



TorahDaySchool
OF ATLANTA



THE

SPOTLIGHT

Friday, January 26, 2024

16 Shevat 5784

Parshas Beshalach

Thoughts from the Head of School

The dramatic finality of our nation's exodus at the shores of the Yum Suf highlights the necessity of a safe environment for growth. I have spoken many times about the importance of creating a classroom community where children feel safe to advocate for themselves, make mistakes, and take risks, as these are all crucial elements of growth. If a child knows she is safe to leave her comfort zone since the teacher has set up an environment where classmates are supportive, she will grow exponentially more than someone who is afraid of being teased. Fear will stifle growth.



Rabbi Meir Cohen

B'nei Yisroel gazed back at the closing waters of the Yam Suf to witness the drowning of the Egyptians. At that point, the Torah points out that they finally see the Hand of Hashem and what He has done to Mitzrayim. Now, they fear Him and believe in Him. The famous question everyone asks is "why now?" Hashem's hand has been clearly evident with 10 makkos and a splitting sea before this moment. Only now we believe in Hashem?!?!

When Moshe first told b'nei Yisroel Hashem would redeem us from Mitzrayim, we did not listen to him because of our "Kotzer Ruach". Our overworked bodies and minds left no room to dream about future redemption. We could not grow. Throughout all the Makkos and miracles we still felt like an enslaved people with our masters hovering nearby. Even on our way out we saw the chasing chariots ready to recapture us. Rashi points out in this week's parsha that had we not seen the Mitzri drown, we would be in constant fear that they would emerge alive through the sea as we did. It was not until we turned around and witnessed our oppressors' death that we could let go of the fear and contemplate our current situation in a safe environment. And then, everything Hashem did for us up until this point made sense. We could grow in our Emunah!

Our children do not have noticeable, daily oppressors like we did in Mitzrayim, B'H. But there may be potential dangers that can create a feeling of oppression whether from other children or adults in their lives. Our job as parents is to create a safe environment in our homes where our children feel comfortable taking risks, speaking freely, and sharing their struggles so we can help them remove dangers and encourage growth. At school, we try to create safe environments, too, so children can strengthen their emunah, knowledge, and skills in a place in which they know the adults care for their well-being.

Good Shabbos!



Kindergarten Researchers

The kindergarteners are working on their Arctic Animal research project. Each student chose an animal to research. These students are independent, inquisitive, and curious.

GO TDSA THUNDER. GO!

Thank you Mr. Chuck Diener for leading these middle school boys through the basketball season. Their teamwork is inspirational! They played this season with determination, grit, poise, and good sportsmanship. And they are now ranked #2 heading into the playoffs!



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RE-ENROLLMENT DEADLINE FEBRUARY 6TH!

פרנס היום *Day of Learning*

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 14 Shevat 5784

In merit of a successful surgery
and refuah shleimah for
Shmuel Dovid ben Shayndel
By the Reznick and Edelson Families

*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.*



First Grade Girls Chagigas Siddur!

Mazel tov to TDSA's first grade girls class. They sang and danced in front of their beaming families and were gifted their beautiful siddurim during this milestone event. Morah Bracha shared that these students' tefillah is what lights the world. How true!



Lively 3rd Grade Chumash Class

Rabbi Cohen shares important life lessons with his students directly from the Chumash. For example, despite the fact that Dassan and Aviram were evil, they were allowed to leave Egypt and did not perish during the plague of darkness because they believed in redemption. The moral is if you make a mistake, tomorrow is another day.



Mazel Tov Fourth Graders

The fourth graders celebrated a siyum on פ' מקץ. The students performed several skits and a dance in honor of their accomplishment. Every performance reflected an idea or concept gleaned from the parsha.



Tu B'Shevat in Kindergarten

Happy Tu B'Shevat! Kindergarteners planted lima beans. It's so much fun watching them sprout and grow! Just like our students!



The 2nd through 5th grade girls and their mothers enjoyed their melave malka featuring song and dance routines from each class, photo booth, decorating frames, and pizza!



For 8th graders, concept mapping is a tool to help them visualize key points of what they've learned in the Gemara as well as the interconnectedness of the various concepts.



5th graders hand-holding twisty fun was a lesson in dealing with frustration. They passed the test by utilizing patience, communication skills, and humor to become "untied".