



DIVREI YOSEF

דברי יוסף

Volume 21, Issue 16

Candle lighting : 4:15 PM

י"ט טבת תשפ"ב

Havdalah: 5:16 PM

December 23, 2021

243 E. FRISCH COURT, PARAMUS, NJ 07652

IMPORTANT DATES

- 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:** 4A Mesibat Navi (5:30pm)
- Jan 11:** 4B Mesibat Navi (5:30pm)
- Jan 16:** 2nd Grade Mesibat Chumash (9:00am 2A, 11:00am 2B)
- Jan 17:** Tu BiShvat & MLK Day
- Jan 20-30:** Winter Break, NO SESSIONS

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

Parnas HaYom | Dedicate a Day of Learning

12.23 this Day of Learning in honor of the yahrtzeit of Lauren's Zaidy, Reuven ben Avraham z"l, beloved great grandfather of Alissandra (1), Isabelle (PK), Elianna (N) and Sebastian.

Mazal Tov/ Mabrook

Eitan and Sophie Buchbinder on the birth of a baby Boy! Mazal Tov and Mabrook to older sibling Charlie (Pre-KB) and Lily (NA)

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 Thank you!

PARASHAT SHEMOT BY NAOMI MARON GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL

Parashat Shemot is a Parashah full of so many meaningful life lessons. I recently read a beautiful dvar Torah that focuses on a small group of women who could easily be overlooked, or just seen as an added detail to signify the strength of the Jewish women. When Pharaoh tried to decrease the Jewish population, he first tried hard labor, which did not work. He then enlisted the help of two midwives who were assigned to kill the Jewish baby boys as they were born. The midwives feared Hashem and did not heed to Pharaoh's decrees. When Pharaoh asked them why they did not do as he commanded, they said that the Jewish mothers were not like the Egyptians and that they did not wait for the midwives. The Torah includes their conversation with Pharaoh, but not Pharaoh's response. Instead, we read of Hashem's response- they are rewarded with houses. In Parashat Pardes, by Yaakov Yosef Schechter, he delves into the choices that the midwives made. In 1:20,21 it states:

וַיַּטֵּב אֱלֹקִים לְמִילְדֹת וַיַּרְבּוּ הָעָם וַיַּעֲצְמוּ מְאֹד:

And God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and increased greatly.

וַיְהִי כִּי-יָרְאוּ הַמִּילְדֹת אֶת-הָאֱלֹקִים וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם בָּתִּים: And because the midwives feared God, He established households for them.

Pharaoh had commanded that the midwives kill all of the Jewish boys that they delivered. The midwives refused to do so. In both pasuk 17 and 21 the Torah reiterates their yirah (unwavering fear of Hashem). Why not simply say that they deserved the houses because of their actions. The emphasis is on what caused them to act in the way that they did and not their actions. Often when people are confronted with evil, many just follow out of fear of the repercussions of not following or they walk away so that they do not have to get involved. The midwives on the other hand stood up to the evil and accepted their role in saving the Jews. Pharaoh was an intimidating figure and it was both difficult and scary to even think of going against his edicts, but that is what the midwives did. They did not tell Pharaoh what they did, but they were brave enough to tell him that they failed in following his command. They rose up above his evil decrees and intimidation and .at the risk of their own lives, admitted defeat. Their "yirah" guided them

The Torah states that they were rewarded with houses. According to Rashi, the word "batim" refers to the dynasties of the priesthood and Levites. These were not dwellings, but legacies. (1 Kings 9:1) "and Solomon built the house of the Lord and the house of the king": "the house of the Lord" i. e. a dynasty of priests and Levites — from Jochebed (Shifrah); and "the house of the king", i. e. a royal dynasty — from .(Miriam (Puah

What did these two midwives do that was so deserving to result in dynasties? They caused the baby boys to live. How is this different from saving them? Rashi explains that they gave sustenance to the baby boys. There is a halachah that states that if you are commanded to kill someone and you refuse, you "saved" that person. However, if you provide sustenance you cause the person to live. The midwives didn't just refuse to kill the babies, but they went one step farther and helped them live

We should take this lesson to heart. Our children can learn a lot from the midwives. It can be difficult to stand up to mean behavior or commands. Pharaoh wanted them to do the dirty work so that he wouldn't be blamed. Children sometimes face these same challenges with peers. Together we can help our children become upstanders and not bystanders. They should make their choices based on what is right and not for the reward resulting from your actions

Wishing you and your family a Shabbat Shalom!

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. What does "Shemot" mean?
 3. How many people went down to Mitzrayim?
 4. What happened to Bnai Israel when they went down to Mitzrayim?
 5. What did Pharaoh tell his nation?
 6. What did the Egyptians do to Bnai Israel?
 7. What happened when the Egyptians did that?
 8. What were the names of the midwives?
 9. What is the name of Moshe's mother?
 10. What is the name of Moshe's father?
 11. For how long was Moshe kept in the Teva?
 12. Who looked after Moshe?
 13. Who found Moshe in the water?
 14. What did she do to Moshe?
 15. To whom Moshe got married?
 16. Who was the father in law of Moshe?
 17. Where did Moshe "meet" Hashem for the first time?
 18. What did Hashem say to Moshe?
 19. Did Moshe want to do it?
 20. Did he finally go?
1. How many descendants of Yaakov came down with him to Mitzrayim?
 2. What happened to the numbers of Bnai Yisrael in Mitzrayim? How many children were born at one time?
 3. Why did Pharaoh decide to make Bnai Yisrael into slaves.
 4. What were the names of the midwives? Who were they really?
 5. What did Pharaoh command the Meyaldot to do to the boys? Did the Meyaldot listen to Pharaoh?
 6. What did Pharaoh command his people to do to the boys?
 7. Who were Moshe Rabenu parents?
 8. Who were his siblings?
 9. For how long did Moshe Rabenu mother hide him?
 10. Where did Moshe's mother put him? Who found him?

Parashah Answers

he did not 20. Yes he did

18. That He will send him to free Bnai Israel 19. No him 15. Tzipora 16. Vitro 17. In the burning Bush 12. His sister Miriam 13. Batya 14. She adopted Pua 9. Yocheved 10. Amram 11. Three months 7. Bnia Israel continued to multiply 8. Shifra and be mean to Bnai Israel 6. They Enslaved them 1. Shemot 2. Names 3. 70 4. They multiplied 5. To

pharaoh's daughter found him.

Aharon. 9. Three Months 10. In a basket in the Nile; them in the Nile. 7. Amram and Yocheved. 8. Miriam and Yocheved. 5. Kill the boys and let the girls live. 6. Thrown 4. Pua and Shifra. They were really Miriam and Yisroel would join his enemies and fight against Mirayim were born at one time. 3. Pharaoh was afraid that Beni 1. 70 Descendants 2. They increased rapidly. Six children

EARLY CHILDHOOD KA

As part of our famous artist studies, and in conjunction with our unit on feelings, the children in Gan Chaverim learned all about Rembrandt! A long time ago, there were no cameras, so people hired Rembrandt to paint their portraits and capture the moment.

First, each child examined his or her face in the mirror and then each child in our class painted a portrait of a friend. Did you know that you can capture feelings and expressions in portraits? We do!

What an amazing way to help us become more sympathetic and empathetic while documenting the feelings of others through art.



1ST GRADE GENERAL STUDIES

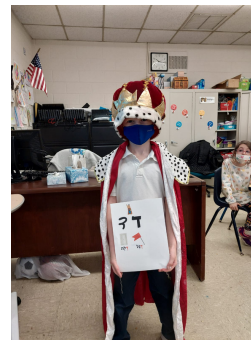
First graders are hard at work in their nonfiction writing unit! After immersing themselves in reading a variety of informational texts and noticing common features of these books, the first graders began crafting their own nonfiction texts. Students have been working through the writing process, starting with brainstorming topics, continuing on to planning and drafting, and moving forwards towards revising and editing. The first graders are learning to elaborate upon their ideas, to include features specific to nonfiction texts (such as headings, labels, and captions) and to organize their ideas in a logical manner. Their topics range from gymnastics to safety to sea creatures and much, much more! We are so proud of all that our first grade writers are learning.

1ST GRADE JUDAIC STUDIES



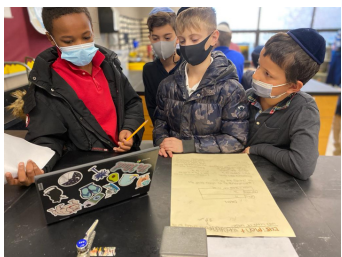
Creative ways to learn Reading and writing in first grade with Morah Chana

תלמידי כיתה א' עובדים במרץ על רכישת קריאה וכתובה בעברית.
 רכישת קריאה וכתובה בשפה שאינה שפת האם יכולה להיות מאתגרת.
 אבל לא בִּיבֵּי! פה לימודי העברית נעשים בכיף ובשמחה!
 על מנת להנגיש את העברית בצורה חווייתית הלמידה נעשית ע"י שימוש
 במשחקים רבים,
 שונים ומגוונים יצירות והצגות. וכך תוך כדי הנאה וכיף התלמידים לומדים
 לקרוא עברית!

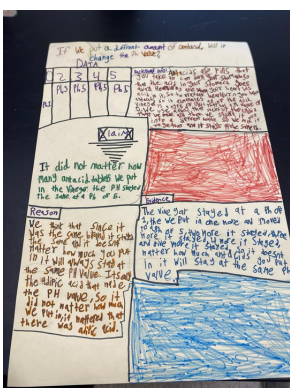


5TH GRADE SCIENTIST SHARE THEIR RESEARCH

5th and 7th graders recently completed independent research projects and presented their findings at a shared science conference. 5th graders tested an aspect about the effectiveness of antacids and 7th performed experiments around energy. All scientists shared their posters and lab reports this week, demonstrating their experiment process then their claims, using evidence from data. The conference was held in the Middle School science lab, where 5th graders were introduced to Middle School science experience, the space and the work-load. Research teams took turns sharing their findings and asking questions. 5th graders enjoyed the opportunity to visit the living ecosystem projects and live animals in the classroom.



Earlier in November, the 5 and 7 grade students were visited by Environmental Scientist Kate Cooper who studies the American Eel population with the NY State Dept of Env Conservation. She leads the community based project collecting and studying data about the declining eel population. She shared her experience conducting research and was able to share tips that the students applied to their work.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

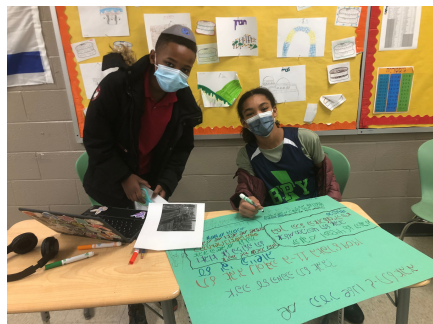
JOANNE KIPUST SIEGEL



When I was in college, I majored in English literature simply because I loved to read. I hadn't yet figured out what I wanted as a career. I started out in public relations, but life had its way of navigating me towards the place I belonged: the classroom. I studied Education in grad school, and I've been teaching for about 25 years, with some time-off to raise my two wonderful children. I honed my craft at the Heschel School where I taught first and third graders the basics of reading and writing. When I came to BPY nine years ago, I had never taught middle school. The School gave me the opportunity to jump out of my comfort zone, and I've never looked back. The BPY MS students are a very special crew, and they are my favorite part of the job. Even after they graduate, they stay in touch. I love when they return to school to visit or when I see them on their high school campus.

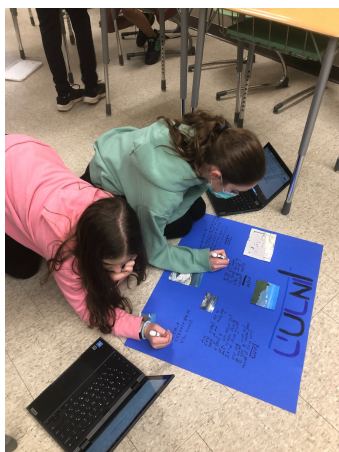
In an unexpected twist, my daughter, a 10th grader at SAR High School, has become friends with many of my former students. A few weeks ago, I saw one such student playing basketball with friends. I waved and heard his friends ask who I was. He started to say, "Morah Joanne," and then quickly shifted to "Talia's mom." I wear both titles with much pride. (I can't leave out my son! I'm also proud to be Noam's mom, a senior at SAR High School). While much has changed over the years, much has stayed the same. It's been many years since college, and I still love to read!

MIDDLE SCHOOL



In 6th grade the teachers focusing on writing as one of the main skills for Hebrew language. In order to develop that skill we are trying to engage the students as much as we can. In addition, in the MS each month the students are learning about different value as leadership, Chessed, responsibility etc. This month they have learned about Mishpachah - The importance of the roots.

At the end of the unit the student creates a family tree and wrote about the caricatures in the family. Engagements to your family and writing as a main skill lead the students to make beautiful posters presenting their families. What a great job Morah Dina!



In seventh grade the focus for Hebrew language is reading. The teachers expose the students to different sources as newspaper article, short stories, art, informative articles etc. In order to keep the students connected to Eretz Yisrael, the students in 7th grade with Morah Dina chose a city / village / Place in Israel, and to write a project about it. What a beautiful way to tie the skills set to our core mission of Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael! The students wrote about a place in Israel, art object, holy place - all related to Limudei Kodosh sources. The students got to feel Eretz Yisrael on a very special way, while developing the skills of reading and writing.



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



Join our monthly Tanakh adult education program featuring

RABBI HAYYIM ANGEL

MOSHE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HERO



Tuesday, December 28, 2021 @ 8 PM
Join us on Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5413950938>

MS CALENDAR of EVENTS

- 7 JANUARY** 6th Grade Shabbat-IN
- 11 JANUARY** SNOW TUBING 10am-12pm
- 15 JANUARY** MELAVA MALKA MOTZEI SHABBAT
- 4 FEBRUARY** 7th Grade Shabbat-IN
- 11-12 FEBRUARY** 8th Grade Shabbaton

2ND SEMESTER AFTERNOON ADVENTURE CLUBS!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Basketball Pre-K	Yoga Pre-K	Dance Fitness Pre-K
Soccer K-1st	Soccer 2nd-4th	Dance Fitness 1st-2nd
THURSDAY	Choir 2nd-4th	Code Breakers 4th-5th
Chess K-2nd	FRIDAY	Basketball K-1 (Boys)
Chess 3rd-4th	Basketball 2nd-4th	Basketball 2nd-3rd (Boys)
Basketball K-1 (Girls)	Basketball 4th-5th (Girls)	
Basketball 2nd-3rd (Girls)	Intro to Strength Training 3rd-5th	

January 3rd - March 18th

Advertise and support our school! Contact Ruth Wiseman for details at ruthwiseman@benporatyocef.org

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