

October 12, 2018

MA CHADASH?

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

A Message from Our Principal

We are honored to be working with such a committed group of parents, who are so invested in the education of their children. This commitment was clearly demonstrated by the strong turn out to Back-to-School Night, an evening dedicated to meeting your children's teachers and learning about the expectations for the new school year.



Curriculum maps delineating the curriculum for your child's grade level were available in the front hallway. If for whatever reason you did not pick up a copy, please let the office know and they will send one home with your child.

It was exciting to welcome so many new families to our first school event of the year, and we are looking forward to continuing to build upon the "family feel" which is a hallmark of our school. So many parents expressed a desire to join our PTO and get involved in school functions, and we will announce our first meeting date shortly. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate parents who would like to run for PTO office, so that we can develop our leadership team for this school year. Please come join us! We want your input, ideas, and collaboration.

Our Early Learning Center has really taken off this year with its newly-adopted, exciting curricula and themes for this school year. The preschool classes had the opportunity this week to comb a llama's fur, hold a chicken, and pet a cow, as a MOBILE PETTING ZOO came our way in honor of Parshas Noach.

Our year is off to a fabulous start, as we finally celebrated our first full week of the school year!



Wishing you and your family a wonderful Shabbos,
Mrs. Hoberman





Stars of the Week

How I made my day COUNT...

Dani Fromm: I listened and answered especially well in Gemarah!

Binyomin Johnson: I had special kavanah during bentsching!

Troy Raiola: Yuval walked into class with a cast on her arm, so I ran to take down her chair for her!

From Mrs. Rifkie Gold

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan was an exciting day here in STA. Our students enjoyed our fantastic assemblies, with grades 1-4 learning about all the benefits of rain, as we begin the season of "Mashiv Haruach U'morid Hageshem" (with the special prayer for rain we add into our morning prayers). We played an original Bingo game with pictures showing the gifts of rain: plants, flowers, trees that grow, and the hydration that it provides for animals and people, washing machines and showers...all which provide us with beauty, sustenance, and cleanliness. We learned a great song about rain, "Drop, Drop, Drippy Drop", and concluded by decorating a cupcake with blue water icing and a toothpick umbrella!

Our fifth through eighth graders did an incredible job acting out stories about our 10 gedolim, our Torah sages, whose pictures are hanging on the bulletin board near the main office. The students ended up being able to name all 10 gedolim as well as hearing many inspirational stories about how to incorporate Torah values into our lives. Our groups of winners will be enjoying a trip to Wawa!



Parshah Vayeilech at a Glance

Enter the Ark

A Chasidic insight on the waters of the Flood, from the Kehot Chumash.

On the 10th of Marcheshvan, G-d said to Noah, "Enter (Come into) the ark, you and your entire household, for it is you that I have seen to be righteous before Me in this generation. (Bereishit 7:1)

The words: "Enter the ark" metaphorically can also mean to enter the words of prayer and Torah study... because they can protect you from the "flood" of worries that otherwise can overwhelm us.

When we pray, learn, and surround ourselves with the words of Torah, we are protected from harm, just as Noah and his family remained completely safe although the waters of the flood raged outside the ark.

This is why, as soon as we wake up in the morning, before we leave our home, we dedicate the beginning of our day to prayer and recognizing that G-d is with us and protects us each and every moment of the day... by starting the day this way, we build an ark for Hashem with us and protect us.... only then can we make the world a better place.

The connection between prayer and the flood can be made because the Torah tells us that the water covered the mountains by 15 Cubits (Bereishit 7:20).

The connection of prayer to the ark can be seen in the number fifteen, since many aspects of our prayers relate to the number fifteen.

A few examples:

- There are 15 expressions of praise in the prayer Yishtabach.
- Most of the prayers in the section called "Verses of Praise" [Pesukei d'Zimrah] begin and end with the word Hallelukah, the last letters of which (yud and hei) equal 15.
- In the prayer Emet v'Yatziv, there are 15 successive words that begin with the letter vav.
- King David recited 15 songs of ascent (Psalms 120-134) in order to protect the world from waters of the deep.

Rabbi A. Bernstein
Camp Gan Israel Director

A Highlight from our Early Learning Center

Morah Idy Yosef



Nursery is always a fun and exciting scene, and this season is the perfect time for us to have lots of fun learning all about TREES.

Our study of trees began with an outdoor walk to explore some of the trees right around the outside of Shalom Torah Academy. We felt for the roots, touched the bark, and tried to reach the leaves. The trees are so, so, so TALL!

Inside our classroom, we keep busy playing while learning. In art center, we got to use scissors, glue, and paint—some of our favorites. We created fall leaves, and a friendly tree that is hanging on our bulletin board because “Nursery Is Always In Season” !!!

Leaves are everywhere in our classroom, too... hiding in the rice in our sensory bin and swirling into piles in our block center. Soon, we will explore other aspects of trees, such as who lives in trees, and what grows on trees. Through books, play and interactive lessons, we will definitely discover lots more about TREES!

A Highlight from Our Judaic Studies Department

Rabbi Eli Stewart

Michael found a \$20.00 bill on the floor. What was he supposed to do with it? We went around the classroom asking opinions and suggestions. We realized that whatever the Torah tells him to do with it is the key to finding the answer.

We have begun learning the Gemara which discusses when we can keep a lost object and when we need to look for its owner. As you might have guessed, many scenarios were suggested by the students and we'll have to learn the entire chapter to find out the correct Halacha in every case. We also honed in on the various steps we find in every piece and became quite proficient at identifying them.

Oh yes, the \$20.00 bill was really Rabbi Stewart's, who only pretended to lose it!



Tips from Nurse Kerri

Welcome back to school everyone! It's October and the cold months are approaching. Don't forget to send your children to school with a uniform sweater in their backpack for those chilly days.

With fall and winter come illnesses. Remind your children to wash their hands frequently. Prevent sharing of food, drinks, and clothing. Children who must cough or sneeze should do so into their inner elbow to avoid spreading germs.

Also with the colder months approaching, winter illnesses come about. When a child is ill, please make every effort to pick up your child quickly. I understand that some of you are working and cannot be interrupted, but please check phones and emails periodically in case we are trying to reach you. And even still, illnesses do happen. *Just as you do not want your child to become ill, other parents do not want their children exposed to unnecessary germs or illness.* Please refer to our list of symptoms in the handbook. Some reasons to exclude your child from school are:

- Elevated temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Acute diarrhea
- Episodes of acute vomiting
- Severe discomfort or pain
- Lethargy
- Severe coughing
- Red eyes with purulent discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches
- Trouble breathing
- Weeping or bleeding skin lesions
- Mouth sores with drooling

As always, please contact me with any questions.

Have a great year!

Wednesday, October 31	Afterschool Funday
Monday, November 12	No Sessions for Students – Veteran's Day - Teachers' In-Service Day
Wednesday, November 21	Thanksgiving Parade and Street Fair for Pre-School Students and Parents
Thurs. - Fri., November 22-23	Thanksgiving Vacation - No Sessions
Tuesday, November 27	Parent Teacher Conferences - 2:45 p.m. Dismissal Picture Re-take Day and Grade 8 Graduation pictures
Friday, December 7	Chanukah Vacation - No Sessions
Saturday, December 15	Mother /Daughter Melava Malka Grades K-8
Friday, December 21	Report Cards Available



Elisheva Amsel - October 16

Atalia Levy - October 16

Daniella Levy - October 16

Haim Maksumov - October 17



Mazel Tov to Elisheva Amsel and her family on her bat mitzvah .

Mazel tov to Mrs. Caren Mandelbaum and her husband on the marriage of their daughter.



Refuah shelaima to Mrs. Myra Bookfor's mother .
We wish her a very speedy recovery.

Lunch Menu

Monday	FRENCH TOAST, SCRAMBLED EGGS, SPLIT PEA SOUP
Tuesday	FISH STICKS, MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, BEAN SOUP
Wednesday	TUNA, EGG SALAD, TOMATO SOUP
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.