



# DIVREI YOSEF

דברי יוסף  
Volume 21, Issue 13

**Candle lighting : 4:10 PM**

כ"ט כסלו תשפ"ב

**Havdalah: 5:10 PM**

**December 3, 2021**

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec 6:** No Sessions (Chanukah Break)
- Dec 7:** 5th Grade Mini Mishmar (pickup at 4:30pm)
- Dec 8:** 3A Mesibat Rashi (5:30pm -6:30pm)
- 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 21:** Adult Education
- Dec 24:** BPY Family Day (9:00am-11:30am)
- Dec 28:** Rabbi Angel Adult Education @8pm

### Mazal Tov/ Marbook

Roni Dahan on her Bat Mitzvah  
Morah Syma on her son's Bar Mitzvah  
Morah Naomi on her son's wedding this past Sunday  
Mazal Tov and Mabrook to Morah Randee Selt (NB) on the birth of a granddaughter. Mazal tov to her daughter and son-in-law Ariella and David Lutz.  
Thank you for your kind donation to the discovery room in memory of Shimon Ben Eliezer (Simon Horn) grandfather of Ella Horn

### Parnas HaYom | Dedicate a Day of Learning

**12.2** is sponsored by the BPY teachers in honor of the wedding of Mrs. Naomi Maron's son Gabriel to Morah Julia

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!

## PARASHAT MIKETZ BY ALIZA STRASSMAN

This week, we have the familiar combination of Parashat Miketz and Shabbat Chanukah. The parashah opens with Paroh's dream - seven fat and healthy cows stroll out of the Nile river to graze. Then, seven skinny cows shamble out for their meal, when suddenly the skinny cows devour the healthy cows! Strange, though, the skinny cows stay skinny despite having eaten their fellows... Every day this week we have been saying Al Hanissim as part of our tefillah and birkat hamazon. In this tefillah, we thank Hashem for our victory over the Greeks using the language, "Masarta Giborim B'yad Chalashim, You gave the strong into the hands of the weak." Just like in Paroh's dream, where the stronger cows were swallowed up by the weaker cows, our tefillot on Chanukah recognize how Hashem delivered the mighty Greek army into the hand of the smaller Jewish militia. This is one obvious connection between the Parashah and Chanukah, but there are even more parallels. First, the healthy cows are described as, "Yefot Mar'eh Uvri'ot Bassar, beautiful in appearance and robust," meaning, they were great physical specimens. Interestingly, the same details would characterize the Greek ideal of bodily perfection. Plus, the Torah's

description of where the cows were grazing has a parallel to Hellenistic culture. The word in the passuk is “Ba’achu, in the marshland”. Ramban explains that “Ba’achu” actually refers to the vegetation around the marsh area, though it comes from the shoresh “Ach, brother.” He then draws a connection between this word and the word “Achva,” which means “unity” (as Onkelos translates the word).

Just like the concept of brotherhood refers to a mixture of people united together, the marshland (Ba’achu) has all different kinds of vegetation growing in one area. Now we have a picture of Greek cows grazing in a Hellenistic environment, since the mixture of cultures (vegetation) all came together in a single entity as the Hellenists envisioned.

Now we come to the part where the skinny cows enter the dream and eat the healthy cows. The skinny cows are introduced as standing on the bank of the river instead of in the marsh. They couldn’t be in the marsh because, at this point, the healthy cows had already eaten all of the vegetation there! The skinny cows were so hungry, but there was nothing to eat, so in order to survive they swallowed up the other cows. Notice that the healthy cows did nothing to physically attack the skinny cows, they simply cut off their food supply. Looking back at the Chanukkah story, this point is reminiscent of how the Greeks enacted decrees against our way of life. They tried to cut off our spiritual food supply, starving the Jews religiously until they accepted Hellenism. In order to survive, they had to fight back.

However, once the skinny cows ate the healthy cows, there was no physical change to them. Similarly, the Chashmona’im were not trying to gain any physical or material weight. Their battle was not about becoming wealthier or more powerful, they did not collect spoils or conquer territory. Just like the skinny cows stayed skinny, the Jews fought to stay Jews! It wasn’t about changing anything on the outside, rather the Chanukkah victory was internal. Rav Nebenzahl explains that we celebrate the miracle of the oil because that is what goes inside. The focus on Chanukkah is not necessarily about having the fanciest menorah, instead we remember searching for the purest oil. The miracle came from having the right spiritual fuel, both for the Menorah as well as the Maccabim.

Finally, when Yosef interprets Paroh’s dream, he provides an action plan in addition to the interpretation. He suggests that Paroh should appoint an “Ish Navon Ve’chacham, a wise and discerning man” to be in charge of Egypt’s grain. This person will need to look at each individual family and everyone’s particular circumstance in order to properly ration the grain, always looking to the future and thinking about how to make the grain last for seven years. Perhaps Yosef’s advice is a great lesson for us as teachers, parents, and grandparents on Chanukkah. It is our job to look at every child as an individual. One student’s learning needs might be different from a classmate or sibling. It is our responsibility to follow this action plan and treat each child as an individual now in order to help guide them toward a future full of spiritual growth.

## 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?
  2. How many years after Yosef was put in prison did Pharaoh have the dream?
  3. How many dreams did Pharaoh have?
  4. What was the first dream that Pharaoh had?
  5. What was the second dream that Pharaoh had?
  6. How did Pharaoh feel about the dreams?
  7. To whom did Pharaoh turn to solve the dreams?
  8. Who told Pharaoh about Yosef?
  9. When Pharaoh asked Yosef to solve the dreams, what did Yosef say?
  10. What did Yosef tell Pharaoh about the dreams?
  11. What did Yosef suggest to Pharaoh to do?
  12. Whom did Pharaoh choose?
  13. Was there hunger in Eretz Canaan?
  14. Where did Yaakov tell his sons to go?
  15. Why did Yaakov tell them to go to Mitzrayim?
1. As the parashah begins, for how long had Yosef been in jail?
  2. What was Pharaoh's first dream?
  3. What was Pharaoh's second dream?
  4. Whom did pharaoh first ask to interpret his dreams?
  5. What suggestion did the sar ha-mashkim make to Pharaoh?
  6. How much time did Yosef have before he came to Pharaoh?
  7. What did Yosef say was the interpretation?
  8. What job did Pharaoh give Yosef?
  9. What was Yosef’s new name?
  10. Who was Yosef’s wife?
  11. Who were Yosef’s two sons?.



# Parashah Answers

1. Miketz 2. 12 3. 2 4. That they were 7 thin cows that ate 7 fat cows 5. That 7 thin wheats ate 7 fat wheats 6. He was upset 7. Yosef 8. Sar Hamashkim (the butler) 9. That Hashem will find the solution 10. That there will be 7 years with a lot of food in Mitzrayim but after that, there will be no food 11. To hire someone who will keep food for the years of hunger 12. Yosef 13. Yes 14. To Mitzrayim 15. To get food for their families

1. He had been in jail for a total of 12 years. It had been 2 years since the dreams of the sar ha-maskim and sar ha-ofim 2. He dreamed that 7 thin and ugly cows swallowed 7 fat and healthy cows. 3. He dreamed that 7 thin ears of grain not give an interpretation that satisfied Pharaoh. 5. The sar ha-maskim told Pharaoh that Yosef could interpret dreams. 6. He had just enough time to have a haircut and change his clothes. 7. Bil'adai. It is not I who has the power to interpret dreams. Only Hashem can tell me the correct interpretation. 8. He said that the 2 dreams are really the same. There will be 7 years of plenty, followed by 7 years of hunger. The years of hunger will be so bad that the years of plenty will be forgotten. Pharaoh accepted this interpretation. 9. He appointed Yosef to be second in command. Yosef was responsible to gather together the grain of Mitzrayim during the 7 years of plenty and store it carefully. He gave Yosef his royal ring and dressed him in royal clothing. Yosef was 30 years old at the time. 10. Asnat 11. Ephraim and Menashe 12. They were born during the 7 years of plenty.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD WELCOMES GUESTS



Gan Kochavim had fun having our mummies over for making levivot and sufganiyot! We had fun making sufganiyot and filling them with chocolate and strawberry jelly. We dipped our levivot into apple sauce. It was so yummy!



Special Visitors in Gan Shira! To continue our Chanukah celebrations PKA had a great time welcoming Bayla's parents to our class. We sang and danced to Chanukah songs and we also baked Chanukah cookies! They were extra delicious with sprinkles and chocolate chips on top!

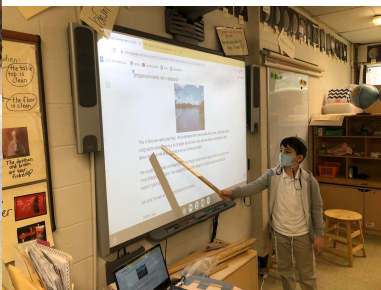


If you would like to come to your child's classroom please reach out to the teacher directly



# FIRST GRADE CLASS TRIP

First grade had a wonderful trip to the Society of Illustrators today! Students had the opportunity to view a juried collection of original artwork from children's books published this year. They were excited to find original illustrations from books that we've read in class! The first graders engaged with a scavenger hunt that encouraged them to look closely at the illustrations to notice details related to topics we've studied in class, including problems, solutions, characters, settings, and themes



# SECOND GRADE SCIENCE

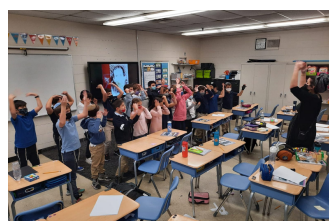
Second grade geologists are engineering! Following studies into erosion, second graders received a (simulated) letter from Riverside Development, Inc. They need help designing ways to protect their river-front homes from erosion. The students will be designing and testing a variety of strategies in the upcoming weeks

# SNEAK PEAK..THIRD GRADE MESIBAT TOSHBA

The third graders are very busy preparing for the Mesibat Toshba.

The students have been learning Mishnayot, Chumash and Rashi and are ready to present it all at the celebration. Every day, the students are practicing, singing dancing and having fun! Our

classes are looking forward to preforming all of their hard work and knowledge to their families! 3A is on 12/8 and 3B is on 12/15 Stay tuned..



**Thank you to our Discovery Room Assistant volunteers! Fall 2021**





# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH



$a=6$   
 $b=8$   
 $c=?$

$$6^2 + 8^2 = c^2$$
$$36 + 64 = c^2$$
$$100 = c^2$$
$$10 = c$$



Math in the middle school builds on the number sense and mathematical thinking that was developed through the use of Singapore Math. There continues to be an emphasis on understanding the math, not just the ability to use specific steps to solve an equation. Exploration of the various topics is an important component of our program since it allows the students to develop and internalize a deeper understanding of their computations. Students are then taught the skills needed to problem solve and are given opportunities to apply their math skills in creative and meaningful ways. Starting in 6th grade, the math classes are tracked to help ensure that each student is being taught at an appropriate level. The 6th grade curricula for both tracks are very similar so that if a student is able to place into pre-algebra, he or she will have the opportunity to do so.

The mathematical foundation formed through the use of Singapore Math allows the student to be able to think about the more complex math concepts and develop understanding of why the equations work. Students also continue to develop the mathematical language needed to explain their thinking. Although students do not use manipulatives in the same way as they did in elementary school, we continue to help them develop a concrete understanding of the math before delving into the abstract representations that are used to solve the complex math.

Students in grade level math finish off 8th grade learning pre algebra, thus preparing them for algebra in high school. The accelerated track studies algebra in 8th grade, which allows them to place out of algebra in high school. The textbooks that we use in the middle school are similar to the ones used in high school. This helps ease our students' transition into high school math.

Although these textbooks have a different format from the Singapore Math workbooks, the students adjust easily to the new layout of the textbooks and are able to apply the strong number sense developed through Singapore Math.

One of the 8th grade math classes is learning about using formulas, specifically, the Pythagorean Theorem. But why learn the theorem abstractly when you can discover and prove it yourself? Last week, during a discovery lesson, students were given paper clips and asked to construct two legs of a right triangle with lengths of 3 and 4. Then, they needed to determine the length of the missing hypotenuse, again using paper clips. By doing so, they concluded that the only way to connect the legs was with a hypotenuse of 5 paper clips. Students did the same thing to discover the lengths of a 5-12-13 right triangle. Lastly, the students learned the formula that can be applied to the lengths of all right triangles:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ . It's the best when math is hands on!

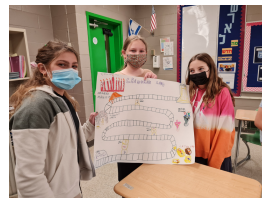
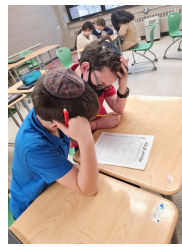
The other 8th grade class was studying number properties for algebra. Instead of memorizing all of the properties or writing down definitions, the students were tasked with creating visual aids that will be used around the class. The students had to explain the principle then show how to use it in an algebraic equation. In addition, they had to demonstrate how one could solve a problem without using the algebraic property. The students discovered that the algebraic properties simplify the process. Once they completed their posters, they had to teach their property to their classmates. This type of activity helps students use mathematical language to explain what they are doing and how and why the equations and properties help solve problems.

In middle school, students take formal assessments, but teachers also incorporate alternate assessments to allow students to show what they know in various ways. One of our 7th grade classes worked in groups to create instructional videos. They were given a decimal related operation and were tasked with teaching how to solve the problem. Students then watched the videos. In

6th grade, students reviewed LCM and GCF by working on a scavenger hunt that helped students discover in what year the Chanukkah story took place. Each task built on the one before. Aside from reviewing their math skills, the students discovered that in multistep problems, if you miss one step or make an error, it impacts the resulting solution. Showing your work is crucial to checking for accuracy! Students master not only the complex concepts and skills, but they are able to apply them and explain them.

Math is also incorporated into other aspects of the students' day. One of the electives offered this semester is all about the mathematics behind the game of pool. Students are learning about angles, shapes and geometry. Students discover that math is everywhere and that the skills that they learn in math class can be applied in real world situations.

# Morah Adi



חנוכה בשיעורי חינוך בחטיבת הביניים.  
בשיעורי "חינוך" בשבוע האחרון התלמידים נהנו  
מפעילויות שונות.  
ביניהם, חידונים, משחק סביבון ושוקולד, מסיבות  
חנוכה כיתתיות בהם התלמידים היו שותפים  
בהכנות ובתכנון,  
וכן הכנת משחקי חנוכה יצירתיים עבור תלמידי  
היסודי.



כמה טוב שיש לנו את שיעורי חינוך שאנחנו יכולים  
להקנות ערכים וכיף ביחד!

## Alums reflect on ease of transition to high school thanks to BPY

## BPY SPOTLIGHT

There's no place like home! We were delighted to host 3 of our BPY alumni, Sammy Bensoussan, Noah and Ian Toporovsky when they stopped in this past week to share their wisdom on their first semester of high school and their transition from BPY to 9th grade.

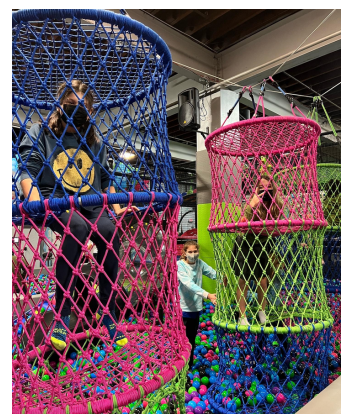
Sammy shared that he was taking French as an elective and it really was an asset having language development through BPY. He also said that Judaic studies preparations that were received in 8th grade had really helped all kids from BPY succeed in Mishnah, Torah Studies, vocabulary, Gemara, and the ability to learn independently.

Ian and Noah are both taking an entrepreneurship elective which is a 6 week course in which they choose a business to research and learn about the demographics and geographics of the company. The boys stated that what they learned in their BPY ELA classes have really assisted them with comprehending on how to be successful in this course.

The boys all agreed that the transition between middle school assignments and high school work was easier due to the fact that BPY taught them the foundation for good time management. They concluded by saying that they love that all of their classmates have stuck together even though they are in different schools. The bond and friendships that they made at BPY is something that they will treasure forever!



## Thank you to our PTO for our wonderful 4th & 5th grade night out!







# 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 (1ST-2ND ),CODE BREAKERS (4TH-5TH), BASKETBALL (KINDERGARTEN-1ST BOYS), BASKETBALL (2ND-3RD BOYS)**

**THURSDAY**

**CHES (KINDERGARTEN-2ND), CHES (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 Lechia Mallin  
 loebhmallin@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@benporatyosef.org](mailto:ruthwiseman@benporatyosef.org)

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