



TAKE A PEAK AT OUR WEEK

יד' סיון / פרשת נשא תשפ"ו / May 29th, 2026



Arts Festival Learning

In honor of the Arts Festival, students have been learning about the artist Frida Kahlo and her love of florals. Morah Michelle brought in a special dance outfit from her childhood, along with her father's traditional shirt, and taught the students a bit about Mexican culture. Students took turns dressing up and taking photos for a special project inspired by Frida Kahlo, who grew up in Mexico, and her vibrant floral artwork. In addition, students completed their beautiful flower vases for the Arts Festival. Our older grades have also been working on their Poetry in Bloom display, earth science posters, and their "Mapping My Life Through Tree Rings" projects.

Out in the Community

In our short week, we still made time for meaningful moments out in the community doing chesed. On Tuesday, students visited residents at Elan Skilled and looked for a veteran who spoke at our Veterans Day event a few years back. We wrapped up the week by baking delicious cookies to deliver to residents next week.



Arts Festival Learning



Happy Birthday

We began our week with a first birthday celebration for Miss Racheli Ziskind! Everyone celebrated with some very tasty cake.

Later in the week, the older boys planned a meaningful surprise birthday party for Rabbi Hecht. It was very thoughtful and truly appreciated. May we celebrate many happy occasions together!



ANNUAL AUCTION



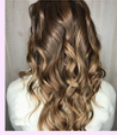
DRAWING JUNE 7

\$5 Prizes

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS



25% off Photography session by Raizel Harkavy



Wash and set by Chani Tokor



25% off Graphics by Nechama



\$25 to Yeshiva Co-Op



High heels collectables



Vera Wang picture frame

\$100
1 TICKET IN EACH PRIZE



Scan to purchase

ANNUAL AUCTION



DRAWING JUNE 7

\$10 Prizes

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS



\$100 Amazon gift card



3 months of The Loop



Sourdough & fresh bouquet



Two winners
50% off one year of Chayenu



Two winners
1 Yoga class with Channah Forster



1 Hour of interior design by Sara Klar



Art piece by Rochel Horowitz



Custom cake by Pearla Schwartz

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Field Trip Fun

Our students left PNC Field in Moosic with big smiles after appearing on the jumbotron, scoring signed baseballs, and exploring hands-on STEM tables. Other students enjoyed a fun-filled day at the park making new friends, splashing through sprinkler fun at the Itzkowitz's, and taking part in a fast-paced outing at Skirmish Paintball. What an incredible series of trips!



Field Trip Fun...



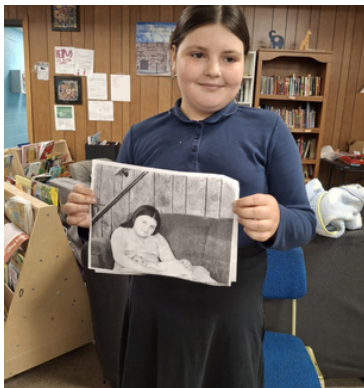
Our Annual Fundraiser

BSA families gathered together on Monday for a call center, kicking off our annual fundraising campaign. What a fun night it was having everyone build up their teams and raise funds together.



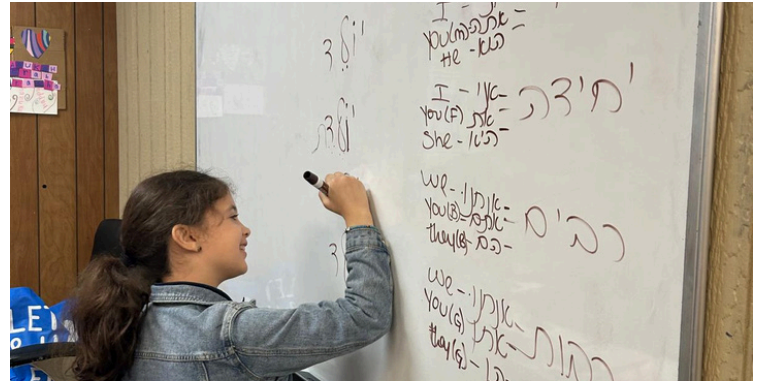
Show and Tell

Students had a lot of fun with their show-and-tell on Tuesday, bringing in both sentimental and silly items to share with their classmates.



Take a Peek at our Week

Learning in our 2nd–4th grade classes has been great this week. The 2nd and 3rd graders enjoyed a brand-new math computer game, while the 4th graders have been working beautifully on learning verb tenses in Hebrew.



Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes learned all about birchas kohanim from this weeks parsha.



In Rabbi Kurtzers class the students celebrated a siyum for completing Megillas Rus.



Early Learning at BSA



Kindergarten

Kindergarten made cool clay creations.



Pre-K

Pre-K learned the letter "G" this week.



Toddlers

The toddlers had a fun-filled week; check out the brachos projects they've been working on!



Baby Room

Happy 1st Birthday to Rachelli!



Smiles for Miles



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From the Desk of our Principal: Dr. Leiter-Itzkowitz

Almost every year, the parasha of Naso is read on the Shabbos immediately following Shavuos. This is fitting, because after celebrating the giving of the Torah at Har Sinai, we are presented with the longest parashah in the Torah. Perhaps there is a subtle message here: no amount of Torah should ever feel too long for us to hear, study, and internalize.

Yet, despite its length, much of Parashas Naso is actually repetition. The Torah records the offerings brought by each of the twelve Nesiim, the leaders of the tribes, at the dedication of the Mishkan. Remarkably, each leader brought the exact same offering, and yet the Torah repeats every detail twelve separate times.

The Midrash points to an often-overlooked hero in this story: Nesanel ben Tzuar of the tribe of Yissachar, who brought his offering on the second day. After Nachshon ben Aminadav of Yehudah brought the first offering, all eyes were on Nesanel. Would he try to outdo his predecessor? Would he bring something grander or more impressive? Nesanel understood that if he attempted to surpass the first day's offering, the next leader would feel pressured to do the same, and the competition would continue. Instead, he chose to bring the identical offering, affirming that this was not about personal glory but about serving Hashem.

There is a powerful lesson here for all of us. We live in a world that constantly encourages comparison. Whether in our careers, our homes, our simchos, or even our children's accomplishments, it is easy to become preoccupied with what others are doing and whether we measure up. Too often, people feel compelled to spend beyond their means or make decisions based on appearances rather than values.

At the same time, this is a delicate balance. Not all competition is negative. I remember a story that Dr. Ackerman told me many years ago. What many of our students may not realize is that Dr. Ackerman was actually my math teacher over thirty years ago. He once shared with me that he ultimately pursued a PhD in mathematics because he was motivated by another student in his class with whom he regularly competed. That competition pushed him to work harder, achieve more, and discover abilities within himself that might otherwise have remained dormant. In that case, peer pressure became a force for growth.

In fact, I often tell our students that peer pressure is not always something to avoid. Sometimes we can use it to our advantage. When we see others learning, giving, helping, or striving for excellence, it can inspire us to become better ourselves. The question is not whether we are influenced by those around us, but what direction that influence takes us.

I remember when I first moved back to Scranton, there was a running joke that people here did not try to outdo one another with bigger houses or fancier cars. Instead, the "competition" was over how many meals one could bring to a family after the birth of a child or during a time of need. That is the kind of competition our community should embrace, a competition in kindness, generosity, and caring for one another.

Perhaps that is the deeper lesson of the Nesiim. They were not competing for honor or recognition. They understood that true greatness is not measured by standing above someone else, but by contributing meaningfully to the mission that Hashem has given us. There is a time to resist the urge to outdo others, and there is a time to allow the positive example of others to inspire us to greater heights.

As we continue to reflect on the inspiration of Shavuos and our renewed acceptance of the Torah, may we merit to focus less on comparisons and more on purpose, less on status and more on service, and may we use the influence of those around us to help us grow into the people Hashem wants us to become.

Good Shabbos!

Parsha Questions

1. Who carried the Mishkan when Bnei Yisroel were traveling in the desert?
2. What does the word "Sotah" mean?
3. "Sotah" can also be pronounced as "Shotah" which means _____
4. What three things are a Nazir not allowed to do?
5. Who gives a special Brocha to everyone in Bnei Yisroel on Yom Tov?
6. What Minhag do many Sephardim and communities in Israel have regarding Birchas Kohanim? (hint: how often do they give the Brocha)
7. When we say Birchas Kohanim, why do children go under a tallis?
8. What did the Nesi'im contribute to the Mishkan?

Parsha Answers

1. Kehas son of Levi
2. Someone who "turned away" from the proper Torah path
3. a foolish person
4. Cannot drink wine, cannot cut his/her hair, cannot be around a dead body- even if it is a close family member
5. The Kohanim
6. They do Birchas Kohanim daily
7. Because the Kohanim hold their fingers in a sacred way, so that Hashem's presence can look through.
8. Wagons to transport boards and materials

Featured Student



My name is Akiva, and I am in 2nd grade. Before moving to Kingston, I lived in New York. My family moved here because we love the greenery. One thing that made me feel welcome at BSA was my friends. My favorite thing about BSA is that they have great rewards and prizes, and my favorite class is math because it's fun. At BSA, I am learning how to write, and outside of school I love to play. A talent people may not know I have is making my own games. My favorite BSA memory so far is when my mom was my Morah. The person who inspires me most at school is Mr. Matt because he teaches math and gives awesome Pokémon cards. This year, I am especially proud of myself. If I could have any superpower, it would be to live forever, and if I were principal for a day, I would make the teachers students and the students teachers. My favorite snack is noodle soup. Three words that describe me are "Boruch," "Akiva," and "Vogel." If you see me at school, ask me about myself!



Week Ahead

Monday: Siyum Trip to Bagel Bar with the 5th grade boys and Rabbi Kurtzer/ Ksiva Siyum with the 1st and 2nd grade with Mrs. Smith/ Elan Gardens Trip for 5th and 6th girls/ Graduation pictures for the seniors

Tuesday: Bingo at Elan Skilled for the 7th and 8th girls

Wednesday: Arts and Crafts at Elan Skilled for the 4th girls

Thursday:

Friday: Shabbos Party for all!

Scholarship Award

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027



FIRST PLACE WINNERS (\$2,500):
MALKY SIGAL & CHANI TOKER

SECOND PLACE WINNERS (\$1,000):
LANI ITZKOWITZ & VITA POSNER

THIRD PLACE WINNERS (\$770):
BENNY WOLF & YAACOV
SILVERMAN



Daveners of the Week



Mazal Tov Vita!



Mazal Tov Chana!

Students of the Week



Rivka is always such a helper and willing to step up in any scenario. She's been extremely helpful to the teachers during lunch. She is also first to greet others with a smile.



Benny has been participating nicely. He has also been excelling in his learning. His positive attitude and genuine willingness to learn makes him a great example to those around him.



Ayala has a willingness to help others and has a dependable, caring presence each day. She is always there in the morning, greeting everyone with a warm smile and opening the door with such positivity.



Zevy had a calm temperament this week that helped him stay focused on the learning and fun in school and created a positive environment for all.



Leibel demonstrates a positive attitude and a willingness to put in effort even when challenges arise.



Avi was a great help to Mr. Sakson this week with the computers and had an overall great attitude.



Chaya was a great listener and enjoyed helping her friends in the classroom. She did an excellent job sharing her toys with others and showed kindness to everyone around her.



Wishing Everyone a Relaxing and Enjoyable Shabbos!

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