



Parshas Ki Savo



6B Hascholas Gemora Breakfast

School Hours are continuing Monday-Friday at
9:00 am–2:30 pm
with Middle School Shacharis at 8:10 am for students only
until further notice

Important Dates

Sunday, Sept. 6: No School

Monday, Sept. 7: No School

Sunday, Sept. 13: 8:00 am Gr. 5-8 Minyan
with Selichos (class until 11:45 am)

*Thank you for supporting
Torah Academy!*

A Torah Thought from Rabbi Idstein

This week's Torah portion, Ki Savo, speaks to the Klal Yisroel of the blessings they would enjoy for their observance of the commandments and the curses they would endure for their failure. The posuk in Perek 28:13, says the following blessing: "You shall be only above and you shall not be below."

The Kotzker Rebbe zt"l, interprets the posuk as follows: HaShem created a ladder from which the souls of the upper world would descend to the world below into the bodies of human beings. No sooner do the souls descend than the ladder from above is removed. From Heaven the call goes forth to the souls: "Return, return!!" The souls, heeding the call, desire to return, but alas, there is no ladder.

Three groups of souls emerge. One group, observing there is no ladder, gives up immediately in its quest to return Above. The second group is more tenacious and jumps Heavenward repeatedly in an attempt to go back to its roots Above. However, with time, it too succumbs to its earthly abode below, acclimating itself to its new environment. The third group remains determined to soar Heavenward and return to its place of origin. With every failure, it regroups with new vigor and strength. What distinguishes this group is that it continues to hear the Heavenly voice from Above, "Return, return!!" unabated. Eventually, HaShem Himself turns to this third group and lifts it up. As the Chazal say, "One who comes to purify himself is divinely assisted." Heavenly assistance is commensurate with the

measure of the desire and sincerity we exhibit in our effort to return to our spiritual roots. HaShem lifts, "with both hands," those whose will it is to meet the challenge and go forth. With assistance from Above, there is no limit to our capacity for growth and ultimate success. Ours is but to do, and HaShem will do the rest.

This, then, is the meaning of the blessing "You shall be only above and you shall not be below." Our aspirations should always be Heavenward, never complacent and acclimated to those values which are below.

How apropos this thought is having started school for the first time in almost six months! The administration, staff, parents, and students of Torah Academy heard the call "return, return." It took a herculean effort of so many people. It took many people to come to terms with the many different ideas and concepts. It took creativity and ingenuity to come up with alternate plan after alternate plan. On a daily basis, it takes perseverance and mutual respect. But all the stakeholders were determined, and nothing could get in their way. B"H we made it. School has started and iy"H will continue. HaShem has helped us in so many ways and will continue to do so.

She'hechiyanu, V'ki'yimanu, V'hige'yanu
LaZman Haze!

שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה...
Have a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Idstein



Torah Tot 2 year olds on the 1st day of school.



3B taking a "mask break" in our outdoor classroom.

Back to School Night has been postponed

Watch for the new date & details!

THE LEARNING ON TUESDAY, 19 ELUL, IS SPONSORED
IN MEMORY OF BUBBY TYBIE ROBERTS
BY HER GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

We get emails....

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Rabbi Idstein; Matt Cleary; Yerucham Prero; Joshua Borenstein
Subject: Thank you!

Thank you for a great first day! From a teacher and parent perspective we see how much went into planning and preparing for this day. My kids all had a great first day. May the year continue smoothly.

Thank you again for your sleepless summer!

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:09 PM
To: Rabbi Idstein
Subject: thank you

Thank you for all the tremendous amount of work you put in to get school started. The kids all had a wonderful first day of school, from Torah Tots all the way through 7th grade!

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:36 PM
To: Rabbi Idstein; Yerucham Prero; Joshua Borenstein; Matt Cleary
Subject: Thank you!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR AN AMAZING FIRST DAY!!!! We can't thank Torah Academy enough for everything that went into making today possible! All of the research, planning, meetings, and preparations are truly appreciated! It was so amazing to see our children in their uniforms once again and to have them have a completely different level of appreciation for the simple ability of going to school. The staff made everything go as smooth as can be and were all very sensitive to the children's adjustment to the new procedures. A big thank you as well to all those involved in the extra cleaning tasks!

All the best,

Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:51 PM
To: Rabbi Idstein
Subject: Re: Wow! What a first day it was!

Thank you very much for the thousands of hours that went into opening school! I can already see a difference in the kids now that they have structure back! They are (mostly!) happy to be back in school!

It should be a healthy and productive year iyH!

Have you filled out the **2020 U.S. Census yet?**
Visit agudah.org/census for more information about the US Census and to hear short messages from various community leaders and activists about why it's very important for **everyone** to fill out the census.

The Skapino Family wants to **THANK** all those who helped us make a beautiful Sheva Brachos for our children Meir and Tehila.



We had beautiful weather for the four Open Houses held by grade level.



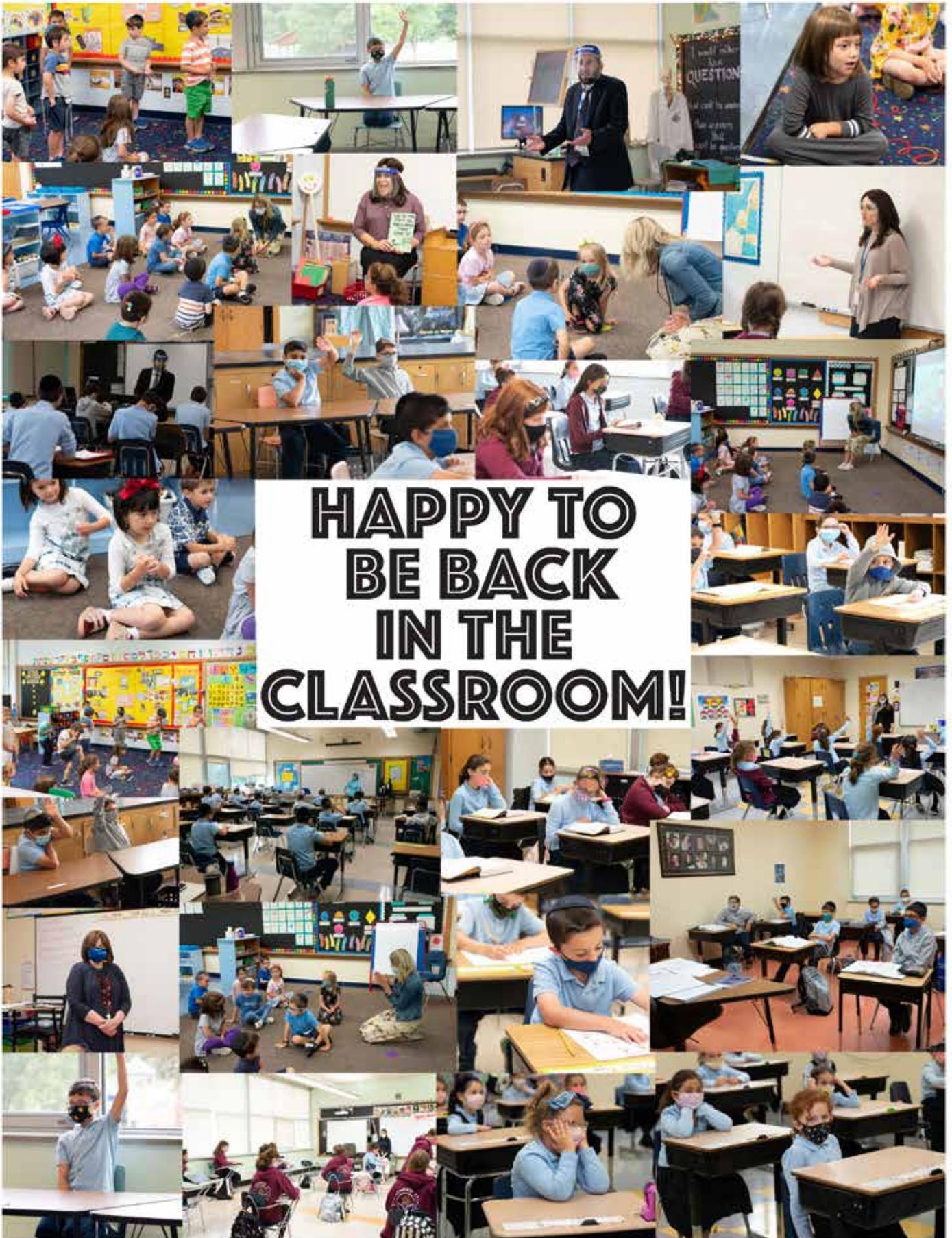
This bulletin board is the key to seeing what the staff members really look like (without a mask)!

Jewish Kings

The 8th grade girls are embarking on a journey through Sefer Melochim Alef with Mrs. Greenberg, learning about the מלכי ישראל—the Jewish kings. What defines a king? Who is eligible for מלוכה? A true king is one who is על עצמו מלך—he rules over himself. He wears the crown of Yiras Shamayim and isn't swayed by his יצר הרע or the nation. In 8th grade, we discussed how each of us can be a מלך and rule over ourselves. The girls gave a variety of answers:

- I could be a king over myself by not screaming at my siblings when they do something I don't like or when I am mad.
- I can be a king over myself by listening to my parents (without complaining) even if I don't want to.
- I can be a king over myself by not getting peer-pressured. If all my friends are talking lashon harah, then I don't have to join. I can just walk away or tell them to stop.
- I can be a king over myself by trying to daven on Sundays even if I think I have better stuff to do.
- I can be a king over myself by finding time to daven brachos in the morning every day.
- When you want to go somewhere and someone (mother) needs you, stop and help them; then go with your friends.
- To wake up early so I can daven and to do what my parents say even if I really don't want to.
- I can be a king over myself by trying to wake up a little earlier to have time to daven brachos before I get to school.
- I can try and wake up earlier on a Shabbos and Sunday so I can have time to daven.
- When a parent wants you to do something and you want to go to a friend, do it first and then go to your friend.
- I can hold myself back from screaming at my siblings if they did something to get me mad.
- I can be a king over myself when I'm invited to go somewhere, but I know it's not the best place, and I don't go!
- A king, a real king, is humble and does not chase after honor. How I can be a king for myself is to do the right thing even if everyone is doing wrong, for example lashon harah.





**HAPPY TO
BE BACK
IN THE
CLASSROOM!**



**TORAH TOTS
IN ACTION!**

Chosen Words

Personal Growth

Befitting Royalty

Two young men walked down the street, ragged, bleeding, distraught. Poverty-stricken—were they street people down on their luck? Criminally poor? There was one guess, however, that nobody would ever make: that these walking wounded were the sons of the King.

In the times contemporary with the giving of the Torah, many cultures considered giving oneself a proper expression of mourning. But the Torah, in Parashas Re'ei, says, "You are gash yourself...in mourning the dead, because you are a holy people" because we are Hashem's children, created in His image, it is unbefitting for us to disfigure ourselves.

The Gemara in Yevamos, 135, looks at the unusual word chosen to express cutting or gash. *Yapodda*, which can be translated as dividing into armed camps or factions.

Read in this way, the mitzvah prohibits Klal Yisrael from dividing itself into warring factions. Just as it is inappropriate for Hashem's children to maim themselves, Hashem's body nation also must avoid "maiming" itself with divisiveness and enmity.

Yet there are many divisions among the Jewish people. The Chofetz Chaim was once asked why this is so. Why are there Chasidim, mitnagdim, Sephardim, Ashkenazim and so on? Why do some emphasize learning, others singing, or still others stress prayer or choaf?

He answered: "Why not ask the *Coar* why he needs different divisions in the army? Why does he need the infantry, the

calvary, artillery a navy? He needs various forces to wage war against his enemies. Each group has its task, but all are fighting for the same cause."

Each distinct path of Jewish tradition accomplishes a purpose in the cause of serving Hashem. Even with a multitude of traditions, we can still stand as we did at Sinai, "One nation with one *Coar*."

Continued on back

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration Ideas

Little Things

Your car's waiting at the garage, all repaired and ready to roll. All you have to do is figure out how to get there without a car. Just then, your neighbor calls and says, "I'm on my way out. Do you need a lift anywhere?"

There are a thousand small ways in which we can benefit each other, often with just the barest of extra effort. Nobody is going to find themselves the banner of the annual dinner because



"Even a small act, like loaning someone a pen, transforms the giver into an agent of chesed."

Effective Prayer

Open Up

When we talk about prayer, we often talk about opening the gates of Heaven. But prayer is a relationship, and as in any relationship, there are two sides. Not only does Hashem open up to us, we must open up to Him as well. Just as it's impossible to have a good friendship at a marriage in which each party holds back his or her true feelings, our relationship with Hashem falters if we close off our channels of emotion. The more we share the contents of our hearts with Hashem, the closer He becomes.

Praying requires a certain amount of humility, a vulnerability that leaves us open to what types of emotions might a person put into his prayers? Adapted from "The Art of Jewish Prayer," by Rabbi Yisroel Meir Kagan with Leo Akers, used with permission from Jom Tov Aronson Inc.



Published by The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation

Inner Excellence

Your Heart's Desire

What do you really want? How do you really wish to live your life? Who do you really want to be? The Torah teaches us that our heart's deepest desires are the compass that directs our lives. They incline us in certain directions, predispose us to certain decisions, and ultimately, determine how we will be remembered for posterity.

The wives of Yaakov—Leah and Rachel—illustrate this point. As a young girl, the Torah relates, "Leah's eyes were tender." Rashi attributes this description to Leah's constant crying, because she believed that she was destined to become the wife of Esau. All her prayers and thoughts were directed toward becoming a mother without children, she believed, her life would not be worth living. "Give me children or I am dead," she told her husband.

While each woman was an exemplary mother and wife, their prime motivations were clearly different, and those differences became their eternal identities. Leah, whose prayer was for a proper husband, married Leah. Leah's attributes were tender. Rashi attributes this description to Leah's constant crying, because she believed that she was destined to become the wife of Esau. All her prayers and thoughts were directed toward becoming a mother without children, she believed, her life would not be worth living. "Give me children or I am dead," she told her husband.

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In a Minute

The famous Torah scholar, the Chasam Sofer, was once asked how he rose to such great heights of learning. "I became a gadol in one minute," he answered. His listeners were perplexed.

"There are many times in a person's life," he explained, "when he has one minute to waste, one minute to kill—standing in a line, waiting for a minyan to begin, waiting to meet someone. I always took those precious minutes and used them to deliver into Torah."

In many busy lives, time for learning or chesed doesn't occur in bounding blocks. A few minutes here and there may be all that present themselves. And yet, it can be enough time to consider a small bit of learning, or make a quick phone call to someone who needs some human contact, or even just offer some unsolicited attention to a child who would so love to have it. In just a minute, great things can happen.

Adapted from "Something to Say" by Rabbi David Goldwasser, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Befitting Royalty

Think of what your most important spiritual goals are. How can you work toward those goals? —CCHF

Little Things

Love is chesed. This is the concrete expression of "Love your neighbor as yourself," and its rewards are not a little thing at all. **Shabbos Table Discussion:** What are some "little things" you've done recently. What are some you could do? Adapted from "The Chofetz Chaim Looks at Life," with permission from Feldheim Publications

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Life's Lessons

In a Minute

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**LOOK AT THE
SMILES ON
OUR FACES!**