



ת'ז'

Dateline CTA

September 2017
Elul/Tishrei 5777

Columbus Torah Academy
181 Noe Bixby Road
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 864-0299
info@torahacademy.org
www.torahacademy.org

Rabbi Avrohom Drandoff
Head of School
Ext. 228

Nicole Miller
Lower School Principal
Ext. 215

Eliza Delman
Upper School Principal
Ext. 220

Shirly Benatar
Hebrew Dept. Chair
Ext. 229

Accredited by:
ISACS
Independent Schools
Association of the
Central States

North Central Association
Commission on Accreditation
& School Improvement
(NCA CASI)

Member of:
Torah Umesorah
Association of Modern
Orthodox Day School &
Yeshiva High Schools (AMODS)

Columbus Torah Academy is proud
to be a beneficiary agency of The
Columbus Jewish Federation. We
are an Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer.

CTA WAY INSPIRES PASSION IN OUR STUDENTS

Rav Kalonymos Kalmish Shapira, the Rebbe of Piaseczna, writes in his magna opus, *Chovas HaTalmidim* (The Students' Obligation) in an essay entitled "A Discussion with Teachers and Parents" that when the word "Chinuch" is used in the context of educating children, "it means to nurture the inherent character and talents that lay dormant within the child or only partially realized, and to develop them." Rav Shapira goes on to explain, that educating children is a greater and more dynamic process than merely about informing the child of the "to do's" or "do not do's", nor is it simply about piling lots of information into their brains or teaching them good habits. Educating children starts with the belief that every child has the necessary qualities, talents and inner beauty to develop into living a life that is filled with meaning and success.



As much as we are delighted that CTA has increased our enrollment over the last few years, we are motivated to continue to push forward to expand our base. This summer, CTA professional leadership embarked on a process to develop "The CTA Way" for the purpose of further advancing our academic offerings and to put our own unique stamp on education. The CTA Way is our commitment to prepare our students for a life of meaning and success. It represents our belief that all students are capable of identifying their passions, talents and the areas where they can accelerate and achieve great success in life. It is our goal to understand how each of our students learn and what they are passionate about in order to meet them where they are.

Our vision for the next few years, is to increase the amount of experiential and collaborative learning for the purpose of advancing academic knowledge, provide a forum for our students to develop 21st century skills and be a platform for students to explore through curiosity. Educational research shows that a high I.Q. and textbook knowledge are not enough. The biggest predictors of future career success are high emotional intelligence and the ability to develop positive relationships. Our goal is to instill confidence and encourage grit in each of our students coupled with developing strong skills in effective communication and interpersonal relationships in order to watch them blossom into active, contributing members of contemporary American Jewish society.

We will continue to keep the Torah Academy community informed as we travel together on the path of the CTA Way.

MAZAL TOV

Kathe-Joe (Paine) Arnoff (8th Grade Class of 1968) on the birth of a granddaughter
Joel Stavsky (8th Grade Class of 1971) on the marriage of his daughter Zoe to Coby Brandman of Chicago
and to grandmother Mrs. Ruth Stavsky
William Schwartz (8th Grade Class of 1974) on the engagement of his son Sammy to Julianna Stadtmauer and
to grandmother Mrs. Esther Schwartz
Judy (Vinar) Kahn (8th Grade Class of 1978) on the marriage of her daughter Sara Beth to Joseph Reinstein of
West Hempstead, New York and to grandparents Barbara and Marvin Vinar
Tamar (Mott) Forrest (8th Grade Class of 1989) on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents, Susan and
Frank Mott
Jeffrey (Yosef) Romanoff (8th Grade Class of 1992) on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Ellen and
Sonny Romanoff
Dr. Gillian Levy (8th Grade Class of 1993) and Dr. Alex Finkelstein on the birth of a daughter and to
grandparents Barbara and Dr Alan Levy
Ronnie (8th Grade Class of 1995) and Alizza Shulman on the birth of a son and to grandparents Anne and
Steve Shulman
Rod Chay (8th Grade Class of 1996) on his engagement to Jackie Steinbach and to parents Sara and David
Chay
David (8th Grade Class of 1998) and Eda Schottenstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ari and to
grandparents Lea and Tuvya Schottenstein
Rabbi Tuly (Class of 1998) and Abby Weisz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Shaindy, and to grandmother
Ruth Stavsky
Rebecca (Weinerman) Lefkovitz (Class of 2000) on receiving her MBA from the Ohio State University Fisher
College of Business and to parents Dr.'s Julie and Phil Weinerman
Dori (Class of 2000) and Allison Zofan on the birth of a daughter and to grandfather Ely Zofan
Rebecca (Weinerman) (Class of 2000) and Raanan Lefkovitz on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents
Dr.'s Julie and Phil Weinerman
Ely (Class of 2001) and Talia Cole on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Marilyn and Stuart Cole
Rebecca (Weisfogel) (Class of 2002) and Natan Fink on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Rochell (8th
Grade Class of 1969) and David Weisfogel
Sarah (Weinerman) (Class of 2002) and Rabbi Noah Cheses on the birth of a son and to grandparents Dr.'s
Julie and Phil Weinerman
Anna (Applebaum) Ryan (Class of 2002) on birth of daughter and to grandparents Stu and Susie Stan and
Chaya Malka Frank
Pam Ryan (Class of 2003) and Sam Calabrese (Class of 2002) on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents
Monica and Joe Calabrese and Mara and Michael Ryan
Olga (Chernyakhovskaya) Diner (Class of 2003) on the birth of a son
Rena (Cole) (Class of 2004) and Adam Gardin on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Marilyn and Stuart
Cole
Etana Zack (Class of 2004) on completing her Pediatric Residency and to parents Linda and Rabbi Howard
Zack
Jennifer (Cassell) Atkin (Class of 2004) on the birth of a son and to grandparents Michelle Cassell and Jonathan
Cassell
Debbie (Weinerman) (Class of 2004) and Josh Grashin on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Dr's Julie
and Phil Weinerman
Joey (Class of 2004) and Amber Schwarz on the birth of a son and to grandparents Candis and Henry Schwarz
Aliza (Rosenberg) Leiter (8th grade class of 2005) on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Rabbi
Jonathan (8th grade class of 1979) and Aviva Rosenberg and to great grandmother Mrs. Sylvia Rosenberg
Rabbi Nuri (Class of 2005) and Aliza Klinger on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Tzipora and Jiri
Klinger
Daniel Perel (Class of 2005) on his marriage to Shira Alevy of Englewood, New Jersey and to parents Pearl and
Mel Perel
Molly Zwelling (Class of 2006) on the birth of a son and to parents Sheila and Rick Zwelling
Hannah Wenger (Class of 2006) on her engagement to Sahar Tam and to parents Dr. Shifra Tyberg and Dr.
Rafe Wenger
Alison(Barnett) (Class of 2006) and Matan Gutwaks on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Terri and
Rick Barnett

Meir Hauser (Class of 2007) on receiving his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Chicago School for Professional Psychology and to parents Rabbi Yosef and Tova Hauser

Aviva Shapiro (Class of 2008) on her marriage to Ben Maas and to parents Beverly Roseman-Shapiro and Dr Stewart Shapiro

Bari (Dolinger) Gorbacz (Class of 2008) on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Beth and Ron Dolinger

Shira (Barnett) Bernstein (Class of 2010) on receiving her Masters in speech and language pathology from Iona College and to parents Terri and Rick Barnett

Miriam Geiger (Class of 2010) on her marriage to Shmuel Levine and to parents Kim and Steve Geiger

Sam Rosenstein (Class of 2011) on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Dr. Tricia and Andrew Rosenstein

Aaron Portman (Class of 2011) on his marriage to Dena Edelman and to parents, Drs. David (8th Grade Class of 1976) and Miriam Portman and to grandparents, Dr. Samuel and Susan Portman

Ayelet Wenger (Class of 2012) on her graduation from Princeton University and to parents Dr. Shifra Tyberg and Dr. Rafe Wenger

Gary Sukienik (Class of 2012) on his graduation from The Ohio State University and to parents Lisa and Harvey Sukienik

Joshua Blau (Class of 2012) on his marriage to Hodaya Card from New Jersey and to parents, Melanie and Daniel McDonald

Aaron Polster (Class of 2013) on his graduation from Fisher College of Business and to parents Lori and Jeff Polster

Sarah (Nuttis) Brody (Class of 2013) on her graduation from Stern College for Women and to parents Laura and Ira (8th Grade Class of 1971) Nuttis and to grandmother Boots Nuttis

Rabbi Zechariah and Leah Weitz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Penina

Massiel and Marc Schechter on the birth of a son

Rabbi Ari and Shira Neuman on the birth of a daughter

David and Arava Weller on the birth of a daughter

Gary Liebesman and Stacy Leeman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Yaki

Robert H. Schottenstein, CTA past president on receiving the Ben M. Mandelkorn Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Columbus Jewish Federation

Gary Liebesman and Stacy Leeman on being honored with the Shofar Award at the Beth Jacob 2017 Testimonial Dinner

Ariel Eskin, current 10th grader, who was featured on a segment on local channel 10 news about the fundraiser she is doing to collect school supplies for foster children. To see more, go to:
<http://www.10tv.com/article/teens-collect-school-supplies-give-foster-kids>

CONDOLENCES

Rabbi Henoch and Dr. Rochelle Millen on the loss of daughter, Naomi Talansky

Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf on the loss of his mother

Tamara Cherfas and Igor Cherfas (8th Grade Class of 2002) on the loss of husband and father Leonard Cherfas

Julia Modes, Sonia Modes Schottenstein, Stuart and Tari Modes and Rabbi Joey Modes (8th Grade Class of 1991) on the loss of husband brother and father Irving Modes

Betty Shames, David Shames (8th Grade Class of 1969), Jeff Shames (8th Grade Class of 1974) and Ben Shames (8th Grade Class of 1977) on the loss of husband and father Alvin Shames

Tuvya and Lea Schottenstein, Aryeh Schottenstein (8th Grade Class of 1987), David Schottenstein (8th Grade Class of 1998), Miriam Schottenstein Engelson (8th Grade Class of 2002), Chana Schottenstein Marinovsky (8th Grade Class of 2005) and Yael Schottenstein Gutnick (8th Grade Class of 2008) upon the loss of mother and grandmother Flora Levy

Alex Bisman (Class of 1999) on the loss of his mother Emma Bisman

NEWS FROM UPPER SCHOOL JUDAIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT



By Rabbi Zecharia Weitz, Upper School Judaic Studies Coordinator

Best Year Ever

To make sure the 5777-78 school year will, with G-d's help, be the best yet, Upper School Judaic Studies has significantly upgraded two of our flagship programs.

Interschool IronMench! This year will have substantially more healthy competition as we face off with up to four other schools for the Ironmench Tournament! In order to gear up for this grand event, we've already begun regular review of the comprehensive Yiddiot Klalliot (Jewish literacy facts). Details to come!

"Middot Lab" - Building off of last year's program, we've put a lot of effort into more deeply integrating Middot into our classroom curriculum. This year, the US will be focusing on one Midda per quarter. Each of the year's four Middot were carefully chosen based on the latent themes in the text we are covering in our classes. Hands-on workshops and experiential activities that we will have throughout the year will facilitate a deeper appreciation of each midda.

K'Tiva v'Chatima Tova - A Good & Sweet Year!

NEWS FROM LOWER SCHOOL JUDAIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT



By Dror Karavani, Lower School Judaic Studies Coordinator

We excitedly started off the beginning of the school year bringing in the month of Elul. The students recognize this daily by hearing the shofar and seeing the holiday decorations throughout the hallways and classrooms. There is a beautiful symphony of shofars being blown by the students each day as they try out their skills. In addition, the students are learning the meaning of the three different shofar sounds.

We are looking forward to the Shofar Factory coming to our school where the students will learn all about how to make a kosher shofar, which types of shofarot we use for Rosh Hashanah, and a "hands on" experience seeing an exhibit of many different kinds of shofrot.



In the classrooms during this special time of the year, we are emphasizing tefillah (prayer), teshuva (repentance), and tzedaka (charity) and practicing our four Middot - Respect, Honesty, Friendship and Patience. Come and see the different exhibits throughout the school hallways.

Very soon the students will be learning about the upcoming holiday of Rosh Hashanah. They will make Shanah Tova cards and use their Rosh Hashanah workbooks which they will share with you during the holiday.

We will have Rosh Hashanah Sedarim where they will enjoy the tastes of the Simanim (pomegranate, apple, honey, etc.). Don't forget to ask them about the meaning of those holiday symbols.

Yishar Koach to the amazing Judaic team for their dedication and hard work in making the High Holiday season a meaningful time for our students. I would like to wish you a Shanah Tovah, a sweet New Year and Chatimah Tova.

NEWS FROM HEBREW LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

By Shirly Benatar, Hebrew Language Department Chair



We are excited to welcome new faculty members Oded and Tehilla Karavani, who just moved to Columbus from Israel, although they are practically family here already. They join returning Hebrew staff Mordechai and Ester Bar Asher, our Hebrew Sh'lachim, Malca Makias and Eva Chaykin. It is my pleasure to work with this entire team!

At the very beginning of the year, students in Lower School and Upper School spent the first days of classes with introductions to: each other, class rules and learning habits, new books, and their new teachers. Many classes reflected on summer vacation. Our students used their writing skills to reflect on an experience they had during the summer and they wrote Hebrew sentences or paragraphs describing one fun thing they did this past summer vacation. Those reflections are displayed on cards decorating our bulletin board in the hallway!



In addition to regular Hebrew language lessons, the Hebrew department coordinated a school-wide project, “**לימוד של ב' 70** *dreaming to visit*”. We learned about the upcoming historical birthday for the State of Israel – 70 years! Our students explored Israel's map via technology and video and then had to pick the place in Israel which they dream of visiting. Each student wrote the name of the place on a colorful note and placed it in a tube. Finally, we formed a collage of all the tubes with their wishes, in the shape of 70. May we all be blessed with achieving our dreams and visiting Eretz HaKodesh ! אֶרֶץ הַקוֹדֵשׁ !

The Hebrew department is renewed, with fresh eyes, experiences, and ideas. We are dedicated to continue to build a program which teaches useful, usable language, emphasizing basic grammatical concepts at a deeper level. Our goal is to teach narrow and deep rather than shallow and wide and use a variety of instructional tools. We continue to adjust and re-examine, while tweaking the materials and the method of instruction.

The entire Hebrew department wishes everyone Shanah Tovah U'metukah, a sweet and wonderful year.

CTA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Columbus Torah Academy will hold its annual Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, December 10. The evening will be a celebration of the school and will raise money for the Scholarship Fund which provides tuition assistance to families and ensures that all Jewish families can provide their children with a Jewish education.

Co-chairs, Beth Binsky, Stacy Leeman and Michelle Lessnick, have begun organizing the committee and planning a successful fundraising evening in celebration of the school which will include a program highlighting special honorees, an auction and a delicious dinner.

Honorees include Alan Levine, an alumni parent, whose three daughters attended CTA. Mr. Levine commented, "I am touched to be selected as an honoree by CTA for my commitment and support for Jewish education. This honor is a reflection of my dear parents, Norman and Tillie Levine's legacy and their love of Jewish life and learning that they instilled in me and my brother Mark."

The evening will also include an appreciation to the Columbus Jewish Foundation which has steadfastly worked to promote and support Jewish education and has been a magnificent partner with CTA over the years. Since

1985, CTA's endowment and a host of named funds have been held at the Columbus Jewish Foundation and the agency has provided the school with generous grant support.

Special teacher recognition will be presented to Steve Guinan. CTA is fortunate that Mr. Guinan, an Upper School English Language, Social Studies teacher and Film Studies instructor for the past 20 years, has shared his talents and commitment to education with colleagues and the more than 450 students at CTA who have taken the path best traveled in his classrooms.

Invitations are forthcoming, but to confirm receipt of an invitation or to participate in the Tribute Journal, contact adbook@torahacademy.org or 614-864-0299, ext 218.

Parents have an opportunity to get involved and be leaders to help raise money through the Scholarship Dinner. Every dollar raised through ad book solicitations can be applied to family Give & Get commitments. To get involved, contact Shari Herszage at sherszage@torahacademy.org

BETTER TOGETHER KICKS OFF YEAR WITH CHICAGO TRIP

10th and 11th graders are participating in a special program funded by Better Together which joins CTA students with senior citizen members of Project Ariel, a group from Jewish Family Services. The students traveled to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in late August to learn about interacting with their new Project Ariel friends. Following is a reflection from CTA 11th grader, Hannah Wolfson. The students will be documenting their experiences on their website:

www.cta-bettertogether.weebly.com

The Illinois Holocaust Museum left me with one piercing question; are you a bystander or an up-stander?

On August 27, the tenth and eleventh graders went on a two-day trip to Chicago, Illinois to visit the Holocaust museum and get trained on how to appropriately speak to and interview the survivors in our community during our year-long program called Better Together. Not only was this an eye-opening experience, but it also generated in me a deep connection to the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and I gained an understanding of the lives of the Jews at the time.

They weren't treated like human beings. They lived every day of their lives asking if it would be their last.



Although the museum is full of real artifacts and photos from that time, that's not what hit me. What hit me was walking into a real train boxcar that was used to transport Jews to the concentration camps. The boxcar was wooden, cold, dark and had a bad smell to it. I could sense the fear of the Jews approaching death. I could hear the cries of the children. I felt as though I was in there with hundreds of other terrified Jews. They were stuck in boxcars just like the one I saw for days with no bathroom, no food or water, treated like animals. Innocent people lost their lives just because of their religion. Hitler solely identified them as "Jews," but they were much more than that. They were human beings who had loved ones and hopes and dreams.

While we were walking through the museum, our tour guide continuously brought up the idea of being a bystander and how it ties into the Holocaust. The Jews were given a chance to leave and restart their lives before the concentration camps were established. However, most countries didn't accept the Jews, leaving many with no place to go but to remain in Germany. Since few countries tried to stand up and stop him, Hitler felt as though he could progressively torture the Jews and there would be no consequences. The fact that few countries intervened only strengthened Hitler's power. If they weren't stopping him, they were helping him.

The Holocaust is in the past. Of course we must lament our brothers and sisters' deaths. However, we can't time-travel back into the time of the Holocaust and prevent it from ever occurring. It happened and there was a reason for its occurrence that only G-d knows. The only thing we have the power to do now is prevent it from ever happening again. By working on ourselves and our interaction with others, we can prevent a second holocaust. We must not watch anti-semitism rise until it's too late. It is our responsibility to the six million Jews persecuted in the Holocaust, to protect ourselves and our future generations.

So, the question stands; are you a bystander or an up-stander?

PBIS BRINGS POSITIVE VIBES TO LOWER SCHOOL



Mrs. Miller and the Lower School Education Team established student expectations and the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Systems (PBIS) over the summer during professional development workshops and rolled out the new system to students at the beginning of the school year which practice workshops in common areas throughout the building. PBIS is based on our 4 Middot--honesty, respect, patience, and friendship. Grade levels have been earning Middot Money and Lion Notes to celebrate students doing the right thing in our common areas. Every morning during morning announcements, students are leading the Pledge of Allegiance over the loudspeaker and Mrs. Miller is announcing 3 student Lion Notes and awarding prizes in recognition of positive actions in our school community. PBIS is setting the tone for a positive and supportive culture which will encourage social, emotional and academic success for every child. This method helps to build student leaders and effective communication skills. Pictured are our first Lion Note winners, teachers working on the expectations over the summer and students at the Welcome Back assembly.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING A FIRST PRIORITY

Reflecting on what traits bring our graduates to a life of meaning and success, Upper School teachers, led by Mrs. Delman and Steve Guinan, worked with Rabbi Drandoff on a list of characteristics to engender in our students. At the top of the list were the skills of Speaking and Listening. No matter a person's path in life, good communication skills make possible healthy relationships and satisfying professional lives. In every single subject, teachers have expectations for students regarding listening to their peers, listening to directions, speaking respectfully and speaking in a way that encourages others. Upper School staff will be focusing on these skills this year and will continually revisit best practices with teaching our students these critical skills.



PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) UPDATE – FROM BETH BINSKY, PTO CHAIR



Welcome back to school! I hope everyone is off to a good start. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm Beth Binsky, the new PTO chair. I am looking forward to meeting you. I have three children in the lower school in 5th, 3rd and 1st and my husband, Daryl is an alumni.

This year, we are looking for parents to participate on several committees that will help support our school. Please [see this document](#) to learn about the different committees and let me know how you want to be involved. I am looking for ideas as well as parents who are willing to run with their ideas. We'd love to hear from you! Thanks so much in advance and please either email me or PTO@torahacademy.org.

PTO DIRECTORY

Still wondering where to get a list of CTA families? Planning a birthday party or b'nai mitzvah? Searching for the name a high school student to babysit? Look no further than the CTA PTO Directory. You don't have one? Make sure to sign up for PTO if you haven't already done so as it is a perk of membership. PTO Dues are \$25 yearly, \$210 Lifetime Member (that's forever!) Stay connected. You will still get a directory even after the kids graduate! For more info, go to www.torahacademy.org/pto

GARDEN CLUB KEEPS GROWING



While most of us left the CTA grounds for summer there was a lot of activity happening underground! This summer, a few volunteer students came out to harvest turnips and beets in June. Students delighted in pulling the vibrant reddish purple beets and identified the bright red ripe turnips peaking out of the soil. These vegetables grew in our newest garden bed which was built by the spring club on our “garden island” by the greenhouse. This location gets plenty of sun all year round and we have had good success in that location. Two grocery bags of produce were delivered to Jewish Family Service the next day and were enjoyed by their clients.

Our fall garden club began with a busy day of harvesting potatoes (in the garden to the south of the third grade classrooms). The potatoes had been planted during the last weeks of school! There is nothing quite like digging in the dirt for potatoes, it rather felt like digging for gold! The other items that were planted did not grow as well this summer. The plentiful rain and overgrown trees made it difficult for the soil to maintain the right nutrients. One exception to this is in the herb section. Our Sage and parsley grew nicely and the fall carrots have been planted in this section of our garden. We hope to see the carrots grow as well as the potatoes.

In another area devoted to our garden project (next to the K-1 playground), students learned that deer are not fans of zucchini! The zucchini were planted as an experiment along with Zinnia flower seeds. These were planted in two beds that were in direct sunlight without any fence. There has been plenty of squash to harvest all summer including one that was about 3lbs. Thankfully, right on time the Zinnia were ready for the first week of school. Hopefully you have enjoyed seeing them in the vase at the front desk. This fall Garden Club will try starting them from seed in the CTA green house. They will make a great bouquet for Thanksgiving tables!

Garden Club will meet this fall after school on Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:00pm through November 15th and is open to students in 5th - 7th grade. Once a month, we will join with Columbus Jewish Day School in order to deliver our fresh produce to residents of Heritage Towers or Village. These are people who are living below the poverty line and for some of them the monthly visit is among very few visitors. They delight at seeing the students delivering the organic produce; and, even if their English is a little rusty, the smiles on their faces says it all.

Stay tuned to hear more about the managing and harvesting of our “fall cold crops.” Now that we have both the greenhouse and three low tunnel garden beds, our growing season will continue much longer! For more information about Garden Club, please call Diana D’Angelo-Wolff (Morah Dina) 614-864-0299 or write dwolff@torahacademy.org. We always have volunteer opportunities for families!

SPONSOR A DAY OF LEARNING



Have a lifecycle event to share? Opportunities to sponsor A Day of Learning are now available at CTA. For a \$180 donation, you can make a donation, in honor, in memory, in appreciation, for a speedy recovery or in celebration of a person, a birthday or an event. To schedule a day, contact sherszage@torahacademy.org or adrandoff@torahacademy.org. The sponsorship will be listed in the CTA Weekly

Communicator, the monthly CTA Dateline, posted on the monitor in the school lobby, and announced to the students.

SECURITY UPGRADES COMPLETED



Thanks to the \$97,000 received from an Ohio Emergency Management Safety and Security Grant, this summer was a particularly busy time for safety and security upgrades that were seen right away on the first day of school. Families and visitors to the school will immediately notice the bollards by the front sidewalk which provide extra protection from vehicles approaching the building. The new Front Desk configuration offers a better view of the entryway as well as other improvements. Not seen are the upgrades to the lock systems and IT systems throughout the building for great security monitoring. Congratulations, again, to Norm Leist on his efforts to secure the grant and make the upgrades. Pictures are some of the improvements.

STUDENT INITIATIVE TO HELP HOUSTON



Upper School students, led by 12th grader, Rachel Wolf, joined together to say tehillim for the families affected by Hurricane Harvey in Houston and took on an initiative to help out. They are encouraging the CTA community to show their support by donating to a student led fundraiser in Houston.

Robert M. Beren Academy is a K-12 modern Orthodox school in Houston and while the school itself was not damaged, some of the Beren families live in neighborhoods that were among the hardest hit.

Beren Academy's student group M.A.D has been helping in anyway they can and has set up a fundraising link to provide funds to families who need it. All donations will go directly to helping families get back on their feet. To contribute, go to the website: <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/team/help-rebuild-houston1> or use the button below.

The M.A.D. group helped over 30 families during the 2015 Memorial Day flooding by raising money through this site. Any additional funding received will be given to Rabbi Gelman (of UOS synagogues) Hurricane Relief discretionary fund and/or to provide meals and other needs for Rosh Hashanah as it is only 3 weeks away.

Please use the link above to make a donation and help spread the word. We hope that the CTA community can raise \$1000 or more to this campaign.

HEADED TO THE NURSE? – BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENTS



The third graders took a trip to visit Nurse Chris in the nurse's station to better find out what happens there. The students learned about ways to keep themselves healthy and when to and not to go to the nurse. They learned about the four B's (Burn, Blood, and Barf) to help them get a clear understanding when it's appropriate to visit the nurse.

PHOTOS AROUND CAMPUS

FACULTY-STUDENT SOFTBALL: Upper School students spent the first Friday of the school year engaged in friendly competition between students and teachers right out on the softball field.



SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY– Thanks for spending your Solar Eclipse Day with us and for protecting your eyes.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PICS – So many great pictures from the first day of school and you can view them all here at:



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9vUrA2egOcCYTlvMjBvSmVFTnM?usp=sharing> Love the family pictures!



SENIOR & KINDERGARTEN BUDDIES – Match ups on the first day of school and the the buddies will get together later this month for an Apple-picking trip!

IMPORTANT SCHOOL WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Café - Parents are invited to speak to the Lower School principal, Nicole Miller, on September 15 from 8:15-9:00 a.m. in room 8 for coffee and pastries. This month's topic will be Multi-Tiered System of Support. Next month, we will plan an evening session. Stay tuned to the time.

Columbus City Buses: We are in contact with Columbus City Schools department of transportation to improve our routes and pick up time. If you want, please call 614-365-5074 to voice your concerns.

Lunch: Students are extremely hungry and are taking seconds and thirds for lunch. Please talk to your child about this and if you are okay with them being charged once or twice in one day.

Snacks: Make sure that you pack a healthy, kosher snack for Lower School students to have throughout the day. Candy is not appropriate because it is not healthy unless it is for an accommodation that is discussed with the teacher. Gum is not allowed in order to keep our campus beautiful unless it is used as an accommodation.

Lower School assessments: Our assessment team finished up the DRA test for reading for all students in grades K-6. This assessment will tell you what reading level your child is at and you can use that information to find books. Next week, we will begin the Easy CBM reading and math universal screeners. We hope to give you the results in 2 weeks. Stay tuned.

After school contact information: Beginning at 4:30 pm each day, the main line phone at CTA is transferred to "night ringer" and calls will go directly to the voicemail system. If you need to reach someone for an urgent reason, please dial one of the principals and leave a message. Those messages are delivered electronically and instantly to the principals. They will continue to check those messages daily until 5:15 pm and return urgent calls as they are able. Please leave details to the nature of the urgency. Non-urgent calls will be returned on the next school day. For issues related to lower school students (grades K-6), dial extension 215 to reach Nicole Miller, Lower School Principal and for issues related to upper school students (grades 7-12), dial extension 220 to reach Eliza Delman, Upper School Principal. On 2 pm dismissal days, the Front Desk at CTA is NOT staffed after 2 pm and the same procedure is in place for urgent calls until 3 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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/>)

Sept. 6 – 12th College Night, 7:30 pm, CTA
Sept. 10 – Hebrew Story Time, 10 am, Bexley Library
Sept. 12 – Scholarship Dinner Kick Off, 7:30 pm, Home of Beth Binsky
Sept. 15 – Parent Café with Nicole Miller, 8:15-9 am, Room 8

Sept. 20-22 – No School, Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 26 - YU Admissions Visit, 11:30 am, CTA
Sept. 29 – No School, Erev Yom Kippur
Oct. 4-6 – No School, Sukkot
Oct. 9 – High School Sukkot Trip

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

SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING TIMES FOR SEPTEMBER & EARLY OCTOBER

Sept. 8, 7:33 pm	Oct. 6, 6:47 pm
Sept. 15, 7:21 pm	Oct. 13, 6:36 pm
Sept. 22, 7:09 pm	Oct. 20, 6:26 pm
Sept. 29, 6:58 pm	Oct. 27, 6:16 pm

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:

To the Annual Giving Fund:

Benjamin Goldberg in honor of Stacy Leeman
Ami Blaszkowsky in memory of Joel Wolff
Ian and Pamela Rodier in honor of Heidi Schwartz's birthday
Barbara Stern Meluch in honor of Saul and Ruthie Blumberg's B'nei Mitzvah
Hilliard and Janet Abroms in honor of Saul and Ruthie Blumberg's B'nei Mitzvah
Brian and Michelle Stevenson in memory of Joel Wolff
Advantage Vending for their donation of soda and water to recent CTA events
Wendy Horwitz in honor of Karan Tanenbaum
Lawrence and Sandra Breitborde in honor of Nicole Miller's appointment as Lower School Principal at CTA
Keshet (Shenkar) Starr in memory of Julie Moskowitz
Blanche Young in memory of Thea and Pearson Press
Ami and Arlene Sapir in honor of Jacob and Noah Schuman starting a new school year
Rabbi Jay and Cantor Bat Ami Moses in honor of Yaakov Liebesman becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Seth and Lisa Stavsky in honor of their children, Jared, Jonah and Tamar
Stacy Leeman and Gary Liebesman in memory of Naomi Ora Talansky
Stacy Leeman and Gary Liebesman in honor of Dror and Irit Karavani
Joel and Dana Gorfinkel in memory of Thea and Pearson Press
Jackson Leonard in memory of Irving Baker
Sharoni and Jim Cicman in memory of Julie Moskowitz

To the Library and Literacy Fund

Benjy Neymotin in honor of Mrs. Moskowitz
Buddy, Ruth, Andrew and Hannah Adler in memory of Irene Adler

To support CBI

Mark Glazman and Janyce Katz in memory of Louis Katz and in memory of Barry Jaffe
Stacy Leeman and Gary Liebesman in honor of Jonathan Hartstein and Bob Lane

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, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017.** 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.

GIVE & GET

More info can be found at www.torahacademy.org/parent-portal/give-and-get/

Tribute Donation: Contact Lesa, Shari or submit donation on line at 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 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 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 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 to register for their donation program. You will need your Giant Eagle Advantage Card number and the CTA School Code which is #4389.

Magazine Sales Help the 8th graders year round when you purchase magazines at www.gaschoolstore.com using their code # 2522449.



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. To date, there are 38 supporters and some are very active. 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. **FOR LAST SCHOOL YEAR WE RAISED \$260.** Thanks to all participants and leaderboard standouts Perry Vernikoff and Rabbi Jon Savage!