



JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY

RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN PREPARES FOR LAG BAOMER

The Ganim have added on to our daily tefilah. Since returning from Pesach vacation, each morning, we count the Omer (Sefirat Ha'Omer). The Omer consists of forty nine days (or seven weeks) that are counted daily starting from the second night of Pesach until Shavuot. The Omer days represent days of mourning so we don't listen to live music, get haircuts or make weddings.

This week the children learned about the life of Rabbi Akiva, who started his adult life as a poor shepherd. After marrying Rachel, she encouraged him to learn Torah. He resisted as he didn't believe he could ever be anything more than a simple shepherd. One day, he noticed a rock with a worn hole in it. For many years, water had been dripping in the same spot and had changed the surface of the stone. It was then that Rabbi Akiva realized that if a water could change the surface of a stone, he too could change. With his wife Rachel's support, he learned for 24 years and became a great Rabbi with many students.

Rabbi Akiva felt that the most fundamental rule of the Torah is "V'Ahavta L'Reyacha Kamocha", you should love your friend as you love yourself. He taught this to his students. Unfortunately, his students were not respectful of one another. They were fighting with each other and got sick. On Lag Ba'Omer, his students stopped fighting and they were all well! That is why Lag Ba'Omer is a day of celebration.

Lag Ba'Omer is celebrated by spending the day outdoors, singing, dancing, lighting bonfires. Many people have weddings and celebrations. We're looking forward to our celebration here at JKHA!!

