

September 14, 2018
5th of Tishrei, 5779



Erev Yom Kippur Candle lighting: **6:42pm** on Tuesday, 18 September
Havdalah at **7:48pm** on Wednesday, 19 September

MA CHADASH?

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Dear Parents,

We welcome back all of our former students as well as our new students to a new year, 5779!

This past Friday, we had our very first Rosh Chodesh assembly for the month of Elul/Tishrei in which we introduced our theme for the new school year, COUNTDOWN, making every day count, and making every child count! *Rosh Hashanah* is the birthday of the world, and a birthday is a time not to just count our days, but to make each one of those days count. Each student received a countdown list, with 10 lines for the 10 days from *Rosh Hashanah* until *Yom Kippur* (called *aseres yemei teshuva*). They all thought about 10 different actions they can do to make these days really count. Right before Yom Kippur, STA will have a rocket launch (yes, a real one!) when we will "launch" all of our amazing accomplishments up to Hashem! We also learned that when Hashem created the stars, He gave each one a name and a number so that each one would recognize how unique they are and that they have a unique mission that no other star can do. The Jewish nation is compared to the stars. Each student in STA also received a star on which they put a number they were given along with their picture and name. Every day we will select a number to be the "Star of the Day", and that student will try to do something to make their day count. Look in our newsletter every week to see who the stars of the week were!

STA was also fortunate to host a beekeeper this week, Mr. Wachsman from the Milk n' Honey Farm. Mr. Wachsman did an exciting demonstration about the honey-making process. We were able to touch and smell a real honeycomb and beeswax, and we saw the protection suit beekeepers need to wear while extracting honey from the hive. An amazing fact that the beekeeper told us, is that in the spring, summer, and fall bees are making honey not for themselves, as they have plenty of food from the flower nectar they find, but rather they are making honey for the winter bees who will not find flowers during that season. The bees work together in perfect harmony, each one with their specific job, never sleeping, just so that the winter bees will have food to eat. What a powerful lesson the bees taught us as we start our new year...

Work together, have peace and harmony, and always look out for the good of someone else! We hope you enjoyed the L'shana Tova cards and honey sticks your children brought home.

Wishing you all a g'mar chasimah tova and a year filled with happiness and growth.
Mrs. Rifkie Gold



Picture Day - Monday, September 17



Stars of the Week



How I made my day COUNT...



Linoy Chen: I davened very hard today and I will keep it going!

High Quality Lulav & Esrog sets

Standard sets are \$65 each. Deluxe sets are \$99 each.



To purchase a set please call, text or email

Rabbi Shalom Jacoby

(732)850-2351

sjacoby@shalomtorah.org

The sets will be available for pick up

at Shalom Torah Academy

Thursday, September 20

from 8:30-8:45am and 3:30-3:55pm

Parshah Vayeilech at a Glance

A story is told about an unassuming man who possessed a mysterious paper. To the surprise of many, all merchants to whom he would display this paper would grant him their immediate attention. His often immense orders were invariably given highest priority, and were processed and delivered in the timeliest fashion. More puzzling still, was that although it was well known that the man was not a wealthy individual, the suppliers he frequented seemed unconcerned about his ability to pay for his purchases. One merchant revealed the contents of the paper to a curious customer: "It is well known that his Royal Highness, the King, is renovating his palace. An enormous amount of the highest quality goods are required for the project, to ensure that the building befits his Highness's honor. That man has volunteered to help with the construction. The paper he carries declares that by Royal order, all merchants must afford him immediate and swift service, and that they are guaranteed to be reimbursed in full by the Royal Treasury." During the Days of Awe, the gravity is accentuated by our realization of our many failings, and also our innumerable needs. Just contemplating a fraction of what can, G-d forbid, affect us negatively, within the span of an entire year, can plunge us into a sense of hopelessness. Can

we really merit, through our somewhat feeble actions and resolutions, that Hashem grant us an entire year of life, with good health, financial stability, and peace? It seems that we simply cannot "afford" the "goods" we so desperately need. The solution to our dilemma is alluded to in the Shemoneh Esrei prayer. Throughout the Days of Awe, we include within it the following request: "Remember us for life, O King who desires life, and inscribe us in the Book of Life- for Your Sake, O Living G-d". The world is the Palace of Hashem, as we proclaim each Shabbos: "His glory fills the world". On Yom Kippur Hashem finalizes the blueprint for the new year; each day is another new feature of His Palace. And so we pray, "Please grant us life for Your sake!" We volunteer to "assist" Hashem in his creation of the new year; we pledge to build a world which is worthy of His Presence, by adhering to Him and His Laws. As such, our life and happiness, which we need so much so as to serve Him properly, need not be purchased with our own humble assets. Everything necessary for the construction of the Palace is sponsored by Hashem Himself, the King who desires life.

Aseres Yemei Teshuva/Yom Kipper On The King's Account

By: Rabbi Yehuda Greenberg

A Highlight from our Judaic Studies Department

Morah Chaya Leiter

With the holidays of Tishrei upon us, the 5/6 grade girls are absorbing the valuable lessons and exercises of introspection and self-improvement. We began with discussing our strengths. We are each unique and talented at different things. **Are we everything we can be?** We studied this question with Rabbi Yisroel Salanter, who taught, "On the day of judgment, I will not be afraid of the questions why I was not like Moshe Rabbainu. The question I have to keep in mind is why I was not everything that Yisroel Salanter could have been..."

We listed our "good middos" - character traits, and also reflected on which areas we need to work on. The first step to self-improvement is identifying the area that needs growth. This was the springboard to our bulletin board "New Year....Our New Ideas" where we each wrote about which character trait we want to work on improving this year. Some of our ideas include: Being helpful to my parents, being more organized, being more responsible ...

Additionally, we gained a deeper understanding about why the month of Elul is so special and how we can utilize the days to their maximum. We learned a song with the steps of Teshuva (repentance) to help us remember how to do complete Teshuva.

We hope and pray that this year will be a successful year for us as we strive for these goals!



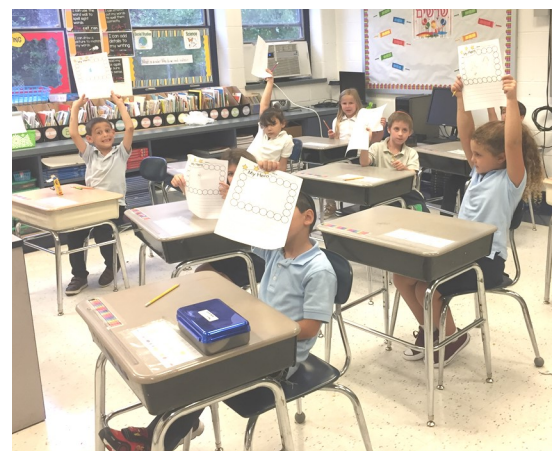
A Highlight from our General Studies Department

Mrs. Aimee Friedell

First grade is off to a wonderful start. Everyone settled in and is doing wonderful work.

With the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack upon us, our class did a very special lesson about heroes. The children all agreed that a hero is someone who helps other people and does it, not for personal gain, but because they truly care about others and want to help them.

The children drew pictures of their heroes and wrote about them. Some of the children said that their heroes were firefighters and police officers because they risk their lives to keep people safe. Others chose doctors and nurses because they help people that are sick to get well. There were quite a few who said that their hero was Mom or Dad because there is nothing that those two special people wouldn't do for their son or daughter. The children all agreed that a hero is someone who helps other people and does it, not for personal gain, but because they truly care about others and want to help them.



Monday, September 17	Picture Day
Tuesday - Wednesday, September 18-19	Erev Yom Kippur/Yom Kippur — No Sessions
Sunday - Tuesday, Sept. 23 – 25	Erev Succos/Succos - No Sessions
Wednesday, September 26	Chol Hamoed - School is open
Thurs. - Tues. September 27– October 2	Hashana Rabbah, Shemini Atzeres, Simchas Torah - No Sessions
Wednesday, October 3	Classes Resumes - Delayed Opening at 10:00 am
Tuesday, October 9	Back to School Night at 7:00 pm - Early Dismissal at 2:45 pm



Shalom Flynn - September 5
Ori Zagury - September 9
Esther Waltuch - September 11
Malkiel Daneshrad - September 12
Jonathan Lunati - September 18
Roi Habib - September 20



Rabbi and Mrs. Greenwald on
their daughter Boracha's
engagement to Yehuda Green
from Monsey. We should only
share Simchos.

Lunch Menu

Monday	FRENCH TOAST, SCRAMBLED EGGS, SPLIT PEA SOUP
Tuesday	No Sessions
Wednesday	No Sessions
Thursday	HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, FRENCH FRIES, CHICKEN SOUP
Friday	PIZZA, VEGETABLE SOUP

All meals served with salad bar, selection of salad dressings, bread or rolls, and fresh fruit. All soups and dressings are homemade.