

# Beth Shalom Academy

## Newsletter



## TAKE A PEEK AT OUR WEEK

א' אייר פרשת תזריע ומצרע תשפ"ג | April 21, 2023

## Yom HaShoah

In Remembrance of Yom HaShoah,

We will never forget the 6 million *kedoshim*, including 1.5 million children murdered in the Shoah,

We will never forget the rabbis, the students, the professionals, the artists, the poor, the rich, the young, and the old,

We will never forget the Jewish communities that no longer exist,

We will never forget the destruction of the thousands of synagogues, the homes and the community centers,

We will never forget to tell their stories to the next generation.





## Using Our Voices to Teach About the Holocaust

The world's Jewish population was reduced by one third, from roughly 16.6 million in 1939 to 11 million in 1946. At Beth Shalom, we joined many across the world by using our voices to teach about the Holocaust to share stories of survivors and make sure it is part of our future generations curriculum. Rabbi Dovid Krautwirth gave a class on the Holocaust to our older students. Clips of a personal blog, based on a true story called "Eva Stories" were shown to our students as part of this week's curriculum, which brought about some phenomenal questions and positivity about being Jewish today. Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Cutler and Mrs. Leiter for coming in to share about the Holocaust. The children intently listened and asked wonderful questions. It was a meaningful event for all of us in the audience.





# Art Creativity

Our students let out their creativity this week by creating Picasso style cubism portraits and painting the splitting of the sea. Over the year, we have learned about an artist each month, and we are completing the year with Picasso.



# Guinea Pigs

This week, our students and teachers stepped up and made a schedule to check in and take care of our new school pets.





# A Peek Into Our Classrooms

- Morah Bracha's 1-6

1st-6th grade started learning about Pirkei Avos, mishnah 1 and 2. We discussed about having a pleasant and welcoming face when greeting people. We also learned about being *dan l'kaf zechus* (judging favorably), and not jumping to conclusions. In Mishnah 2, we learned about not getting angry easily, and treating friends with *kavod* (respect). We discussed the importance of appreciating what others do for us, and expressing gratitude. Every act of kindness is a mitzvah, and a mitzvah helps add a brick to the Beis HaMikdash, may it be re-built speedily and in our days!

- Miss Christina's K-1

Our theme is Spring. K-1 kicked off National Poetry month by completing ice cream flavor alliteration poems! We also enjoyed creating name acrostic poems as well. K-1 students were bursting with creativity and figured how to engineer and design tissue paper kites using straws, masking tape, yarn, and tissue paper! Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22, 2023, and level 1 created a writing project on ways in which we can help the Earth. In addition, both K-1 accepted the math challenge to begin "writing" their numbers up to 1,000! Within the next upcoming weeks, check out our progress and watch us soar to infinite heights!

## • Mrs. Belluzzi's 2-6

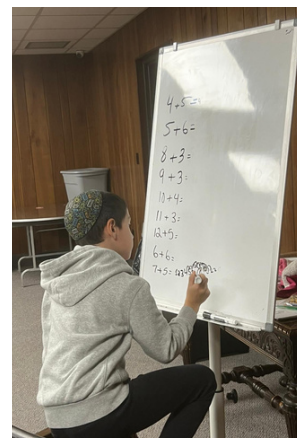
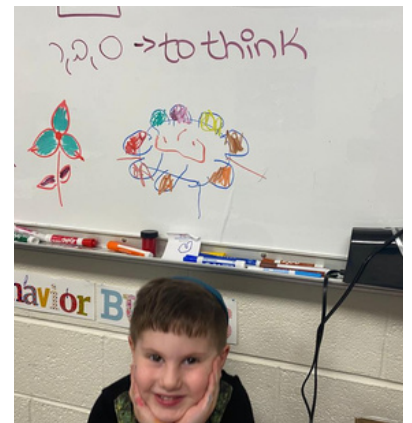
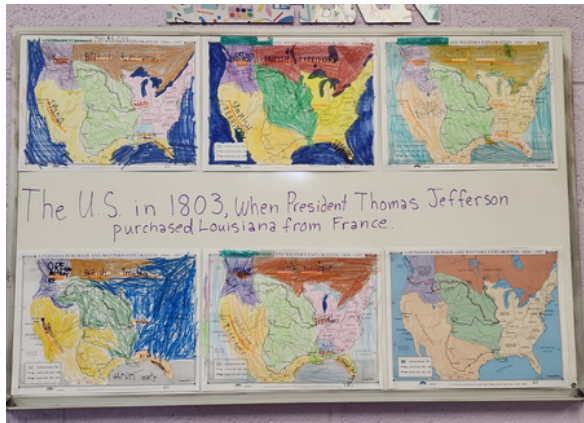
Exciting things are happening in Mrs. Belluzzi's social studies and language arts classes! Levels 3 and 4 have been studying the differences between the early United States and our nation today. Our learning focus of the week was the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, during Thomas Jefferson's Presidency. We compared and contrasted the United States of 1803 versus the United States of today, paying particular care to land acquisition, immigration, and population growth.

This week in Mrs. Belluzzi's reading class, students worked on the 'buddy sounds' EY as in "key", WR as in "wrench" and UI as in "fruit." Students also learned about the apostrophe and how it replaces letters and joins words together.

Middle school students began a new unit in language arts; the study of folktales, fables, and myths. What universal themes and symbols can be spotted across various world cultures within these interesting stories? Students read and discussed the opening excerpt from A Single Shard, a Korean folktale adapted by Linda Sue Park. In social studies, we continued our studies of American history. Who were the 'Breaker Boys'? What would life be like in the U.S. if child labor laws hadn't been put into place?

## • Pre-K Classroom

This week in PreK, our theme was Safe Hands. We read books, did activities, and discussed different ways we can use our hands safely. We collaborated as a team to create a beautiful Har Sinai bulletin board, where we attach a new flower every day as we continue our Sefirat Haomer count for Shavuot. The children enjoyed decorating and cutting the flowers, painting the Har Sinai Mountain, and the best davener of the day gets to add that days flower! We also started learning the story of Rebbi Akiva, a simple shepherd boy who didn't even know the Aleph Beis. Our PreK friends were so proud to sing the Aleph Beis song to our Rebbi Akiva puppet to show how well they know their Aleph Beis! We got to enjoy some sensory play with cotton balls, loving the texture, ripping it, squishing it, rolling it around, and ultimately decorating our sheep pictures with it. Using safe hands was incorporated throughout the week, and the children are really enjoying coming up with new ways to use our hands safely, like a group trip to the sinks to wash our hands because safe hands means using our hands to take care of our own bodies too.





## Parsha Questions

1. What is the main topic of Parshas Tazria?
2. What is the main topic of Parshas Metzora?
3. What is one reason that some might get *tzara'as*?
4. What does *tzara'as* look like?
5. What happens once spots are seen?
6. What is the process of *taharah* (purification)?
7. What is a famous example of *Lashon Hara* in the Torah?

## Parsha Answers

1. Tazria discusses the different types of *tzara'as*.
2. Metzora discusses the process of *taharah* (purification) from *tzara'as*.
3. By speaking *Lashon Hara*.
4. White spots - they can be on clothing, house or body
5. Once the Kohen judges that it is in fact *tzara'as*, the person has to leave the *Machaneh Yisrael* area for a week; no one can speak to or come near them. The person had to reflect on his actions and do *teshuvah*; after a week the Kohen will come check to see if the *tzara'as* has healed; if so the person begins the process of *taharah* (purification). If it has not healed, the person must wait another week and check again.
6. The person has to clean his clothing and remove all hair from body. Additionally, two birds are brought by the Kohen, to represent that a person who speaks *Lashon Hara* is like a bird that chirps and chirps. One of the birds is slaughtered and blood is put into the water that the Kohen brought, and then the mixture is sprinkled 7 times on the back of the hands of the person.
7. Miriam spoke about Moshe (Bamidbar 11).

# Student Interviews

- *Held by Anita Vogel, Interviewee: Henny Meijers*

1. What is your favorite class and why? Mrs. Belluzzi because whenever we finish early she lets us do fun stuff.
2. What is your favorite thing to do in your free time? Play with my sisters
3. What is your favorite game to play at school? Sharks and Minnos
4. What is your favorite snack? Chili Lime Chips
5. If you could be in any teacher's class that you aren't already, who's would it be? Miss Christina's.
6. Any further comments? I can't believe this is happening

- *Held by Morah Miriam, Interviewee: Abe Itzkowitz*

1. What was your favorite part of the Seders? Eating Karpas
2. What is something fun that you did over Pesach? Buy toys
3. What toys did you buy on Pesch? A shark and a garbage truck and a house
4. What was your favorite Pesach food? Eating the potato in the salt water
5. What is your favorite Chag? Chanukah is my favorite.
6. What do you like about Beth Shalom Academy? Getting interviewed at school like I am right now, and gym class, and the music festival and all the things in school.

## Teacher Interview with Dr. Small

- *Held by Sara Aliza Grossman*

1. What is your name? Dr. Small
2. Do you enjoy teaching here at BSA? So far so good! Everyone has been very nice!
3. What do you teach here? Chemistry
4. What are your favorite hobbies? I am in two choirs. One is at my church.
5. What is your favorite color? blue
6. What got you interested in chemistry? I would see something like a yellow liquid and I would ponder, "what makes it yellow? , what it is called and what it is used for?". So I opened up some books and learned about things like this yellow liquid and that got me interested in learning more about chemicals and the substances of chemistry.

All my thanks, Dr. Small!

Sara Aliza Grossman



# Announcements

- Please join us this Wednesday, April 26th, for a night of blue and white, celebrating Israel. It is a very special family friendly event being held at the Scranton JCC. All BSA families are invited for free if signed up using the code Israel 75!
- The Scranton JCC will be celebrating Israel's 75th birthday all week. On Sunday, April 30th, there is another exciting event with author and educator Benji Lovitt. RSVP required.
- Save the date for Lag Ba'Omer on Tuesday, May 9th. We are in the midst of some exciting plans.

## Wishing a Refuah Sheleimah

Wishing a *refuah sheleimah* to our beloved friend Rika Schaffer. Our students created get well cards and painted rocks this week.





# Davener of the Week

Congratulations Nina!



# Students of the week

Congratulations Eliana and Elisha!



**Wishing everyone a good Shabbos  
and a relaxing weekend!**

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