



# Dateline CTA

**February 2020**  
**Shevat 5780**

**Columbus**  
**Torah Academy**

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Accredited by:

**ISACS**

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## USING GRIT TO MAKE US GREAT

After the 10th plague, the plague of the 1st born, Pharaoh finally acquiesced and agreed to free the Jewish people. At this point, it would seem the story of the Jewish exodus from Egypt should be over. Over the course of the 10 plagues, Hashem demonstrated to all, His mastery of the universe and the Jews were now free. So, the question that begs to be asked is why did G-d harden Pharaoh's heart one more time? Why was it necessary to have one more showdown and have the Egyptians pursue the Jews until the Red Sea? What was the added value of the Jewish people having to experience mass hysteria prior to the splitting of the sea being trapped between a pursuing army and large body of water?



Rabbi Pinchas Winston explains that life is not about moving from one point to the next, rather it is about spiritual growth and development as a person. When we are faced with a trial or tribulation it is an opportunity to increase our awareness of G-d and to find the inner strength to become stronger. Are we going to give in to the pressure of the circumstances or are we going to pray to G-d and become problem solvers? When the Jews were trapped between the sea and Egyptians, they could have given up hope but instead they demonstrated an incredibly high level of trust in G-d. If we approach life knowing that challenges are part of the journey, we will be able to accomplish a tremendous amount of good. We need to understand we are all capable of so much if we seize the moment. We need to be cognizant that G-d is putting us in a difficult situation because G-d knows we can rise to the challenge and be great.

At CTA we are blessed to see students actualize this message on a daily basis. From elementary school students who are pushing themselves to learn how to read to high school students who are capable of independently translating complicated texts of Talmud or Navi. Each day of school represents another opportunity for us to remind our students that G-d believes in them and they should not be intimidated by whatever stumbling block that might lay before them. They have to remember the challenge is what G-d sent them to make them stronger.

## **MAZAL TOV TO:**

Shira and Rabbi Ari Neuman on the birth of a son

Mirav Hazan (Class of 2013) on her marriage to Avi Hollander and to parents Arie and Shana Hazan

Samuel Rosenstein (Class of 2011) on receiving semicha (rabbinic ordination) from Rabbi Berkowitz from the Jerusalem Kollel and to parents Andrew and Dr. Tricia Rosenstein

Josh Kopp (8th grade Class of 1992) on his engagement to Jessica Topolosky and to parents, Chuck and Dora Kopp and Rochelle and Randy Topolosky

Michal and Meir Perlmutter on the birth of a daughter

Ariella (Weisz) (Class of 2002) and Jonathan Eltes on the birth of a baby boy and to grandparents Chanita Weisz and great grandmother Ruth Stavsky

Smadar Melmed on the birth of a grandson to Agam and Jessica Melmed

Debbie (Weinerman) (Class of 2004) and Josh Grashin on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Drs. Philip and Julia Weinerman

Rabbi Zalman and Sarah Deitsch on the engagement of their son, JJ

Margalit Deitsch (8th grade Class of 2013) on her marriage and to parents Rabbi Zalman and Sarah Deitsch

Max Herszage (Class of 2013) on his engagement to Gabi Silbiger of Staten Island, NY and to parents Dotan and Shari Herszage and grandmother Cheryl Miller

Yaffa Gewirtz on the Bar Mitzvah of her son Boaz

Joe Chay (8th grade Class of 1997) on his marriage to Kaitlyn and to parents David and Sara Chay

Rabbi Yehoshua and Elisheva Greenspan on the birth of a daughter

Dr. David Weinerman (Class of 1997) on the Bat Mitzvah of his daughter and to grandparents Drs. Phil and Julie Weinerman

Isaac Morris (8th grade Class of 2010) on his marriage to Esther Friedman and to parents Rabbi Henschel and Chaya Morris

Dr. Ben (8<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 1987) and Wendy Almasanu on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Max

Rabbi Avrohom (Andrew) Berenstein (8th grade Class of 1983) on the marriage of his daughter Tova to Yossi Rubin and to grandfather Michael Berenstein

Moti Ryabinky (Class of 1996) on the birth of a son and to grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Boris Ryabinky

Stuart Shindel (8th grade Class of 1989) on the Bar Mitzvah of his son Jeremy Benjamin and to grandparents Elaine and Harold Shindel

Eliza Delman on being featured in an online article on leaders who are alumni from Shapell's/Yeshiva Darche Noam - <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/273703>

Tonia (Shatz) (Class of 2002) and Jeff Levison on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Alan and Sara Shatz and great grandparents Jack and Ettagail Shatz

### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

Miriam Goldmeier and Linda Szames and Families on the passing of their brother and uncle Edward M. Hirsch

Galina Vaynshteyn and Dina Goldstein (8<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 1997) on the loss of husband, father and grandfather Yefim Vaynshteyn

Bobbie Kohn, Robyn (Kohn) Canvasser (8<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 1978) and Randy Kohn, z"l (8<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 1980) on the loss of husband and father Richard Kohn

Jeff and Meagan Buren on the loss of Jeff's grandmother, Marcie Mazer

Rabbi Jon and Leah Savage on the loss of Rabbi Savage's grandmother

Stuart Weltz on the loss of wife, Eileen Weltz

The family of former teacher, Rabbi Harry Frank, who taught at CTA 1958-1962

### **THANK YOU**

To the following families for sponsoring the Rosh Chodesh Teacher Appreciation Lunch for the month of Shevat: Rabbi Dr. Mendy and Simha Wolf, Alina Olkovsky, Rebecca and Rabbi Ilan Schwartz, The Vernikoff Family, Dovid and Ayala Kohn, Beth and Daryl Binsky.

### **SECURITY MEASURES FOR A SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

We continue to be ever mindful of ways to continue improving and upgrading the security of our school. Here are some updates on recent enhancements to our security:

- We now have a Columbus Police Officer at CTA every school day. While we have no indication of any particular local threat, our security consultants and the Columbus Police Department feel this is the correct posture for us to maintain. We thank Jewish Columbus for helping to support this effort.
- Through a matching grant with the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation we had 3M Scotchshield Safety and Security Ultra S800 Window Film installed on the windows in the Upper School library, the Lower School library, and all of the windows and doors in the front hallway. This window film helps to stop intruders from shooting out or breaking out a window to gain entry. It helps to keep glass from shattering in the event of an explosion or any item being thrown at the window. You can go onto the 3M website for more information.
- Through the Ohio Emergency Management Association and Federal grant funding, we have applied for two \$100,000 security grants. We worked with our security advisers on the best utilization of these funds to further enhance our security efforts as we await a response on our application.
- Our staff and high school students will take part in a tabletop top discussion, in the coming weeks, provided by Homeland Security and Columbus Police on general building security and active threat training. This is a regular part of our annual training. The training coincides with the lockdown and shelter-in-place drills we do each year.
- Please know that we monitor activities throughout central Ohio, the US, and worldwide via security network updates on a daily basis. We maintain open communications with Columbus Police, Jewish Columbus, and the various Jewish organizations in a network format as we all maintain vigilance no matter where we are.

Remember! See Something – Say Something. Let nothing go unnoticed! If you have any questions, speak with Norm Leist or Rabbi Drandoff.

## GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT STEP



Seniors' plans are starting to take shape. Six of our eight seniors are planning on a gap year in Israel after graduation. The three girls who want to study in Israel have all been accepted to their first choice seminaries! (Midreshet Lindenbaum, Meorot Yerushalayim, and Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim, a.k.a. MMY). The three boys who plan to study in Israel are still waiting for decisions. All eight of the students have applied to colleges. Some have already been accepted, but most are standing by, waiting for decision letters. It's an exciting time for them all. (Love this joyful picture of them showing their varied personalities!)

## CUM LAUDE MEMBERSHIP RENEWED



CTA's membership in the prestigious Cum Laude Society has been renewed! We received a formal letter from the national organization, saying "The Board accepts your Ten-Year Chapter Review with enthusiasm. We are impressed by your chapter's performance and are pleased your school is a member of the Cum Laude Society."

This past summer, CTA submitted our 10 Year Report, detailing the grades, AP scores, SAT scores, and college attended of our inductees. Additionally, Cum Laude asks for our faculty bios, including advanced degrees and years in the school. The Columbus Torah Academy Chapter of the Cum Laude Society inducts members upon high school graduation, based on both academic achievement as well as character. The CTA Cum Laude Society Faculty include: Mrs. Delman, Mr. Guinan, Mrs. Morris, and Ms. Neiwirth. Special appreciation goes to the CTA PTO who pay our chapter's annual membership dues. Our prestigious high school alumni who have been inducted include:

Leah Epstein ('09)  
Jacob Portman ('09)  
Mimi Wilhelm ('09)  
Channa Schramm ('10)  
Emily Sobol ('10)  
Tehila Wenger ('10)  
Tal Benatar ('11)  
Aaron Portman ('11)  
Sam Rosenstein ('11)

Josh Blau ('12)  
Emily Chase ('12)  
Noah Portman ('12)  
Keenan Sobol ('12)  
Aaron Polster ('13)  
Ellie Chase ('14)  
David Polster ('15)  
Rebecca Portman ('15)  
Rakefet Shenkar ('16)

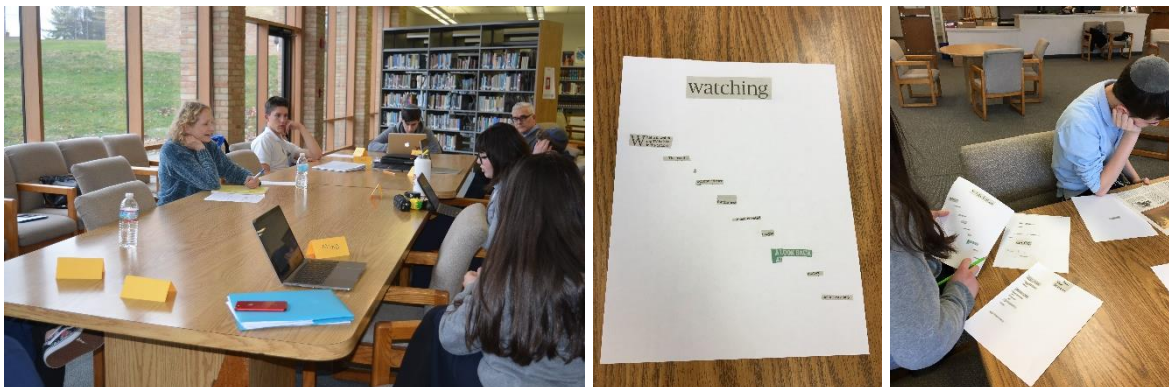
Julie Chase ('17)  
Molly Cohen ('17)  
Dasha Kuperberg ('17)  
Mira Cassell ('18)  
Danielle Lane ('18)  
Addison Horwitz ('19)  
Hanna Wolfson ('19)

For more information on the Cum Laude Society in general, go to: <https://cumlaudesociety.org/>

## WRITING WORKSHOP KICKS OFF

Writer in Residence Amy Greenberg spent the first two weeks of January at CTA as the kick-off to her Writing Workshop residencies at CTA. Mrs. Greenberg's residency is funded by a TeachArts Ohio grant from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). She has been holding Lower School Writing Workshops for more than 20 years for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and this year was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for Upper School. Mr. Guinan's eighth and tenth graders spent time writing, editing and conferring with Mrs. Greenberg. Eighth graders will compile an anthology of their creative writing focusing on vignettes about their lives. The students used objects, pictures and memories as inspiration for their writing. Tenth graders wrote short fiction stories that were inspired by prompts developed by Mrs. Greenberg and Mr. Guinan. That also included epistolary stories and "Thirty Things" poems.





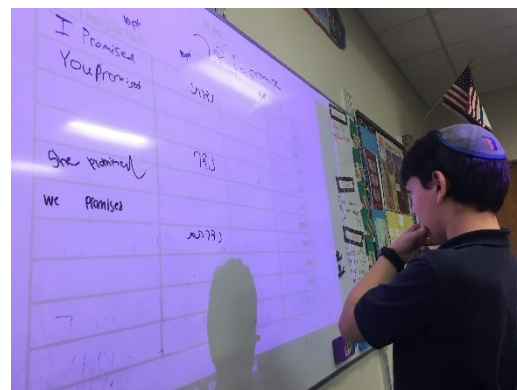
Lower School Writing Workshops with Mrs. Greenberg began in February with a Sharing Night for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade families scheduled for February 19, at 7 pm. More information will be published in the March issue of Dateline.

It shows great continuity for our students to have Mrs. Greenberg work with them throughout the grades on their creative writing skills.

## TORAH TEXT SKILLS ARE THE BASIC OF JUDAIC STUDIES

The primary focus of the Lower School Judaic Studies curriculum is learning Chumash. In our quest to develop sophisticated and well-educated Jews it is critical for our students to become independent learners with knowledge of and comfort with Torah text. An example of how we are building the capacity of our students' chumash skills through grammar.

Morah Sarah's 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been working hard by using grammar to develop skills for translating text. Some of the skills include, finding shorashim/root words, identifying prefixes, highlighting the possessive, and conjugating verbs in the past tense. This past week the class created tools to study for upcoming quizzes to go along with the charts around the room. To practice the skills, they played an interactive conjugation game. Students were randomly selected to come to the smartboard to complete parts of a collective chart worth different point values. Students were at the edge of their seats during our lightning round of questions and are enthusiastic about upcoming grammar competitions!



This early practice with chumash text supports and fosters further learning throughout the grades into high school.

## MATH CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LEARNING PROGRESSIONS FROM GRADE TO GRADE



Lower School General Studies teaching teams are having conversations about math instruction. The teams have met and looked at how state standards in math are building blocks to each new grade level. Math fluency is critical as students advance especially in 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students need to be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide with automaticity. As students advance through the grades, the math concepts become more complex. They require students to be able to solve complex problems that have multiple steps. For example, in 5<sup>th</sup> grade students learn how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. This has helped students with math building

blocks and to become fluent in understanding that a fraction is part of a whole, know repeated addition is multiplication, and have the ability to find multiples and factors. In January, the teachers had discussions about the skills students to come into each grade with mastery. Ann Ahern and Rachel Kurre took a leadership role in these conversations. This spring both teachers will be attending a professional development workshop titled, "Math In Practice: Everyday Strategies for Building Confident and Capable Learners." The learning objectives are to:

- Discover ways to simplify math problem solving for students
- Explore the words of math and identify strategies to help students talk more precisely about their thinking
- Reflect on math investigations that lead to important math discoveries
- Identify key teacher questions that promote math understanding
- Learn simple math routines that work at all grade levels to revisit and reflect on important math concepts
- Examine ways to build students' confidence with math

Mrs. Ahern and Ms. Kurre will bring back their knowledge and share with the team. We are excited for this opportunity.

### **A RESTART AFTER BREAK**

Heading back to school after Winter Break is a great restart to the second half of the school year.

In Lower School, the students had a refresher on the middot they are focusing on: Respect, Hard Work and Friendship. Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders read *What if Everybody Did That?* by Ellen Javernick, emphasizing how to make choices that positively impact our school, others and ourselves. Third & fourth graders read *How Full is your Bucket? For Kids* by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer with a focus on friendship and respect and had classroom discussion groups about how to treat others and how to build people up or tear them down with words and actions. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders watched a video and discussed hard work and perseverance and learned about how it is okay to fail or make mistakes. They can also work on the skills of advocating for themselves when they need extra help. There has been so many wonderful celebrations of classes earning Middot Money rewards and student Lion Note winners.



Elana Goldstein and Aliza Alt earned and pooled together 60 Lion Notes to earn the opportunity to give Mrs. Miller a Pinkalicious makeover through the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade PBIS store. They painted Mrs. Miller's nails, applied only the best makeup and suggested a wardrobe! It was a fun day! Pictured are 2<sup>nd</sup> graders baking Jam Bars as a reward for their classroom Middot successes.



### **NEW BILLING SYSTEM FOR FEES**

As part of an ongoing effort to advance customer service and meet the needs of our families, FACTS, our Tuition Management System, is now configured to accept payments for school fees (athletic, enrollment, after school activities and more) and beginning in January 2020 is assisting the CTA Lunch Program with breakfast and lunch

billing. The invoicing is processed directly through the FACTS system and offers a variety of payment options. Any questions about the FACTS system can be directed to [nleist@torahacademy.org](mailto:nleist@torahacademy.org).

## LIFE & LEGACY

CTA was accepted into the JewishColumbus cohort for Life & Legacy. The Life & Legacy Initiative is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and JewishColumbus. Over the next four years, CTA along with 17 other local Jewish organizations will receive training, coaching, and incentives to raise awareness of the importance of planned giving.

Are you interested in finding out how you can leave a lasting gift to CTA? Have you already included CTA in your trust, retirement fund, will or life insurance policy?



If you answered yes to either question or want to find out more about Life & Legacy, contact Rabbi Drandoff, Shari Herszage or Board President, Bob Wolf.

## OHIO ED CHOICE

CTA continues to be a provider of the Ohio Ed Choice Scholarship Program offering scholarships from the state of Ohio to qualifying families. More schools have been added to the Designated School List and more students may qualify. Forms and more information can also be found online at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/EdChoice-Scholarship-Program>



Renewals and Applications for the Expansion are due by March 27 to Norma Whitmyre. The date for Renewals and Requests for the Traditional has not been set, but you are welcome to turn them in. \*Note there are issues in the State Legislature that could affect the administration of the program.

Please use the guideline below to determine if you may be eligible to apply.

- Current Ed Choice Scholarship Student will receive renewal forms mailed to your home; turn in completed forms with proof of residency by March 27 to Norma Whitmyre
- Current 8-12 student at CTA who would be assigned to a public school on the Designated Public School List
- New Kindergarten Student to CTA who would be assigned to a public school on the Designated Public School List.
- New K-12 Student to CTA moving to Ohio who would be assigned to a public school on the Designated Public School List.
- New or Current K-12 Student to CTA who meets Low Income Requirements for the Ed Choice Expansion Scholarship

If you have any questions, contact Shari Herszage or Norma Whitmyre.



## PHOTOS AROUND CAMPUS



**Junior High Spelling Bee:** Students had a great time preparing and participating in the annual Junior High Spelling Bee; a test of knowledge, skill and following the rules of the Bee. The final round included 7 students who were all bested by 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Elianna Epstein who took the winning prize.



**Chanukah Carnival:** Lower School Student Council worked hard to put together a super fun carnival in preparation for Chanukah which was celebrated during Winter Break. The carnival included an airbrush artist, fun games, a new prize system and lots of smiles. Fun was had by all! Thanks to Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Mast, Student Council members and the teachers for making it such a success.

**Alumni in Israel:** Alumni studying in Israel are always fortunate to have Columbus hospitality. We love seeing our alumni having a great and meaningful year. On the first night of Hanukkah, Hebrew teacher Diana Wolff and her daughter, Emilia, met with students at the Kotel for the lighting of the Hanukkah followed by dinner. The Herszages hosted students at a breakfast brunch. Pictured also is Orly Hartstein (Class of 2019) and her Teudat Zahut- identity card as a new Israeli citizen.



**Auction Winnings:** "Bubba" Bary Alan Leeman took his Columbus Torah Academy boys to the Harlem Globetrotters game recently at Value City Arena - Jerome Schottenstein Center. Mr. Leeman won the suite for the game at the recent Scholarship Dinner auction benefitting the school's scholarship fund.

**Wexner Service Corp Information Session:** Rabbi Sharon Barr Skolnik made a presentation to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders about the Wexner Service Corp and applications for Fall 2020

are now open. The year-long Jewish service-learning program for high school juniors and seniors in Columbus, Ohio is designed to educate and unite Jewish teens through community service and connecting to their shared Jewish texts and tradition. The program is aligned with CTA's High School Community Service program which requires all high school students to complete a minimum of 15 hours/year of community service. Contact Mrs. Delman with any questions.





**Yom Iyun Electives in High School:** On January 24, High School students had a special Yom Iyun on Friday with learning choices on contemporary topics. Students were introduced to areas of Torah beyond what is covered in class that have relevance on daily life. Students chose from: “God’s Take on Relationships” by Rabbi Davies; “Fake it or Make it: As a Life Philosophy” by Mrs. Claman; and, “The Kosher Bacon Big Mac” By Rabbi Savage. If you see a student (or teacher), ask them about the topic.



**Shakespeare:** CTA’s annual 7th grade Shakespeare production debuted on Thursday night, January 17, in the Roth/Resler Theatre at the JCC. Under the leadership of their English teacher, Ms. Kristen Van Gundy, and the direction of Ms. Angela Barch, the students performed scenes from several Shakespeare plays and added their own rendition of some of Shakespeare’s quotable quotes.

The Shakespeare program accomplishes several goals. Since plays were written to be performed and not merely read, an understanding of the genre of drama is best accomplished through experiential education. An introduction to Shakespeare in 7th grade lays the groundwork to meet high school state

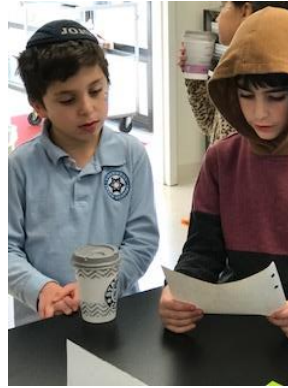
standards that require inclusion of Shakespearean plays. The skills of speaking and listening, also state standards, are honed as students are directed to better articulate, project and follow cues. Collaborating, problem solving, and sharing in each other’s success helps build unity and the sense of belonging that bring the class together. See the performance video here: <https://youtu.be/duZcS7nMVAM>

**Third Grade Biography Reports and Dress Up:** The students had a blast learning from parent, Meagan Buren about presentation strategies when she visited the class the day before their biography book report presentations and led the students on a variety of hands-on exercises. Dressed in costume, the students each presented to their own class. Then, as a whole grade level, they enjoyed learning from each other as they walked around to listen and ask questions at learning stations. All of the presentations can be seen and heard at <https://youtu.be/ROU3AaEeTTI> Here are just a few. Can you guess who they are?





**Starbooks Café:** The 2nd grade participated in a "Starbooks Cafe" to celebrate the end of their learning of nonfiction - "Becoming Experts" in the Units of Study reading program. After spending many weeks learning about components of nonfiction, the children chose a topic they wished to become an "expert" in. To this end, they researched resources, took notes, illustrated a picture culminating event was a Starbooks Café, where the 2nd grade set-up their research papers

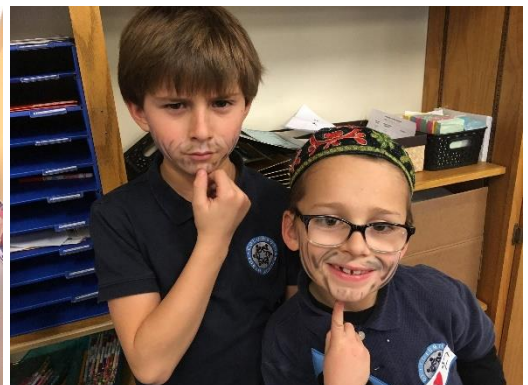


and resources and invited the 3rd graders to walk around with their hot chocolate and talk to them about their learning. It was a terrific opportunity to meet so many learning standards within ELA and Science and Social Studies - plus everyone had a terrific time!



**Teacher Tech Training:** Teachers met with Joe Spurlock, Technology Integration Coordinator, for a refresher course on technology care and use in the labs and classrooms. Learning how to properly care for the computer and do simple "self-care" helps to eliminate times when the computer freezes, crashes or simply just doesn't behave! These are strategies teachers are sharing with their students.

**Rashi Day!:** Morah Yonit's 3rd graders celebrated RASHI DAY to highlight their hard work and reaching their goal of reading Rashi script independently, as well as learning many other important Rashi skills! The celebration included Rashi challenges, a new Rashi, a documentary, face painted beards and Rashi letters, and receiving of their official Rashi-rank badges! Rashi script skills are an important milestone of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as the students seek to gain a better understanding of Torah text. The Rashi commentaries clarify and illuminate the mishnayot, gemara and chumash text.







**Yakar**, The Columbus Torah Academy High School Honor Society, welcomes new members for the Spring semester of the 2019-20 school year. Pictured left to right with Mrs. Delman, Yakar Advisor, Nosson Freed, Yaki Liebesman, Talia Delman, Akiva Gisser, Sahar Import, Jane Shevkin, Hannah Garvin, Leora Hazan, Mina Schulman, and Shylee Delman. Each student is currently selecting a mitzvah that they will spend the semester fulfilling better. Following goal-setting strategies, they will report their chosen mitzvah, track their progress, provide updates on how it's going and then give a presentation on the experience at the end of the semester.



**Nachshim:** Students in Mrs. Claman's Chumash class created edible snakes on sticks as they studied the text of the Nachash HaNechochet. Known to have healing power, the Rod of Asclepius is commonly used as a medical symbol. However, the students discussed that the true healing power behind this snake was the fact that it forced the Jews to look upward, directing their gaze heavenward, to G-d, to save them from the snake bite.

**Junior High Chesed Club** kicks off with some positive energy and ideas to infuse Junior High with acts of kindness. With direction from Mrs. Delman, Junior High students (left to right: Emilia Wolff, Li'elle Chaykin, Bina Newman, Brooklyn Binsky, Lila Gisser, and Maya Berger) came to the first meeting, eager to be part of this new leadership opportunity. Stay tuned for their coming initiatives.

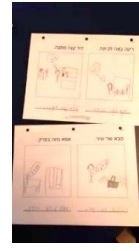


**Student Writers are Published:** Recently, a number of CTA Lower School students were published in an anthology sponsored by Young Writers, an international writing group based in England, who's mission statement is encouraging young writers to read, write and enjoy poetry, as well as creative writing. Studies show that having work published boosts confidence, nurtures creative talent and showcases creativity. This particular contest was called "Crazy Creatures." Students

were invited to create a crazy creature and write a mini saga inspired by their creations. A mini saga is a story written in up to 100 words, and must have a beginning, middle and an end. Participation was voluntary, but the word quickly spread across grade levels. This year's CTA published authors include Evan Binsky, Asher Reitman, Aliza Weinschneider, Sapira Vernikoff and Elana Goldstein.



## Hebrew Highlights Through the Grades



**Moreh Dror's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** received Hebrew sentences using simple prepositions, and they illustrated the meaning of those sentences!

**Morah Ronit's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** hosted Morah Dina's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The entire group played Hebrew games together. They helped each other and used key Hebrew instructions written on the board. It was such a pleasure to see these students interacting and chatting in Hebrew!



**Moreh Dror's 4<sup>th</sup> grade** group has completed the unit "This is how we look". In addition, Moreh Dror used Origami to tell a story illustrating clothing and adjectives. Students, then had fun creating origami by listening and following specific instructions given in Hebrew.

Before Winter Break, **5<sup>th</sup> grade Hebrew** students created their own games in Hebrew to practice vocabulary. Moreh Dror and Morah Ronit provided them a list of all the new vocabulary they learned from the beginning of the year and the students were tasked with creating games that help them to practice. They had a lot of fun creating, playing, and practicing, all in Hebrew, and did VERY WELL remembering and using the vocabulary.





**6<sup>th</sup> grade Hebrew** students enjoyed learning how to code in Hebrew and created animated fun figures. Our students used Hebrew software from [code.org](http://code.org) of the Israeli Dept. of Education which teaches how to code animation in Hebrew. Students had to follow the instructions in Hebrew and figure out how to progress. This was not only a lot of fun, but also an integration and implementation of several Hebrew and STEM skills! See the short video link. [short video1](#) and [short video2](#)

While 7<sup>th</sup> graders were preparing for their Shakespeare Performance, our **8<sup>th</sup> grade Hebrew Students** were engaged in the research project "*Kibbutz Galuyot*-Gathering of the Exiles." They researched and created beautiful presentations for their entire 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> classes about Jews from different origins who immigrated to Israel in different periods. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students researched and found out very interesting facts including history, population changes, *Aliyot* (immigration) waves, famous people, recipes and unique customs of Jews from different countries. The students integrated history, facts, pictures, animation, songs, interviews with CTA staff, and used both English and Hebrew in their visual and oral presentations. They learned a lot and shared it with their peers. You can see two of the presentations about Morocco and Russia in the following links.

[לילה ואסתי - מרוקו](#)  
[טלי ואריאנה - רוסיה](#)

Pictured here are Morah Ronit's **Junior High Hebrew** group playing, practicing, and presenting verbs and vocabulary to their class.



**Morah Ronit's High School Hebrew** group learned how to write and teach a D'var Torah in Hebrew. You can see their videos in the following link :[links for the dvar torah](#)

**Night at the Games:** Lower School students came with their families to Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade Night at the Games. A highlight event of the season, the younger students can enjoy all that a CTA basketball game has to offer – Pompoms, Cheering, Friends, Concessions! They even got to come out onto the court at halftime to say "Go Lions!" Thank you to the families who sponsored Night at the Games – Kozberg, Emsallem/Zisman, and Schuman!





**Kindergarten Preview Day:** What a great celebratory day when preschoolers from the community came together for their first “practice at school” on Kindergarten Preview Day. Helped by some 6<sup>th</sup> grade student ambassadors and lots of teachers who guided them through a morning of fun, the class of 2033 looks awesome!



## SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES FOR FEBRUARY and early MARCH

February 7: 5:40 pm  
February 14: 5:48 pm  
February 21: 5:56 pm

February 28: 6:04 pm  
March 6: 6:12 pm

## CTA LUNCH MENU & SCHOOL EVENTS

(<http://www.torahacademy.org/parent-portal/calendar/>)

Check this for after-school activities, sports events and more.

School Links for Parents (<http://www.torahacademy.org/parent-page/>)

Feb. 3-19: Lower School Writing Workshop with Amy Greenberg  
Feb. 6: Shabbat Winter Showcase, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Feb. 6-9: Varsity Girls Basketball Tournament in Cleveland, OH  
Feb. 7: Lower School Parent Café, 8:30 am  
Feb. 7: Uniform Drop Off Deadline for February  
Feb. 10: Tu B'Shevat  
Feb. 10: Turn in CTA Tzedakah Box  
Feb. 12: Kindergarten Parshat Breishit Siyum, 9:30 am, Shul  
Feb. 14: No School – Professional Development Day  
Feb. 17: No School – President's Day  
Feb. 18: CTA Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Upper School Library  
Feb. 19: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Chag HaChumash, 6:30 pm, shul  
Feb. 19: Lower School Writing Workshop Share Night (grades 2 and 5), 7 pm, shul  
Feb. 21: Enrollment Forms Due for 2020-2021 School Year  
Feb. 21: Lower School Dress Down Day  
March 10: Purim, 1 pm Dismissal  
March 13: End of Lower School 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester, End of Upper School 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
April 1: FACTS Tuition Assistance Forms begun

**Go Lions! Keep up with the CTA sports schedule at** <https://columbustorahacademy.teamapp.com/>

## TZEDAKAH BOX TURN IN



If you have a CTA Tzedakah Box, don't forget to fill it and empty it often. **THE NEXT SCHEDULED DROP OFF DATE IS MONDAY, February 10, 2020.** You can choose to send in a check with the amount of the contents or put the change and cash into an envelope or baggie and send in with your child. Amounts are counted towards your Give and Get and are a great addition to the donations the school receives. If you need a new or more Tzedakah boxes, contact Shari.



## Keep Up With CTA Via Social Media

FOLLOW US ON



Instagram

Columbus Torah Academy is on INSTAGRAM! Follow us at: **ColumbusTorahAcademy** (<https://www.instagram.com/columbustorahacademy/>)



Like us on  
Facebook!

Columbus Torah Academy is on Facebook. Like us at **Columbus Torah Academy** (<https://www.facebook.com/columbustorahacademy/>) and join our groups **Columbus Torah Academy PTO** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/502100903515212/>) and (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/36055144239/>)



Follow us on  
twitter

Columbus Torah Academy is on Twitter. Follow us at : **@ColumbusTorah** (<https://twitter.com/ColumbusTorah>) and **@NikkiMillerCTA** (<https://twitter.com/NikkiMillerCTA>)

## GIVE & GET

More info can be found at [www.torahacademy.org/parent-portal/give-and-get/](http://www.torahacademy.org/parent-portal/give-and-get/)

**Tribute Donation:** Contact Lesa, Shari or submit donation on-line at [www.torahacademy.org](http://www.torahacademy.org) for all in honor, in memory or milestone tributes to family and friends.

**Kroger Rewards Card:** Go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and register your rewards card. Kroger will donate up to 1% of your purchases from Kroger or Turkey Hill stores.

**OFFICE MAX:** Max Perks card number is: 207285005

**Target RED Card:** Go to <https://rcam.target.com/> to manage your red card and enroll your card in the Take Charge of Education program to choose CTA. Target will donate up to 1% of your REDcard purchases at Target stores in the U.S and at Target.com.

**Amazon Smile:** Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and register to benefit CTA. When you make a purchase, CTA will receive 1% of that purchase as a donation to our school.

**iGive:** Register with iGive at [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and your Amazon purchases and online purchases at close to 1500 retailers will give a kickback to CTA. To date we have raised over \$1200.

**Apples for Students at Giant Eagle:** Go to [www.GiantEagle.com/AFTS](http://www.GiantEagle.com/AFTS) to register for their donation program. You will need your Giant Eagle Advantage Card number and the CTA School Code which is #4389.

**Shoparoo** Download the app to your smartphone and start earning points by snapping pictures of your receipts. Do you use a smartphone? Do you ever go to the store and buy anything? These are the two things you need in order to help CTA earn money through Shoparoo. There is no cost to you. Snap a photo of a receipt from a store you made a purchase at and CTA earns points that are converted to \$\$\$\$. Best fun is that your points are posted and you can see who the leaders helping CTA earn money are. Imagine how much money we could earn if you participated? For more information or to help out, contact Shari and she can walk you through it. [www.shoparoo.com](http://www.shoparoo.com)



**Sponsor a Day of Learning:** For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, CTA is offering opportunities to sponsor A Day of Learning in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, b'nai mitzvah or other life cycle event. A Day of Learning is a \$180 donation and dedications are listed in both the CTA Weekly Communicator and the monthly CTA Dateline. To choose your Day of Learning, contact Shari at [sherszage@torahacademy.org](mailto:sherszage@torahacademy.org)



**Sponsor**  
*a day of learning*

## **TZEDAKAH**

It has been a time-honored Jewish tradition to give tzedakah in recognition of important events. Todah Rabah to the following for their donation (since 12/1/19 through 2/1/2020):

### **To the Scholarship Fund**

- Dan and Nancy Rosen in honor of Jacob Diamond
- Ron and Laurie Reitman in memory of Eric Reitman, Asher Zelig ben Mecel HaLevi
- Dan and Nancy Rosen in memory of Boots Nutis
- Seyman and Sadie Stern in honor of Bary and Roni Leeman

### **To the Annual Fund**

- Steven and Smadar Import to wish Happy Holidays to teachers & staff, in memory of Boots Nutis, in memory of Blanche Young and in memory of Gila Hammer
- Ben Weisbuch and Miranda Abrams in memory of Blanche Young and Michael Weisz
- Josh and Amy Greenberg in memory of Boots Nutis and Dr. Aryeh Gorenstein
- Paul and Karan Tanenbaum in memory of Charlene Solomon, Naomi Litchman, Jeanette Starbird, Phyllis Hartstein, Annette Stevenson, Michael Weisz, Aryeh Gorenstein, Boots Nutis, Joanne Aubrey, Blanche Young, Richard Rosenberg's father, Edward Hirsch, MaryAnn Spatt, Richard Kohn, and Rita Waitzman
- Drs. David and Miriam Portman in memory of Michael Weisz, in honor of Sam Bernzweig's Bar Mitzvah, in honor of the birth of Jonathan and Nicole Schottenstein's daughter
- The following families in honor of Jonathan and Miriam Gisser's Miami ½ Marathon Run:
  - Sharon Hendel
  - Rabbi Avrohom and Hope Drandoff
  - Larry and Robin Garvin
  - Jonathan and Agi Hartstein
  - Drs. Dan and Leslie Chase
  - Dr. Allard and Shelly Dembe
  - Robbie and Tali Friedman
  - Stuart and Tari Modes
  - Matan and Alison Gutwaks
  - Drs. David and Miriam Portman
  - Batsheva Shalev
  - Meir and Michal Perlmutter
  - Jean Nassi
  - Carlo DiLorenzo
  - Rabbi Dovid and Yona Kimche
  - Aaron and Leah Freed
  - Drs. Stephen and Michelle Lessnick
  - Shimon and Shira Berger
  - Rabbi David and Shira Claman
  - Perry and Yael Vernikoff
  - Jeffrey and Meagan Buren
  - Steven and Mina Stieglitz
  - Richard and Terri Barnett
  - Daryl and Beth Binsky
  - Raanan and Rebecca Lefkovitz
  - Josh Cohen
  - Drs. Philip and Julia Weinerman
  - Andrew & Dr. Tricia Rosenstein
- Bary and Roni Leeman in honor of the birth of Jonathan and Nicole's new baby
- Mark Glazman and Janyce Katz in honor of the Leemans and Garvins
- Jon and Susie Diamond in memory of Dr. Aryeh Gorenstein

- Dr. Bob and Patti Wolf in memory of Blanche Young
- Dr. Bruce Gartner in memory of Blanche Young
- Laurence Ruben in memory of Boots Nutis
- Dr. Ken and Nancy Supowit in memory of Boots Nutis
- Dr. Bob and Marcia Hershfield in memory of Boots Nutis and in memory of Fira Eskin
- The Employees of Michael Cutler, Co in memory of Boots Nutis
- Jonathan and Robyn Silberstein in memory of Boots Nutis
- Howard and Jodi Cohen in memory of Boots Nutis
- Rich and Greta Schwartz in memory of Boots Nutis
- Indra Lahiri in memory of Boots Nutis
- Jon and Susie Diamond in memory of Boots Nutis
- Daniel Pollak in memory of Boots Nutis
- Janet Callif in memory of Boots Nutis
- Sam Weintraub in memory of Boots Nutis
- Alex and Susan Rosen in memory of Dr. Aryeh Gorenstein, Boots Nutis, Michael Weisz, Jeanette Schottenstein Starbird, Phyllis Hartstein, and Gail Abrams
- Ron and Laurie Reitman in memory of Eliezer ben Meir haCohen
- Jackson Leonard in memory of Irv Baker
- Rabbi Ben Berger and Rachel Weiss-Berger in memory of Michael Weisz
- Yitzchak Gold in memory of Sonia G. Fesman
- Randy and Rochelle Topolosky in memory of Thelma "Boots" Nutis
- Gary Abrams in memory of Thelma "Boots" Nutis
- Rick and Terri Barnett in memory of Thelma "Boots" Nutis
- Jerry and Maxine Rauchwerger in memory of Thelma "Boots" Nutis
- Neil and Audrey Siegel in memory of Zeidy Louis Berman, A'H from the Siegel and Weinreich Families

### **To Sponsor A Day of Learning For the month of December**

- CTA's Day of Learning for Tuesday, December 3, was sponsored in memory of Irv Baker in advance of his yartzheit later this month on the 3rd of Kislev. Mr. Baker - a CTA Alumni Parent, Past Board President and generous supporter of CTA -- greatly valued CTA and his legacy is the High School which continues to be supported through his endowed giving and generosity of his family. May his neshama have an aliya.
- CTA's Day of Learning for Tuesday, December 17, was sponsored by Dovid and Ayala Kohn and family for a refuah shelaima for their 11-year old cousin Estee Scheinberg. May she have a speedy recovery.

### **For the month of January**

- CTA's Day of Learning for Friday, January 10, was sponsored by Joseph and Ruth Weinreich in memory of Sinai ben Leibush on his yartzheit. May his neshama have an aliya.
- CTA's Day of Learning for Friday, January 10 was sponsored by Henry and Candis Schwarz in memory of dear friend, Abe Weinrib on Tevet 13, the 5th yartzheit of his passing. Mr. Weinrib, a CTA parent was a survivor of the horrors of Auschwitz. May his memory be for a blessing.
- CTA's Day of Learning for Monday, January 13 was sponsored in memory of Susan Molloy by the following families: Matt and Mindy Cooper, Josh and Hillari Klynn, Gary Liebesman and Stacy Leeman, Roy and Shoshi Yaari, Dror and Ronit Ziner, Dr. Ben and Wendy Gross Almasanu, Daryl and Beth Binsky, Tamara Shatashvilli, Rabbi Daniel and Devorah Steinberg, Gary and Dr. Lara Blumberg, Elana Burak, Naomi Myers. May her family find comfort in their memories of her.
- CTA's Day of Learning for Friday, January 17, was sponsored by Henry and Candis Schwarz in memory of Henry's father, Abraham Ben Yosef, a Holocaust survivor, on his 12th yahrzeit which is on Tevet 21 this Shabbat. May his memory be for a blessing.



## PBIS Assembly – January 2020

Congratulations to our all of our students who are showing  
Respect/Kavod, Friendship/Chaverut and Hard Work/Yegiyah.



SUPPORT US  
AND SUPPORT  
**CTA**



HELP US ACHIEVE  
**\$4000  
GOAL**

DEADLINE FEB 9TH

THE GISSER MIAMI 1/2

# MARATHON

Jonathan and Miriam Gisser –  
Parents of CTA students – will be  
running in the Miami Half Marathon  
in Florida on February 9th.

Help them use this opportunity to  
raise money for CTA, boost school  
spirit and model physical fitness  
for the students.

GRATITUDE CHALLENGE

**DONATE TODAY!**

[cutt.ly/gisserchallenge](http://cutt.ly/gisserchallenge)

100% of the proceeds  
will go to the school

FOR CTA SECOND and THIRD  
GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS

COOKING, ART,  
GAMES AND  
MORE!

*Hebren Club*  
with *Morah Ronit*  
and *Moreh Dror*

PRACTICE HEBREW, LEARN NEW  
WORDS and PHRASES, HAVE FUN!

TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL  
4:15-5:00 pm

Feb 25, March 3, 17, 24

**RESERVE TODAY. LIMITED SPACE.  
FEE COVERS ALL SUPPLIES.**

BY 2/13: \$15 PER STUDENT, PARENTS FREE.  
AFTER 2/14: \$25 PER STUDENT. PARENTS FREE.

RSVP TO [RZINER@TORAHACADEMY.ORG](mailto:RZINER@TORAHACADEMY.ORG)  
BY FEB. 13

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# PURIM STORYTIME

*at Columbus Torah Academy*

Come join Morah Miriam and  
get in the Purim spirit and  
listen as the Purim story  
come alive through stories,  
songs & crafts.

For children age 5 and  
younger

Thursday, March 5  
2 pm

Columbus Torah Academy  
181 Noe Bixby Road



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO RESERVE A SPOT  
[sherszage@torahacademy.org](mailto:sherszage@torahacademy.org)  
or 614-864-0299, ext 218



[WWW.TORAHACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.TORAHACADEMY.ORG)