

Beth Shalom Academy





TAKE A PEAK AT OUR WEEK פרשת שמיני כח' ניסן תשפ"ה /2025 April 25th, 2025



Chesed in the Community

This week, our students embraced numerous opportunities for chessed throughout the community, bringing enthusiasm and heart to each experience. In honor of Earth Day, a highlight of the week was cleaning up litter around the shul and throughout the streets of Scranton—an effort to help care for Hashem's world. Students also shared their creativity with residents at Elan Skilled Nursing, creating beautiful artwork together. The week concluded with a return visit to the Memory Café at the JCC, where students provided companionship and meaningful conversation to participants in the program. We're so proud of their dedication to kindness, community, and

Toddler Class

The toddler class enjoyed davening outside in the beautiful weather!















Next week's Lunch Menu

Mon: pizza wheels or crispy pizza rolls, fries and spicy fries, fresh vegetables and fruit

Tue: baked ziti, plain pasta, fresh vegetables and fruit Wed: baked Schnitzel, rice, fresh vegetables and fruit Thu: falafel, pitas, onion rings, Israeli salad, hummus, techina, soup, fresh vegetables and fruit

Yom HaShoah

In honor of Yom HaShoah, our older students lit candles in remembrance of the lives lost during the Holocaust. Each candle represented an individual — a life with hopes, dreams, and identity before they became a victim. As they lit the candles, students reflected on these stories and took time to discuss the importance of remembrance and their role in preserving collective memory. Special thank you to Mindy and Asher Grossman for sponsoring this important and meaningful event.

We were honored to have Mrs. Soni Sandhaus come in to speak with our 8–12 grade students to share what it is like to be a child of a Holocaust survivor. She spoke about the lasting affects of being a child of a holocaust survivor. She explained that trauma lives on in survivors and as a child of a survivor has a fear of crowds and getting on trains. That inspired conversation from a student who spoke about how her grandmother doesn't waste any food and her father as well as herself have carried that on. They have done studies on blood levels of cortisone which is a stress hormone and it shows that it is raised in children of holocaust survivors. She spoke about the strength of the mothers during the holocaust and how they wanted so badly to save their babies and the Nazis just did not have the same kindness you would expect from humanity. She showed the girls quite a unique thing she has which is a necklace of the number her mother had on her arm as a recognition and memory for her parents. Those numbers serve as a number of resilience and that the Jewish people will never be exterminated. She shared that we are one nation and an important message is to turn around the hate into living as a happy Jew.





















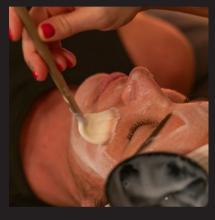




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Art

Our young artists have been busy bringing their imagination to life through a variety of vibrant and meaningful projects. Preschool students bloomed with creativity as they transformed brightly colored paper into stunning flowers, petal by petal. First and second–grade girls followed suit, crafting one–of–a–kind vases to display their beautiful paper blooms. In another burst of artistic energy, first–grade students explored a new technique by layering paint sticks to create majestic Har Sinai landscapes, complete with carefully placed Torahs, crowns, and sparkling flower gems. Meanwhile, the first–grade boys were thrilled to see their broken toy sculptures transformed into extraordinary works of art after receiving a final touch of gold spray paint—truly phenomenal results!

Our 6th and 7th grade artists have been creating spray painted masterpieces and our high school artists are at it again with their creative talents!



Art



Toddler Learning

Practicing our א-ב and enjoying outdoors with bubbles. We also learned all about bugs and kosher and non kosher animals!









Brachos on Fruit Trees

When one sees blossoming fruit trees for the first time during the month of Nissan, it is a mitzvah to say a blessing. Students went to make a bracha on the blossoms on the Apple Tree at the Fink's home this week.







Schlissel Challah

Students baked Shlissel challah in their culinary class and Kindergarten class this week, a common tradition on the first shabbos after Pesach.







Johnson College

The Highschool went to Johnson College this week. It was an eye opening and exciting for students and administrator alike. We all learned about the newest technology in robotics and the latest innovations in biomedical equipment. The visit to Johnson was captivating from beginning to end.











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Preschool Learning

In preparation for our science/art fair, we began learning about Leonardo da Vinci, his famous artwork the 'Mona Lisa' and how he studied science, specifically the concept of mirror image -he even wrote his ideas backwards in his notebooks so nobody would read it! We explored this concept by painting half a butterfly, folding the paper, and watching the patterns match up!

In addition, Morah printed everyone's names in mirror image and each child was able to look at their name with a mirror, it was pretty fun \odot We did a science experiment where we drew an arrow on a paper and put it behind a pitcher of water and watched the direction of the arrow reverse! So awesome!





















WINE OF THE WEEK

Mount Hermon - Red \$13 Red - Dry Blend, 14% Red & black fruit notes, hints of herbs, earth, orange peel & spice. Medium body, flavorful & complex. "Smells and tastes like the best of Pesach". Israel Not Moushal

Dalton Canaan - Red

\$14

Red - Dry
Blend, 13.5%
Easy drinking, sweet fruit, notes of black pepper, cherries, plums, & soft vanilla tones.
Israel
Mercuhal



Galil Mountain Bar - Cabernet Sauvignon

516
Red - Dry
Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5%
Full-bodiled wine with concentrated berry and plum notes
layered with a hint of herbs
Israel
Not Mevushal





SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Celebrate Israel Parade! March with the Jewish Federation of NEPA down Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, enjoy NYC, and grab a bite to eat and shop in Teaneck, New Jersey!

\$15 PER PERSON INCLUDES:

Round-trip bus transportation to NYC from Scranton & the Poconos

Parade Day T-Shirt





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Monday

-Elan Gardens Chesed Trip

Tuesday

-Career Talk: Nell Donnelly O'Boyle (Broker/Owner of Dell Real Estate) - 9th boys Swim

Wednesday\ Thursday

-Visit from State Senator Marty Flynn at 10:00am -Yom Hazikaron/ Yom Haatzmaut Luncheon with guest speakers at 12:00: Open to the Community

Good Shabbos!

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From the Desk of Our Principal: Dr. Itzkowitz

Wow! What a busy week! This week, we also observed Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day—a day heavy with memory, pain, and resilience. We lit candles to remember those who perished. And one of our students said something so striking:
"Imagine if we lit six million candles!."

That line has stayed with me. The sheer weight of what was lost—entire families, entire communities—snuffed out. And yet, even among the darkness, there are moments of miraculous survival.

My father was on the very last train out of Vienna. As he sat there with his sister, terrified and uncertain, Nazi officers walked up and down the aisles, pulling people off the train. One officer stopped in front of my father, looked at him—really looked at him—then shrugged and kept walking. Perhaps it was because of my father's blonde hair and blue eyes. Perhaps it was his sister's fair complexion. We don't know why they were spared, but we do know Who was watching over them.

Who are we to understand Hashem's plan? All we can do is trust that everything is for a reason. I often think: what if the officer had made a different choice? What if my father had been taken off that train? The truth is, I would not be standing here today. There would be no children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren. But because he stayed on that train—because of that one moment of divine mercy—so much life was given the chance to grow.

When we learn Parshat Metzora, when we talk about being cast out and coming back, we remember that healing is possible. And when we observe Yom HaShoah, we remember that from the ashes, we rise. Each of us carries within us the light of those who came before—those who survived, and those who did not. We must never forget.

So let us live in a way that honors their memory. Let us speak with kindness, act with purpose, and never forget what was—and what could have been lost. And let us say thank You, every single day, for the miracles—both big and small—that shape our lives.

Gut Shabbos





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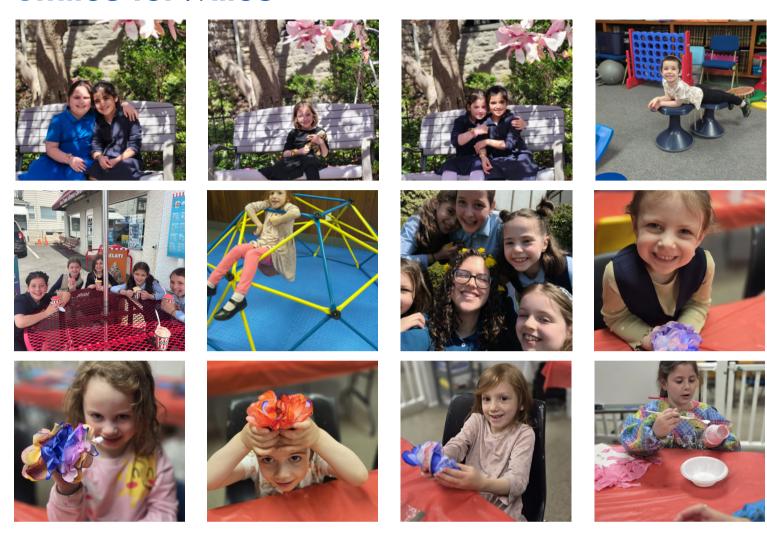
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Smiles for Miles



Thank you!



In memory of the Grandmother of the Wolf children on the 2nd Yartzeit of Bubby Rochel (Rhona Wolf) bas Golda Liba and Yekusiel Yehudah (Deutsch) a water table was donated to the preschool class. A huge thank you for this special donation!

Happy Birthday



So many special birthdays have been happening at BSA this month. We wanted to wish Rena Calvo, Riva Brusowankin, Chyena Vogel, Dovid Weingarten, Sheva Toker and Morah Channy

Job Well Done



While on their trip for a Rita's reward for their davening over Pesach break, the 3rd grade girls made such a kiddush hashem and continuously used polite words such as please and thank you!

Students of the Week

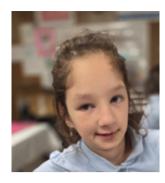




Rivka has been nominated for always helping with setting up tablecloths and chairs at lunch. Way to go Rivka!



Sara was extremely respectful and attentive in her classes this week. Way to go Sara!



Chaya has been present and working hard in her classes this week. Way to go Chaya!



Zachary has been behaving so nicely with his peers and listened when asked to do something. Way to go Zachary!

Daveners of the Week



Mazal Tov Tehila!



Mazal Tov Lani!



Mazal Tov Rochel!



Mazal Tov Rochel!



Honorable mention for davening in Hs this week : Rosa Hershop , Rena Calvo, and Goldie Wolf

Wishing Everyone a Relaxing and Enjoyable Shabbos!

CONTACT US: 1025 Vine Street Scranton, PA 18510 BethShalomAcademy.com