

Ultimate Parsha continued...

This week the upperclass peer leaders were each handed a sheet of paper with a descriptive word or phrase: mean-spirited, compassionate, arrogant, kind, spoiled, community-minded, and the like. Then a scenario was described: one teenager whispering to another while pointing at a disabled peer. The peer leaders were asked to use the word on their sheet of paper as a description of the teen whispering and pointing. Unsurprisingly, the peer leaders attributed very different motivations based on their thoughts about the person. Those peer leaders who believed in the goodness of the teen described an effort to organize a fundraiser for disabled people or perhaps a surprise birthday party for a friend. Those peer leaders who were given a negative description of the teen described mocking words or perhaps even an intention to pull a prank on the disabled peer later on.

As Anais Nin once said, "we don't see things as they are; we see them as we are." May we all begin to believe in the positive intentions and motivations of others, so we can learn from Yosef and his brothers and develop the best possible relationships with each other based on our positive attributions.

Shabbat Shalom,

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