



# DIVREI YOSEF

דברי יוסף  
Volume 21, Issue 14

**Candle lighting : 4:10 PM**

ו' טבת תשפ"ב

**Havdalah: 5:10 PM**

**December 10, 2021**

**243 E. FRISCH COURT, PARAMUS, NJ 07652**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec 11:** Book Club
- Dec 13:** Middle School Open House for the parents of 4th and 5th grades.
- Dec 13- Dec 17:** Book Fair
- Dec 14:** Asarah B'Tevet 2:00pm dismissal (aftercare till 4:30pm)
- Dec 15:** 3B Mesibat Rashi (5:30pm-6:30pm)
- Dec 24:** BPY Family Day (9:00am-11:30am) **NO BUSING**
- Dec 27-28:** ES & MS Achievement Test (LIMUDEI KODESH)
- Dec 28:** Rabbi Angel Adult Education @8pm
- Dec 31:** New Year's Eve, No Sessions
- Jan 3:** Rosh Chodesh Shevat, wear blue and white
- Jan 3-4:** MS Achievement Test (LIMUDEI KODESH)
- Jan 4:** 4th Grade Mesibat Navi (5:30pm)

FAMILIES CAN DEDICATE A DAY OF LEARNING IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, IN HONOR OF A SPECIAL OCCASION, OR IN THE MERIT OF A SPEEDY RECOVERY THROUGH OUR PARNAS HAYOM PROGRAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS AND OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT DEVELOPMENT AT [GIVING@BENPORATYOSEF.ORG](mailto:giving@benporatyosef.org) OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.BENPORATYOSEF.ORG](http://WWW.BENPORATYOSEF.ORG)

**Re-enrollment forms for 2022-2023 have been sent out and are due December 15.**

REMINDER! Please remember to submit your Scrip order by the 1st or the 15th of the month. Please note that we have revised our vendor list. For more information, please contact Ruth Wiseman in the business office at [ruthwiseman@benporatyosef.org](mailto:ruthwiseman@benporatyosef.org) Thank you!

## Mazal Tov/ Marbook

Morah Lisa on her son's Bar Mitzvah

**PARASHAT MIKETZ  
BY SARAH BARTGES  
MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL**

In this week's Torah portion, Parashah Vayigash, we experience the emotional reunion of Yosef and his brothers. Whenever I read through this Parashah I am struck by themes that resonate in each of our families, and like to use this Parashah as a model for the sibling rivalry and the forgiveness and brotherly love that ensues.

The Parashah begins with Yosef's framing of his youngest brother, Binyamin, through the placement of a silver goblet in Binyamin's sack. We are initially left to ponder the reason behind Yosef's decision in deceiving Binyamin. At face value, Yosef's actions would cause the enslavement of Binyamin. How could a brother, who was himself sold into slavery by his own brothers, choose to impose upon his kin the same fate?

Yet as the Parashah continues it becomes clear that Yosef is testing his brothers rather than condemning them. Yehudah goes to Yosef, to beg for Binyamin's release, explaining that Binyamin is the last remaining child of Rachel [since Yosef's identity is still unknown to him] and that if I come home and the youngest lad is not with us, and the soul of the one is bound up with the soul of the other, then it shall come to pass that he [Yaakov]] shall die in sorrow. Please take me as your slave instead of Binyamin." Upon witnessing Yehudah's self-sacrifice for Binyamin, Yosef can no longer hide his identity and, overcome with emotions, reveals to his brothers "I am Yosef! Is my father still alive?!"

Upon revealing himself, Yosef demonstrates only joy and tenderness towards them, a feeling that they reciprocate. "And he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and afterwards his brothers spoke with him."

There will undoubtedly be times in our families when our children feel conflict with one another, and in the moment they will believe that there is no possible way to forgive each other and move forward. What we can learn from Parashat Vayigash, is that even the gravest disagreements and greatest deceptions, in the hearts of every sibling is a yearning for reconciliation and a loving connection. Yosef deceived his brother Binyamin, not because of a desire to hurt him, but rather because it was a necessary step towards gaining trust in his brothers' ability to change and make the right choices. This was the crucial first step in the repair of the relationship. Yehudah's choice to sacrifice himself for Binyamin's safety, was the second vital step, because it demonstrated to Yosef that his brother had indeed changed and come to recognize the importance and value of supporting one's family.

As parents, may we be the models for our children in demonstrating the bravery it takes to take the first steps in repairing a relationship. One small gesture is all it takes to shift the direction of a relationship away from spite, and instead towards forgiveness and love.

## Parashah Corner

פינת הפרשה

### Questions to ask your children about parashat hashavua on Shabbat

By: Rav Acoca - Any questions or comments please email Rav Acoca

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What is the name of this week's Parashah?                                | 1-What happened at the end of last week's Parashah?                |
| 2. Who spoke with Yosef?  | 2-Who stepped forward to argue with Yosef?                         |
| 3. What did he tell Yosef?  | 3-What was Yehudah's main reason why Yosef should let Binyamin go? |
| 4. What did Yosef do?   | 4-How did Yosef respond to Yehudah's plea?                         |
| 5. What did he say to his brothers?   | 5-What did Yosef say?  |
| 6. Did Yosef make his brothers feel bad?                                    | 6- How did the brothers react?                                     |
| 7. What did he tell them?   | 7-How did Yosef comfort them?                                      |
| 8. What did Yosef ask his brothers to do?                                   | 8-What did Yosef instruct the brothers to do?                      |
| 9. Did Yaakov believe his children when they told him that Yosef was alive? | 9-What did Yosef send to transport their families?                 |
| 10. What did Yosef do when he heard that Yaakov was getting close?          |  |
| 11. What do we learn from that?   |  |
| 12. Where did Yaakov live in his old age?                                   |  |

# Parashah Answers

Goshen

1-Vayigash2-Yehudah3-To let his brother go4- He cried 5-I am Yosef, is my father still alive?6- No he did not 7-That Hashem is the one who sent him to Mizrayim to give them food8-To bring their father to Mizrayim9-No 10- He prepared his wagon and went to greet his father11- Than even though Yosef was a king in Mizrayim and he could have asked one of his servants to prepare his wagon, Yosef wanted to do it himself to honor his father 12- Eretz Goshen

1-Binyamin was caught with Yosef's silver goblet in his sack. All the brothers were brought back to Mizrayim. Yosef wanted to keep Binyamin as his slave, and he wanted to let the rest of the brothers go home.2-He volunteered to become a slave in Binyamin's place because he had told Yaakov that he would take responsibility for Binyamin's safety.3-Yaakov will die from sorrow if Binyamin doesn't return home.4-Yosef couldn't hold himself back any longer from revealing himself to his brothers. He sent all of the Mizrim out of the room so that he was alone with his brothers.5- I am Yosef. Is my father still alive?6-They were shocked and scared.7-Yosef told them that Hashem had sent him down to Mizrayim to provide for the family during the famine. He said that the brothers did not cause it to happen, rather it was Hashem.8-He told them to return to Eretz Canaan and bring Yaakov, their families, and all their belongings to Mizrayim. They will settle in Eretz Goshen (a part of mitzrayim).9-Agalot--wagons. Yosef wanted to remind Yaakov about the last thing they had learned together -- the Mitzvah of Eglat Arufa.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PRE-KB

Since we spent a long Chanukah weekend together with family, and invited our grandparents to our virtual Early Childhood Chanukah celebration, we figured it was a great time to introduce and explore our families. We introduced this unit by asking the children to brainstorm words that are associated with family. We then shared words that they think about when hearing BPY family. We compared and contrasted both of these webs. We noticed that both families love their children and consist of people, but are found in different places-love in the home and love in school. At our Writer's Corner, Gan Rina is working on our own family book. For the first page they wrote their last name and completed a web while brainstorming words that are associated with their own family. In the Art Studio, all of the children in Gan Rina and many other beloved BPY family members painted their hands and made handprints on tape that spelled out BPY!



## EARLY CHILDHOOD KINDERGARTEN

As a culmination of their Readers Workshop unit on Star Books, our BPY kindergartners celebrated today with a Storybook Dress Up Day where they came to school dressed as their favorite characters, ready to share their favorite storybooks. Lots of guest readers joined in the celebration on Zoom. A great time was had by all!



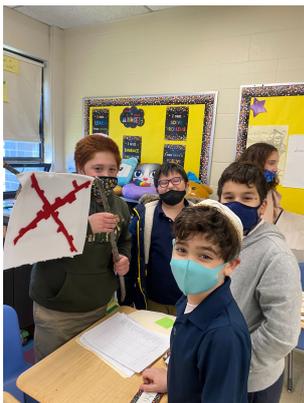
# SECOND GRADE

You may have known that the second graders are readers, writers, and mathematicians, but did you know that they are actors and actresses, too? This week, second graders learned about adding feeling words to their writing. In thinking about the special moments in their lives that they are sharing in their personal narratives, they are also thinking back to how they felt during those memorable experiences. Not only are the second graders sharing their feelings, but they are also describing what the feelings looked like. Second graders got ready to add feeling words to their writing by acting out what some feelings look like. 2A and 2B students could be seen with their eyes popping out and jaws dropping, jumping in the air, (pretend) crying, and stomping their feet. Can you guess some of the feelings second graders were acting out in these pictures?



# FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade students worked very hard over the last few weeks on researching an explorer. The students used both texts and technology to do their research. The students took notes on their explorer, then used their notes to write an informational piece of writing. The fifth graders wrote a second informational piece of writing, comparing and contrasting past and present day exploration or two different explorers. The children then wrote a narrative piece of writing that included five journal entries from the perspective of someone who was on the expedition. The portfolio included a map that each student drew and an artistic piece depicting the time of the explorer. We are so proud of all of the hard work of each fifth grade student!



## MINI MISHMAR

This past Tuesday, 5th grade continued learning about Shabbat in their second Mini Mishmar. We started our Mishmar with a beautiful Tefillat Mincha in the Bet Midrash, with Tefillah led by a few of the students.

Then the excitement started with Jeopardy, Shabbat style!

In one category students watched videos of BPY teachers asked Shabbat oriented questions, including what is Rabbi Zucker's Bar Mitzvah Parashah :)

Another category challenged the students to sing Shabbat songs and name the Shabbat tune.

5th grade aced the Halachah category and had a lot of fun figuring out "Name the Picture" category.

Mini Mishmar ended with a delicious hamburger dinner. Yum!

Stay tuned for our next Mini Mishmar installment!!!





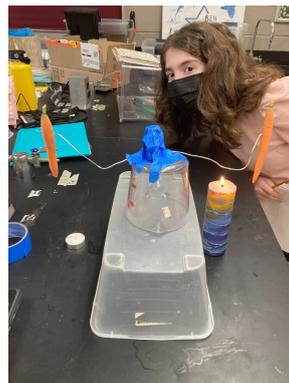
# SCIENCE & TORAH WITH RABBI ZUCKER

Written by  
Avigayil Mallin - Holtz & Caleb Toporovsky

As we approached the topic of evolution in our 8th grade science class, Rabbi Zucker paid us a visit and explained that there is no contradiction between science and Torah. Rabbi Zucker explained that a contradiction can only occur if there is a misunderstanding regarding Torah or science. When we asked him why science says the world is 4.543 billion years old and according to Judaism the world is 5,782 years old, he replied by saying it is because of the theory of relativity. The theory of relativity explains that the faster something moves, the slower it ages. He shared with us an experiment conducted by NASA where they placed two atomic clocks one on earth and the other on a spaceship that moves at very high speeds. These clocks showed us that when the clock on the spaceship came back it was a few minutes behind, thus proving to be a great example of the theory of relativity. He went on to explain that when the earth was created, the boundary of the universe was expanding close to the speed of light. Since the boundary was moving so fast, if you put a clock on it from the beginning of the universe it would say it is about 7 days years old, but if you put a clock in the center (like the earth) it would say that it is 4.543 billion years old. The Jewish calendar accounts for the time at the edge of the universe therefore aging slower, but scientists track time closer to the center of the universe, therefore aging faster.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE



As a concluding project for the 7th grade science unit on energy, students were tasked with designing a controlled experiment to answer any further questions that they had about energy. It was wonderful to see the range of experiments that were designed and conducted, such as an examination of the conductivity of pickles, the capacity of various materials for insulation, and the impact of heat (energy) on the oxidation process of metal. The 7th graders delved deep into the structures of proper experimental design and then wrote a formal lab report to communicate their findings. Next week, 7th and 5th graders will be holding a science conference, in which they share and reflect on the scientific process with each other using their individual experiments as examples.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL JUDAIC STUDIES

One of the great emphases in Middle School Limudei Kodesh classes is the development of skills. If a student feels that he or she can "own" the learning - and even learn independently - then that student will be a lifelong lover of learning. In all of our classes, we use Bloom's taxonomy of skills as a model. The highest level on that scale is the ability to compare and contrast. We use this to compare various textual sources and mefarshim - both individually and in chavruta learning. The comparisons and contrasts lead us naturally into an analytic discussion. No wonder that we hear from high school principals how sophisticated the BPY thinkers are!

An example of what we've been doing may be found in Rav Ido's 8th grade Chumash shiur, where the talmidim compared the account of ma'aseh beresheet in perek aleph versus the account in perek bet. The students focused on the different perspectives of the material world versus the spiritual world. As a culminating experiential project, students built model bridges to reflect upon the connection between the physical and the spiritual worlds.

In all of our Limudei Kodesh classes we also highlight 'Arachim and Middot - values and positive character traits. A recent theme was Responsibility. In order to translate what they learned into action, our 8th graders met with the 5th graders, taking the responsibility of the role of big brothers and big sisters. The older students paired with the younger ones, guiding them through minyan in the morning, followed by a chavruta session, where they learned Hilchot Shabbat. The 8th graders spoke afterwards about how meaningful it was to lead the younger students, and the 5th graders were so happy and proud of their new mentors.

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT MATHEW OSPALA

We are excited to welcome Coach Matthew Ospala to our BPY family! Matt received a degree from BCC in sports management and played on the college's Division 3 basketball team. He has coached multiple basketball teams in the community and has worked at the JCC as Sports Director specializing in classes for 3rd-8th graders. Matt runs his own athletic program and loves running birthday parties, 1 on 1 and group lessons. Matt loves working at BPY because he enjoys helping to build confidence in kids through sports.



Thank you to our families who sponsored middle school Mishmar  
Mitrani Family: 12/9



# AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURE CLUB

## 2nd Trimester



**MONDAY**

**SOCCER (KINDERGARTEN-1ST) AND BASKETBALL (PRE-K)**

**TUESDAY**

**SOCCER (2ND -4TH), YOGA (PK-K),CHOIR (2ND-4TH)**

**WEDNESDAY**

**DANCE FITNESS (PRE-K-KINDERGARTEN )DANCE FITNESS (1ST-2ND ),CODE BREAKERS (4TH-5TH), BASKETBALL (KINDERGARTEN-1ST BOYS), BASKETBALL (2ND-3RD BOYS)**

**THURSDAY**

**CHESS (KINDERGARTEN-2ND), CHESS (3RD-4TH),INTRODUCTION TO STRENGTH TRAINING (3RD-5TH), BASKETBALL (KINDERGARTEN-1ST GIRLS), BASKETBALL (2ND-3RD GIRLS)**

**FRIDAY**

**BASKETBALL (4TH-5TH GIRLS),BASKETBALL (4TH-5TH BOYS)**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MESIBAT TOSHBA**

We are delighted to invite you to your child's Mesibat Torah She Belal Peh. We are celebrating the fact that Kita Gimel is learning Mishnah for their very first time!

We are also celebrating their introduction to Rashi's commentary and are excited for what lies ahead this year.

Doors open at 5:15 PM  
**3A DEC 8: 5:30 PM-6:30 PM**  
**3B DEC 15: 5:30 PM-6:30PM**

In person at BPY  
 Vaccine card must be presented or uploaded prior to the event  
 Everyone must be masked

Please Join Us!  
**BEN PORAT YOSEF MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Geared towards current 4th and 5th grade parents but open to all BPY families

**MONDAY DECEMBER 13TH 7:30PM**

243 FRISCH COURT  
 PARAMUS NJ 07652

Our program features:

- High academic standards in all subjects
- A close connection to each child, understanding his/her academic, social, and emotional needs
- A warm, welcoming environment of mutual support and respect
- A staff of outstanding, experienced educators with proven skills at reaching and teaching all of the students
- Preparation for success in high school

REGISTER TODAY!  
 ADMISSIONS@BENPORATYOSEF.ORG

Join the BPY Book Club

Stimulating Discussions  
 BPY Parents, Grandparents and Friends  
 Meeting in-house and Zoom  
 Flexible Scheduling

Recent choices: *Eleonor Oliphant is Completely Fine*  
*A Gentleman in Moscow*  
*Anxious People*  
*Oona out of Order*  
 Currently reading: *One, Two, Three* by L.Frankel for 12/11/21

Please contact Leahie Mallin  
 loehiemallin@gmail.com

**Scholastic Book Fair is back!**

**What: Book Fair**  
**Where: BPY**  
**When: Monday 12/13 - Friday 12/17**  
**Who: Susan Levin and PTO**

Advertise and support our school! Contact Ruth Wiseman for details at [ruthwiseman@benporatyo세f.org](mailto:ruthwiseman@benporatyo세f.org)

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*My Healing and Harmony*

**MESSAGE FOR WOMEN**

BY FAIGE DRAPKIN LMT

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