



The Weekly Newsletter of Ateres Bais Yaakov

D'VAR TORAH PARSHAS CHUKAS B'SIMCHA—Rabbi Aaron Fink

Parshas Chukas concludes with the detail of the Klal Yisrael's conquest of Sichon and later his brother Og. Klal Yisrael requested permission to cross through the land of the Emorim on their way to Eretz Yisrael. They were rebuffed by Sichon the Emorite king. He not only refused Bnai Yisrael passage, but he took up arms against them. He was soundly defeated in the ensuing battle as Klal Yisrael conquered Sichon's home town of Cheshbon and all its environs. Klal Yisrael's conquest of the East Bank of the Jordan and Eretz Yisrael proper had begun. In examining this parsha more closely, it is fascinating to note the smichus haparshiyos which introduces this episode.

Immediately preceding the demise of Sichon, we have the perek shira of Parshas Chukkas. Az yashir Yisrael es hashira hazos! Klal Yisrael in a unanimous expression of joy and hakoras hatov burst forth with song celebrating the be'er, the miraculous cistern of water, which accompanied them

throughout the desert. What does this shira have to do with the conquest of Sichon?

An important and sometimes overlooked yesod is being taught here. Chazal teach us that shira is the ultimate manifestation of simcha. This essence of joy is the prerequisite ingredient in preparation for the encounters to come. The conquest of Eretz Yisrael would not be bred of an anguished burden and onerous sense of responsibility. Rather it would be bred upon the excitement and enthusiasm for the opportunity to fulfill the ratzon Hashem. Without this joy and enthusiasm the mission would fail. With it, anything could be accomplished.

This message was vital to first generation of yidden who comprised the post yetzias mitzrayim era and it is critical to us, as well. Entering Eretz Yisrael and conquering the seven nations residing there was an ambitious undertaking. Only a sense of ivdu es Hashem b'simcha would ensure their success. As such shira introduces the first parsha of kivush Eretz Yisrael. Moreover,

chazal teach that the be'er mayim being celebrated, is a moshol to the sweet waters of Torah. Indeed, the generation to settle Eretz Yisrael needed to be instructed that only a simchas haTorah would carry them through to success over the challenges ahead. Their glory would not be one of kochi v'otzem yadi or r"l bereft of siyata dishmaya. Rather, it be one of ki bsimcha setzeiu! Moving forward with joy. We ought to remember that message for it is what assures our hatzlocha as well.



This last week of school was peppered with a whirlwind of activities! To name just a few, Kitah Gimmel had a remarkably successful Tzedakah fair, selling creative and delicious items and featuring entertaining games. They raised well over \$500! Mrs. Ehrman did a terrific job guiding her Talmidos for their very first Mitzvah Fair! Kitah Beis used their imagination and resourcefulness and had a beach party... in the multi purpose room! What a lovely time they all had! Thank you Mrs Gluck! Kitah Daled is very industrious, making sure that every day is packed with learning. Morah Tal and her class completed Sefer Bereishis! Chazak Chazak Venischazek! They also went on an inspiring trip to the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation and Tomchei Shabbos. Kitah Hey had a beautiful Mother and Daughter celebration to mark the impressive achievement of having memorized the entire Shiras Devorah! Thank you Mrs. Liff for coordinating such a tasteful and meaningful event!

Morah Leiser and Kitah Alef wish everyone an amazing summer with a reminder to keep on reading!

Wow! **Kitah Beis** had a fantastic last week of school! We finished learning from our student Morahs and finished Parshas Lech

Lecha! We enjoyed a trip to the "beach" as a reward for being a class of bucket fillers (and had lots of delicious treats for our siyum). We enjoyed packing our Avodas Kayitz and decorating the envelopes we packed it in! And we finally got to play the centers our classmates created! We enjoyed our fun filled week learning, spending time with our friends, and saying good bye! Enjoy a restful summer! Looking forward to seeing everyone next year! Mazel Tov to Kitah Vav on their Siyum of Parshas Shelach. Mrs. Eckstein and our elementary school seniors held a wonderful carnival for the younger grades. The booths were all a lot of fun... and the proceeds benefited Chesed 24/7. Tizku L'Mitzvos! What an inspiring way to end the school year, with Chesed in a Ruach filled atmosphere!

Kitah Daled said chazak chazak vnischazek this week for finishing the whole sefer braishis! Then we read the first pasuk of sefer shmos and then we danced in the room! We had a delicious ice cream party with many toppings on Wednesday! And on Thursdays the girls enjoyed a special trip to CCHF and Tomche Shabbos. On the last day of school for kita daled, Morah Tal read a poem to the girls about what a wonderful year she had with them and how much she will miss them. Blimie said 'the year flew by so quickly!'. Bracha Ostreicher said 'it feels like the first day of school was 3 days ago!' we are so sad that Kita daled is over but the good memories will always be in our hearts! Have a wonderful summer!

Keita Hei's last week together was certainly a week to remember! On Tuesday, the class celebrated their completion of Shira's Devorah with a mega barbecue siyum at the Kluger home. Together with their mothers, the girls decorated beautiful gratitude journals to keep track of all that they are thankful for. The girls also put on adorable and masterful performances for their mothers to see, what an evening! The fifth grade has completed learning about the shoftim. The girls were enthralled by the story of Shimshon Hagibor and the incredible events that occurred during his reign. On Thursday, the class celebrated

their siyum on parshas vaayra. The siyum was complete with pizza, French fries and Slurpee's, Yum! They also played a fun activity listing positive things that they will always remember about their classmates from this year. Mrs Liff will miss each and every student. May you have much Nachas!

Kitah vav ended off the school year with a bang! On Monday and Tuesday we hosted Sarahla Adelman's cousins who were visiting from Florida. The Hachnosas Orchim and genuine happiness at helping out was beautiful to behold. We learned all about Parshas Chukas and the many events that the Torah describes in the PARsha. On Wednesday Carnival Fever took hold of Kittah vav as the talmidos scrambled to put the finishing touches on their booths....and yes! B"H Thursday's carnival was a great success! The Pre1A was treated to face painting, while grades 1 through 7 enjoyed the fishing booth, the obstacle course, the target booth, the ball-in-a cup booth the balance beam and the Marshmallow Fluff booth (ask your daughters what each booth involved). On Friday, the very last day of school, Kittah vav was treated to a GRAND BRUNCH SIYUM on Parshiyos Bamidbar through Chukas/Balak. Instead of the usual nosh eaten on the last day of school, kittah vav breakfasted on fresh salads, bagel and danishes. Then there was a Grand Chidon on Parshas Hashavua (the winners were not known at the time we went to print.....sorry). As another week (and school year) draw to a close, the talmidos of kitah vav can look back at all they have accomplished this year with pride, joy and satisfaction. Mrs. Eckstein has derived much nachas watching her talmidos grow and progress in all areas. It was a privilege getting to know all of you. May your daughters continue to be a source of joy and nachas to you all as they continue on their journey to adulthood as Bnos Yisrael. Have a happy and healthy summer!



פרשת חקת 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.



L'hakdishani!

(Bamidbar 20:12)

We are all familiar with the story of how Moshe Rabbeinu strikes the rock and as a result is told that that he will not be able to enter Eretz Yisrael. The Torah defines this cause and effect by telling us that the reason Moshe and Ahron are being denied access to the promised land is because *Ya'an lo he'emantem bi l'hakdishani leinei Bnai Yisrael*—they missed an opportunity to be Mikadeish Shem Shamyim.

This is an especially important reminder as we approach the summer. We must remember that every moment of every day is another moment when a Kiddush Hashem is possible.

Being *mikadesh shem Shamayim* in words, deeds and actions is the only way to reach the promised land.



Nshei Corner



For the final box tops collection this week, whomever brought in 25 box tops was treated to Italian ices! What a pleasant treat in the warm weather we've been having! As the school year comes to a close we'd like to thank every single parent who volunteered throughout the year. It makes our job easier, and it really excites your daughters to see you participating in their school!

Remember if you have any uniforms to donate, please drop them off in a bag at the home of Mrs. Sarina Kurtz, 12 Rosewood Lane. We are looking forward to opening our Uniform Exchange!

Have a Good Shabbos!

Ateres N'Shei

Chany Silverman & Faigie Walter

This week's
Simchas Shabbos
is sponsored by

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Mrs. Levin's Update

DEAR PARENTS,

As this will be my final newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to say good-bye and thank you all for entrusting me with your precious daughters. It has been a wonderful experience for me here in Ateres for these last nine years. I will miss all of the girls. I know that as Ateres girls they will all make a Kiddush Hashem wherever life takes them!

Have a happy and healthy summer!

With all my love, Mrs. L. Levin

What an amazing year it has been. I've been so fortunate to have had such a special group of girls this year. I will truly miss each one.

*In 2017 at the beginning of September
You came into my class, how well I remember.
Some of you were smiling and giggling a lot
Some were very quiet and a few tears I could spot
You came here to learn, to be taught how to read
You were then very much like a tiny new seed
You were all in my garden just waiting to grow
So this gardener got busy with her rake and her hoe
I fed you the water and let in the sun
You took in the soil, but we had only begun
Each day as I worked in this garden of mine
I saw you all growing so strong and so fine
Then finally one day I took a good look
And saw each of my flowers reading a book
It was obvious then that you had worked too
Soaking up all the food I had given to you
But although you have blossomed, you still need to grow
So I'll pass you on now to another gardener I know
She too has a rake and hoe she can use
And plenty of food from which you can choose
I hope you will keep your roots open wide
Take in all her food and keep it inside
Yes, a gardener can work all night and all day
But the flower must be willing to take in each ray
So work very hard in your garden each year
Do the best you can and you'll have nothing to fear
Grow strong and tall, reach up for the sun
Stay as nice as you are and have lots of fun.*

Have a nice summer!, Mrs. Wingate

Mrs. Baron cannot believe that this was the last week of school. Mrs. Baron doesn't want to say good-bye. She will miss having the daily pleasure of seeing her adorable students and teaching each one.

Mrs. Baron's parting message to the second graders is this "Each one of you has special talents. Each girl shines like a sparkling diamond. Always use your talents to become the best you can be!"

Mrs. Feldman would like to thank all the parents who contributed to the class gift, it is very much appreciated! Who can believe the year is over already. Third grade has learned so much and has a lot to be proud of. Mrs. Feldman will miss each and every girl. Congratulations to Esti Elbaum and Daniella Port on becoming multiplication masters of all the tables. Have a wonderful summer everyone!

The results are in for **Mrs. Paley's Fourth Grade** Spelling Bee. It was an exciting spelling bee and, believe it or not, it took two days to declare a winner. Congratulations to all the participants and to Esther Weinstein, the winner. What an amazing job by all our finalists. On Tuesday the girls had an end of a year talent show and, as I've been saying all year, fourth graders definitely have talent. The talent show was amazing and everyone had a great time. The girls were given special awards on Thursday and had a beautiful party. It was bittersweet for Mrs. Paley because "I am so happy for all the girls successes this year but sad to be saying goodbye." As fourth graders have said, "This year went by too fast." **A special note to my fourth grade girls:**

I am sad that the school year is over. We all agreed that the year flew by. I would like to thank all of my girls for their incredible effort and unbelievable enthusiasm this year. I LOVED spending my afternoons with you. I hope you have a happy, healthy summer. I will think of you often. You will be missed so much. Love, Mrs. Paley

The final week of school is finally upon us, and in **Mrs. Friedman's** class the girls are as busy as ever!

In Spelling, the girls have now completed the spelling curriculum, and the books were taken home this week. In Math, the class completed the last math chapter on Decimals. The girls have really come a long way on all of their math skills this year, and have accomplished all of the fifth grade goals in the CCSS math curriculum. In ELA, the students completed all the required skills of the fifth grade CCSS Literacy curriculum. The girls have done so well in all areas of Reading, Writing, text analysis, etc. Mrs. Friedman is very proud of their efforts! On Thursday, the girls were treated to a special party in Mrs. Friedman's class. A special cake was ordered as a "Goodbye" to our wonderful Fifth grade year. The girls were also treated to a special gift, soda, chips and many other surprises from Mrs. Friedman. Mrs. Friedman raffled off all the remaining gum in the gumball machine to one lucky winner, and the highlight of our party was when each girl received her special award/certificate to show her achievements in the fifth grade! Additionally, every girl also received her personal writing portfolio, consisting of writing done from the first day of school, up to the final writing assignment. Parents are urged to read through this portfolio and see how much their daughters have grown in their written expression and writing skills! Science portfolios were also given to each girl containing the entire fifth grade Science curriculum! Every worksheet, project sheet, etc. that each girl has done was carefully put together and given to each student, so she can always remember the fun, hands-on engaged learning experience (and the science project) she had in Mrs. Friedman's class! The highlight of the party was the announcement of our student of the year. Although there were many wonderful, amazing girls in this class from which to choose, **Esther Stein** was the final choice! MAZEL TOV on this well-deserved honor, Esther!

In closing, I would like to wish all of my special students a healthy and happy summer. It has been an honor and a privilege to be your teacher this year, and I wish you the best of luck and much brocha and hatzlocha, in your next school year and always. I will really miss you all! All the best!

Wow! **Mrs. Frances** can't believe the year is over.... She is so proud of how much the sixth grade accomplished and she will miss all of their smiling faces. The Country Fair was a huge success. Every girl did an amazing job. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

Miss Schlesinger would like to say goodbye to the sixth grade. She really enjoyed teaching the class math and getting to know each student. In these last few weeks, the girls' math skills improved greatly and Miss Schlesinger is very pleased with the results of their final math test of the year. Miss Schlesinger wants to wishing the girls success in 7th grade. Have a happy and healthy summer!

A Peek into the Week



Kitah Alef



Kitah Gimmel



Kitah Daled at their tour of the Tomchei Shabbos Warehouse



Sixth grade and Mrs. Frances held a Country Fair to accompany their Country research reports.

Tune in to Junior High

From the desk of Mrs. Kayla Stimmel

The eighth grade had a blast this week at a pool party hosted by **Mrs. Steinfeld**. On Monday, amidst the 94 degree heat, the eighth graders were treated to a refreshing swim and goodbye pool party at Mrs. Steinfeld's home. They celebrated with music, pizza, and good company. Everyone had a wonderful time, and it was a special way to end the year and celebrate all of their successes in math and other subjects.

Mrs. Fuchs bid the eighth grade goodbye this week, sending them off with warm wishes for joyful learning and growth in high school and beyond. It has been a pleasure to teach such an upbeat, fun-filled, and motivated group of young ladies this spring. Learning together offered a seamless blend of textual skill development, critical thinking, on-topic (and sometimes off-topic!) discussion... While the students were busy learning much new material this spring, Mrs. Fuchs thanks the class for the opportunity to learn from them as well. With each new group of students, a teacher refines her craft, and Mrs. Fuchs has gained so much insight into her own teaching by working with this wonderful class!

Pirkei Avos

Portraits in Parenting

By: Rabbi Aaron Fink



This week we study the fifth perek of Avos. It is filled with lessons we learn through numbers and their associations with Torah values and ideals.

The second Mishna teaches; *Asarah doros meAdam ad Noach, lihodeeah kama erech apayim Lifanav, shekol hadoros hayu macesim uvain ad sheheivee alehem es mei hamabul.*— There were ten generations from Adam until Noach which teaches us about Hashem patience for all those generations continually angered him until He eventually destroyed them with the waters of the Flood.

Patience is a major component of our child rearing toolbox. We learn from this Mishna just how much Hashem is patient with us, His children. We, too, must be patient with our own! Too often, we try to live vicariously through our children and we forget they have different parents than we did. We so badly want them to perform with perfection, we can even forget they are still so young. Sadly, a lack of patience is often reflected in losing one's temper, speaking harshly with angry words or worse. And, it doesn't work.

We should learn from Hashem and have a sense of erech apayim for our own children while we gently guide them in their growth as a bnei and bnos Torah. It's a perfect summer time activity.

The moment we were all waiting for finally arrived in eighth grade--yearbook distribution! All of the hard work, creativity, and fundraising came together in a masterpiece to call their own.

Mrs. Eisenstein is very proud of the tremendous job done by the eighth graders this year. The yearbook will be a treasured reminder of all of the wonderful Ateres experiences our graduates enjoyed.

Our seventh graders had a full week of learning. As sad as it is for Mrs. Rokowsky to watch the girls leave seventh grade as they move on to become seniors of Ateres Junior High, I am so proud of their super accomplishments they have made this year. The girls have grown in so many areas; socially, academically, and in their ruchniyus as well. The girls learned great amounts in chumash class, covering a lot of sefer devarim, learning such beautiful life long lessons. In navi, they eagerly listened to the beautiful ideas in shmuel beis, constantly being inspired by the ways of David hamelech. And of course, the girls learned so much in tfilla, halacha, and yahadus class. Mrs. Rokowsky's hope is that the girls will take the lessons they learned this year to heart and reach their greatest potential!!

The seventh graders were relieved to complete their math final. They have learned a tremendous amount this year! They enjoyed a geometry scavenger hunt to review their geometry vocabulary. The girls scanned our classroom, the hallways, playground and outside of our building looking for prisms, pyramids, right angles and more. Mrs. Karash was impressed with the girls knowledge and how much they have grown this year.

The 8th grade had a blast this week at a pool party hosted by Mrs. Steinfeld. On Monday, amidst the unbearable 94 degree heat, the 8th graders were treated to a refreshing swim and goodbye pool party at Mrs. Steinfeld's home. They celebrated with music, pizza, and good company. Everyone had a wonderful time, and it was a special way to end the year and celebrate all of their successes in math and other subjects.

As our students move on to the next stage in their learning, we wish them much hatzlocha in all they do, and all the places they go. Mazel tov on your graduation! Enjoy the adventure ladies!

