

Beth Shalom Academy Newsletter



TAKE A PEEK AT OUR WEEK

פרשת משפטים ל' שבט תשפ"ד / February 9, 2024

Yom HaMishpachah

Yom HaMishpachah was quite the success! Families enjoyed a game of trivia and then participated in a Chopped competition. The teams made such delicious desserts, even with the mystery ingredient.



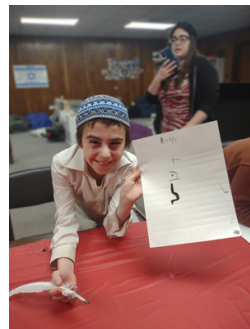
Congratulations to our winning team, Ms. Christina and her girls!





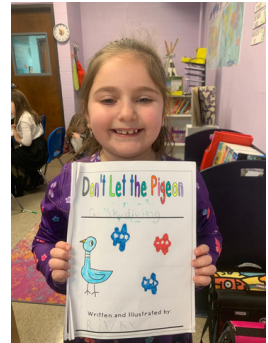
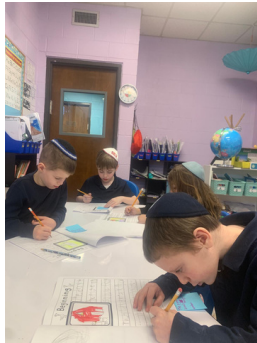
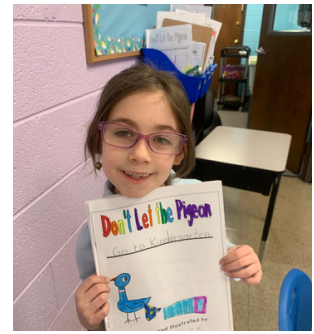
Special Visits from a Sofer

Rabbi Dovid Krautwirth came in for a special presentation. Rabbi Krautwirth explained how a Torah is written. He explained that it usually takes about 9 months to write a Torah. He explained to our students that when a sofer is writing they need to know the exact shape that the letter needs to be, otherwise the words can have a completely different meaning. For example, a sofer needs to be careful when writing the name Yosef because the letter samach and mem sofit look so similar. Similarly with the letters daled and reish. If the wrong letter is written the Torah would be passul. He went into such interesting detail with our students about spacing and how to make corrections if needed. The students then had the chance to feel the sinew used to sew a sofer torah which looks similar to thread. The presentation ended with each student getting to write with an ink and feather, like the Torah is written.



Homebase Learning Levels 1-2

From publishing our stories in writing to learning how to tell time in math, level 1 and level 2 students enjoyed participating in their learning activities throughout the week. Check out this week's snapshots in learning.



Art Class

Check out these amazing artworks created in art class this week through pour painting and other creative ways!



Happy Kindergarten Boys



Bringing History to Life

We brought history to life in Historia class! The 5th/ 6th grade girls engaged in debates as Greeks, Hellenists and Jews, discussing and arguing about their values and culture.



Inventions Club

Interacting with pulley systems with power drills. And then... drill art 🤖



Dance Practice



Smiles for Miles



Middos Presentation

On Tuesday, Rabbi Sheller from the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation came in to speak to our students about the importance of working hard to achieve our goals, as well as having positive role models. He told our students of his personal journey overcoming challenges. Our students were engaged and inspired, and each shared a personal aspiration that they hope to achieve.



Food Drive

BSA students donated canned goods to the Mae S. Gelb food pantry this week! A special thank you to Naomi and Mrs. Goldstein for joining us!



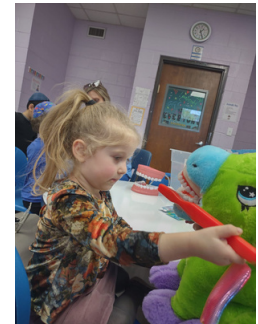
Enjoying the Beautiful Weather



Preschool Division

Visit from the Dentist!

Dental hygienists from Dr. Nancy Willis's office came to visit with our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes this week. They gave an engaging presentation about keeping our teeth and gums healthy. Students had a lot of fun deciding which foods are healthier for our teeth and which are less healthy, and then getting to use the huge toothbrush to practice brushing their teeth.



Toddler Classroom Highlights

This week, the toddler class continued our parsha exploration of receiving the Torah on Har Sinai and the mitzvos that Hashem commanded us. We painted, glued, created edible art, read stories, and did sensory exploration surrounding matan Torah, the torah and its mitzvos. We created a matan Torah bulletin board, our own "Torah," with mitzvos, and our mitzvah notes glued inside, and milk and meat placemats. We also continued learning about the letter aleph in show and tell, and worked on our aleph bes book.



Shabbos Party

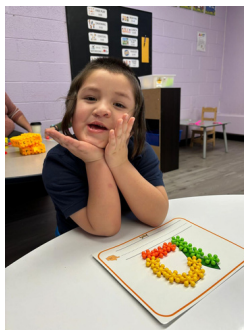


Visit from a Sofer

It was exciting to have Rabbi Daniel Goldstein visit us and show us the components of the Torah- parchment, ink and feather. Rabbi Goldstein also took us up to the shul and showed us a real Torah!



Pre-K Learning



Dvar Torah from Rabbi Edelman

In this week's Parsha, the Torah describes the four categories of watchmen: an unpaid watchman, a borrower, a paid watchman, and a renter.

- An unpaid watchman may absolve himself of liability by taking an oath in all instances of loss, after all he was only doing a favor.
- A borrower must reimburse the owner in all instances of loss, since hee was fully benefiting.
- A paid watchman and a renter may both absolve themselves of liability by taking an oath if the entrusted object or animal is broken or injured, captured, or dies, but they must reimburse the owner if it is lost or stolen. They are benefiting and benefitting the owner.

It is possible to say that the above explanation relates to the spiritual counterpart of the four categories of watchmen in our Divine service. As the Shelah states, "Just as there exist four categories of watchmen in relationships between man and man, so too, there exist four similar categories in the relationship between man and Hashem."

To explain this concept:

As is well known, the existence of the world is dependent on the Jews' observance of the Torah and its mitzvos. Thus, the Jews are "watchmen," as it were, in whose care G-d entrusted His world.

The fundamental purpose of the paid watchman is the service of G-d. He desires to carry out G-d's will and take care of the world for His sake. Nevertheless, he has not reached the level of an unpaid watchman, who serves without the intent of receiving a reward. The paid watchman cannot say that a reward is not important to him. On the contrary, he looks forward to receiving a reward for his Divine service.

By contrast, a renter has a fundamentally different approach. He wants and desires to benefit from the world, to receive all his needs. However, he knows and feels that he is obligated to pay G-d, the Owner of the world, for the benefit he receives. He therefore observes the Torah and its mitzvos.

Dvar Torah from Rabbi Edelman (cont'd)

Nevertheless, although the fundamental definition of a renter is different than that of a paid watchman, they are judged by the same laws. As such, the four categories of watchmen "are governed by only three sets of laws."

Since, ultimately, "the renter" acts in the service of G-d, he is therefore judged as belonging in the category of "servants of G-d," just as a paid watchman, serving Him, albeit not for His sake.

A borrower – is one who derives the entire benefit himself. He benefits from the world, receiving everything he needs, without any payment, i.e., Divine service, on his part.

We have been commanded, "A person should always engage in the Torah and its mitzvos even though it is not for G-d's sake, for through involvement that is not for G-d's sake, he will arrive at involvement for G-d's sake."

Thus, ultimately, everyone – even a borrower, one engaged in the lowest level of service that is not for G-d's sake – will perform Divine service out of love, without any concern for his own self, to the extent that, to quote Rambam, "His soul is bound up in the love of G-d. Thus, he will always be obsessed with this love.... He will abandon everything in the world except for this." And, as Rambam assured in that same text, "Eventually, good will come because of it," i.e., ultimately, G-d will also grant him benefits in this material world.

Have a wonderful and joyful Shabbos-Rosh Chodesh Adar I

Parsha Questions & Answers

1. How many times did each person hear the Torah being taught by Moshe? (4)
2. Whom did Moshe teach the Torah to? (First Ahron, then his sons, then the elders, then all the Jewish people)
3. What is a ger? (Someone who became a Jew but was not originally)
4. How must we treat a ger? (With extra kindness)
5. What is a yasom? (A person whose mother or father passed away)
6. How must we treat a yasom? (With extra kindness)
7. What are some laws for a judge? (Not to accept bribes, be objective).

8. What are we careful not to mix in our kitchens? (Milk and meat)
9. What does Midvar Sheker Tircha mean? (Never tell a lie)
10. Is there a reason given for keeping milk and meat apart? (No, it is a chok which is a mitzvah we do not understand)

BSA Families Trivia

1. Which BSA families have parents that work in healthcare? Ringler, Rowshanshad, Grossman
2. Which BSA families have lived in Israel? Galili, Kehati and Grossman
3. Which BSA students have grandparents that live in Israel? Jaski, Keren, Flesher Kehati, Galili, Bidding, Meijers and Grossman
4. Which BSA families have mom's that grew up in Scranton? Itzkowitz, Binstok, Goldstein
5. Which BSA families have parents as teachers at BSA? Vogel, Polatsek, Gaerman, Silman, Weinberg, Harkavy, Binstok, Jaski, Menachem, Rowshanshad, Flescher, Goldstein
6. Which students have birthdays in Shevat? Ellah, Penina, Hershey, Avi, Ari, Esther Miriam
7. Which BSA families have new babies born this school year? Vogel, Toker, Hecht and Silman
8. What does the element sodium and the Toker children have in common? Sodium is number 11 on the periodic table and the Toker family b''h has 11 children.
9. Which BSA families are new to the school this year? Kehati, Galili, Polatsek, Calvo, Goldstein, Gaerman, Zhelezniak, Kazen, Bidding, Keren, Berele, Shuchat, Ceitlin Weingarten, Posner, Ceitlin and Gelman
10. Which BSA families have grandparents originally from Scranton? Itzkowitz and Weinberg

Welcome

Our BSA family would like to give a warm welcome to Gita Ceitlin!



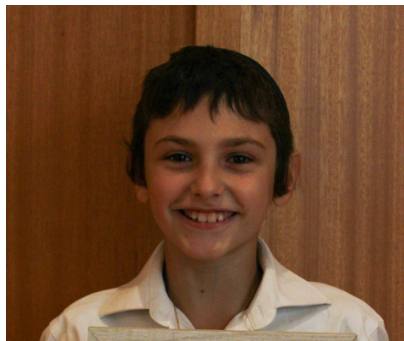
Happy Birthday!

A very happy birthday to Avi Calvo!



Student Shoutout

Dr. Ackerman wanted to compliment Anita and Oren for their exemplary learning in math class this week!





Students of the Week



Malky Sigal's willingness to practice her reading and writing skills is outstanding! She also is a diligent student and great listener too.



Esther Silman is always offering a helping hand. She noticed that a teachers hands were really full when cleaning up after an art class and quickly offered to help.



Yishai was outstanding this week, both with learning, davening, and with his friends.

Wishing everyone a beautiful and relaxing Shabbos!

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