



The Weekly Newsletter of Ateres Bais Yaakov

Dear Parents,

Welcome home! Shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu v'higayanu lazman hazeh! It has been a very long time but we are finally home on our site at 200 Summit Park Road. With our new C of O in hand, classes started in earnest on Thursday after 2 days at Camp Regesh and a long day of waiting and learning on campus while waiting for the final approval to be delivered. We have much hakoras hatov to so many individuals. Most notably, we wish to thank, the honorable mayor of New Hempstead, Mr. Abe Sicker, who has truly asserted himself as a leader who so appreciates what Ateres stands for and means to the community. We are grateful for his support. We must also express appreciation to Mr. Mordy Fried (Ilana 11, Tzipi 10 and Shana 1) of Suffern Homes, who served as the GC for the project. His attention to detail to get the job done, brought us home at last. We are so grateful.

While we have moved in, there is much more to do fully ready our facilities to the tip top standard we expect for our talmidos. Storage containers must be emptied of books, cubbies, lockers, office equipment, computer systems and supplies which must be set up and serviced. Indeed, in many ways, due to the late timing of our approvals, we are three weeks behind the typical school opening schedule. But, we are working fastidiously to get it all done. We expect that by the time the Sukkos holiday is complete we will have met our goals. We appreciate your patience.

We applaud the devoted faculty and dedicated administrators who have helped us weather the storm while making learning alive and enjoyable. They are the heart and soul of the Ateres experience. We salute thier hard work and caring.

Our Building Committee, is also due a very hearty Yashar Koach for making this happen. From funding to construction oversight, they were there every part of the way. With construction of the permanent building now looming on the horizon, don't be surprised if they reach out to you and invite you to help monetarily and/or in any other way you can. Your financial support will make a difference.

Lastly, we thank you our parents. Your trust, chizuk and encouragement during this recent tekufa, helped us stay the course. We hope to validate that trust and vindicate your partnership in the Ateres educational model for your daughter.

Best wishes for a lovely Shabbos. May we all be zoche to a shana tova umesuka, lanu ulchol Yisrael.

Sincerely,

פרשת נצבים וילך תשע"ז



With our arrival to our new home we continue to transition, grow and build not only to our new quarters but in our character as well.

As such, we are proud to introduce a new weekly column **"Boneh baShamayim Maalosov"** with insights from the parsha on refinement of middos and building of our character as banim laHashem.



"Chizku v'imtzu al tirau" (31:6)

Ibn Ezra explains contextually, that this phrase teaches us that once one knows that Hashem is with him everywhere, then he can be strong and courageous to fight and battle the enemy.

This milchama, say the Baalei Mussar, is referring to the daily struggle we have with the Yetzer harah to develop our character. To successfully refine one's middos one cannot be afraid. One must be ambitious, courageous and brave to tame and develop his character despite the internal and external influences that can make growth and change so hard.

In so doing, we build a personal pathway to heaven.

The long anticipated first day of school finally arrived. The girls departed from their school busses to be greeted by beautiful Ateres balloons and hearing their new school song. What a treat it was for the students to board beautiful busses and go to camp Regesh for a day of learning on a stunning campus. On some busses, the girls enjoyed listening to music and singing songs and on some busses the girls enjoyed hearing powerful stories. We are grateful to finally be inside our school building and look forward to a wonderful year ahead. We have tremendous hakaras hatov to **Mrs. Rochel Berman** who stayed on the

campus all day Wednesday to help out with whatever was needed. We are truly grateful to her for her help and dedication. Thank you to **Mrs. Rachel Rosenberg** and **Mrs. Briandy Wohlgemuth** who bought a huge beautiful fruit platter Thursday for the staff to enjoy.

Now let's take a peek into the week:

Morah Miriam and Morah Malka's kitah alef girls couldn't wait to display all their new supplies and they were eager to begin learning. They made hakaras hatov cards to thank their parents for all of their new clothes and supplies. Morah Miraim said she is really looking forward to a wonderful year with her super class.

Morah Gluck's kitah beis has gotten off to a wonderful start this year! It's hard to believe they have accomplished so much in such a short amount of time! The girls really enjoyed their first week of school, meeting new friends, learning all about Elul and Rosh Hashana, working on their Rosh Hashana Project, starting Chumash skills, learning classroom procedures and more!

Mrs. Ehrman's third graders' learning was strong this week. The yetzer hara wanted to disturb their learning before Rosh Hashana but they all passed the test with flying colors with their tefillos and their learning. Nothing stopped them. They put together the puzzle pieces that they had gotten by mail. A few pieces were missing because some girls forgot to bring theirs. The girls were able to see a picture of the same puzzle that was completed and admired how beautiful it was. They learned that if everyone would do their part and be kind to their fellow classmate then they could succeed as a group. Mrs. Ehrman is looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Mrs. Tal's kitah daled enjoyed learning all about Rosh Hashana. The girls enjoyed sharing examples of their family yom tov minhagim Some examples include: Zehava Isaacson shared that her

family eats honey cake for dessert. Rikki Kahana said her family makes sure not to eat sour pickles. Devorahleh Fogel shared that her family eats the head of a lamb. Blimi Abromowitz said that her family eats challah in the shape of a circle so that it looks like a kesser-crown. Despite all the changes that occurred, nothing stopped the girls from learning Hashem's Torah. Morah Tal expressed how much she is looking forward to spending the year with such a special group of girls.

Mrs. Liff's kitah hey gets a huge mazal tov. On the second day of school Mrs. Liff had a baby girl! **Morah Leitman** will be their substitute until she returns from maternity leave. She is covering the curriculum and is enjoying the girls very much.

Mrs. Eckstein's kitah vav enjoyed boarding the busses on the first day of school to go to Camp Regesh. Mrs. Samet spoke to the girls about their status in the elementary school as SENIORS and the role they have. They were excited to learn about all the privileges they get and are looking forward to a wonderful year. Mrs. Eckstein blew a shofar after davening and discussed why a shofar is blown every day this month. On Tuesday kitah vav learned the four steps to doing teshuva and on Wednesday the class was divided into groups. Each group had to act out a scenario where somebody did something wrong as well as what they would do to correct that action. They enjoyed working in groups and performing their skits for the class. On Friday Mrs. Eckstein shared powerful stories about the Chofetz Chaim's life as it was his Yartzeit. All girls have started off the year with a commitment to improve their shmiras halashon in the Chofetz Chaim's honor.

Mazal Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Liff (our colleague Morah Liff (grade 5) on the birth of a baby girl. Maythey be zoche

DON'T BE AFRAID
of
CHANGE
IT IS LEADING YOU TO A
*** NEW ***
BEGINNING

to see her grow l'Torah l'chupah ulmaasim tovim.
Best wishes for a ksiva v'chasima tova.
Tichleh shana 'killiloseha ...
Tachil shana uvirchoseha!

NSHEI CORNER

We are so excited to start the new year! The nshei created fabulous back to school gifts which the girls really enjoyed. They were given purple ruler slap bracelets which tie in with the building theme of the year. Each bracelet read, "Building our character inch by inch." As we look forward to Rosh Hashana, we are also looking forward to starting our brunch preparations right after yom tov. It's not too late to be a part of our team!

We are still looking for more volunteers for our MotherDaughter Brunch, date to be announced. Email us at ateresbrunch@gmail.com. All volunteering for the brunch counts towards your school Give & Get obligation.

Sponsoring or donating a raffle prize counts as well! So come be a part of the fun! In addition, we are looking forward to starting a Uniform Exchange mid year. We will keep you posted on the details iyH.

We wish everyone a wonderful Rosh Hashana.
Best wishes for a good Shabbos.
Ateres Nshei
Chany Silverman
Faigie Walter



Mrs. Levin's Update

Welcome back to another great year of learning and growing in ATERES BAIS YAAKOV a unique, warm and inclusive school where every child matters.

BH we are finally in our new quarters! Although there are still some "creases" to iron out, every class is learning and things are looking up!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my amazing staff of teachers and assistants who smile and do their job through thick and thin, whether in camp Regesh or on Summit Park Road. Each one is a gem; I am so fortunate and grateful to work with such incredible and dedicated colleagues.

Wishing the entire Ateres family a k'siva v'chasima tova!

Mrs. Wingate's grade one girls sat in a circle on the Camp Regesh grounds and learned how to treat others with respect. They reviewed class rules and reviewed their letters and sounds. In their new classroom, they continued learning about social skills in their afternoon meeting. The girls also reviewed the days of the week, the months of the year and figured out how many days of school had already passed. The highlight of the week was preparing and presenting to the class their "ME BAGS" which contained five of their favorite things. What a great week!

Second graders welcomed **Morah Susan Rhein**, their new assistant. Morah Susan is no stranger to Ateres having worked in the kindergarten in the past. The girls welcomed three new classmates: **Suri Goldenberg, Layla Gross and Devora Leah Goldberger**. **Mrs. Baron** read a book called "First Day Jitters" and her second graders expressed their own feelings about the first day of school. They learned new vocabulary and did a writing assignment based on the book. In math, the girls reviewed their sums up to number 20. The students also heard a poem by Shel Silverstein called "I Often Repeat Myself" - what fun!

Welcome to our new third graders **Talya Levine** and **Daniella Port!** While in Camp Regesh, **Mrs. Feldman** read the girls a book about how to make other people feel good entitled "How to Fill a Bucket". Once settled in their new classroom, the girls went full speed ahead with their learning. They stated their ELA program, played a game to review place value and learned the parts of a complete sentence.

Mrs. Paley's class had a great start to the school year in Camp Regesh- they had a "snow ball" fight!! Each girl wrote her fears and concerns on a piece of paper. Then they crumpled the paper and threw it away. No more fears! Once settled in Summit Park, the fourth graders continued learning through games and discussions. The fourth graders are looking forward to a very productive year.

Our **fifth grade** is now departmental! **Mrs. Fried** is their ELA and science teacher and **Mrs. Friedman** is their math teacher. In math, the girls reviewed place value up to BILLIONS! And they also reviewed numerical value. The students began a science unit on the human body labelling the various limbs and organs. In ELA, the class covered their first spelling unit and worked on reading comprehension.

Mrs. Rose's sixth graders started the year writing about their summer. In current events, the girls discussed natural disasters and did a small art project on this topic. Mrs. Rose began reading this year's novel "Behind the Bedroom Wall" to the class. The sixth graders learned some new vocabulary related to the sad events of the Holocaust. A special welcome to welcome our new sixth grader **Rina Port** hailing from far-away Johannesburg, South Africa.

A Peek into the Week



Learning on our opening day trip to Camp Regesh



Pre 1a enjoying learning and singing



Thank you Nshei! We love the bracelets.



Kitah Vav learning at Camp Regesh

"Parent-hetically" Speaking

By: Mrs. Jenny Samet



This past week we commemorated 9/11. In addition, two communities experienced devastation to their homes and everyday life. I read a special article by Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, a Rav in Florida, that I would like to share. It was written before Irma arrived.

"If you live in South Florida, when you hear the word cone this time of year, you don't think of ice cream, but hurricane highway.

Just a week after Harvey devastated Houston, Irma threatens our Boca Raton and South Florida communities. Larger than the country of France, this massive and powerful storm has elicited and inspired a sense of urgency and a tremendous response. Gas lines are endless, many stores have sold out of supplies, and people are panicking and legitimately afraid. A sizeable segment of our community has left. Some flew, others took the Auto Train, and many have just gotten in the car and driven north. The Jewish community of Atlanta, has been absolutely incredible and has taken in several hundred families. They mobilized rapidly and extended themselves to us generously and we couldn't be more grateful to them.

The shaylos have been pouring in. Can I leave my radio and TV on over Shabbos? How will I know if the eruv is down? If we lose power can I carry a lit candle or flashlight? Can I add fuel to my generator on Shabbos? What if I am powering a refrigerator holding someone's critical medicine?

The preparations are enormous, but they are only about protecting ourselves; unfortunately, we can't actually do anything to prevent or redirect the storm.

With all that we can master, manipulate and control, the weather remains an enigma and a mystery. We identify that a catastrophic storm has formed, but not only do we lack the capacity to dissolve, disrupt or redirect it, we cannot even predict where it will go with any true sense of accuracy or precision.

There is a whole lot we can and should do to prepare for the storm – buy batteries, water, flashlights, take in outdoor furniture, put up shutters – but we are powerless from directly influencing the storm. The meteorologists and media can talk about the storm, but they cannot impact it. Nobody can, not scientists, not the Army or Air Force, not even great kabbalists. The key to the strength and trajectory of hurricane Irma belongs exclusively to the Almighty and nobody else.

When it comes to other crises or emergencies, there is hishtadlus, effort and initiative we can take to solve and resolve the challenge. The effort and impact we make fool us into thinking that the doctor alone healed the patient or the shadchan deserves the full credit for making the shiduch. With a hurricane, because the only initiative anyone can take is to protect themselves, not to direct the storm, it should be more obvious and easier to recognize the importance and need to turn to the Key Master and beseech Him to send the storm elsewhere, in a way nobody is threatened or hurt.

On all the checklists and preparation charts provided by agencies and organizations, prayer never appears. Nevertheless, it should be at the top of our list, not in place of other preparations but certainly in addition to them.

L'Dovid Mizmor, Tehillim 27 that we recite in the morning and evening from the beginning of Elul until Simchas Torah ends with the pasuk "kavei el Hashem, chazak v'yameitz libecha v'kavei el Hashem— put your hope in Hashem, strengthen yourself and get the courage to put your hope and faith in Hashem." Why the redundancy? If we have placed our hope in Hashem, why does the pasuk call on us to do it a second time? Our rabbis (Berachos 32b) explain: "if a person sees that they prayed but they were not answered, let them return and pray again."

In his new sefer on Emunah and Bitachon, Rav Asher Weiss explains that we learn from this pasuk that when our prayer doesn't immediately yield the results we want, it doesn't mean we received a no, it means we need to go back and pray again, with more fervor and greater concentration. One must never give up on prayer, never concede that it wasn't answered, or stop believing that there is someone worth praying to.

As we in South Florida prepare for Hurricane Irma, it occurs to me that in truth, we aren't the only ones in a cone of uncertainty. True, if you don't live on the East Coast or in the gulf area, you can be confident you won't be hit by this hurricane. But who knows what could hit you personally or collectively with little warning or projection. We all live in a cone of uncertainty at all times and should channel our sense of vulnerability and mortality into turning towards Hashem, the only certain in this world." Indeed there was damage and there is a lot to be restored before families can return home however, the news did report that the damage was not nearly as bad as predicted and what was more powerful than anything was the chessed that the Jewish people extended to all the residents who had to flee from their homes. With Rosh Hashana next week let us take this lesson of the power of tefilla and its importance in our lives and make it real. Now.

TUNE IN TO JUNIOR HIGH

From the desk of Mrs. Kayla Stimmel

Welcome to Ateres Junior High School! We started our first day with an inspiring Yom Iyun. Our topic was "Building a New Beginning," in conjunction with our theme of the year of Building. We began with an explanation of the theme and some role playing. We then had our teachers weighing in on a panel as they shared their tips for creating a great beginning to the year. This was followed by some exciting team "building" activities. We then "built a beautiful Yom Tov table" with a gorgeous napkin ring project. Lastly, we heard a fascinating story about how Shlomo Hamelech captured the Shamir, a worm used to cut the stones to "build" the Beis Hamikdash. The girls enjoyed adorable slap bracelets from our N'shei, cute notebooks and pencils, and delicious danishes. What a great jumpstart to our year!

The seventh graders in **Mrs. Karash's math class** played a fun-filled review game of Scattergories. The girls worked in pairs to list as many math vocabulary words as they could for each letter of the alphabet. There was an added challenge since they were only allowed to use a word if they could share the definition of it with the class. They should be proud of a job well done!

Mrs. Eisenstein's eighth graders "dug" right into the exciting world of Earth Science this week! They started exploring the four branches of Earth Science: geology, meteorology, astronomy, and oceanography. We are looking forward to an exciting year exploring all of the wonders of Hashem's incredible gift to us - the planet Earth.

Mrs. Hoffman's first Yahadus lesson gave us insights into Chodesh Elul and what it means for us to prepare ourselves for the Yom Hadin. The girls each wrote down one area which they hope to work on in the coming days. We put it away and will check up on ourselves in a bit to see how well we've done with our kabbolos! Mrs. Teichman's seventh grade Earth Science class

started with an analogy about two silversmiths. One focuses on the quality of his silver while the other increases the quantity of his production. We then compared that to the greatness of Hashem Who does the work of both silversmiths simultaneously. Ma rabu ma'asecha Hashem, kulam b'chachma asisa, mala ha'aretz kinyanecha. The word b'chachma represents the silversmith whose pride is in the quality of his work, while the phrase mala ha'aretz indicates quantity.

Mrs. Rube's eighth grade class read the story, "The Fifty-First Dragon," by Heywood Broun. This story is about a boy who, despite his great potential and incredible talent, did not believe in himself. Due to his lack of self confidence, the story had a tragic ending. What a powerful lesson! The girls were able to see the value in believing in oneself and tapping into our great strengths. As we embark on a new school year, we hope that every student will take this valuable lesson to heart and reach for the stars.

Mrs. Kahn's seventh grade explored the different topics they will be learning in American History. They will begin our journey in the Native American world pre-1492. The 8th graders are very thankful that they live nowadays. If they would have lived years ago in America, they would probably be children working long, hard hours in factories. We began setting the stage for learning about the upcoming Civil War. Our eighth graders were surprised at the difference in their Lashon skills from the beginning of last year. They are thrilled to be entering eighth grade with much richer vocabularies which they are already working on increasing!

Mrs. Rokowsky's seventh graders started off learning about inyanei Chodesh Elul. The girls were inspired by stories and meshalim describing our unique gift of these 40 days of Yimei Ratzon. They

were taught about Hashem's closeness to us now and His unbelievable, unconditional love towards us. He is waiting with open arms for our tshuva! In Chumash, we completed our beautiful Hakdama to Sefer Devarim. The girls read an emotional story about a mother's "goodbyes" to her child, and they compared this idea to Moshe Rabbeinu's speech in Sefer Devarim to Bnei Yisroel before he was niftar. The girl's enthusiasm was contagious in our classroom as they began our "CHAZARA CHAZARA CHAZARA" program, wherein they have an optional review of their pesukim three times for homework to be entered in a weekly raffle. The girls' extra review will definitely help make their learning flow and grow this year!

Mrs. Steinfeld's eighth grade math class began a thorough review of previously learned skills. Students are reviewing how to read and write decimals, how to order decimals, and how to round numbers. They will also be reviewing how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, decimals, and integers. This will hopefully solidify their old knowledge before moving on to the new material.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together full of learning and growing!

