

THE  **SPOTLIGHT**

Friday, April 12, 2024

4 Nisan 5784

Parshas Tazria

Thoughts from the Head of School

The seder night provides a stellar guidebook on chinuch. First and foremost, we have a special commandment to teach our children on the 15th of Nissan. The Torah teaches us to “tell our children” all that happened when Hashem freed us from Egyptian slavery. We are meant to use the Seder night to reinforce our bitachon in Hashem’s continual care for our relationship with Him. He saw our pain, remembered His promise to our forefathers, and performed unimaginable miracles to show the world He is the Creator and show us that we have a special relationship with Him. The Seder participants are asked to feel as if we, ourselves, truly lived through that historical moment thousands of years ago. As parents, we are asked to give over these feelings and knowledge to our children.



Rabbi Meir Cohen

It can feel like a daunting responsibility to perform this mitzvah. But the wisdom of the Baalei Haggadah gave us all the pedagogical tools to do so. Way before any scientifically conducted, educational studies were published, our Rabbis taught us how to teach. I would like to take a moment to point out a few of these ideas.

Let’s start with the fact that we call the night “seder” - order. There is a prescribed, 15 step “seder” to the evening. Now it seems absurd that this needs to be enumerated. Every Shabbos and Yom Tov includes many of the same steps: kiddush, washing your hands, saying hamotzei, eating bread, eating the meal, singing songs of praise, bentsching, etc. Yet we don’t list the “seder” of those nights!?!? The Haggadah is telling us the importance of laying out a roadmap of the lesson for children. It is hard to concentrate on what we are doing currently without knowing which direction we are headed and what the final destination will be. Educators are taught to let their students know what the day’s “agenda” will be before starting the lesson so that students stay focused. In fact, with younger kids it is written on the board clearly for all to see throughout the day. The Baalei Haggadah are telling us that when we have an important lesson to teach, lay out the path we will travel to accomplish learning this lesson before you embark on teaching.

Another important concept is the value of an experiential learning experience that includes multiple modalities. We know that every student absorbs information differently. Some prefer learning by listening, some prefer learning by reading, while others prefer learning by touching and doing. Drinking and leaning. Searching and eating. Singing and seeing. Storytelling. Visualizing. Questioning. Discussing and analyzing. It’s all right there so that everyone gets the most out of the seder night. We can all connect in one way or another.

There are so many more pedagogical lessons in the way the Seder Night is structured. As we are less than two weeks away from Pesach, I urge each of us to spend time preparing. Go through the Haggadah now with your children in mind. Think about how each one of them learns best. Think about how to enhance those parts of the seder which will be most impactful on its ultimate goal. In the z’chus of your efforts, may your children truly feel that they, themselves, traveled from slavery to freedom by the hand of Hashem.

Good Shabbos!

Flash Back Friday!

Circa 2013, these boys are enjoying the matzah factory! They had the opportunity to roll the dough, make sure it was thin enough and holey enough to be baked into a crisp matzah! This was a fun experience for many of our students. Over the years, TDSA has provided many students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities, and it continues to do so.



פָרָנֵס הַיּוֹם Day of Learning

Thursday, April 11, 2024 3 Nisan 5784

With hakaras hatov to

Rabbi Elchanan Schulgasser and Ari Schulgasser
By Rabbi Daniel, Bluma, and Ezra Estreicher
&

In merit of a successful surgery
and refuah shleimah for

Pesach Betzalel ben Chaya Batsheva

By Rabbi Meri Cohen, the TDSA Faculty, Staff and
Students and the TDSA Family

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.

Introducing Rabbi Field.

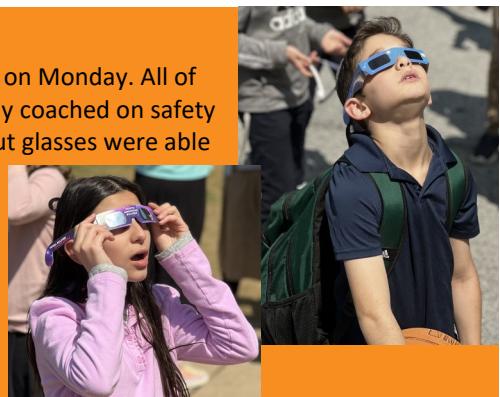
Rabbi Shmuel Field, incoming Limudei Kodesh Principal, began his transition this week with a jam-packed visit. He schmoozed with parents and shared his past accomplishments and chinuch approach at the Meet and Greet. He began connecting with Kodesh faculty and the leadership team. He inspired students with divrei Torah. We are looking forward to Rabbi Field's official start this summer.

Parent Night



The Eclipse!

Most classes viewed the eclipse on Monday. All of the TDSA students were carefully coached on safety during the eclipse. Those without glasses were able to enjoy the crescent shaped shadows on the ground. Stay tuned, the next solar eclipse that will be visible from the contiguous US on August 22, 2044.



48
hours

May 21- 23 \$1M Campaign

HONORING

Morah Dena Friedman
&
Mrs. Leslee Morris



TDSA's First Annual Matzah Bakery

TDSA's youngest students could not have been more engaged! This year, the matzah factory was run by our own Rabbi Rubin and Morah Cohen. It was a mad dash to complete the rolling and scoring and baking process in just 18 minutes! The kids were so excited to be a part of the countdown, from when the water first hit the matzah to when it came out of the oven.



The **8th grade boys** have been working on a financial literacy unit. After learning about the cost of debt, they examined the national debt and compared it to the national debt of Israel and other countries.



After learning about the solar system, the **3rd and 4th grade girls** visited The Fernbank Science Center. They enjoyed the planetarium program and more during their field experience.



Third grade boys & their rebbe discussed the relationship between Tisha B'av and Pesach. It goes deeper than the first night seder and the beginning of Tisha B'av being the same day of the week. Just ask them!



1985 LaVista Road, Atlanta GA 30329 404.982.0800 torahday.org