February 23, 2024
14th of Adar I, 5784

Shalom Torah Academy
OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Candle lighting: **5:24 pm** (Morganville)
Havdalah at **6:33 pm**

Ma Chadash?

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

A Message from Our Principal

Dear Shalom Families,

An exciting milestone celebration took place this week as our Kittah Aleph students received their first chumash. Decked in crowns, singing with gusto, it was clearly an occasion that was much awaited and anticipated. We were so proud of the beautiful job out first graders are doing, and give them a bracha that Torah learning will always be sweet, and an integral part of their lives. Thank you Morah Klugman for such a beautiful performance! The day to day investment that our incredible teachers have in their students day in and day out is highlighted at occasions like this one, and it is evident that our students are so loved and confidently setting out to a path of lifelong learning and love of Torah because of the beautiful chinuch (Jewish education) they are receiving.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Gail and David Rifkin for sponsoring all of the chumashim. May it be a merit for their parents: Shaina Zelda bas Yaakov, Yehoshua ben Avraham, Faiga bas Yosef and Meir ben Shalom HaKohen. May this chumash help you grow in Torah and Mitzvos!

Wishing you all a wonderful Shabbos,

Mrs. Hoberman
















Parsha Lesson

Rabbi Eli Meir Kramer

Tetzaveh- *The Importance of Education*

For this year's Parsha Lesson I will be applying the lesson that can be derived from the Dvar Torah to the world as we know it today.

Background

Towards the beginning of this week's parsha, Hashem instructs Moshe to appoint Aharon as the Kohen Gadol (the High Priest). This was not merely an appointment to a position for the time being and for Aharon himself, but rather this was the designating of Aharon and his progeny- for all time- as the priests and leaders of the service of Hashem in the Mishkan (Tabernacle- temporary House of worship) and then in the Beis Hamikdash (Holy Temple).

The Ibn Ezra (Spain, 1089- 1167) asks an interesting question- he is bothered by why was Moshe not appointed to be the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest? Moshe was the pinnacle of human achievement on this world! Moshe reached the highest level of perfection of any human being of all time. Why then was was Moshe, and then his progeny afterwards, not installed as the Kohanim, the High Priests?

The Ibn Ezra answers that Hashem did not want to burden Moshe with the additional job of doing the service in the Mishkan. Moshe was busy teaching the Torah to the Jewish people, and he was needed on an ongoing basis to deal with any 'difficult issues' of law that arose, and therefore Hashem appointed Aharon as the Kohen Gadol instead.

Question

Hashem didn't want to 'burden' Moshe with the additional role of Kohen!? This was no mere position of authority, which it was, but it was also THE person who would direct the entire service of the Jewish nation, and by extension for all of humanity, to Hashem- for all time!

How could Moshe not want, desperately, to be the person through whom the Jewish people would serve Hashem- which is of profound importance and one of the pillars of the world? Additionally, even if it would be an additional burden during his lifetime, Moshe would surely embrace that burden in order to establish his children in this coveted position of authority and importance!?

Just because it would be a 'burden' on Moshe, himself, during his lifetime, his family is losing out on being the Kohanim and leaders of the spiritual service of the Jewish people for all time!?

Answer

This is an astounding lesson and example of how important Torah learning, specifically educating others in the ways of the Torah, is. If Moshe would be 'burdened' with the service in the Mishkan, meaning having to do it himself (he anyways needed to instruct and teach Aharon and his sons how to perform the service), then his focus and dedication to teaching the Jewish people Torah would be hindered and worsened.

A slight hindering and worsening of Moshe's clarity of mind and focus on teaching the Torah is such a significant problem so as to warrant Moshe not getting this prestigious role for himself, and his family- forever. Why? Because, obviously, Moshe had a more important role- to educate the Jewish people in the ways of the Torah.

Lesson for our world

Education is of paramount importance. What is the difference between people who are enlightened by the light of knowledge and awareness and truth and those that aren't? One must only look at the difference between the societies and countries where education was not important and stressed and those which valued education- and by education I mean the pursuit of truth, not the training of skills.

The problem arises when schools, which are supposed to be places of education, are used either to train workers, or to further various social agendas and indoctrination. When the true and honest pursuit of knowledge and ideas is subverted for other values- that is when society begins to fall apart and people become weaker and more enfeebled. Education in the ways of the Torah, to be enlightened in the ways of the world by the word of Hashem- who created and directs the world and who has given us an instruction manual as to how to live proper, good and successful lives, is therefore clearly understood to be of paramount importance.

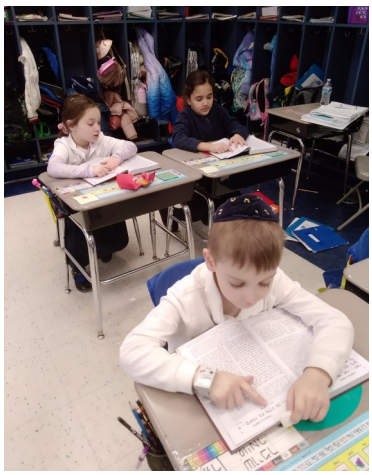
Certainly, the necessary skills that one needs for proper employment should be pursued at the right time and place. However, the value of an education which allows a person to think and understand and pursue truth, and shows them how to go about using their intellect in a rigorous manner to arrive at truth and understanding, is far more profound and important than that knowledge being used as a 'spade to dig with.'

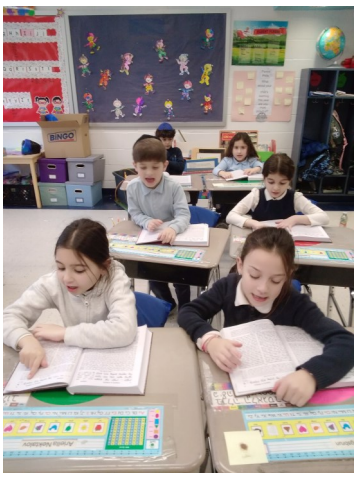
A Highlight from our Judaic Studies Department

Morah Esther Klugman and the 1st Grade Class

What an exciting week it was in First Grade! We got our first Chumash!!! Wow! What a milestone! We started learning the first Passuk in the Torah. How exciting! We are learning about the creation of the world. The children are great at learning.







A Highlight from our General Studies Department

Mrs. Shoshana Stern and the 5th Grade Class

The fifth graders have been hard at work! Their multiplication and division facts have really been put to the test as we completed units on multi-digit multiplication with decimals and long division. The decimal challenge is continuing as we forge into long division with decimals!

We have spent the past month reading a novel called "Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio" written by Peg Kehret. The students have been working on pulling out the important information from each chapter to write a summary, and what amazing writers they have become! We are looking forward to completing this unit with a test and a video presentation about another survivor of polio!





Tuesday, February 27	Kindergarten Siddur Play at 10:30 am * **Please Note the Change of Date**
Friday, March 8	Second Marking Period Ends
Friday, March 15	Report Cards Send Home
Tuesday, March 19	Parent Teacher Conferences - **Early Dismissal at 2:45 p.m.**
Friday, March 22	Purim Carnival
Sat. - Sun., March 23-24	**Erev Purim/Purim**
Monday, March 25	Shushan Purim - **Delayed Opening at 10:30 am**



Esther Malka Kramer - February 28



Help Us Plan!

Register for
the 2024-2025 school year!

The online form is now available on Gradelink.com
Contact Mrs. Rifkin for any questions or for assistance at 732-536-0911 ext. 102



Passed Level 1
Jeremy Richter
Victoria Rahamim
Isaac Ades
Avraham Arazi
Gabriella Gorbachincky
Meir Halpern

Passed Level 2
Lielle Arazi
Ariel Itzhaky
Ruby Rozenberg
Gabe Topas
Rahamim Arazi
Eyal Levy
Ari Klugman
Aiden Misyuk

Passed Level 3
Ariella Nektalov
Aaron Shoimer



Mazel Tov!

Great job to our students who passed Kriah levels this week!

Level One:

Issac Ades
Michael Korenblyum

Level Two:

Gabriella Gorbachincky

February School Lunch Menu

Monday, 2/26	Tuesday, 2/27	Wednesday, 2/28	Thursday, 2/29	Friday, 3/1
Baked Ziti, Sliced Vegetables	Falafel Sandwich, Israeli Salad, Vegetable Soup	Cheese Quesadilla, French Fries, Sliced Vegetables	Rotini in Alfredo Sauce, Vegetables	1 Pizza Slice
Monday, 3/4	**Tuesday, 3/5**	**Wednesday, 3/6**	**Thursday, 3/7**	**Friday, 3/8**
Baked Ziti, Sliced Vegetables	Bagel (choice of Egg Salad, Tuna or Cream Cheese) Veg. Soup, Israeli Salad	Sicillian Pizza, Sliced Veg.	Mac and Cheese, Sliced Vegetables	1 Pizza Slice