



ASHREINews

Enjoy your



WINTER
BREAK



Menahel's Message Looking Out for Number One?

s o n s ,

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: "מאשר שמינה לחמו". For Asher, explains the Alshich Hakadosh, plentiful bread was apparently more than adequate. Yet note the same verse's concluding words: "והוא יתן מעדני מלך" – "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 matzos, *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 – 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



Chesed Month at ASHAR Ends With a Flourish

By M.C. Millman from The Rockland Daily

ASHAR's schoolwide Month of Chesed drew to an inspirational close with the delivery of the results of the annual Cans for Chesed Drive.

The cans created a fierce schoolwide competition as each class vied for the privilege of collecting the largest number of donations to benefit Tomche Shabbos.

The cans were used to create Chanukah sculptures before being boxed, loaded, and trucked to the Tomche Shabbos warehouse.

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Mazel Tov to our class winners for collecting the most cans!

KA, 3B and 6G!

Important Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
PTA Movie Night 6:30 PM

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 12-22
Mid-Winter Break No Sessions

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
Sessions Resume



We have a tissue issue! Please restock your children's backpacks with tissues. Thank you!

Monday, January 2nd Torah learning
was sponsored by
Mark and Jacqueline Berkowitz

Sunday, January 8th Torah learning
is sponsored by
Reuven and Libby Goldberg

To sponsor a day visit www.ashar.org/parnas

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Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

Our Early Childhood family celebrated the completion of the first book of the Torah, Sefer Bereishit, with a wonderful Siyum on Grandparents Day. We gathered in the gym where there were 12 stations, one station for each Parsha. We began with a video of our children welcoming their grandparents and giving Divrei Torah. The grandparents and children then visited each station where there were wonderful hands-on activities for the children to complete, each station related to its specific Parsha. Mazel Tov to all of the children and grandparents!

חוקי, מוסדות ומוצאות

Thank you to the Morahs and 8th grade girls who supervised the stations.

Thank you to all who attended, participated and helped make this program a huge success! Please enjoy the recap video here <https://youtu.be/g53HwM58NHM>

Siyum Sefer Bereishit - Grandparents Day



1st Grade



1st grade boys & girls went on a trip to Finkelstein Memorial Library. All of the children got library cards & took books home.



Mazel Tov, first graders, on receiving your siddurim!



ASHAR GIRLS

DIVISION

Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal, Girls Division



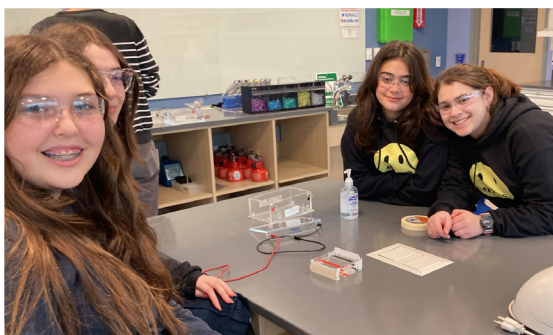
This Shabbos, we will read *Parshas VaYechi*, the last parsha in *Sefer Bereishis*. Shuls throughout the world will follow the widespread custom of calling out "Chazak chazak venitchazeik"

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.

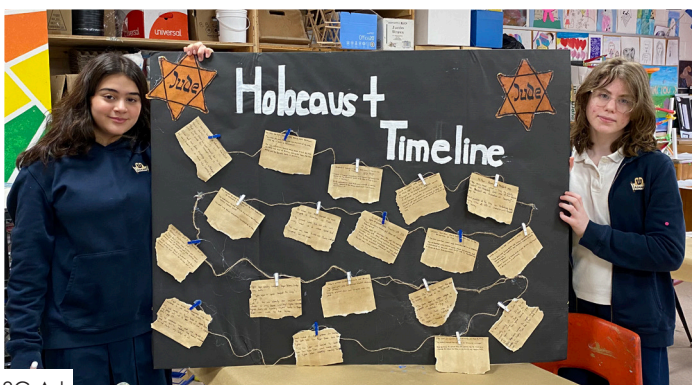
This past week was full of excitement as many of our girls' classes celebrated *siyumim* on *Sefer Bereishis*. May the Torah that the girls have learned bring them much strength as they continue to learn and grow. **Mazel Toy!**



8G visited the Regeneron DNA Lab, where they learned about fingerprinting by using electrophoresis to separate DNA from crime scene evidence.



4G wrote, illustrated and shared Chanukah stories with 1G-3G



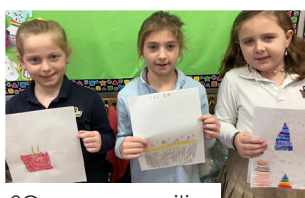
8G Art



2G Math



2nd grade fun winter day



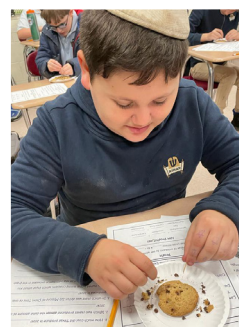
2G sequence writing



3G saying tehillim



8B visited the Regeneron DNA Lab, where they learned about fingerprinting by using electrophoresis to separate DNA from crime scene evidence.



5B did a pretend coal mining activity as part of their natural resources unit in social studies



3rd Round of Minyanaires - Middle School boys who were exceptional daveners over the course of the past few weeks



2B enjoys a pizza party for their siyum on a perek in Chumash



Chanukah Matnas Shabbos for 2B - 4B



3B presents their Chanukah dioramas



4B Art



What We Are Writing

Antisemitism Op-Ed

By: Rana Boss (8G)



The Holocaust, the merciless genocide of six million Jews, is unfortunately one of the many historic events that resulted in the terrorization and humiliation of Jews. Antisemitism has been alive and raging for more than 3,000 years; however, in recent years, acts of antisemitism have dramatically increased all over the world. How do we educate Neo-Nazis? The non-believers? The 12% of people who can't identify

what the Holocaust was? There's one obvious but crucial question: how do we diminish a whole belief system before the world erupts into meaningless hatred? I believe the answer lies in education, truth, and empathy. It is our job to prevent antisemitism from continuing to rise and stop people from believing the fallacies that are spread about the Jews.

Part of educating people about antisemitism requires understanding what antisemitism and Holocaust denial look like in the first place. In December of 2020, a white supremacist stood in our nation's capital wearing a shirt representing The Proud Boys Organization, an antisemitic and racist cult who are loud and firm in their beliefs. The shirt displayed 6MWE across his chest, essentially stating six million weren't enough, a manifestation of the extreme hatred that signifies antisemitism. Gavin McInnes, an iniquitous far-right activist, is the mastermind behind this horrid cult. In 2017, he filmed a video in The Holy Land, saying, "I felt myself defending the super far-right Nazis just because I was sick of so much brainwashing and I felt like going, 'Well, they never said it didn't happen. What they're saying is it was much less than 6 million and that they starved to death and weren't gassed, that they didn't have supplies.'" What Holocaust deniers believe is that gas chambers weren't used as a weapon, the only horrendous thing that happened was starving to death, and much more. Pictures, records, and videos prove the Holocaust did happen, so deniers twist the events and make it less than it was, and this tactic manipulates the world into believing their lies. This is dramatically more dangerous than completely denying the Holocaust, so it needs to be stopped now. There is one thing worse than the Holocaust being denied, and that's belittling it; Holocaust deniers often use this tactic to convince others to deny the truth. The way to combat this form of antisemitism is educating people about the truth.

Holocaust deniers walk the streets, sometimes hiding their antisemitism and other times wearing antisemitic shirts, or unfortunately increasingly lately protesting, injuring, and even shooting. However, there are some antisemites who are more powerful than the rest, and can influence others drastically. As the world becomes more futuristic and it evolves, celebrities and social media influencers tend to have a significant influence on what others believe and how they act.

Kanye West, now known as Yitler, admitted his love for the masochistic Adolf Hitler. Why does this matter: he's one man? He's one man who has millions of followers and can change the mindset of way too many people. Former president Trump hosted a white supremacist and Holocaust denier at his house, which also influences millions and millions of people. Lastly, basketball star Kyrie Irving promotes antisemitic films. Think of all of his fans, what will they think? As more powerful people come out with their hatred against the Jews, the more the world turns on them, and hatred engulfs the world.

This is just one example of the many instances of increasing antisemitism in the past five years, and it needs to be stopped. And stopped soon. And before it's too late and the entire world is utterly brainwashed. Educating antisemites, Neo-Nazis, or Holocaust deniers about the Holocaust is so important for reasons that are too many to count. The Holocaust needs to be taught and not only within the Jewish community, but worldwide. Not only will the Jews fight, but everyone who is educated will. That is why education of the Holocaust is crucial for the existence of the world.

Antisemitic violence, along with antisemitic statements, has been on the rise. In 2018, a white supremacist entered a synagogue screaming that the Jews must die, started shooting and killed 11 people. In 2019, an extremist posted on Passover an extremely antisemitic comment before killing a congregant in a Chabad synagogue. On the holiest day of the year, a gunman attempted to enter a synagogue, but failed so he killed two people on the street instead. These are just a few of the most major and violent results of antisemitism.

The Jews make up 0.2% of the world; however, this doesn't mean that just because we are smaller than most, we are weak. No, this makes us more powerful. The Holocaust shouldn't only be taught within Jewish schools, it needs to be spread globally. Educators need to include the Holocaust and results of antisemitism in their classes, people need to stand up for anyone who may be a victim of racism, and government officials need to be proven wrong and humbled. One way to spread awareness is through campaigns and signs conducted by students, Jewish or not.

The truth is only shown to the ones who will let themselves see. As I walked through the narrow streets of Hungary, I watched the citizens walk around peacefully. I looked at the vandalized buildings that were refurbished on top of the ghetto, I saw bolted signs on the walls of synagogues, and occasionally individuals would stop to look at the sign. How does antisemitism and racism end? Where does it end? What point does it have to get to for people to realize that it's gone too far? There shouldn't have to be a point, but since it's already existent, the world needs to use the good side of Hungary as an example. Seeing signs that raise awareness about the terrors that Hitler conducted and the results of antisemitism, slowly convince me the world might be slightly improving. Although people take pictures of these signs, remnants of the ghetto, or memorial sights, it's kept in one place, but it needs to be spread. Spread to Kanye West, Kyrie Irving, Trump, and Nick Fuentes, and the entire world.

Chesed Month at ASHAR Ends With a Flourish

Cont. from page 1

Other Chesed Month initiatives included the girls in middle school paying a visit to the warehouse. There, they were met by Alan Rosenstock, director of Tomche Shabbos, who shared some words of inspiration before the girls proceeded to pack boxes of fresh bakery donuts into individual containers for Tomche Shabbos families to enjoy on Chanukah.

"Chesed is something we focus on every year for an entire month," Debby Jacobson shares, "because the lessons our students absorb are so powerful, they last a lifetime."

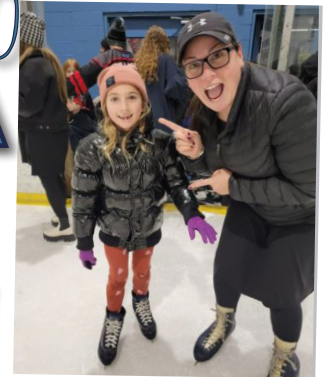


6B loads up the Tomchei Shabbos truck with all the boxes of cans

1-4G made chanukah sculptures out of the cans for chesed.



THANK YOU TO
ASHAR PTA
FOR THE FUN
ICE SKATING
EVENT



THE ANNUAL ASHAR PTA

\$5 per skater
Max \$20 per family
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ICE SKATING EVENT

Questions/
Sponsorship
Opportunities:
pta@ashar.org

Motzei Shabbos
Dec 31, 2022
6:30pm-8:30pm

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

Pizza & Drinks Available
at the event for purchase
While Supplies Last
Preorder Pizza now: ashar.org/ice

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE GUIDELINES



The background of the poster is a vibrant scene from the movie Rio. It features several characters: a red macaw (Jewel) on the left, a yellow canary (Spike) below her, a blue parrot (Nico) on the left side, a grey toucan (Tico) on the right, and a bulldog (Duke) in the foreground wearing a blue cape and a crown of fruit. The word "Rio" is written in large, stylized letters across the top. Confetti is scattered throughout the scene.

**ASHAR PTA
PRESENTS**

Rio

KIDS MOVIE NIGHT

COME IN YOUR PJ's!
BRING A PILLOW
& BLANKET!

**THIS
SATURDAY
NIGHT!**

Sat. Night Jan. 7, 2023

6:30 PM

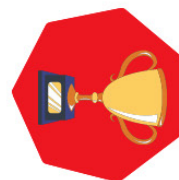
FREE EVENT

SNACKS & DRINKS PROVIDED

Nursery-4th grade

(A parent must accompany their children)

For sponsorship opportunity, email pta@ashar.org



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monseyswimschool.com



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Early bird special ends February 5th, 2023



Upcoming GAMES

Girls Basketball

Tuesday, 1/10/23
5:45 PM
Golda Och@ASHAR

Varsity 8th Boys Basketball

Sunday, 1/8/23
12:30 PM
Hillel@ASHAR



**The Eighth Grade Boys Varsity
Basketball team wins 37-29!**

Mazel Tov!

Mrs. Ora Koenig
on the engagement of her son Tzvi

Esther (5G) and Liba (4G) Lax
on the birth of a brother