

Ateres Paz

The Parent Handbook of Ateres Bais Yaakov • Rabbi Aaron J. Fink, Dean • August 2016- אלול תשע"ו

Hashem is our Pilot *By: Rabbi Aaron J. Fink, Dean*

The beginning of the new school year is upon us, what a crossroad – especially this year! With so many fond Ateres memories on Cherry Lane to look back on and cherish and such an auspicious and amazing future to look forward to, we sit at the threshold of a bright future remembering that "Every new beginning comes from some



other beginning's end." It is up to us to make it successful. What an opportunity.

For this unique experience we have selected as our theme of the year the famed posuk in Parshas Bahaaloscha, "Al pi Hashem yachanu v'al pi Hashem yisau." This maxim truly reflects the tefila we offer together for our future. Indeed, it is these

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In His Arms *By: Mrs. Jenny Samet*

The constant dismantling and rebuilding of the Mishkan occurred in various different places in the Torah, however the Gemara learns that it is as if it all occurred always in the same location because of the passuk says, "Al pi Hashem yisu... v'al pi Hashem yachanu" It was all directly Hashem's instruction. Therefore, even though they were geographically and physically different locations, since the orders of when to camp and when to move were from Hashem, the Gemara considers it as if it was all one identical location. We can better understand this concept by learning what the Rosh Yeshiva of Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva in Radin-The Granat explains on this passuk. He says that klal Yisrael's travels were like the travels of a 'child in her mother's hands.' That's the way they travelled in the Midbar-they were always in exactly the same place metaphorically, like in their mother's arms-in

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Meshaneh Makom . . . *By: Mrs. Linda Levin*

After being on the Cherry Lane campus for 15 years, Ateres is relocating temporarily until its new beautiful building will be completed iyH. Moving is both an end and a beginning. It closes one door but opens up another. Moving allows for a fresh start in a new venue with so many wonderful possibilities for change and growth.

There is a saying "meshaneh makom, meshaneh mazal" that when one changes his location or place of dwelling, his mazal changes too. Why should this be so? Why does a person's mazal change just because he has moved?

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Who Moves the Pieces? *By: Mrs. Kayla Stimmel*

As anyone surrounded by boxes and packing tape can attest, moving is never easy. It is hard to imagine how Klal Yisroel lived in the desert after Yetzias Mitzrayim, constantly on the move and never able to rest for too long. The passuk tells us Al Pi Hashem Yachanu, v'Al Pi Hashem Yisa'u. Bnei Yisroel traveled by the word of Hashem.

This passuk is given as an answer to a question of the Gemara in Shabbos (31b). The Av Melocha of Soser, destroying, applies only to something that is demolished with the intention of

ברוכים הבאים!

Welcome to the new term at Ateres Bais Yaakov. The school year will *begin on Wednesday, September 7th for grades 1-8 and Thursday, September 8th for K and Pre1-A.* This edition of Ateres Paz contains valuable school opening information. A handy school policy pull out page is also included. Please keep it for future reference.

Please note our new address

945 Rt. 45, New City, NY 10956

Best Wishes for a טובה ומתוקה שנה.

School Opening Calendar						
S	M	T	W	Th	Fri	Sh
September						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
October						
						1
2	3	4	<5>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

September

- 6 Staff Development Day
- 7 First Day of School- Orientation for Preschool
- First Day of Transportation
- 8 First Day of School for Preschool
- 20 Back to School Night

October

- 3-4 Rosh Hashana – No Sessions
- 5 Tzom Gedaliah - Early Dismissal (1:00)
- Junior High - No Sessions
- 10 Legal Holiday – Regular Sessions No District Transportation
- 11-12 Yom Kippur
- 13 Sessions Resume
- 16-26 Sukkos Vacation
- 27 Sessions Resume

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Meet the Faculty

Ateres is proud of the outstanding faculty that comprise the team of professionals that educate our children. These individuals are appreciated for their experience, professionalism, dedication, warmth and care. Our *Limudei Kodesh* staff is comprised of women who epitomize the Ateres ideal of being able to suffice our students' ever growing *ahavas haTorah* and *yiras shamayim* with a special blend of *simchas hachayim*. This is evident by the smiles that Ateres girls have on their faces coming to school each day. Our general studies teachers are master educators and understand children. We are so pleased to welcome back our veteran staff members and extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues, as well. Resource faculty complete the team of *mechanchos* who are devoted to bringing out the very best in each of our *talmidos*.

At every grade level, Ateres *moros* and teachers strive to make the learning relevant and to imbue students with a desire to set higher standards and goals for their learning. *Limudei Kodesh* and general studies teachers work together to integrate lessons throughout the day and transmit the message to our students that *all* of their learning should relate to and enhance their *avodas Hashem*. In addition, the entire faculty works closely with the resource staff, coordinated by Mrs. Jodi Warum.

You can count on her to oversee the unique learning needs of each student requiring additional support to be successful.

What sets our staff apart is their professionalism, collective experience and desire to grow that is evident in their teaching style and constant desire to provide students their every need, *b'ruchniyus uv'gashmiyus*. All share their expertise with each other and, in turn, look for training and new techniques to incorporate in their classrooms. Our staff, as every Ateres parent knows, is our greatest asset.

Your Administrative Team

A devoted group of professionals comprise the heart of the Ateres Bais Yaakov, Elementary division (K-8), management team. Together, they assure a strong and vibrant executive office upon which all of our academic and non-academic activities derive support and thrive. Faculty, parents, students and visitors can all count on the administrative team doing the utmost to assure successful learning and growing at Ateres Bais Yaakov.

- Rabbi Aaron J. Fink, *Dean*
- Mrs. Jenny Samet, *Associate Principal*
- Mrs. Linda Levin, *Assistant Principal, General Studies*
- Mrs. Kayla Stimmel, *Junior High School Coordinator*
- Rabbi Moshe Dear, *Executive Director*
- Mrs. Chani Lehmann, *Ed. Office Administrator*
- Mrs. Shira Berkowitz, *Business Office Administrator*
- Mrs. Chaya Kohn, *Receptionist*
- Mrs. Nechama Klugman, *Office*

N'shei-Working For Our Children

Rounding out the team is our amazing Nshei. We salute our N'shei head, Mrs. Chaya Cohen and her wonderful dedicated team. We wish them *bracha* and *hatzlocha* in all their endeavors and look forward to their impact on all school activities. Without a doubt, the creativity, enthusiasm and team spirit of our Ateres mothers enhances the school experience. Many new special events are being planned.

Sponsorships are also available for Rosh Chodesh treats and *Yom Tov* teachers' gifts. Email ateresnshai@gmail.com to join us and get involved! Remember, time spent working with Nshei counts toward your "Give and Get" obligation.

We are pleased to present our faculty:

*New faculty members are designated by an *.*

Kindergarten 1

- Morah Ruchie Jacknis
- Morah Susan Rhein
- Morah Racheli Chaitovsky

Kindergarten 2

- Morah Mindy Sherman
- Morah Racheli Berger*
- Morah Chagit Lasowsky*

Pre-1 A

- Morah Tova Posluns
- Morah Ahuva Berkowitz
- Morah Rikki Helmann
- Morah Dina Schucht

1st Grade

- Morah Miriam Leiser
- Mrs. Lauren Wingate
- Morah Rivka Leah Weldler*

2nd Grade

- Mrs. Esti Heitner
- Mrs. Rene Baron

3rd Grade

- Mrs. Ruth Ehrman
- Miss Kendyl Eisenberg

4th Grade

- Mrs. Devorah Esther Almog
- Mrs. Rona Paley

5th Grade

- Mrs. Devorah Martin
- Mrs. Susan Horowitz

6th Grade

- Mrs. Tamara Eckstein
- Mrs. Alisa Karash
- Mrs. Ita Berkovic

7th & 8th Grade

- Mrs. Aliza Brecher
- Mrs. Jennifer Eisenstein
- Mrs. Esther Hoffman
- Mrs. Chava Devorah Kahn
- Mrs. Alisa Karash
- Mrs. Shulamit Maslov*
- Mrs. Sivi Rokowsky
- Mrs. Shoshana Rube
- Mrs. Shira Steinfeld
- Mrs. Riki Taubenblat

Resource Department

- Mrs. Jodi Warum
- Mrs. Jessica Drel
- Mrs. Aviva Eisenberger
- Miss Chayala Weldler

Specialty Staff

- Miss Rachel Shafier*, Music
- Mrs. Leah Weinstein, Art

Boachem L'Shalom! - We Welcome ...

- ★ **Mrs. Tamara Eckstein**- Ateres Bais Yaakov is excited to be welcoming back Mrs. Tammy Eckstein who will be returning to our team of devoted *mechanchos* as our 6th grade Morah. An accomplished *mechaneches*, Mrs Eckstein was well regarded in her previous stint at Ateres where she was known for her personal warmth, attention to detail and mastery of the instructional process. We look forward to our 6th graders blossoming under her tutelage and are so glad to have her return.
- ★ **Mrs. Shulamit Maslov**-an Ateres parent will be joining our JRHS faculty as the 7th grade science teacher. Mrs. Maslov is an adjunct professor in Pre-calc and Conceptual Physics at Mercy college. She has an approach to science education which is hands on, personally relevant and spiritually enriching. lyH she will inspire our JRHS with a greater appreciation of the majesty, wonder and discovery of the world around them.
- ★ **Tzatzchem L'shalom** - Ateres bids a fond farewell to **Mrs. Nechama Fergusson**, who will be relocating wit her family to Cleveland. Her devotion to her students and her craft is so appreciated as well as her years of service to the ABY family. We wish her and her family much *hatzlacha!*

Welcome to the Family

The Ateres family wishes a heartfelt *Bruchim Habaim* to the many new members of the Ateres family. We are so happy to welcome...

- Mr. and Mrs. Arye Abramovitz (3)
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bennett (K,2,4)
- Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Davis (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Aryeh Drel (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Shaya Eisen (P)
- Mr. and Mrs. Fishy Felberbaum (3)
- Mr. and Mrs. Eli Fonfeder (K)
- Ms. Tsaitel Freedman (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Mordechai Friedman (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Ilan Fuchs (3)
- Mr. and Mrs. Ari Kluger (4)
- Mr. and Mrs. Shimon Kreisel (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Avraham Kupferstein (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Avrumy Lapchinsky (K,P)
- Mr. and Mrs. Meshulem Martin (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Menachem Meisner (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Mohadeb (4)
- Mr. and Mrs. Joel Nacca (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. David Rosenberg (2)
- Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Schneid (1,2)
- Mr. and Mrs. Amrem Schwartz (5,6)
- Mr. and Mrs. Chezky Wertheimer (K)
- Mr. and Mrs. Eliyahu Wicentowsky (K)

ברוכים הבאים!

ק"ס 3

Back to School Guide



Fall 2016 • Elul 5776



Back to School Pull Out Guide

Welcome to Ateres. Set forth below is important information to help you get acquainted with the expectations we have for you and your daughters this year. Please review our back-to-school checklist as well as the protocols, policies and routines which will assure a successful year for us all. We thank you for your enthusiasm and support. We look forward to an exciting beginning to our new year.



School Readiness Checklist

- Review school calendar (enclosed)
- Become familiar with school policies
- Check/verify transportation
- Fill in Admit/Emergency Info card
- Purchase school supplies
- Become familiar with the Dress Code
- Facilitate homework routines
- Re-establish school year bed time
- Label personal belongings

School Calendar and Schedule

A copy of the Ateres School Calendar is included for your reference. Please post it in a convenient location and refer to it as needed. Please be sure to schedule family vacations and special events at times when they do not conflict with school.

The Ateres Daily Schedule

Grade	Arrival		Dismissal	
	M-F	M-Th	Fri	
K	9:15	3:15	12:30	
P1A - 8	9:00	4:15	1:00	

Attendance

Punctual and regular attendance is critical for a successful school experience. Unless a student is ill, she should be brought to and picked up from school as scheduled. Parents are urged to arrange students' personal appointments at times that do not conflict with school hours and activities. **Children arriving late or leaving early must be checked in or out of school at the office.** Advance notice of alternative arrangements is appreciated.



Preschool Orientation

Wednesday, September 7th, has been set aside for Preschool Orientation. The orientation is designed for parents and their children to come to school for a brief visit with the teachers in their designated classrooms. This visit is intended to acquaint you and your child with her preschool teacher and assistants and familiarize you both with the new classroom environment.

Regular sessions for all preschool classes, K & P1- A will **begin on Thursday, September 8th.**

Please be sure to mark all personal belongings with your child's name.



Back-to-School Nights

Tuesday, September 20 will be **Back-to-School Night** for grades 1-8. At that time, your daughter's teachers will present an outline of their objectives for the year, structure of classes and policies regarding homework. Initiating parental involvement in the educational partnership is critical to an Ateres education.

There will be time for questions regarding general classroom routines after each teacher's presentation.

Arrive and Drive Safely!

Bus service provided by the local school districts transports Ateres girls to and from school. Parents who drive to school are requested to follow the directional signs and not block the bus lanes. Preschool parents should pull into the designated preschool drop off area at arrival and dismissal. Route 45 is a frequent police radar zone, so please watch your speed and drive safely. After 10:00 a.m. the driveway to the classroom building is closed to vehicular traffic. After receiving your late note in the office, please park your car in the staff parking area and walk your child to class.

Check Transportation

Parents whose children are transported to school by bus should acquaint themselves with the bus routes, which are found on your children's bus passes. Please be sure your child brings these passes to school at the start of the school year. Ateres does not receive advance details concerning the bus routes. Inquiries or requests concerning transportation should be made directly to the Transportation Office of the school district in which you reside. To ensure your child's safety to and from school, please accompany her to the bus stop, and receive her there at the anticipated time of arrival. While we conduct bus safety drills during school time, please reinforce the importance of safety precautions when boarding, riding and leaving the bus. Let's take every step possible to make this a healthy, happy and safe school year.

Parents are reminded that the district prohibits student from switching busses without a prearranged temporary pass. Ateres is not authorized to make these arrangements. Please contact the school district transportation office at 845-577-6490 for additional information.



Office Hours and Communication

The Ateres office phone number is **845-368-2200**. Faxes can be sent to **845-368-2210**. The school's address is **945 Route 45, New City, NY 10956** and its email address is **office@ateres.org**. The office will be open 9:00 am - 5:30 pm, Monday - Thursday, and until 1:15pm on Friday. Messages can be left after hours on the school's voice mail system. **Please note, messages regarding changes in carpool or transportation must be called in at least one hour prior to dismissal.** Your cooperation is appreciated.





Retain for Future Reference

Dress Code

We have enclosed a copy of the revised Kindergarten through eighth grade Ateres dress code. This standard allows for personal preferences as it encourages individual choices that make *Hashem* proud. **Please review the dress code carefully.**



Though we anticipate full compliance with the dress code, the following policy will be applied to address any deviations from school standards. Parents are asked to be full participants in the choice of clothing students wear to school.

• **Any Violation** in dress code compliance will result in parents being expected to bring appropriate school clothing to their daughter in order for her to return to class.

The *middah* of *Tznius* encompasses modesty and sensitivity. In accordance with this philosophy, please choose clothing and accessories befitting a Bais Yaakov environment. Clothes that are "user-friendly" and washable, classic rather than extravagant or trendy are preferred. Whereas kindergarteners are free to wear any type of clothing, pants or shorts are not allowed in Pre-1A.

Entertainment, Vacation Time

Lessons and standards taught in school should ideally be carried over even during "off" time. Please encourage your daughter to maintain her *davening* and reading time to bring home the lesson that we use our own time to make choices which make *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* proud. Entertainment and vacation choices, too, must be made with your daughter's innate *kedusha* in mind. Images and experiences which children are exposed to remain with them for life. They should therefore be chosen with care. Manner of dress, too, should be in consonance with *tznius* standards when out of school to achieve a holistic approach to *avodas Hashem*.



We're Partners!

The success of Ateres lies in the cooperation of the school/home alliance. *Chinuch* is most effective when messages are consistent at home and at school. To that end, we ask that all mothers and fathers come to school following the same *tznius* requirements we require of our staff members. **Administrative staff will approach visitors who are non-compliant** (which is both uncomfortable and embarrassing and should not be necessary).

- For women, Ateres parents and guests are welcome in *couture* which covers the knees, elbows and collarbones. Outfits should be easily described as "Bais Yaakov" appropriate.
- Men too, are expected to visit in attire which is at least considered "business-casual" and would be appropriate in the *shul* setting as befits a *makom Torah*.

Both parents and *moros* are seen as critical role models to our *talmidos* and we appreciate your cooperation in dressing in accordance with both the letter and spirit of *halacha*.

Visitors Welcome

All visitors to Ateres, even parents, **must** park and check in at the school office upon their arrival and park **only** in the designated parking areas. Students arriving late and/or leaving early will need an admission slip or early dismissal pass filed with the school secretary. Please do not proceed to the classroom areas unattended. Please be sure to come to school dressed in a manner consistent with the standards Ateres expects of its students.



Media, Internet

An Ateres student is just that-an Ateres student- both in and out of school. We therefore ask our parents to partner with us in maintaining an environment of *kedusha* for their *b'nos Yisroel* at home. We are all aware of the dangers of internet and media. These risks are inherent in cell phones, ipods and the ever evolving media, communication and information marketplace. It is so critical for parents to think twice and consider the impact contemporary media, in all its forms, has on our children. The following guidelines are by no means exhaustive but they are a first step in securing and protecting your child's spiritual future.



1. Ideally, no child should be exposed to the internet at home. If internet use is deemed necessary, all parents should adopt the policy of *yichud* with regards to on-line access. **That is, no child should ever be left unsupervised with an internet-accessible computer.** All computers should be located in public areas of the house and have filters installed. **NO student may have open, unrestricted access to the internet via computer, cell phone and ipod type devices.**
2. All internet accessible computers should be equipped with password enabled filters which only parents can access. Programs such as Jnet, Covenant Eyes, Open DNS Family Shield, or password protected Firewalls are a must!
3. Parents are also urged not to allow their children their own private email accounts. All student emails should be sent to parent accounts so that parent can monitor and provide guidance to their children as needed.
4. **Elementary (K-6) and Middle School (7-8) students may not bring cell phones, ipods or video devices to school or on the bus.**
5. **When inviting classmates over, parents should not expose other children to any form of media (i.e. videos) without getting their parents' approval.**



Happy Birthdays

Birthday celebrations are a special way of expressing our *hoda'ah* to *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* for granting us and our children the priceless gift of life. You can help assure that the celebration brings out the unique qualities of *kedusha* and *hakaras hatov* by including all of your child's classmates in the celebration. Please be sensitive to other parents' standards of *kashrus* and acceptable entertainment when planning out-of-school parties.

Birthday parties in school must be scheduled in advance with your daughter's teacher. Please do not include "nosh-bags" as a party favor. We recommend that birthday celebrants present a small gift to the class (i.e. a book, game or puzzle) to develop a sense of sharing with others as a means of celebrating and expressing *hakaras hatov*.

Please avoid media featured paper goods and party favors in selecting the paraphernalia for a class party. In addition, when selecting the modicum of celebration and party favors, parents should be sensitive to the discriminating standards of spiritual growth that all families desire for their children.



Books and Supplies



Textbooks have been carefully selected and ordered by Ateres for all classes. We are proud of their appearance and solicit your assistance in keeping them in "as-new" condition. All *seforim* and books should be treated with respect. All hard covered texts need to be covered.

- A *seforim* fee, to be collected by your daughters *morah*, is assessed at the beginning of each year based upon the text used in the class - level curriculum. A note with the fee for your daughter's grade will be distributed by her teacher the first week of school. Your prompt remittance is appreciated.
- A school supply list for the entire elementary division is enclosed. We hope that this information will facilitate your daughters' readiness for school.

Classroom furnishings, white boards, bulletin boards, manipulative and classroom materials are available for use in each classroom. All Ateres students will share in the responsibility of showing care and respect for school property. A sense of personal, familial and communal *achrayos* and pride should be the hallmark of our Ateres girls.

Field Trips

Hands-on experiential learning is best complemented with field trips to places of educational insight and application. You can count on such outings during the year to augment your daughter's classroom curriculum.

All students are expected to participate in these excursions. Notice of trip schedules will be sent home in advance of planned events. Trip fees are not included in the Ateres tuition schedule.

Your registration to Ateres constitutes full permission for your daughter to participate in all off-campus school events.



Lunch Program !!!



Arrangements for this year's school lunch program are still pending. We are working with a number of vendors to see who can provide a the type of healthy nutritious lunch that program participants are expecting.

We will notify you shortly of final arrangements.



Food for the Soul

All dairy products served at Ateres are *Cholov Yisrael*. Parents, too, are expected to join us in maintaining this standard, to assure a common

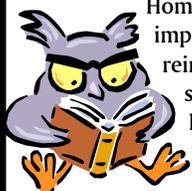
school standard. Please check your child's lunch and/or snack to see to it that we are working together.

Preschoolers are provided with two healthful snacks each day. A designated snack time is offered for all other classes for snacks brought from home.

Healthful snacks ought to be the standard for school. Sugar based "Shehakol" treats are discouraged. It is the Ateres' nutritious snack policy to promote alertness for learning and personal health. It helps eliminate "snack competition." We are counting on your full cooperation.



Homework



Homework plays an important role in reinforcing and solidifying the learning process. Research shows that children who review and/or practice

information after school have a significantly higher retention rate for days, weeks and even months later. Parents should view homework as an important learning tool and expect homework assignments to be dispensed in moderation in a way which is reasonable for girls at their grade levels. The goal is to provide a succinct review to reinforce concepts and practice skills from lessons taught in class. There will be regular *kriah/Chumash* review and reading combined with age-appropriate short and long term assignments. Your daughter's teachers will review their policies and expectations for homework at back-to-school night.

Homework is assigned to *students*, not to parents. Your help in facilitating a healthy homework protocol is vital, but please do not do the assignment for your child. If she is unable to perform an assigned task, her teacher needs to know. Be sure to establish a homework routine and check your daughter's assignment book nightly. Of course, getting enough rest will assure her success both in school and at homework time.

Tzedaka



Tzedaka is collected in each classroom daily. Learning to share with others is an integral part of teaching our children a sense of communal responsibility. A little bit each day makes a real difference. In addition, Ateres supports a variety of national and international causes of Jewish interest through the year. Participation enables our girls to connect with the greater Jewish community close to home and in *Eretz Yisrael*.

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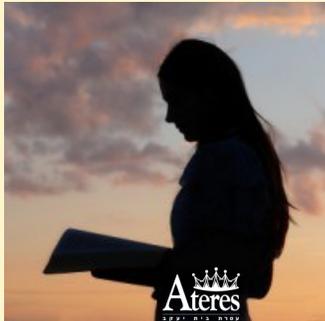
In His Arms By: Mrs. Jenny Samet

Hashem's arms each time. We too should feel just like Hashem is holding us every step of the way every day but especially now through our move.

The month of Elul/September means school.

It means new notebooks, new supplies and a new beginning. This year it means a different building and a new location to house the precious talmidos of Ateres Bais Yaakov. We are very excited to begin a journey towards our new location.

We are comforted with the thought that we are teaching Torah, passing down the mesorah and are building the bnos Yisroel of the future, the future mothers of klal Yisroel. We are so thankful that "Al pi Hashem yisu... v'al pi Hashem yachanu" it is time to move onward but we feel that Hashem is carrying us in His hands through the journey ahead. During the



course of the year we look forward to instilling this idea in your daughters.

We want them to feel and experience Hashem in their daily lives.

We want them to know that through their actions they will leave a 'spiritual fingerprint' whenever they go. It is an invisible signature they should sign, proudly stating, "I was here and I made a difference". And it was a good difference. It is so bashert that this year is תשע"ז. The last two letters of the letters in the year, - זע mean strength. This year at Ateres Bais Yaakov we are looking forward to strengthen our love of Hashem, our

avodas Hashem and especially strengthen our conscious effort to place Hashem into our every thought, conversation and action.

We are looking forward to a very special new year, in a new place with renewed strength, making Hashem very proud of our Ateres Bais Yaakov family.

A NEW DAY

*Outside my window, a new day I see
Only I can determine what kind it will be.
It can be busy and sunny, laughing and gay,
Or boring and cold, unhappy and gray.
My own state of mind is the determining key,
For I am the person I let myself be.
I can be thoughtful and do all
I can to help,
Or be selfish, and think just of myself.
I can enjoy what I do and make
it seem fun,
Or gripe and complain and make it
hard on someone.
I can be patient with those who may
ot understand,
Or belittle and hurt them with the wave
of my hand.
With faith and hope I'll keep on my way,
To strive and make the very best
of each and every day.*

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Meshaneh Makom...Mrs. Linda Levin

Upon searching for the origin of these words, I found to my surprise that chazal do not actually say this expression. The expression is based on a Gemara (Rosh Hashana 16B) where chazal discuss how a person can change a g'zeira for the better. They say a person's g'zeira can be changed by changing one's deeds, by changing one's name (i.e. adding a name when someone is r'l sick), by giving tzedaka and by davening. Some add that changing one's place (makom) can also help. Avraham's leaving his father's home for Eretz C'naan is cited as the source for this particular change.

In any event the expression " meshaneh makom meshaneh mazal" has found its way into our daily usage. This expression is generally used to describe that someone's move is going to be a change for the better. Of course one's mazal can chas v'shalom become the opposite. Further chazal tell us



that bnei Yisrael are not governed by mazal, "ein mazal l'yisrael".

So where does all of this leave us?

We know that whatever a Jew does that finds favor in Hashem's eyes is blessed. This includes the act of moving. When Avrohom left his father's house, he was promised that he would become a great nation because he moved according to Hashem's will. When R' Yosi ben Kisma was offered a lot of money to move to another city, he replied that he would only dwell in a city of Torah and that no amount of money could sway his decision. He understood that the act of moving can only be "mazaldik" if it is pleasing to Hashem and not for physical reward, i.e. money.

In Parshas B'haaloscha (9:18) it says "Al pi Hashem yisu... v'al pi Hashem yachanu" meaning that bnei Yisrael only travelled or moved according to the will of Hashem and then set down their camp according to Hashem's will. When a move is the ratzon Hashem, it is blessed and successful. This

pasuk is the theme of our new school year in Ateres.

Ateres Bais Yaakov is a unique school. We educate with a "neimus", a sweetness and love. Chazal ask how a person can cling ("ul'davka bo") to Hashem. They answer that by emulating Hashem's middos we show our devotion to him and "cling" to Him. Thus the teachers and administrators both in Kodesh and in Chol teach by role modelling good behavior and middos tovos and never by legislating. The staff teaches and molds our students -your children- with love and care reflecting the ways of Hakodosh Baruch Hu. This is the Ateres version of "al pi Hashem", doing the will of Hashem. Our mission is to educate one neshama at a time with love, patience and dedication.

May it be the will of Hashem that Ateres's move be one of "meshaneh makom, meshaneh mazal" for the good of all. Ateres should be zoche to go m'chayil l'chayil " al pi Hashem" and give nachas to Him for many more years until the coming of Moshiach b'mheira b'yameinu when- "al pi Hashem yachanu" in Yerushalyim habenuya.

Who Moves the Pieces? By: Mrs. Kayla Stimmel

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rebuilding it in the same exact place. If one dismantles a structure but rebuilds it in a different spot, the Av Melocha of Soser is not transgressed. This is puzzling, since the Av Melochos are extrapolated from the functioning of the Mishkan, which was dismantled and rebuilt in a different place every time. How, then, can this teach us the Av Melocha of Soser? The Gemara answers this question by quoting the aforementioned passuk of Al Pi Hashem Yachanu.

How does this passuk answer the question? Rav Chaim Shmuelovitz explains this with a beautiful mashal. A little baby is carried about by his mother. He is tied snugly in a baby carrier around her shoulders, and as she moves from the kitchen to the dining room to the laundry room, he goes along with her. She walks to the grocery store and to the park, and he goes too. Yet although he is technically in a different location each place he goes, if you ask him where he is, he will tell you that he is with his mother. This baby is essentially in one place only, and that is securely tied to his mother. Similarly, Klal Yisroel traveled through the desert in the arms of Hashem. Al Pi Hashem Yachanu teaches us that they were for all intents and purposes in the same location each place that they camped, since they were moving Al Pi Hashem.

A story is told of Rav Elya Lopian, who traveled to England to collect money for the Yeshiva of Kelm. In dire need of immediate funds, the Yeshiva borrowed money against what they hoped R' Lopian would be able to collect. After he had raised the full amount, R' Lopian started on his journey to return to the yeshiva. He asked a passerby for directions to the train station. This man realized that here was someone who was unfamiliar with where he was going, and he took advantage of this by forcing R' Lopian to relinquish all the money he was carrying. R' Lopian was devastated that the yeshiva had suffered the loss of the funds it so desperately needed. He knew that the right thing to do was to extend his stay in



Hashem is our Pilot By: Rabbi Aaron J. Fink, Dean

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words, spoken by Moshe Rabbeinu to Klal Yisrael in the Midbar, which are the recipe for our success.

The message is pithy and profound. The maxim of Al pi Hashem yachanu v'al pi Hashem yisau is not merely about your dreams and destinations or even the mode of travel, rather, it is about how to get there and what to do once you have arrived. The formula is simple, follow Hashem wherever you settle and whenever you travel and you will find success. Whether standing in place or on the go, keep Hashem at your side. Stay connected to His will and you will reach your potential. That is what must drive and guide you to the final port of call, a destination yet unknown but one defined through the decisions one makes each and every day. We must make His destination our journey, remembering, if Hashem is your co-pilot, you are in the wrong seat.

The entire Ateres family takes this message deeply to heart. Baruch Hashem we have been proud to be part of your daughter's chinuch, shaping their growth and development in so many ways. Their success has been our shared nachas. We couldn't be prouder. We expect no less of the amazing

England and raise the sum of money once again. He sent word home of the events that had transpired, and returned to the kehilla in England to resume his fundraising.

Due to his extended stay in England, the people in England became acquainted with this outstanding talmid chochom on a much deeper level than previously. Therefore, as R' Lopian prepared to return to the Yeshiva of Kelm with the money he had once again raised, they offered him a position as Rav of the kehilla. R' Lopian returned to the Yeshiva of Kelm to hand-deliver the money, packed up his family, and moved to England. This all took place in the 1930's, and when WWII broke out shortly thereafter, R' Lopian and his family were out of Poland and living safely in England.

It must have been very difficult for R' Lopian to do the right thing and extend his stay in England to raise the money again. Yet by

Ateres experience and success in our new home. While our physical location may be changing, the Ateres ideal has not. You can count on our total devotion to educate your daughters with warmth, compassion and love to be ever stronger so that they can feel and appreciate His love in everything they do.

Al pi Hashem yachanu v'al Pi Hashem yisau – we move forth (literally) with His love and are confident in what He has in store for our future is all and always for the best. May we be blessed with a shana tova umesukah in our new home and for a wonderful year to one and all.

לשנה טובה תכתב ותחתם לנו ולכל ישראל



choosing the path of Al Pi Hashem, of doing what he knew Hashem wanted him to do, he saved his own life and that of all his family.

Although the location of Ateres Bais Yaakov is changing this year, we remain the same Ateres as always, firmly "encamped" in the tents of Torah. Our theme this year of Al Pi Hashem Yachanu reflects our focus on our Avodas Hashem and the Simchas Hachaim that comes from living Al Pi Hashem.

May we all feel the security that comes from knowing that we are lovingly cradled in His arms with every move that we make.

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.