

The Weekly Newsletter of Ateres Bais Yaakov

Dear Ateres Parents,

Vayigdal hani'arim. As the twin boys of Yitzchok and Rivka begin to mature, they start to forge separate paths. Eisav takes to the street as an "ish tzayid ish sadeh." Yaakov, on the other hand, is an "ish tam yosheiv ohalim." Young Yaakov Avinu is spending his time in the tents, learning, growing, and shteing! A burgeoning talmid chacham, he is well on his way to becoming the Av who will raise the twelve shevatim and become synonymous with Torah and the attribute of emes.

In examining the text, it is interesting to note that the Torah tells us that Yaakov Avinu spent his time sitting in the "ohalim" - referring to "tents" in the plural. Which tents were they? Where were these ohalim that helped Yaakov develop into the bechir sheb'avos? Many insights are offered. Rashi teaches they were the tent of Yeshivas Shem and the tent of Yeshivas Eiver respectively – the Yeshivos where Yaakov learned. The Netziv teaches they were the twin tents of Torah and Tfillah. Indeed, it is almost universal that one of the tents being referred to is the ohel shel Torah. But what of the second tent? Looking back in parshas Chaya Sara we may find an interesting approach to discovering the other



tent we are seeking. As Yitzchok and Rivka marry we are taught, "vayivieha Yitzchok haohela Sarah imo" – that Yitzchok brought Rivka into the tent of Sarah. As he did so, the supernatural environment that filled Sarah Imeinu's tent returned. Warmth filled the home with a ner daluk me'erev Shabbos l'erev Shabbos. Bracha was once again mitzuya b'soch ha'isa and an anan of Shechina was kashur al ha'ohel. Hashem Yisborach's presence was felt in the home. Indeed, as Rivka entered the tent as the wife of Yitzchok, the ohel returned to its previous grandeur as a home of ohr, bracha and Shechina. Perhaps this is the other ohel where Yaakov sat and grew. Even as a teenager, Yaakov was an ish tam yosheiv ohalim, sitting in both tents, at home and at school. In both locations Yaakov Avinu was the same. Not only because he behaved the same way in each, but, because to him the tents were identical. Both the Beis Medrash and his home were filled with ohr, bracha and Shechina! He therefore had no need to act one way at home and another at school. He was yosheiv ohalim. Wherever Yaakov found himself he "shtieged". Imbued with the warmth and love at home and in school, Yaakov realized that his Torah learning in

the Beis Medrash and his life at home were one and the same.

The subtlety of the message should not be missed. Our children are all yoshei ohalim. They spend time at home and at school. We can learn from our imahos that a healthy Torah home is filled with the warmth of ohr, bracha and Shechina. In addition, as yoshei ohalim our children need to be blessed with consistency. The goals and standards of the Yeshiva and home must be that of a common mission if we are to inspire our children to aspire for greatness. The Navi Hoshea declares (12:10) od oshivcha b'ohalim kiymei moed – I will return you to the tents like the days of yore. Rashi wonders which ohalim are referred to by the Navi in this posuk. He explains that as we draw near to the time of geulah – "a'amid mitochech talmidim oskim baTorah . . . shehaya Yaakov ish tam yosheiv ohalim! ". Torah leaders will emerge from our community just like Yaakov Avinu who was a "yosheiv ohalim" Filled and warmed with ohr, bracha and Shechina and a consistent message of growth there is nothing the home-school partnership cannot accomplish, kiymei moed!



Rabbi Aaron Fink, Dean



What an exciting and happening week we had at Ateres!

On Monday, we held our first PBIS breakout assembly. PBIS, or Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, is a proactive method to establish a school wide culture that promotes students' social, behavioral and academic success. At our professional development before the start of school, the Ateres faculty received training in PBIS implementation. Our PBIS leadership team which is comprised of administrators and teachers created a set of expectations as well as our first PBIS initiative.

When students arrived at this special assembly, they formed a big circle with grades 1 to 6 mixed up and holding hands. It was beautiful to watch how the older students made sure that the younger students felt comfortable and included. We then played a game of "pass the present around" to discover clues that would help us decode the Ateres PBIS acronym. Students were quick to put all the clues together to find our "school word": CROWN. Our leadership team then explained what each letter stands for: Care, Respect, Ownership, Willpower, Nachas.

"Wearing the Ateres CROWN" means to display those attributes throughout the day, no matter where we find ourselves. Our first

**Care
Respect
Ownership
Willpower
Nachas**

target area is the hallway where those expectations are detailed in a hallway matrix. To end off the assembly, students were treated to candy "gems" to sweeten their crown. After a few weeks of teaching and reinforcing hallway expectations using common vocabulary and offering labeled praise, we will look forward to celebrating our students' success before starting with a new PBIS initiative!

We ushered in Rosh Chodesh Kislev with great Ruach! After davening Hallel together, we held our Rosh Chodesh assembly. Mrs. Salvay explained how as part of our yearly theme of "V'chai bahem", we are focusing this month on Kiddush HaShem. Indeed, Chazal learn from the pasuk of v'chai bahem that one should live and not die for Mitzvos (aside for the three big exceptions). Therefore, our aim is to live a life of

Kiddush HaShem and illuminate the world by doing so. We are working on a new bulletin board in the hallway where students are writing on paper candles how they plan on making a Kiddush HaShem; this is sure to bring tremendous light to the world!

The highlight of our assembly was the magnificent performance by our very own Kitah Hey! The beautiful song, skit and dances they performed on the theme of Kiddush HaShem and Chanukah were enjoyed by all. Kol HaKavod Mrs. Liff and Kitah Hey for all your hard work! The assembly concluded with a prize from the N'shei; a donut-shaped yoyo! Thank you N'shei!

And now for a peek into our classrooms....

The Preschool twin day special event was so exciting!!! All the girls got a twin partner and, with their moms help, dressed up alike. Even the morahs were twins!!! Learning about Yaakov and Esav this week gave us the inspiration for this adorable event. Pictures were sent to the moms !! Thanks preschool moms for making twin day so successful!!

This week Kitah Aleph had a blast! The girls came in with things they could use to dress up as נסיך ונסיכה -baseball caps, yarmulkas, pink frilly hats, and headbands with flowers and bows. They used these items to play games and reinforce their lessons with such fun!

This week was also the conclusion of the first unit from the שיטות ליד ביד program and the girls received their well earned prizes.

On Thursday and Friday Kitah Aleph once again impressed Morah Tova with their beautiful midos as they played together with such תרבותה using the things they brought for "Show & Share" in honor of Rosh Chodesh Kislev.

Job well done Kitah Aleph!

Kitah Beis is working hard to master their sofios! We are spending time learning and reviewing

these foundational chumash skills and are getting very excited to start Chumash inside soon. We love making learning fun with games such as Shimon Amar, Concentration and even catch (catch the ball and answer a question). We began a new Ivrit unit (mishpacha) this week and enjoyed having special visits from lots of Imas, Abbas, Achim, Achot and our cute tinokot. After learning this weeks parsha, many of the students did not know what lentil soup is and so we enjoyed delicious red lentil soup this week! Thanks to all of the students that brought in ingredients!

BH, what a week of accomplishments we had in Kitah Gimmel! The girls finished writing their second book. They wrote beautiful sentences, and decorated them too! This week we started learning about Chanuka.

While learning Shemoneh Esrei we learned the beracha "ATA CHONEIN ..DAAS" the girls understood that we have to put effort in our learning but we still need the help of Hashem to succeed.

Some girls wrote the bracha on a paper with personal requests and they keep it next to them. They added such nice comments;

Talya: Hashem is always with us, no matter where we go Hashem will help us. So daven with all your kavana.

Gabriella: Please Hashem help me be smart, understanding and wise.

Daniella says tehilim in her free time and writes down all the shorashim she finds in the pesukim. What a nachas!!!

Kitah Daled has been hard at work reviewing for their first Chumash test. Through chazara sheets and a review game we played, students practiced shorashim, al mi ne'emar, mi amar el mi and other questions to test their mastery of the pesukim. The girls' enthusiasm is wonderful to watch! They put in remarkable efforts in preparing and taking their test. Kol HaKavod!

Kitah Daled also had a fun interactive session b'Ivrit, practicing a unit of words all in Hebrew. Girls had to say b'Ivrit what they wanted to draw on the board and carried on conversations with questions and answers about their drawings, really working on their language skills. On Rosh Chodesh, Kitah Daled enjoyed singing Hallel with grades 5 and 6. They also made meaningful contributions to the Kiddush HaShem bulletin board. It was truly a Nachas-filled week! They are looking forward to a month of Kislev filled with continued growth in learning and middos!

Kitah Hei completely outdid themselves this week! The girls put in tremendous amounts of effort and time into practicing for their rosh chodesh kisleiv production. The results were unbelievable! The girls wowed the school with their professional and beautiful performance;

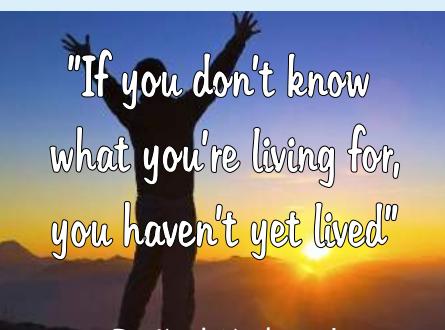
פרשת תולדות תשע"ט



V'chai Bahem

...Katzi bichayay mipnei bnos cheis im lokeiach Yaakov isha mibnos cheis kaeileh mibnos haaretz, lamah li **chayim** (27:46)

Rivka tells Yitzchok that she is disgusted to her very core from the women of cheis who were married to Eisav wives. She declares if Yaakov would take such a wife, she has nothing to live for. As a role model for each of us, Rivka Imeinu, teaches us that we must each have red-lines of commitment with regards to faith and practice. Halachic red-lines are a vital necessity. Torah and Mitzvos are not optional. We must assert our personal determination, discipline and commitment to following the ratzon Hashem, no matter what.



Rav Noach Weinberg, ztl

how impressive! At the assembly, the girls heard Mrs Salvay talk about what it means to make a Kiddush hashem. Each girl wrote down on a colorful "candle" what she feels that she can do to make a Kiddush Hashem, these candles are proudly displayed on the school bulletin board. Looking forward to a wonderful chodesh!

Its been an incredible week in Kita Vav!

A very special part of this week was our Machane Project. In Chumash Bamidbar we learned about how B'nei Yisrael camped in the desert. The whole class worked very hard of creating a model of Klal Yisrael's encampment that helps the talmidos visualize the setup. Kita Vav did a great job and welcomes anyone who wants to come see the stunning creation!

They also learned many additional concepts from this project. In Chumash they discovered what the flags of each Shevet looked like and how the be'er Miriam flowed directly to each individual tent. More importantly they also learned valuable lessons of team work, flexibility and effort. It was Hashgacha Pratis that in Beir Tefillah the class had just commenced studying the Tefillah of Ma Tovu. Bilaam said Ma Tovu when he saw how Bnei Yisrael camped!

Yes, this week has been filled with great learning experiences in so many ways!

Have a lovely Shabbos

NSHEI CORNER



Chodesh Tov! We hope everyone enjoyed their donut yo-yos, A special thank you to Ms. Chaya Slater for sponsoring this month's Rosh Chodesh treats! If you would like to sponsor a month, please email nshei@ateres.org or sign up through the Give and Get portal on [ateres.org](#).

We are pleased to announce that the Annual Mother Daughter brunch will iy'H take place Sunday December 30. Plans are fully underway. We are looking for volunteers to help out with food preparations (salads and cupcakes), setup (Motzei Shabbos and/or Sunday), and Sunday cleanup. If you unable to volunteer time, we are still accepting sponsorships for prizes. Please sign up at [ateres.org](#) or email nshei@ateres.org. With Chanukah fast approaching the Nshei is also collecting money for teacher gifts. Our teachers work so hard and give so much to our girls, so please show your appreciation by signing up at [ateres.org](#). Thank you so much in advance!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Ateres N'Shei

Chany Silverman, Sarina Kurtz, Aliza Mytelka

Mrs. Kahn Kvels

On almost a daily basis, I get stopped in the hallway and asked, "Mrs. Kahn, can I tell you something cool about _____" or "can I tell you how _____ works?" The girl then proceeds to share with me her most recent scientific discovery. Kids today want to learn. They have a desire to explore, discover, and understand. We just have to provide a framework for them to do so. Our wonderful teaching staff is doing just that, every day, here in school. It is your opportunity, at home, to further their learning. Ask your daughters why they blink, why does water flow downward, or why the trees need to be bare in the winter. Ask them why different children in the family have different eye color, why oranges have peels, or why we can't always see the moon. You will be surprised at what they come up with!

What another great week in first grade. The girls are always learning new skills to help them become fluent readers. We have begun reviewing some of the beginning blends such as sh, th, ch, bl, br, tr, and gr. The short vowel sounds are part of our daily routine. Mr. Pirate joined our class this week. He walked around saying "ar" to all the girls. He taught us several new words such as car, far, tar, bar, star, and shark.

Creative writing was so much fun. This week we read a fictional story about two pigs being hot and how each pig made their own pool. The class then discussed real facts they knew about pigs and wrote wonderful sentences. Their artistic ability really shone when they all drew adorable pink pigs. The girls enjoyed this assignment!

This week the second grade embarked on a new project. The class read a Russian folktale titled The Enormous Turnip. Mrs. Baron taught the second-graders how to write a book report. Book reports give students the opportunity to practice writing skills and deepen their understanding of a book. The first step was to express some of their artistry and make a cover. The children talked about important parts of the story, such as setting, characters, problem, solution, and their opinion. The book report was presented in a format that included headings for each section. Then they wrote a few sentences and made the ideas flow together. On the topic of writing, I'd like to thank Bruria Rosenberg for sharing some of her wonderful poetry with Mrs. Baron and her fellow classmates.

Children have learned about the different meanings of addition and subtraction. Volunteers read word problems out loud. Then we analyzed the problem to decide whether they will add or subtract. With a little bit of guidance, the students did a great job!

Third graders are avid readers! Mrs. Feldman's reading incentive program is in full swing. Congratulations to Devorah Leah Goldberger, Gitty Einhorn and Daniella Malka Berkowitz, the first girls to read five books and receive a prize. In math, the girls are working so hard on their multiplication facts. Mrs. Feldman can't believe how fast the girls are catching on. They had their first multiplication test this week and the entire class did beautifully! When telling the girls what page to open to in any workbook they are using, Mrs. Feldman will often give them a multiplication sentence for them to solve to get to the right page. The class loves putting their multiplication skills to work.

Our fourth graders love math and they love to read! Combining math and literacy helps heighten students' motivation and learning. This week Mrs. Paley's girls read a fairy tale about PAUL BUNYAN which was told in a humorous way. After the story, the girls worked on a set of word problems relating to the details of the fairy tale. This was a fun way to review multiplication facts while using reading skills. The class also completed another chapter in math and they are now learning how to multiply double digit numbers by double digit numbers. The results of their math tests, by the way, were FANTASTIC!

Before reading a nonfiction story, HOW TO BABYSIT AN ORGANUTAN, the fourth graders discussed facts about the rain forest in Borneo, the setting of the story. After completing the story, the girls learned how to make a timeline. Our timeline included milestones in the life of an orangutan from birth through their eighth birthday when the orangutans become adults and return to the wild. It was a great story and the class loved reading about the antics of these orangutans. Keep up the great work, fourth graders. Mrs. Paley is so proud of you!

This week in Mr. Kanrich's 5th grade class, students learned about identifying and drawing inferences from reading passages and learned about author's tone. In addition, they explored the geography of the U.S.

TUNE IN TO JUNIOR HIGH

From the desk of Mrs. Kayla Stimmel

It's been a week packed with excitement in the Junior High. On Wednesday the JHS was treated to a very entertaining Enrichment Program Breakout. All the girls were divided into two teams and the team leaders, Mrs. Stimmel and Mrs. Eisenstein, conducted various races and brain teasers. A wonderful time was had by all! In honor of Rosh Chodesh Kislev, our amazing GO girls prepared a very "tasty" activity! All the girls participated in a balloon dance "with a twist". Each balloon had a slip of paper with the name of a candy written on it and the girls had to find the one other girl in the room who had the same candy written on her paper. Congratulations to our winners Sima Leah Greenberg and Rina Port!

In Mrs Hoffman's class the girls did their middos presentations. The groups worked really well together and taught some wonderful lessons. A few of the middos were zrizus, savlanus, achdus, tznius, kinaah, simcha.... one of the groups did a round the class game of saying something nice about the teacher and no repetition. Those that repeated had to give the teacher a hug! It was fun and a great learning experience!

Mrs. Moller's seventh grade Navi class played a fun game reviewing all the people the girls have learned so far in the first 3 pesukim. The girls needed to fill in a chart with names and facts supplied by

A Peek into the Week



The PBIS Crown acronym



First grade practiced achor and nekeiva



Fifth grade Rosh Chodesh Kislev performance



Thank you Nshei!

Results of their math tests, by the way, were FANTASTIC!

their friends. The class is finishing the third perek in Shmuel Bais this week.

Mrs. Moller's eighth grade Navi class reviewed perek bais for a test next week. The girls filled out a chart detailing the instructions Shlomo received from Dovid before he died. Then the girls learned 5 mamarei chazal. Together with a classmate the girls connected them to different incidents in the perek.

Mrs. Stern's seventh grade class read "Thank You Ma'am" this week, a story about a woman whose purse is nearly stolen by a young boy. She is determined to teach him a lesson he will never forget. They also learned how to properly incorporate a topic sentence into all their future essays. The eighth grade class learned about 4 different kinds of sentences: simple, complex, compound and compound-complex. They also completed another essay this week using the new Grammar rules that they learned.

This week in Mr. Kanrich's 8th grade math class students examined the relationship between degree measurement of the angles in a triangle and the lengths of sides of the figure. They also developed approaches to assist in solving word problems.

This week Mr. Kanrich's 7th grade math class divided rational numbers and practiced the distributive property.

In Mrs. Eisenstein's science class, the girls enjoyed an engineering challenge day. First, they had to use a contraption made of a rubber band with strings attached to unstack cups and make a pyramid. Hands could only touch the strings!



"Mishlei" Parenting Proverbs

By: Mrs. Sarah Salvay

Chinuch insights inspired by Mishlei



"Metzaref lakesef v'chur lazavah, v'ish lefi mahalot", "The refining pot is for silver, and the crucible for gold, while a man is tried according to what he praises" (Mishlei, 27:21).

What enigmatic words to ponder! Rav Hirsch sheds light on this verse by pointing out that if you desire an immediate assessment of the character of a person, merely listen to the things he praises. Just like a crucible serves to identify the purity of silver and gold, so too by paying attention to the things a person approves and praises, one can determine this person's principles and values.

As "non-judgmental" as we may think we are, we make judgements all the time. We appraise groups of people, individuals, objects, habits, values, actions, choices, words and more. Some attributes we hold in high esteem, while we might look down upon other ones. As we try to make sense of the world around us, it is only natural to want to establish some sort of hierarchy and order by rating ethical behaviors and values as well as the people who embrace or display those values.

Our focus in this particular essay is not on discussing the merits and dangers of forming judgments, but rather to bring our awareness to the fact that we do form judgments about myriads of details. And when we do, we send messages about what matters to us and ultimately, about who we are. Although we do not always voice those judgments explicitly, those around us- and particularly our children, pick up on it.

"V'ish lefi mehalelo"; whom and what do we praise? And on the flip side, what do we denigrate? By a facial expression, an off-hand comment, a smile or a frown, we convey how we feel and make statements, although often unintentionally, about what we deeply value.

Who are the heroes we celebrate? Do we praise inborn traits or hard-earned success? What does our body language say when we encounter people who are not "our type"? How do we respond to current events? What messages do we convey about material wealth? How do we evaluate internal and external values and those who display those values?

Our children are watching us, picking up cues on how we filter in the world, and using those cues to build their own ideological construct.

Every moment and interaction with our children can be a teaching moment; both an immense privilege and responsibility.

"Metzaref lakesef v'chur lazavah", we are like gold going through the crucible - revealing what we are truly made of. By being conscious of this, may we bring our best selves to the task as we inspire our children towards the values that we hold dear.

*"Are you the adult
you want your child
to become?"*