sit at a desk all day. When you sit at a desk all day, you become lazy and tired and of course you don't have enough energy in your body. In addition, it teaches you that it is okay to lose because in the gym you are sometimes on teams, and only one team will win and it might not be you. Most importantly, it teaches

you how to play on a team. For example, when you play soccer, you have to kick the ball to your teammate so you can win. As you can see, having gym five days a week is important for kids!

By: Leah Advocat (4G)



I don't think kids should have Physical Education everyday and here are my reasons. First of all, having PE every day means that we might not be able to have recess, math, writing, social studies, etc. We also need a learning education, and we wouldn't be getting a lot of that if we had PE every day. In addition, in some schools PE is longer and kids get very tired. They can get distracted because they're so tired and they won't be able to learn.

Most importantly, the whole school will be having PE every day, and the PE teacher will be teaching class after class. That's not fair for the PE teacher, and everyone else because no one will be getting a break.

All in all, having Physical Education every day is torture for everyone.

By: Suri Elbaum (4G)



There are many different kinds of classes but physical education is my favorite, and one that kids should have every day. Here are the reasons why. To begin with, kids need lots of exercise. In general, kids are couch potatoes these days. With physical education every day, we could crank up the exercise. Moreover, the teachers need PE time, too. Teachers could use that time to grade tests or plan their next lesson. To explain, teachers lose

hours of their sleep time grading tests. Then, they wake up early to plan their lessons. Third, kids get very bored in class. PE is lively and fun, while in general, class is boring. PE has lots of games. It's like a semi-recess. In conclusion, kids should have physical education every day.

By: Gitty Kaller (4G)



I think kids shouldn't have gym every day. First of all, I get really exhausted in gym. For example my legs and arms start to hurt. Another thing is some people say it helps them concentrate, but for me I can't concentrate after gym. If I can't concentrate, I can't learn. Finally, I also run at recess, I play on the monkey bars and play tag. I think I get enough exercise then. As you can see, there are many reasons why I think we shouldn't have gym every day.





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**3-19-23** 6:00 PM

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Chaim & Nechama Friedman

*Teacher of the Year*  
Florence Zelcer

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# Happy Purim!

FROM THE ASHAR PTA

## Send Mishloach Manot to the entire ASHAR Administration & Staff

\$54 - I am a current ASHAR Family

\$18 - I am a Current ASHAR Staff Member

\$72 - Alumni / Non-Current Family

[ashar.org/purim](http://ashar.org/purim)

**POMONA**  
Fitness Studio

## Fitness made fun!

**Groups forming now!**

**Ages 3/4 Hop n' pop**

**Age 5-7 Hop n' pop**

**Ages 3-5 Calming Corner yoga**

**Age 8-10 Girls Just Dance**

**Ages 7-11 Boys Boot Camp**

**Space Limited!**

*Starting week of  
February 26th!*

**To register and for more details please contact:**

**Nofar: 845-327-0616**

**Yudit: 845-548-6758**

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