



## The Weekly Newsletter of Ateres Bais Yaakov

### D'VAR TORAH

#### PARSHAS BAMIDBAR EREV SHAVUOS

##### Ohr Tachash!

Rabbi Aaron Fink - Dean

In describing the responsibilities of the family of Kehas from Shevet Levi, the Torah provides intricate guidelines regarding the procedures for dismantling and transporting the Mishkan throughout the desert. One interesting requirement is that the vessels of the Kodesh Kadashim be covered for transport. When describing the fabric to be placed over the Aron Haeidus which held the luchos, we are taught, v' nasnu alav kisuf ohr tachash, to place over it a skin from the Tachash.

One cannot help but wonder, why is the skin of the Tachash animal selected as the base cover for the Aron?

Although we do not know the exact species of animal the Tachash represents, we do know that its most important quality, is its appearance. Chazal quote the Targum which calls the Tachash, Sasgavna, which means many colors, and it is this aspect of the Tachash which deems it perfect for protecting the Aron.

Their lesson, the most protective force we have for the Torah is the multi-colored approach offered by the diversity of Kal Yisrael. Every color has a place and

a purpose. Our collective multi-disciplinary approach to avodas Hashem is what preserves it!



This is an especially valuable message for Shavuos. Too often we think we can safeguard Torah and Mitzvos with a monolithic approach which doesn't really work. Adaraba, to the contrary, Chazal want us to learn to appreciate diversity. It is the multi-colored hues of Avodas Hasborei brought by the different groupings within Klal Yisrael which should inspire us all, together.

K'ish echad b'lev echad!

What a wonderful week of learning and activities as our Talmidos are getting ready for Shavuos! The classrooms are alive with discussions about Megilas Rus, the meaning of the different names of the Chag and of course, about the importance of the powerful gift of Torah.

On Monday, Ateres hosted its third grade mother-daughter event. Rabbi Fink, Mrs. Ehrman and Mrs. Salvay addressed the attendees with divrei Torah on the Parsha and on the special role of parents as we enter the month of Sivan. Kita Gimmel, under the expert and caring guidance of Mrs. Ehrman performed beautiful songs with choreographed motions and then gifted their mothers with a magnificently decorated Tefilas HaShlah. Mothers and daughters then artfully customized their own gratitude journal in which to record experiences they are thankful for. They all enjoyed some refreshments and spending time together. Thank you to all the mothers and grandmothers who joined us for this meaningful get-together.

On Rosh Chodesh Sivan, the Nshei presented the talmidos with flower shaped highlighters

which they were so happy to receive! Picture day arrived and although it was raining outside, the smiles on Ateres girls faces brought some bright sunshine as they posed for their individual and class pictures! Thank you to the devoted N'shei heads, Mrs. Siverman and Mrs. Walters for ensuring a smooth and productive picture day! And, thank you to Mrs. Chana Bayla Frydman for volunteering her time to help during picture day.

Now a peek into the week.

**Morah Miriam's Kitah Aelph** talmidos had a fun week learning all about shavuos. The girls made colorful projects which helped them remember the 4 names of shavuot. They then decorated vases and filled them with their own creative flowers. They were very excited to bring home their master pieces. They heard about the story of Ruth and how she took upon herself the mitzvos of the Torah. But most important they were very excited to be learning Torah this shavuot from their very own chumash. Ateres talmidos can now learn Torah just like the other members of their family. It is their hope that everyone will enjoy a chag sameach. May they continue to grow in middos and in mitzvos and may they continue to be a source of nachas to all.

**Kitah Beis** worked incredibly hard this week as they maintained their regular learning while preparing for the upcoming Yom Tov of Shavuos. **Morah Gluck** spent lots of time teaching and reviewing Megillas Rus. They gained tremendously from discussing the various people in the Megilla and what can be learnt from them and their choices. They also learned all about the Yom Tov of Shavuos discussing the halachos and minhagim of the chag. Each girl made lovely napkin rings to beautify their family's Yom Tov tables.

**Kitah Gimmel and Mrs. Ehrman** started the week with a beautiful mother-daughter presentation. The girls did a wonderful job. All had an enjoyable time. They continued the week with a Shavuos project, which came out so nicely. They hope it will enhance the chag. In Chumash, they started kriyah of Rashi directly from the text and celebrated a siyum on Parshas Toldos. Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the siyum with the delicious goodies! It demonstrated to the talmidos their parents appreciation for the chashivus of Torah. As they began their new focus on parshas Vayetze, Mrs. Salvay came to hear the girls kriyah. She left very impressed. Best wishes for a wonderful yom tov.

**Kitah daled** is really excited to be 2 shevatim away from finishing birchas Yaakov! They are memorizing each shevet's bracha so well.

The Sefiras haOmer bulletin board finally made it to the top of the ladder! Each of the

49 flowers along the was so beautifully designed by Lieba Kohl and Rikki Kahana, and then decorated by the girls.

For Shavuos, the girls made beautiful napkin rings to adorn their Yom tov table. It is Kitah daled's hope that they will enhance and truly adorn the yom tov table. A special yashar koach to Tzippy Baumgarten and Rivka Rosenberg who made a napkin ring for **Morah Tal!** While they were working, even those who kept second half of sefira, were able to listen to music, since it was the first day of the Sheloshes Yemei Hagbala!

The girls are very excited for kabbalas haTorah! Wishing all the girls and their families a happy and healthy Shavuos!

**Kitah Hei** has completed perek ches in parshas shemos. Kolm Hakavod **Morah Liff** and all the talmidos! What an exciting and action packed perek it was! They have now finished learning about the first four makos in great depth and have achieved a greater understanding for the nissim that Hashem preformed in mitzryaim. This week, the fifth graders also learned a fascinating insight from Rashi that described the detail of makas Arov. The long text of this Rashi seemed daunting at first and the girls really surprised themselves at how well they were able to grasp the material.

In dikduk, Kitah Hei has moved on to the zman of asid. Mrs. Liff gave out chocolate chips to be used as nekudos as a hands-on way to learn this new concept in dikduk. The girls caught on very fast and are looking forward to learning more.

For Shavuos, the fifth grade decorated beautiful flower cupcakes and are looking forward to teaching their family at home how to create these gorgeous and delicious masterpieces! Have a good Shabbos and a wonderful yom tov.

Once again **kitah vav** managed to pack a 5-day school week with tons of learning. Morah Eckstein made sure that the rainy week did nothing to dampen their spirits! They completed (and were tested on) Perek Yud Gimmel in Chumash and began Perek Yud Dalet. They learned about the noble intentions of the 12 spies and that "the ends don't justify the means." They also learned why Tisha B'av was designated as a Bechiya L'doros, and why the Gemara describes Tu B'av as one of the happiest days of the year.

With Shavuos coming up, Kitah vav learned about the beautiful Yom Tov and Megillas Rus. To top it off, the girls made lovely flower vases and received matching fresh flowers. Kudos to Morah Shani for running all over in the rain to ensure we would have such a wonderful project! Kol Hakavod Kitah Vav!

Best wishes for a lovely Shabbos and a chag sameach!

### פרשת במדבר ערב שבועות תשע"ח



*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.*



### Ish al diglo!

(Bamidbar 2:2)

The Torah praises us for serving Hashem with flags. Moreover, Chazal teach us in Shir HaShirim that Hashem Yisborach loves our flags! Why? Miforshim explain that that the unique flag from each Shevet is a reflection of pride.

When we wave our banner to celebrate our fidelity to Torah and Mitzvos, we are showing Him and all of Klal Yisrael just how proud we are to be on Hashem Yisborach's team. Nothing gives Hakadosh Baruch Hu more nachas from us!



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## Mrs. Levin's Update

This The Ateres students who participated in the Six Flags "Read-to-Succeed" program received their certificates and free ticket to Six Flags in Jackson, N. J. The ticket must be used between specific dates. Please make sure you read the ticket carefully. I hope you get to enjoy an outing at the Six Flags park this summer.

This was the first time that Ateres participated in this program. I am happy to report that many girls signed up, did the required 6 hours of reading and earned their free ticket!! We have some avid readers in the Ateres Elementary school.

It is hard to believe that Shavuos has already arrived. It feels like we just had Pesach! May we all be zoche to a renewed sense of kabolas haTorah together with our families. May we keep growing in our emunah, kiyum hamitzvos, and limmud Torahseinu Hakedosha.

This week in **first grade** the girls learned about different units of measurement. The class learned about perimeter, inches, and feet. Learning about capacity using cups, pint, and liters was a bit more challenging but using real objects to demonstrate each unit showed the girls how much liquid each container could actually hold. It was a bit messy but fun was had by all.

On Tuesday **second graders** had an extended science lesson on weather. The class reviewed how the weather changes from season to season. Then the girls studied different kinds of bad weather. We read all about thunderstorms, tornados and hurricanes. Mrs. Baron talked about important safety measures in case one should get stuck in a terrible storm. Low and behold, moments after dismissal, there were thunder storm and tornado alerts. The girls saw the force of nature that they had just read about take shape in real life. The sky turned black and the wind began to howl. On Wednesday some of the girls shared with their peers the repercussions of the storm. BH it was nothing more serious than temporary loss of electricity. This week the second grade literary selection took us to Sedona Arizona. The class read how a father passed on the Mexican Rodeo tradition of roping to his son. The class discussed how special it is to carry on traditions in a family. Gabriella Mytelca told the class that learning to sing and play piano is a tradition in her family. Molly shared that her great grandmother, her grandmother, and her mother are teachers. Molly also looks forward to carrying on the teaching tradition. Temimah told us about a desk that has been passed down through many generations. Daniella Malka told us that when she has her Bas Mitzva, she will receive diamond earrings that have been passed down from her great grandmother.

This week **third grade** learned so much! In Reading the class learned about comparing and contrasting. They got to read some interesting articles about toothbrushes and toothpaste in ancient times. They then discussed some similarities and differences to the toothbrushes and toothpaste in use today. In math, the girls had a great time learning about probability and symmetry. **Mrs. Feldman** is so proud of their hard work!

In addition to reading texts from our ELA READY NEW YORK CCLS book, our trade books, and numerous literary paired texts with question sets to improve comprehension and fluency, the **fourth graders** are on the last unit of their literary reading book. This week **Mrs. Paley's** class read a realistic fiction story titled BLUE WILLOW. As our students read the story, they saw that friendship, kindness, and a sense of community can be found in unlikely places. As a response activity, the girls wrote two journal entries using the first person point of view. The first entry was written after the main character's first day at migrant school and the second one was after her last day in June. Math is always fun to learn. After learning how to convert inches to feet and feet and inches to yards, our fourth graders worked on problem solving strategies which involved many steps. The problems dealt with multiplication, making change, and addition. The class then learned how to find different combinations using multiplication. Mrs. Paley brought in many shirts, scarves, and hats so her students can "see" the different combinations. Of course, the class loved it and learned the concept very quickly. Keep up the great work, Fourth Graders!

This week in **Mrs. Friedman's** class was very exciting! The class finally completed our CCSS novel, Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH!! The girls took their final exam and did beautifully! Each girl showed true mastery of all the skills we developed throughout the year, such as text-based evidence, inferencing, character analysis, plot points, vocabulary development, etc. Mrs. Friedman was so proud of each and every girl in the class! In Social studies, the class has now completed Chapter 5. The class has enjoyed so many discussions on Native American culture, explorers, colonies, and early settlements-especially that of our own New Netherland/New Amsterdam/New York! Fifth graders had a cross-curricular study of Judaic History where they discussed the persecution of Peter Stuyvesant to the early Spanish-Jewish settlers in New York. The girls were interested to learn about how we, as Jews, have been persecuted, even in this country, which led to a discussion about the contrast to the freedom we now enjoy in the United States. The fifth graders had a terrific time learning all about our own early American experiences as Jews in America! In our math class, the girls are continuing learning multiplication and division, and they had fun manipulating the reciprocals to do the division. They also practiced all other aspects of fractions, such as improper fractions and simplest form. Stay tuned for our upcoming math test as we close the chapter on fractions! Our week ended with our usual class weekly raffle! Mazel Tov to Toby Kahn and Esther Stein who earned extra raffle tickets because of their perfect scores on the Mrs. Frisby final! Mazel tov to our students of the week, Esther Stein and Gitty Rosen and to all of our raffle winners! **Sixth graders** welcomed their new math teacher **Miss Schlesinger** who is taking over until the end of the year. Mrs. Levin will be mentoring her and tracking the progress of the class so that all benchmarks are met and the girls will be well prepared for Junior High school next year.

**Mrs. Frances** is working with the girls on their country reports to

## A Peek into the Week



Thank you Nshei!



↑ The third grade mother daughter event was fun and inspiring! ↓



Fourth grade with their handmade Shavuot napkin rings



Fourth grade learns about "combi-nations"



## Pirkei Avos

### Portraits in Parenting

By: Rabbi Aaron Fink



Perek Vav of Avos is actually a collection of Braisos, not Mishnayos. This chapter also deals with lessons for every day learning and growing in Torah. The perspectives contained therein should be inspiring and a cogent message for every household.

The opening lesson is stated by Rebbi Meir, (of Rebbi Meir Baal Haneis fame) Kol haoseik baTorah lishma zoche lidvarim harbei v'lo od elah shekol haolam kulo kdai hu lo! Translated, this means, whomever learns Torah purposefully, for its sake, merits many things, moreover the entire world is fitting for him. This is a bold statement which must be explained. What are the "devarim harbei and why is the world more fitting for him than anyone else?

According to Rashi, the phrase "zoche lidvarim harbei" means he will earn the distinction of being called a tzaddik! Rashi's message, having everything to the Torah scholar is not measured in physical possessions, the amount of stuff one has. To the contrary, one who grows in their Torah learning understands it is the spiritual acquisitions of Torah, mitzvos and middos tovos which define us. Thus, devasrim harbei can only mean righteousness.

What a valuable lesson for our children. We must model for them, that the measure of a man is not found in wealth, status or high brow society, it is found in the developed Torah personality. Shaped by Torah, this is the character we must aim to strive for and become.

One who succeeds in doing so fulfills the very purpose of creation. As a prince of his people and a prince of His creator, the whole world is fitting for him. Indeed, it is a royal ambition worthy of the Ahm Segula, starting with each child, each day.

## Tune in to Junior High

From the desk of Mrs. Kayla Stimmel

This week, **Mrs. Kahn's** seventh grade social studies class completed their unit on the United States Constitution. The girls are experts on all the Articles as well as the Bill of Rights. They had many review activities and a fun-filled, challenging game for them to see just how much they know! The eighth grade finished learning about the Great Depression, and they started exploring America's role in World War II. On their own, they are researching many events that took place in the 20th Century and are creating portfolios with this new knowledge. Lashon class has the girls learning the words they would most likely need to know on a trip to Israel. With this added on to their grammar knowledge, the girls are able to translate sentences and paragraphs into English. The eighth grade Honors class answered thought-provoking questions all in Hebrew! Their knowledge of the language is quite impressive.

Ask any of our seventh or eighth graders for their thoughts on climate change. They all have lots to share on that topic! In **Mrs. Eisenstein's** science class, many facts and theories about climate change were discussed at length. The girls now have lots of insights into the possible causes and effects of global warming as well as actions that can be taken to protect our planet. Our world is a truly precious gift from Hashem, and we need to take care of it properly!

Chazak, chazak!!! Mazel tov to **Mrs. Rokowsky's** seventh graders on completing Parshas Eikev in Sefer Devarim. The girls learned many beautiful ideas, lessons, and mitzvos in this parsha and feel very proud of their major accomplishment. We will celebrate with a siyum iyH in the upcoming days! In Yahadus class, the girls are learning about the beautiful minhagim of Shavuot and the reasons behind them. It was a highlight to learn Megillas Rus with all the fascinating meforim Mrs. Rokowsky explained. The girls noticed the numerous examples of chessed found in this Megilla. We can learn so many valuable lessons about chessed and try to bring more of this middah into our lives. On Erev Shavuot, the girls learned a fascinating medrash about our mesiras nefesh for Hashem and how we are paid back great rewards for making the right choices. Mrs. Rokowsky also did an enjoyable cookie decorating activity with both grades in honor of Shavuot's floral theme.

In **Mrs. Karash's** math class, triangles, trapezoids, irregular figures, and circles are the figures that the seventh graders worked with this week. They learned how to find the area and determine bases and heights. They explored how to plug this information into formulas and solve them algebraically. Irregular figures were divided into smaller figures in order to determine the area.

Stay tuned for details next week of our eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.!