



Thoughts from the Head of School

This parsha begins with the nightly command to burn the fats and innards from the Olah offering. It includes one of the most famous Rashis in which he informs us that the word “tzav” (command) means “zerizus” (to hurry up). He continues with a quote from Rabbi Shimon who says zerizus is especially true when there is a loss of money to the person doing the mitzvah.



Rabbi Meir Cohen

On the surface, this is a fantastic lesson for us: jump to do mitzvos, even when we need to pay for them. However, it is a strange place to teach this lesson. Namely, because the person doing the mitzvah - the Kohen - literally loses no money when performing the mitzvah of burning the fats and innards left over from the Olah offering. The Olah offering comes from communal money. Why would the Kohen feel any financial pinch to do this mitzvah with urgency?!?!

There are many answers given for this question, both technical and tangential. All of them, of course, have merit. I want to focus on one offered by Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein, zt”l. He points out that the Kohen Gadol was actually quite wealthy due to the ‘gifts of Kohanim’ that people were required to give. In addition, he ate plenty from the karbonos he was allowed to eat from daily. The Olah offering, though, was burned up completely. So it does not contribute to the Kohen Gadol’s overall wealth, nor can he benefit by eating its meat. Therefore, the loss of money that Rabbi Shimon refers to is not only spending our own money on a mitzvah, it is even when there is a lack of any benefit to us.

This is a profound understanding of zerizus and motivation. Generally, we do things because we see a benefit to engaging. I see this with children all the time. If they are able to understand why it helps them, they are completely willing to learn. If they don’t see that benefit there will be little motivation and effort. In fact, it is good teaching practice to provide a “how it benefits you” before asking students to do a task. It is also an essential part of TDSA’s discipline conversations in which we always include a reason why it is beneficial for the students themselves to behave with respect, safety, and responsibility. It is natural to think about the benefits while we do things.

The burning of the Olah offering has literally no tangible benefit to the Kohen. He receives no money or goods. He doesn’t get to eat anything. He has no audience watching him burn the fats. It is essentially a ‘clean-up’ job. The ONLY benefit is that he is commanded to do this as part of an opportunity to deepen his relationship with Hashem. And that alone should motivate the Kohen to act with zerizus. So this mitzvah is the *perfect* place to teach how mitzvos in general should be completed with urgency.

Good Shabbos.

Flashback Friday!

Morah Dena is pictured here (circa 2013) with a few of her kindergarten students while waiting for their turn to ride in the horse drawn carriage in celebration of Purim! Where are these boys now? Two of them graduated with the TDSA class of ’21, two of the boys families made Aliyah, and one moved to Baltimore. Who can name them all? Send your answers and memories to lmorris@torahday.org.



PTA was delighted to distribute over 220 Mishloach Manos to the whole TDSA community!



All teachers, staff, and TDSA families received a beautiful Havdalah themed Mishloach Manos created and designed by Temima Oratz with the help of Mira Feeman. A huge thank you to the two of them as well as the many volunteers who came to assist in assembling and delivering the boxes! If anyone did not receive a mishloach manos please be in touch with me at pta@torahday.org.

Sari Joel, PTA President

Rabbi Hiller's Second Grade Boys Chumash Presentation

Filled with pride and gratitude, the parents, grandparents, and siblings of these knowledgeable young students watched as they completed their siyum on parshas Lech Lecha. As part of the presentation, Rabbi Hiller illustrated the manner in which the class practices translating and answering questions on the Chumash. This method allows the boys to get accustomed to the syntax of the Chumash and how verbs, nouns, and adjectives flow together. Mazel tov to Rabbi Hiller and Rabbi Nunez and the second grade boys.



First Graders Are Starting on their Haggadahs!

Purim just ended, and in a few short weeks, Pesach will be upon us! Now is



the time for the children to begin creating their very own haggadahs, and they are going to be stunning. The **first graders** are putting so much effort into this project. Aside from the artistic value, the girls are learning so much about Pesach, the seder, various minhagim, and so much more.

פרנס היום *Day of Learning*

TDSA's Day of Learning Program is an opportunity to dedicate a day, a week, or a month of Torah learning and davening at school in memory of, in honor of, or in the merit of the recovery of a loved one.

The dedication is sent out to the school's email list, announced to the students daily, and printed in the SPOTLIGHT, TDSA's weekly newsletter.

For more information, please contact Marcy Kalnitz at mkalnitz@torahday.org or 404.982.0800 ext. 101.



Third Grade Novel Reading and Discussion

The **third graders** are reading the book *Third-Grade Detectives #4* by George



E. Stanley. Reading together as a class enables students to analyze and experience the entire book together in an engaging manner. After taking turns reading aloud, the class discusses character analysis, theme, and more using teacher-driven questions to help them further their understanding.



The **8th graders** are learning about the integumentary system including the skin. As part of their study, they fingerprinted themselves and then determined which of the three classic fingerprint designs they exhibited.



Rabbi Alterman's **7th graders** celebrated their siyum of Perek Hakones with a trip to Stone Mountain where they davened, climbed the mountain, learned Torah, and enjoyed a deluxe BBQ, Mazel tov!



During their math class, the **fifth grade girls** worked collaboratively in fluid groups of 2's and 3's. Together, they are working towards mastery of all fraction and decimal operations.