



The Weekly Newsletter of Ateres Bais Yaakov

D'VAR TORAH

PARSHAS TAZRIA-METZORAH

Rabbi Yisroel Teichman - Associate Dean

Adam!

When introducing the laws of tzaraas the Torah writes adam ki yihye a man that will have tzaraas shall be brought to the Kohain. Generally, the Torah refers to man as ish. Why does the Torah here refer to man as Adam? Furthermore, the Zohar teaches us that man is referred to by four different names, Adam, Gever, Ish and Enosh. Man at his greatest is referred to as Adam, as the Torah writes that Adam was created btzelem elokim, that man was created in the image of Hashem. The word Adam is related to the word Adameh, I will be similar, an indication that man can emulate and become similar to Hashem. The Metzora is

a person who is a sinner, who is struggling with arrogance, who is harmful and divisive to other people that Hashem instructs him to leave the city. Why is he referred to here as Adam, man at his greatest?

A Metzora is mandated to appear before the Kohain. The ruling of the Kohain will determine his status. The Kohain is who we go to for our korbonas, to achieve atonement and closeness to Hashem. The Metzora must go to the Kohain both to do teshuva and also to be dependent on the Kohain's ruling to reduce his arrogance.

Koheles writes that there is no man who will do good and not sin. Indeed, there were only four people who never did any avayra. To fail at times is simply to be human. What Hashem wants from us is to recognize our failures and weaknesses and repair them. Yes the Metzora has many weaknesses, but he is now aspiring

to repair them and become great by presenting himself to the Kohain and following to process of tumah and tahara. R Nissan Alpert suggests that this is why he is referred here at Adam, man at his greatest, man aspiring to correct his weaknesses and become truly great.

The Metzora may not be there yet, but his choice of heading in the right direction earns him the title Adam.



פרשת תזריע מצרע 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.

Another exciting week of learning in the Ateres classrooms was punctuated with expressions of hakaras Hatov to the Ribbono Shel Olam for the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. In addition to yummy Blue and White Yom Haatzmaut cookies, Mrs. Salvay visited the classrooms and presented words of inspiration to the talmidos as well as and appreciation for what Israel means to us today. Thank you Mrs. Salvay.

***** Reminder, with spring time just about here we must remind all families to stay vigilant with maintaining their adherence to the school dress code. Please be certain your daughters are halachically and appropriately dressed for school daily. Both standards are being enforced and girls not in compliance will need to have their parents bring them proper clothing before entering class.**

Kitah alef girls celebrated Israel's seventieth birthday while munching on delicious blue and white cookies and making fun projects. Our girls had so much fun making their own blue and white beaded bracelets. **Morah Miriam** led the class in a discussion about the importance of Eretz Yisroel and about the brave chayalim who protect the people each and everyday. Morah showed the girls beautiful pictures of many special holy places in Eretz Yisroel. The girls were asked to write a bracha for Israel on their kotel page and the comments were most impressive.

Kitah Beis started off their week with a gala breakfast siyum on Monday, celebrating the completion of Perek Yud Beis! A delicious and nutritious breakfast was enjoyed by all and we

enjoyed hearing how each classmate connected their food to a pasuk in our perek. We were so happy that Mrs. Samet stopped by during our siyum to say Mazel Tov and good bye. We enjoyed the heart cookies she brought to us and the memories she shared with us that she will hold in her heart. We were also so excited to have Rabbi Fink stop by and he shared with us that as exciting as a siyum is with all of the yummy foods, singing and dancing the best part of a Siyum is that we begin something new! We were so excited to begin Perek Yud Gimmel that same day! Pasuk Aleph started out with a great discussion on Peer Pressure - when Avram returned to Eretz Yisroel he did not just return, he went up in greatness even though he was surrounded by the Mitzryim while he was in Mitzrayim. Kitah Beis worked b'chavrusa twice this week. It is so amazing to see how nicely the girls work together and how much they know - they can decode and translate an entire pasuk on their own! Kitah Beis is continuing to work hard on our Ivris skills, writing and speaking longer sentences as well as our kriyah. Nightly kriyah practice really helps your daughter to gain fluency which will help her in all Limudei Kodesh subjects.

Kitah Gimmel had a great way to start the week as they davened Hallel on Rosh Chodesh so amazingly it could be heard from far away. The beautiful thing was when the girls got the chance to read out loud what they wrote in their "I caught you doing something good" notebooks. They complimented each other for the beautiful tefillah.

We had our store this week too. Amazing how much money the girls collect to buy prizes with what they earned through out the month by pointing in the chumash, answering correctly, etc.

The highlight of our week was welcoming Sari Abraham to our class. She moved from eretz yisrael to join us. The girls welcomed her so nicely. This is a big lesson to us all: sari doesn't know English very well. But this didn't stop the girls from going over and talking to her and making her feel good. In a place that there is a big heart there are no boundaries for friendship and chessed. Kol hakavod kitah Gimmel.

Kita daled has been doing so well memorizing the birchas Yaakov. It is so interesting to learn what Yaakov avinu meant with his ruach hakodesh with every word he said in the brachos to his children. The girls were discussing the weather in hebrew this week! Since it rained a lot, they know how to say all different sentences with rain, including raindrops, heavy rain, lightning and thunder! Kita daled started a popcorn contest. Every time a girl answers or asks a question in lashon hakodesh, we get to add more popcorn kernels to our container that we will pop soon and share with the class. So far, Esther Weinstein and Leah Gittel Herman got to put kernels in for the class this week.

For Yom ha'atzmaut, the girls wrote letters thanking the soldiers for all they do to help protect eretz yisroel. Tamar even came in with blue and white shoes to represent Eretz yisroel!

The girls learned a new song for zman avar. Devorala Fogel and Yona Morell even sang it on their own to the class!

When Suri Steinmetz and Sara Rivka Ben-Arbon won a DIY kit for finishing their davening chart, they both used it to make a bracelet for their Morah! Morah Tal is so proud of this class's middos, and so proud to be the Morah of such a special class!

This week **Kitah Hei** began learning about Makas Dam. **Mrs. Liff** discussed how much this maka affected the mitzriyim in great detail. They studied a beautiful Rashi which explains why Aaron was the one to turn the water into blood and not Moshe. Rashi teaches that Moshe was showing Hakaras Hatov to the river which had saved his life as a baby. After learning the Rashi the class had a discussion of the middah of hakaras hatov. They discovered how this middah is for the person who is being makir tov and not for the person on the receiving end of the "thank you!" To reinforce this important concept, the girls brainstormed many people in their lives to whom they owe thanks and then wrote their very own thank you cards to a special person who they chose. The fifth graders have also begun working on their Makkos projects. This project will focus on clarifying and organizing the information being learned in Chumash into one beautiful and comprehensive folder - stay tuned for more details!

In dikduk class, Mrs Liff was amazed at how her students utilized the skills learned to figure out the poalim in zman avar for the next shemos guf that they are learning-on their own! What nachas!

Kitah vav is continuing to 'climb up' towards Matan Torah. They learned four new Melachos for their Lamed Tes Melachos scrapbook. He also completed ANOTHER perek in Navi! In Ivris studies they learned a song about Matan Torah. On Monday, in conjunction with Project Yud Bais, Mrs. Salvay arranged for Mrs. Wohlgenuth to come speak to the girls about the enormous power of tefillah, emunas Chachamim, Chessed and Hakaras Hatov. On Tuesday Mrs. Eckstein did an activity with them on the three pillars upon which the world stands (Torah, Avoda and Gemilus Chasadim). On Wednesday there was a discussion about the second pillar, Tefillah. The girls discussed what Tefillah means to them and the impact it can have on their lives. On Thursday, Kittah vav had a test on perek Yud Bais in Chumash...and everyone is expected tov have done well so that they can have a grand siyum at Bagels d'Lox. Once again, kol hakavod kitah vav!!!

Best wishes for a lovely Shabbos.



V'nasati negah tzaraas b'veis eretz achuzaschem
(Vayikra 14:34)

"I will place a plague of Tzaaras in your home in Eretz Yisrael." Rashi explains that this posuk is teaching us that sometimes good things are hidden in bad tidings. In the case of Tzaaras, a house may become blemished and as a result, need to be demolished. Once torn down the homeowner finds a treasure of gold hidden in the walls. This reminds us that we never really know where blessing is found. Sometimes the greatest gifts are buried in the struggles of adversity.

Challenges ARE WHAT MAKE LIFE INTERESTING. OVERCOMING THEM IS WHAT MAKES THEM Meaningful

This week's Simchas Shabbos is sponsored by

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NSHEI CORNER

Welcome back from Pesach vacation. We hope you all had a wonderful meaningful yom tov!

Some things are brewing here at N'Shei... we are looking forward to our annual Lag B'Omer celebrations and soon after that school picture day!

Please remember to log your give and get hours via the website www.ateres.org as the year is coming to a close.

Have a Good Shabbos!

Chany Silverman & Faigie Walter

Mrs. Levin's Update

Math is always an exciting part of the day in **Mrs. Wingate's first grade**. Learning all about money, the girls have been working hard to remember the amount of each coin. The girls love singing a song they learned about each coin's value. The penny was the first coin they discussed this week. First graders learned that this coin is copper and has smooth edges. On the front of the coin is a picture of Abraham Lincoln our 16th president and on the back of the coin is the Lincoln Memorial. The class enjoyed practicing at the board adding penny amounts together and completing penny worksheets. The girls are look forward to learning all about the other coins next week.

This week **second graders** are becoming familiar with the U.S. monetary system. Each coin was introduced to the class. Then the class learned their relative values. It is always exciting to learn how to count money. The students know how to recognize the heads and tails side of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and half dollars. We practiced skip counting by 5's, 10's and 25's. Then the girls found the value of groups of coins by skip counting and counting on. They learned how to arrange the coins in order from greatest to least value and then find the total amount. **Mrs. Baron** is impressed with second graders president book reports! The following presidents were presented this week; Rutherford B. Hayes, James Monroe, Richard Nixon, Ulysses S. Grant, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, often referred to as F.D.R., John Adams, James Madison, Andrew Johnson, Calvin Coolidge, Theodore Roosevelt, and George Bush. It is so interesting to see what the girls have learned about the president they have written about.

Welcome to our new **third grader** Sari Abraham, we are so glad to have you in our class! In Reading this week third grade discussed point of view. The class talked about how two people can experience the same thing but can feel very differently about it. The girls have also been working hard practicing for the math state tests which are coming up. Congratulations to Suri Berger and Henny Neiman on becoming multiplication masters of all the tables!

Mrs. Paley's fourth graders are now working on decimals. The class learned how to write decimals as fractions with tenths and hundredths, compare and order decimals from the greatest to least and least to greatest, and add and subtract decimals. After the lessons, Yona Morell said, "Decimals are easy if you think of it as money." Fourth graders have also been working on sample math problems and reviewing math concepts taught this year in preparation for the NYS math test. After working independently on a problem, a student reviews the problem with the class. The girls love being in charge and they did an amazing job reinforcing skills. The girls have completed another unit in their Ready NY English Language Arts book. In this unit, the class learned how to use details and examples from a story to make inferences which help them develop a better understanding of the story. This week fourth grade read **THEY GLOW BY NIGHT**, realistic fiction, and **THE MOFFATS**, an excerpt from a novel. This last selection was also an interim assessment and the girls did a beautiful job! Our class then switched to a lighter fare, "RED WRITING HOOD", a play in which the wolf is changed into a ballet dancer. It was fun to see how a character's attempt to solve problems creatively led to humorous and unexpected consequences.

This week in **Mrs. Friedman's class**, the girls reviewed all concepts or addition/subtraction of fractions. Fifth graders are continuing with their CCSS curriculum in math, and preparing for the upcoming State tests! In Social studies, the girls discussed the explorers, as they learned about both the Mayan and the Spanish civilizations. The girls were very interested to learn about the 'Seven Cities of gold' and discussed what it would be like to actually find them! In ELA, the girls learned about corroborating statements with text-based evidence, as well as reviewing how to write RTL statements (Response to Literature). The girls did an excellent job in finding exactly which text sentences fit which statements! The week ended with their weekly class raffle and students of the week. Mazel tov to our Students of the week, Perry Goldman and Tali Huffman! Mazel tov to all the raffle winners, and Good Shabbos!

Sixth grade has had a busy week this week! They started new units in science and social studies, which they are all looking forward to delving into deeper. In ELA the girls learned the concept of plot twist and how authors write them into the story from the start of the story and follow through till the end. The students became authors who wrote their own plot twist stories. **Mrs. Frances** loved everyone's creativity.



A Peek into the Week



6th graders learned about chessed



Rabbi Fink visited second grade during their Siyum



Third grade "I caught you doing something good" booklets



Ateres students at the school bus safety drills conducted this week!

Tune in to Junior High

From the desk of Mrs. Kayla Stimmel

We started off our week with an exciting G.O. activity in honor of Rosh Chodesh. Our G.O. heads very efficiently ran the assembly and worked hard to make sure everyone had a good time. The girls enjoyed participating in many relay races. They began with an egg-on-a-spoon race and continued on to a garbage bag race. They also had to tie their feet together and race to the finish line in a three-legged jumble of fun! Lastly, both classes lined up and had to pass the ball over and under to the end of each line. The seventh graders were our champions as they won the most races! We then finished off the assembly with s'mores. Each girl got to make her own s'more: and of course, enjoyed eating it!

Mrs. Rokowsky's seventh graders learned a hakdama to perek yud alef in Parsha Eikev as the class geared up to start the second parsha of Kriyas Shema. This unit discusses the concept of Yiras Hashem. They played a game of IF And THEN in order to bring out the

Pirkei Avos

Portraits in Parenting

By: Rabbi Aaron Fink



The second perek of Avos begins with an amazing insight we can all apply at home. The chapter with the famous words of Rebbi who wonders "eizohi derech sheyaavor lo haadam?" - which is the path

that a person should choose? And, he answers his own question by saying "kol she'hi tiferes l'oseha vtiferes lo min haadam" - a person should pursue a path which brings him self worth and, at the same time, is appreciated and dignified in the eyes of others. In other words, our behavior should be fulfilling and appreciated by ones self and by others. The Bartenura explains this to mean that one should follow extremes. Behavior should be balanced.

As parents, this is reflected in tempering extremes. We one cannot be overly permissive or overly strict. And, we should not be looking over their shoulders to merely get the approval of others or just do what they do at the expense of what is right. Nor, should we be so self absorbed that we lose sight of the forest from the trees. Balance is the key word.

However, there is one expression in the Mishna which we must explore further which is especially impactful on rearing our children to adulthood. One must note that Rebbi did not say in the Mishna this what you MUST do. Rather he said what is the path that one should choose. Indeed, success in avodas Hashem and rearing children to adulthood is born from creating and directing choices. It is only through teaching our children how and why to make choices that we truly equip them to become healthy balanced adults.

Balanced decision making does not mean we ask a child what they want. It means we direct them to make decisions through controlled choice giving opportunities.

The famed Israeli educator and psychologist, Chaim Ginot explained it thus. To Paraphrase: "One doesn't ask their child if they want milk with their cookies when he or she comes home from school. Rather, a parent should ask "which glass would you like your milk in". With the values controlled one places the choice with the child. Parents can then discuss the choice and foster further values clarification. Avoiding such decisions interferes with building confidence and competence in so many walks of life.

This approach is not only true with milk and cookies. It relates to every walk of life, from shopping to leisure. We can and indeed must provide our children with choices. A life without choices to be made, whether in school or at home limits our children's independence and confidence. Allowing them to choose and teaching them how to be decision makers, will build personal self worth and respect in the eyes of one and all.

idea of reward and punishment and that there are consequences for our negative behaviors and rewards for the positive. They found real examples in the chumash including; IF bnei yisroel listen to the mitzvos, THEN they'll have rain in their lands. It is the opposite for our negative behaviors: IF bnei yisroel serve idols, THEN they'll be destroyed. The girls gained a clear understanding how this truly applies to every day of their lives while having a really good time playing the game! In yahadus class, our pirkei avos lesson really came alive. Our seventh grade actresses performed adorable and informative skits describing many different mishnayus from perek beis in pirkei avos. Besides for enjoying the plays, all the students surely gained so much from learning about the wonderful middos taught in pirkei avos!

In **Mrs. Taubenblat's** Hashkafa class, the eighth graders learned how to be a "Class Act," meaning to always behave in a way that shines and others will want to emulate. The girls discussed what examples of dignified behavior look like, and they learned some guidelines that will ensure that their behavior will be an example for others throughout their lives. Examples included receiving graciously, lifting others up, the importance of some self-care, to never be petty, and to increase the quality of every experience by doing fewer things while doing them better.

The eighth grade yearbook is in its home stretch! With all of the main sections complete and just a few pages remaining, excitement is in the air! **Mrs. Eisenstein** is amazed at the talent, creativity, determination, and efficiency with which our students have been contributing to the yearbook. We can't wait to see the finished product!

Mrs. Karash's seventh graders continued learning about percentages. They wrote equations to solve percentage problems in addition to learning some very practical uses of percentages. These included finding tax, tips, and commissions. This knowledge will be so useful to them in everyday life.

The eighth grade is well into their study of the Amidah with **Mrs. Fuchs**. As they study each bracha, the students are developing both their language skills and well as their critical thinking skills. By discussing the unique historical context in which these tefillos were established, the students are able to appreciate our requests to Hashem on an even deeper level. Following the Churban Bais HaMikdash, Klal Yisroel was in dire need of law and order. In Hashiva Shofteinu of the Amidah, we ask Hashem to restore judges and counselors as a matter of the national urgency of the times. Our tefillos, davened day in and day out, become that much more real and meaningful when we consider how dependent we are on Hashem for our survival as a nation.