February 16, 2024
7th of Adar I, 5784

Shalom Torah Academy
OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Candle lighting: **5:16 pm** (Morganville)
Havdalah at **6:25 pm**

Ma Chadash?

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR SHALOM TORAH ACADEMY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY
















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Parsha Lesson
Rabbi Eli Meir Kramer

Terumah- *The Art of Educating*

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

This week's parsha begins the process of the building of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The Mishkan was the 'house of G-d' from when the Jewish people received the Torah, and became Hashem's chosen people, until the building of the Beis Hamikdash- around 480 years later. The Mishkan traveled with the Jewish people throughout their journeying in the desert, and the Mishkan was then later set up at different sites in Eretz Yisroel (Israel) after the Jewish people entered the land.

In the 'building campaign' to assemble the Mishkan, Hashem instructed Moshe to solicit the entire Jewish nation to contribute towards the Mishkan but to not force anyone to give. Only the donations of those who had a 'generous heart' were accepted in the building of the Mishkan. Any coerced, pressured or somewhat less than gracious donations were not accepted.

Question

The Gemara in Bava Basra (8b) says that the tzedakah (charity) collectors can force people to give tzedakah! In fact, one who is collecting tzedakah should pressure people to give money. Why is it then that for the Mishkan, the great house of Hashem, that Hashem did not accept any forced donations?

If pressuring people to give charity is a good thing, by pressuring people you are helping them to overcome their stinginess and enabling them to merit in this great mitzvah, why would the same not hold true when it comes to giving to the Mishkan?

Answer

The Jewish nation at the time of the building of the Mishkan was on a very high level of spirituality- they had just received the Torah from Hashem Himself! As such, for them to be forced to give money to the Mishkan would deprive them of the added spiritual growth that they would have by forcing themselves to do the right thing and contribute towards the Mishkan. The 'generosity of heart' that Hashem wanted the Jewish people to develop, necessitated their arranging their hearts properly to give generously to this important project. Any amount of forcing or coercion would have been counterproductive.

At that point of their spiritual development, the Jewish nation were expected to 'rebuke themselves' and force themselves to give, and not resort to the crutch of having someone else's help to overcome their stinginess. As such, for them to use the crutch of pressure would have been to stunt their development and harm their character growth.

So while it is true that one who could not get themselves to give to the Mishkan would have lost out on this great mitzvah. However, the chance for that person to develop real, genuine, generosity- even if just to struggle towards attaining it- was a more important growth which was applicable to them at that time.

Lesson for our world

So often, in the world today, education, is conveyed in lists and rules of dos and don'ts, an instruction manual of sorts, as to how one should go about educating. This completely misses the boat as to what the goal is and how to go about it.

In order for a parent or teacher or a person themselves, to be able to properly guide and direct, it is incumbent upon the 'director' to have a goal in mind as to where the other person must get to- and then connect to and understand the person where they currently are. Formulating the proper goal is important and a significant part of the job, but connecting to where the child currently is and using the proper means to connect to and draw along the child properly- is the main work and 'art of educating.'

How important it is to be attuned to the journeys of our children, our students and ourselves. We need to be aware of what is needed in order to develop properly, with the proper character and ideas. At times certain means may be necessary in order to develop properly, while at other times those very same means may be wrong and even harmful to proper development and growth. Sometimes we do need to direct more, sometimes we do need to be more insistent, but sometimes we need to allow them to 'figure it out on their own.' There is no right or wrong way, but rather a right and wrong time, place, and person.

A Highlight from our Preschool Department

Morah Shuly Amsel and the Torah Tots Class

For the last few weeks the Torah Tots have been working very hard on our preschool brachos unit. We have learned the brochos Hamotzei, Mezonos, Hagefen, and Ha'eitz. One of our favorite Activities for brachos so far, was out Mezonos bakery. The children filled their bakery boxes and bags full of handmade felt cookies and donuts. When we ran out of cookies the children ran to the playdough center where we had rolling pins, cookie cutters, playdough, and baking trays ready to be filled. The children rolled and cut out beautiful. cookies to refill out pretend bakery. What a fun, yummy time we had!







A Highlight from our Resource Room Department

Mrs. Aliza Hanover

Our 6th Grade Chumash class is in full swing! We recently completed the perek of Shiras Hayam, the song that Bnei Yisrael sang after they saw the wondrous miracles that Hashem did for them with the splitting of the Yam Suf. The girls learned the perek in depth and now have a very clear understanding of the amazing nissim Hashem did for Bnei Yisrael after leaving MItzrayim. A huge Mazel tov to Laniella Finkelstein for learning the Shira by heart with the translation! We are so proud of you!




Monday, February 19	Presidents' Day - **No Sessions**
Tuesday, February 20	First Grade Chumash Celebration at 9:30 am * **Please Note the Change of Date**
Tuesday, February 27	Kindergarten Siddur Play * **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



Chaya Sarah Khaimova - February 19
Yisroel Dovid Stein - February 21
Yael Halton - February 23



Passed Level 1
Nathan Fried
Gabe Topas
Rahamim Arazi
Sareena Berger
Aiden Misyuk

Passed Level 2
Sammy Nemirovsky

Passed Level 3
Dovber Lustgarten
Hannah Estupinan
Nathanel Illizirov



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



Mazel Tov!

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

Level Four:
Laniella Finkelstien

February School Lunch Menu

Monday, 2/19	Tuesday, 2/20	Wednesday, 2/21	Thursday, 2/22	Friday, 2/23
Presidents' Day No Sessions	Penne ala Vodka (contains no alcohol), Sliced Vegetables	Pizza Bagel, Sliced Vegetables	Fish Sticks, Rice, Vegetables	1 Pizza Slice
Monday, 2/26	**Tuesday, 2/27**	**Wednesday, 2/28**	**Thursday, 2/29**	**Friday, 2/30**
Baked Ziti, Sliced Vegetables	Falafel Sandwich, Israeli Salad, Vegetable Soup	Cheese Quesadilla, French Fries, Sliced Vegetables	Rotini in Alfredo Sauce, Vegetables	1 Pizza Slice