November 6, 2020
19th of Cheshvan, 5781

Shalom Torah Academy
OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Candle lighting: **4:29 pm** (Morganville)
Havdalah at **5:37 pm**

Ma Chadash?

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Message From Our Principal

Dear Shalom Familes,

Our week was busy and exciting! To prepare for Election Day, not only did our teachers focus on the key concepts of democracy and voting, but we also had a schoolwide election! A big thank you goes to 8th graders Shalom Flynn and Dani Fromm for decorating and running our ballot box and voting station. Each class had a turn to come to the library and cast their votes. Unlike the rest of the country, it was very clear that in our school Trump won by a landslide! We also voted on two public questions, and the results came in: Students voted to be allowed to wear their own nice shirt in honor of Rosh Chodesh (shirts without words or pictures, please!) and to have snack locker twice a week. The experience of voting and having students' votes form school policy was certainly educational!







Our focus for this month, Chodesh Cheshvan, is the importance of a mezuza. Through Torah Live videos, class discussions, and in-class lessons, our students are learning a tremendous amount. Our classes are having a competition for remembering to kiss the mezuza when entering the classroom, and the clickers posted in each room are getting a lot of use...we can't wait to see who the winner will be! On Thursday, students decorated their own beautiful mezuza cases which they will be proud to bring home. Next week, we plan on having a sofer, a scribe of Jewish items, visit our school and demonstrate the process of writing a mezuza, giving students an opportunity to view the parchment and the stages of preparation of the mezuza. We are all looking forward to that!

Wishing you a great Shabbos,
Mrs. Hoberman

















Parshas Noach at a Glance

Vayera Parsha Lesson- *Discord vs. Harmony*

For Year 2 of Parsha Lesson, I will be focusing on one practical middah, character trait, to think about in the week ahead and steps we can take to attain it.

Background

Rashi and the Sifsei Chachami explain that the Angels who came to visit Avraham were of one mind- with similar thoughts and outlook. Even though they were different and they each had different missions, their unity was such that they were all on the same page.

What was this unity attributable to? The commentators explain that it was due to the fact that the evil inclination or yetzer hara does not rule over Angels. When people are in the grasp of the evil inclination, when people are under the influence of their desires, lusts, and other influences- they cannot be unified.

The Angels, understandably, did not have this and therefore, they were able to have a high degree of unity.

Question

How does this follow? Say that there were two people who were friends and they both had similar lusts and desires- why could they not have unity to accomplish their joined interests together?

Being under the influence of the evil inclination is certainly not a good thing, but how would this inhibit one's ability to have unity with others?

Answer

Rabbeinu Yonah in his commentary on Mishlei (18:1) explains that one who is constantly drawn after his desires will not be able to attain true friendship. He explains that people cannot constantly satisfy and handle another's character if they themselves are always drawn after their own wants and desires. For a certain amount of time, perhaps, but not for any meaningful length of time necessary to establish a real unity and friendship.

Why is this so? Being that everyone is different, no two people have the same desires, interests and wants. If there is a constant struggle between one being able to 'be themselves' or 'live for themselves' and doing for those around them, the inevitable result is a limiting of how much one would unify and join together with those around them.

Lesson

To whatever degree a person is under the influence of his evil inclination will be the quality of his friendships and unity with those around him. The Angels, who were completely free of the evil inclination, were able to completely nullify and set aside their own wants and desires for each others- and thereby attain true unity.

It is no surprise that now, in the 21st century, in the United States of America, with the most wealth and physical comfort and bountiful blessing of any country of any time in human history- save Adam's short stay in the Garden of Eden- there is so much discord and such division in our society. In a materialistic world where everyone's expectation is to satisfy all of their wants and desires to the greatest degree- it is inevitable that people will not be able to get along.

In order to get along, people have to be ready to live for another. One needs to be able to really and TRULY set aside their wants for someone else. The more self-centered and focused on our own comfort we are, we will not be able get along with those around us.

First Step

One can focus on doing something for someone else at the time that he himself has a desire and want for something. For example: someone is going to take a slice of pizza from the box. If they can at that moment take a slice for someone else, happily, they will be a step in the direction of truly doing for others and therefore, improving one's harmony with others.

If we can even take one step in the direction of setting aside our own wants and doing for someone else- happily!- this can stoke within us the true pleasure and enjoyment of living to do kindness and uplift those around us.

Have a great Shabbos!

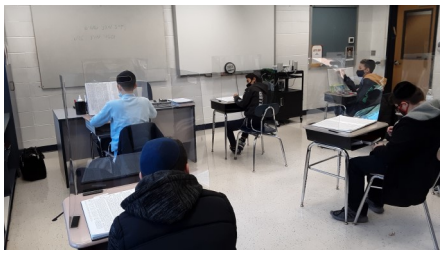
Rabbi Eli Meir Kramer

A Highlight from our Judaic Studies Department

Rabbi Shalom Jacoby and 7th/8th Grade boys

Baruch Hashem we are off to a great start for the 2020-2021 school year. Although there has been a lot of remote learning, the boys have been able to keep to the pace in every subject. It's a real testament to the work ethic and responsibility of our class! In gemara we have already started our third sugya discussing different cases where you are responsible in the court of heaven but exempt in a court of man. The cases are intriguing, lending an exciting, vibrant atmosphere each morning. In addition, the boys are becoming more familiar with the gemara's vocabulary enabling them to read the gemara a bit more fluently.
Our chumash lessons have been very productive and enjoyable. We start by translating the words and correctly identifying their shoroshim. Once we've accomplished that, the boys are usually pretty good at accurately explaining the meaning of each posuk and dissecting some of the nuances and questions Rashi discusses. We are midway through Perek Daled in Parshas Va'eschanan.





A Peek Into Our Preschool

Morah Susan Leibowitz and Nursery

Fall is still in the air with Nursery, We learned all about squirrels and acorns and we even named our squirrel on our board Sammy. We did so many acorn activities but, our favorite one was our acorn man that we got to stuff and make a face on and then Rosie hung them up from our classroom ceiling. We are also learning about the beautiful colors of the season and Morah just brought in a bag of pinecones to learn about. We are having so much fun going on our nature walks trying to collect as many things as we can find that have to do with the fall. We love using our magnifying glasses to examine all of our collections and we are learning so much by playing with our fun fall activities at center time. We learned so many fun fall action songs and we just love to act them out. Especially, our favorite, Whee, Whee, Whee I Am A Tree song! What a beautiful season Hashem has created, we can't wait to see what's next!









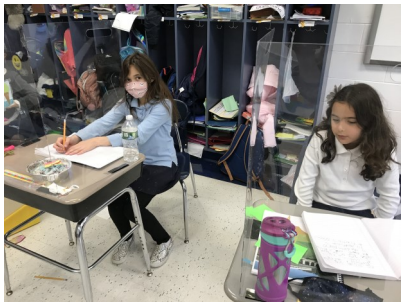


A Highlight from our General Studies Department

Ms. Rochie Fendel and 4th Grade

The fourth grade has been working hard learning, researching, discovering and experimenting in science. We have now completed our unit on plant structures and functions. We learned how each structure of a plant has a special function and what it is. We read up on the matter and added lots of new words to our word wall chart. Our hallway bulletin board now displays the super creative diagrams of the talented fourth graders. Each group did a great job and came up with a very original design for the flower. We also began our new unit on geography this week! We learned what a geographer is and how we can be one while we learn. Our new geography lap books are a great review tool and make learning social studies so exciting! We're looking forward to traveling our country in class together!





Tuesday, November 24	Parent Teacher-Conferences - **Early Dismissal at 2:25 p.m.**
Thurs.- Fri., November 26-27	Thanksgiving Vacation - **No Sessions**
Fri. - Mon., December 11-14	Chanukah Vacation - **No Sessions**



Shira Misriel - November 10
Jonathan Niayzov - November 11
Victoria Markov - November 13

For lunch this year we have 2 alternatives:

1. Order lunch from Capri using the following link.
   https://shalomtorah.ahotlunch.com/login with code 101sha.
   (You must place your order before 9 pm the prior day).
2. Students may bring their own lunch as long as it satisfies the following requirements:
   - No meat
   - Fish is allowed- as long as it is tuna or salmon only
   - No sharing of lunches, period
   - No nuts
   - All food must, of course, be kosher

Shabbos Program!

For First Grade through Middle School Girls

A special day, such as Shabbat, derives the best. There is even a Mitzvah to have your table set special for Shabbat

This week's STEP is to help set your table for Shabbat. You can use a tablecloth, dishes, silverware or flowers.

Extra credit will be given if you use more than one item from the above list.



ENJOY YOUR SHABBAT TABLE!!

✂----------cut here----------

Step Ahead - Week #3

Name _____ Grade _____

I did this week's STEP by: _____.

Extra Credit:

1. I also set the table with: _____
2. The following people in my house helped me:

   _____

3. I also did the following past week's STEPS:
   - Ate a Shabbat treat
   - Cleaned my house

Parent's signature _____

Talmidei Hashavua

Students of the week

Sara Levy

Ethan Agarunov

Haim Maksumov

Molly Sharabi

Troy Raiola

Romi Yefet-Sher

Ilan Zelig