

# Beth Shalom Academy

## Newsletter



### TAKE A PEEK AT OUR WEEK \*Expanded\* PESACH EDITION

י' ניסן פרשת צב תשפ"ג | March 31, 2023

## Matzah Bakery

In preparation for Pesach, our students created matzah bakeries with Rebbe!







# Show and Tell

Once again, our students had some really cool things to share with us this week!







# Women in Tanach

At BSA, we were honored to have Rebbetzin Judith Hecht come in to teach a new class, "Women in Tanach" to girls 1-6.



# Meals on Wheels

Students brought Pesach gifts to older adults who receive meal plans from the JFS Kosher Meals Program. The students first met up with Maggie LoRusso and then visited Gladys and Jack Suravitz



# Language Arts Learning Games



## Morah Dini's Sheva Brachos

Mazel Tov to Shmily and Dini on their wedding! Our BSA students were very excited to host a Sheva Brachos for them. We played some hilarious games and enjoyed tasty treats!





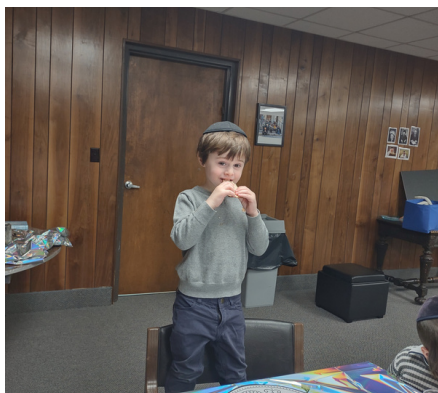
# Shape Building

Check out this cool shape building activity that was enjoyed in our Pre-K room!



# Mock Seder

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes held a "Mock Seder," preparing them for their Sedarim next week!



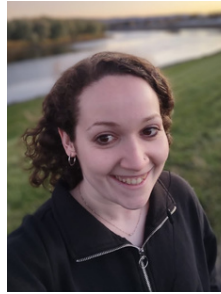
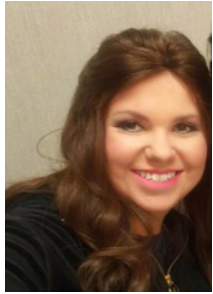








# "Who's Most Likely?" Teachers Edition



- Who is most likely to be punctual?
- Who is most likely to walk off with someone else's pen?
- Who is most likely to own the most pens?
- Who is most likely to always be holding a coffee?
- Who is most likely to be the cleanest?
- Who is most likely to be successful with calming down a student?
- Who is most likely to fall asleep in class?
- Who is most likely to have 20 tabs open at once?
- Who is most likely to be an entertaining mascot?
- Who is most likely to give the perfect interview?
- Who is most likely to always have a snack available?
- Who is most likely to own a unicorn onesie?
- Who is most likely to eat chips with a fork?

# "Who's Most Likely?" Students Edition

- Who is most likely to be a snacker?
- Who is most likely to be very talkative?
- Who is most likely to tell a joke in the middle of class?
- Who is most likely to become president?
- Who is most likely to become a comedian?
- Who is most likely to go a whole day without talking?
- Who is most likely to play a prank on a teacher?
- Who is most likely to become a famous figure skater?
- Who is most likely to become a teacher one day?
- Who is most likely to fall asleep in class?
- Who is most likely to own to own 100 stuffed animals?
- Who is most likely to share all of their snacks?







# Teacher Interview 1/2

Mr. Ari Leiter

- **What is your position here at BSA?** Director of Student Affairs, but I am here to help facilitate a happy and safe environment for students and staff who want to come everyday and grow, educationally and intellectually, and be happy productive members of society.
- **Do you teach in the classroom?** Yes, I teach Ivrit and Math, and sub when needed to help facilitate continuity in education to the students. I see that at BSA, the kids want to learn and they are happy to be there, and it is not a rigid environment ,which is so exciting on a daily basis.
- **What is it like being back in Scranton where you grew up?** It's surreal. It's strange in a way and great in a way. One of my siblings, Dov, actually had his wedding in Beth Shalom. His Chosson's Tish was in the library and the wedding was upstairs in the shul, and the reception in the social hall. It will be 35 years this Memorial Day Weekend. I also used to *leyn* at Beth Shalom for years, and just being there on a daily basis is a weird experience. Just driving though Scranton brings up a lot of memories. It's also so amazing to be back and see Dr. Ackerman teaching. He was the first math teacher that explained things so clearly to me, and I love sitting in on his classes. He is top notch and BSA is lucky to have him.
- **What makes a great teacher?** Wanting to improve yourself, and by the same token, wanting to improve students and have happy children. They should want to get up and learn something new each day, even if it is just one thing that they didn't know yesterday. It's not so much how much you teach, but that your students are happy learning. Someone once said to me years ago at work, "Leiter, you're always smiling," and I said "Well, the alternative is to not smile or cry, and that's no fun." To sum it up, a good teacher enables and facilitates a student to grow and thrive.
- **What do you like most about teaching?** Enabling and facilitating the children being happy and through happiness, they can be productive members of society.





# Teacher Interview 2/2

Mr. Ari Leiter

- **What is a memory that sticks out in your years of education?** A few years ago, I was outside of Quick Check, and this man came up to me and said, "Do you remember me?" I said, "No." He said, "I'm Michael King." He was in my first class and it must have been 20 years later, and he remembered me. I only had him for homeroom and never taught him a thing, but I must have made an impression on him. It meant a lot to me. Another memory that sticks out is that I had a student who was challenging all year, and when we were getting ready for graduation practice, she said, "Mr., you have great eyes'." It wasn't the compliment about the eyes that meant so much to me but that you can never know what a student is thinking. You never know what an impression you are making on a student on a daily basis, by the way you carry yourself and by the way you react to their behaviors.
- **Can you describe your worst teaching day and something you have learned from it?** I used to get very nervous when we would have observations in the classroom. Then one day I thought, "Why am I nervous? I do what I do everyday and I know it's good, so be it." I felt so much better from that day forward, but it took years to get to that. So it is not really about my worst day, but actually an experience that I thought was bad and then changed my mindset on it.
- **What do you feel is most important for students to take from their learning experiences?** They should be happy and have a sense of accomplishment. Once again, they shouldn't just learn history or math and walk away with just that. They should be able to walk away with a sense of accomplishment. What happens when you accomplish something? You can feel good about yourself and then make others feel good.
- **Can you share with us a funny childhood memory with Dr. Russi Leiter-Itzkowitz?** Russi is my youngest sibling and when my mom was expecting her, I was very excited! I am not an artist, but at the time, I did an art project and I cut out the words "baby." I glued them together and sholacked it, and I couldn't wait for her to be born to give it to her. I guess it comes full circle, with yes, it is weird to be back in Scranton, but also amazing to be able to work with Russi and everyone.



# History of BSA

Beth Shalom Academy was established in the year 2019 by Mr. Asher and Mrs. Mindy Grossman, and Dr. Shmuli and Mrs. Deena Ganz. The first year had six students. Our "OG members" are Mrs. Lex Belluzzi and Miss Sara Grossman. The school was founded with the intention of treating each student as an individual and instill within them a love of learning, and to play to each student's unique strengths. In our first year, the school was hit with the challenge of COVID, and overcame it because there was already such an emphasis on technology.

## Blasts From the Past



## Highlights From This Year





# Mad Libs

## A New Four Questions



On all other nights, we \_\_\_\_\_

VERB

\_\_\_\_\_

FOOD ITEM

On this night, why do we eat only \_\_\_\_\_ matzah?

ADJECTIVE

Answer: To remind us of the haste with which our \_\_\_\_\_, left \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBER, PLURAL PLACE

PLACE

2

On all other nights, we eat all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_. On this night, why only \_\_\_\_\_?

TYPE OF SEASONING

\_\_\_\_\_?

ADJECTIVE & PLURAL NOUN

Answer: To remind us of the time \_\_\_\_\_.

A MEMORY YOU HAVE

3

On all other nights, we do not \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ even once.

VERB

On this night, why do we \_\_\_\_\_ them twice? SAME VERB

PLURAL NOUN

Answer: Some say to remind us of our coming and going from \_\_\_\_\_.

PLACE

4

On all other nights, we \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ and

VERB

ADJECTIVE

sometimes reclining. On this night, why do we all recline?

Answer: To remind us of how \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_.

ADJECTIVE

VERB



# Davener of the Week

Congratulations Motti!



# Students of the week

Congratulations Abe and Zackary



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

CONTACT US:

1025 Vine Street

Scranton, PA 18510

[BethShalomAcademy.com](http://BethShalomAcademy.com)