



Friday, December 1, 2023

18 Kislev 5784

Parshas Vayishlach

### Thoughts from the Head of School

The Medrash Tanchuma relates an almost comical conversation between Yaakov and Chamor while discussing the possibility of Dina marrying Shechem. Chamur argues that he is a prince and Avraham was a prince, therefore it makes sense that two children of royalty should join forces. Yaakov responds that, “you are a chamor (donkey), and my grandfather was a shor (ox). We are not allowed to mix two different species”. This sounds like the type of argument a middle schooler might make! Was Yaakov just being cute using a play on words? Or is there something more meaningful in this response?



Rabbi Meir Cohen  
Head of School

Rabbi Avraham Bukspan points out a fundamental difference between the function of an ox as compared to a donkey. A donkey is used as a transporter of goods. A person loads a donkey with items so that it can carry it from one place to another. There is an immediate benefit to the donkey’s work: the items are now in the new location! An ox, on the other hand, does work which sees no immediate benefit. It plows the field and prepares it for planting. Only after months of growth will we see the literal fruits of the ox’s labor.

Maybe Yaakov was pointing out a key difference between his family and Chamor’s family. Jews contemplate the long game: how do our actions today affect us and our generations in the future? Chamor, however, only thinks about what would be beneficial now. Dina can’t marry Shechem since they don’t have the same family values. Shechem cares about the immediate rewards a marriage would provide - power and wealth. Dina cares about how the marriage affects the future of klal Yisroel. They are on completely different wavelengths and therefore would never be a match.

I think this is a great lesson as we head into Chanukah next week. The Greek’s opposed the concept of an eternal neshama. They tried to rid us of any practice that encouraged the notion of a spiritual and meaningful future. They wanted society to only focus on the immediate pleasures of the world. We reject that concept altogether. There is certainly nothing wrong with enjoying pleasures in this world. But that should not be the end goal of our existence. This concept might be why there is no physical mitzvah for Chanukah - only the light of the menorah and hallel. We are pointing out that our actions are not only about the here and now, but what we are building for the future.

Good Shabbos!

**PARENTS: BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE TDSA-PTA KRISPY KREME DONUT SALE FLYER and THE TDSA-PTA CHANUKAH GELT LETTER!**



### We Love Our Alums!!!!

Witnessing incredible simcha in Israel during this time brings such joy. Prior to going into active service in the IDF, former TDSA student Aaron Greene is walked down the aisle by his parents, former TDSA parents and supporters, Kerry and David. Mazel tov!

### Can We All Say a Hearty “Mazel Tov!”

The fifth grade girls celebrated their accomplishment with the entire girls’ middle school. They completed their learning of parshas Beshalach.



## פרנס היום Day of Learning

**Monday, November 27, 2023 14 Kislev 5784**

In memory of Howard Needleman z"l  
Chaim Tzaddik ben Moshe Gershon  
on his 9th yahrtzeit

By Matt and Erica Needleman

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023 15 Kislev 5784**

In memory of Rabbi Yechizkiyahu Deutsch z"l  
Yaakov Yechizkiyahu ben Menachem Aryeh  
Father of Rabbi Menachem Deutsch

By Richard & Susan Krohn, Sherri Hirsch, Joey & Melissa Cavalier,  
Stuie & Rhoda Gleicher, Doron & Rebekah Silverman,  
Rabbi Meir & Daliah Cohen, Irvin & Linda Rabinowitz,  
Stephen & Ellen Filreis, Jeffrey & Channah Garfinkel,  
Rabbi Binyomin & Dena Friedman, Joey & Kay Fink,  
Pete & Leslee Morris, Rabbi Moshe & Leah Hiller,  
Rabbi Akiva & Sarah Bayla Gross, Rabbi Shlomo & Ruth Freundlich,  
Constance Ozimek, Aaron & Mirriam Cann, Dmitriy & Irina Pelishev,  
Rabbi Elchanan & Bracha Schulgasser, Neil & Marcy Kalnitz

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023 16 Kislev 5784**

In memory of Marlene Chastain z"l  
Miriam Sara bas Zorach

By Richard & Susan Krohn, Rabbi Michael & Elisheva Berger,  
Rabbi Elchanan & Bracha Schulgasser, Irvin & Linda Rabinowitz,  
Constance Ozimek, Stephen & Ellen Filreis, Jeffrey & Channah Garfinkel,  
Joey & Kay Fink, Pete & Leslee Morris, Rabbi Moshe & Leah Hiller,  
Rabbi Shlomo & Ruth Freundlich, Davida Levin, Marty & Marcy Karon,  
Aharon & Olivia Karon, Nadav & Chelsea Karon, Jonny & Bev Bolnick,  
Aaron & Miriam Cann, Dmitriy & Irina Pelishev,  
Rabbi Binyomin & Dena Friedman, Michael & Mindy Tanenbaum,  
Rabbi Akiva & Sarah Bayla Gross, Christine Hippelli-Castle,  
Rabbi Meir & Daliah Cohen, Neil & Marcy Kalnitz

*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.*



## L-O-V-E in Kindergarten

Morah Mindy Tanenbaum introduced the letter "V" to the kindergarteners with an adorable song about love. Using song and movement helps children develop skills such as problem-solving, cognitive growth, self-expression, and social development. It will also help them to remember how to spell LOVE!



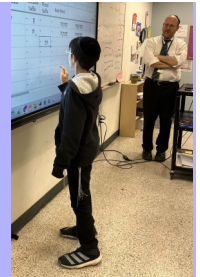
## The Words We Speak Become the Home We Live In

The above thought was discussed as TDSA's Art Teacher, Mrs. Charlie Lewis worked with the 2nd graders as they created houses using sharpies for their brilliant colors and embellished with jewels, buttons, and beads, all created on canvas.



## 5th Grade Boys Mastering Hebrew Grammar

The fifth graders are gaining knowledge and confidence in their mastery of Hebrew grammar using Rabbi Rubin's innovative computer program, which helps the students identify prefixes and suffixes of words used in the Chumash.



## Word Problems in 4th Grade

Mrs. Michelle Kaplan's fourth graders were discussing equal groups and word problems, solving them using the Greg Tang method, which focuses on conceptual understanding with challenging, creative, and engaging materials. This student is celebrating a classmates success in her math quest for knowledge!



It's always a lively discussion in Rabbi Cohen's third grade class! In this picture he's discussing this week's parsha and Yaakov's all night wrestling match with the מלאך.



The middle school girls have been acting and singing their hearts out. Come see Chozen, written and directed by Alum Rachelle (Merlis) Freedman, on Sunday, December 3rd.



Rabbi Rubin's woodshop is buzzing as the second grade boys begin the process of making their menorah. This project requires planning, patience, careful listening, and a willingness to learn.