



KOL TORAH

A Caskey Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia Publication

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This weekly publication is emailed to all of our subscribers. The newsletter recaps the week's events at Caskey Torah Academy and informs readers of upcoming programs and events. A printed copy is sent home on Fridays to each CTA family. Happy reading and have a Good Shabbos!

Candle Lighting 6:49 PM

24 Elul 5777/September 15, 2017

This week's Kol Torah is generously sponsored by

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Wishing everyone a Good Shabbos!

If you would like to sponsor an issue of Kol Torah in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Rachel Mazurek at rmazurek@taphila.org.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



MAZAL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Yaakov Selengut on the marriage of their daughter, Leeba to Nesanel Biberfeld!

To the Dyen and Seasholtz Families on Eliana's Bat Mitzvah!

To Margelit and Shmuel Hoffman and Family on the birth of a baby girl!



To Joanna and Frederic Brown and Family on Aryeh's Bar Mitzvah!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Life is very short on "black and white" situations.

We all deal with shades of gray on a daily basis. Many of us spend our entire professional careers interpreting, processing and dealing with ambiguity (those lucky accountants!).

Yet in this week's parsha, Moshe makes an astounding statement regarding teshuvah and personal growth:

כִּי־קָרֹב אֵלַיךְ הַדְבָר מֵאֵד... לְעִשְׂתּוֹ

"The matter is exceedingly close [simple] to you to accomplish"

Maybe for Moshe, but I know that I have an extremely difficult time changing my habits and following a path of growth. Surely the existence of so many volumes of *mussar* (Jewish ethical) works attest to that difficulty! If it were so simple, our libraries would be a whole lot smaller!

The Chidushei HaRim presents a very penetrating insight into human nature in his answer to this question. He explains that any matter is simple once you have the emotional desire to accomplish it. It would follow then, that all of our efforts in personal growth are really there just to stimulate our desire. Once we truly want to change, the steps that follow are simple. Impediments are circumvented. Conflicts are easily moderated. Solutions to "big problems" come easily. Once the real, sincere desire to grow is present, nothing can stand in our way. Our real challenge then, is that we have to get past ourselves.

This speaks to *self-awareness*, one of the five key components of Emotional Intelligence. Knowing why some things are challenges for ourselves is even more important than knowing how to overcome them. Knowing that something is hard, yet worthwhile, speaks to grit and resilience, the essence of our never-ending pursuit to grow. This is the very essence of *teshuvah* and is often lost in our preparations for *Yom HaDin* (Day of Judgment). We tend to focus on the guilt and immediate urgency of judgment and not on what lies underneath - our own attitude and motivation.

It has been an exhilarating school opening at Caskey Torah Academy! From Back to School Night to Chodesh Elul plays, our families and students are fully engaged and the desire to make this year a great success is so apparent. Seeing our parents so open and receptive as we delve further into EQ, enhance our Math and Ivrit curricula, and continue to expand our student programming gives us great encouragement as we head into a new school year filled with growth.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos and a K'siva V'Chasima Tova,

Rabbi Isaac Entin

RABBI ENTIN'S RECOMMENDED READING

To read Rabbi Entin's recommended reading, [CLICK HERE!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday-Sunday, September 20-24: No School, Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 29: Erev Yom Kippur, No School

Wednesday-Sunday, October 4-15: Sukkot, No School

Monday, October 16: School Resumes

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM - 5B LIMUDEI KODESH

Welcome to the 5th grade! 5th grade is an exciting and challenging year. This year, the boys will begin a journey towards receiving their first Gemara. The class begins with an overview of the transmission of, and connection between, the Written Torah and the Oral Torah. From there, the boys will focus on the pesukim and mishnayos upon which the Gemara they will be learning is based. Finally, after much learning, the class will receive their first Gemara at the Philadelphia Yeshiva from Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, Shlita! They will celebrate with a week full of activities and speakers. There is no greater anticipation and excitement than when the boys are handed their Gemara from the Rosh Yeshiva and get their picture taken with him. This is only surpassed by the boys then going into the Yeshiva's beis medrash to start their lifelong journey of studying Gemara.



Additionally, over the course of the year, the boys will focus on building their skills in Chumash. The class will focus on analyzing verbs and how to think critically. We will focus on verb structures and conjugations, along with some of the rules of grammar that are found primarily in the study of Tanach.

But don't worry- 5th grade is not all work and no play. There are numerous projects and activities that come with all of the hard work, but you will have to wait and find out about those in future Kol Torahs, as I do not want to ruin the surprise for this year's boys.

Have a good Shabbos.

Rabbi Silver

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome Back!

I hope you had a wonderful and productive summer! In physical education

class this week, the students' focus will be on getting their physical bodies in motion for the seasons that lie ahead. First up, the fitness challenge. Students in grades 5-8 will be tested in a variety of strength areas such as: timed push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, shuttle run, etc. They will also be tested in the area of cardiovascular strength.



In the lower school, the focus will be on flexibility and cardiovascular endurance training such as: sprints, jogging, lateral movement exercises (obstacle courses) and a variety of tag games which I know they will enjoy!



This year, the theme is Grit & Resilience! Students as young as Kindergarteners will learn this essential life skill through repetitive language as well as guidance.

As always, it is both a blessing and a pleasure to teach mental, physical and emotional well-being to your Kinderlach! Thank you for the opportunity.

Good Shabbos,

Coach Kenny

CHODESH ELUL INITIATIVE



CTA is preparing for the Yamim Noraim and you can feel it in the air. From the sound of the Shofar at morning assembly, to the pictures and projects lining the halls, you can tell that the King (Hashem) is coming closer!

In a school-wide effort to be more aware of Hashem's presence in our everyday lives, we have taken on a new Tefillah initiative. All students in grades 1 through 8 have been "Tefillah Journaling" right before, or after, daily Tefillah; each child writing down one thing to thank Hashem for that day, and one thing to request from Hashem. We are working on "Making the Connection" between ourselves and our Father, our King, and the colorful little notebooks are really helping us focus. While the journaling project will only continue until Yom Kippur, it will serve as a springboard for our school-wide emphasis on Tefillah this year.

May all of our Tefillot be answered speedily, for the good!

Mrs. Gore

ECP SPOTLIGHT

A peek into the ECP Classrooms



Morah Alyssa's 3Y learned all about colors and color mixing! They had a great time painting with their feet and mixing the colors together!



Morah Dini's class learned how to walk down the hallway quietly with partners.



Morah Tamar's class balanced on the yellow line in gym.



Morah Nava's 4Y used our kid-safe chef's knives to cut up apples.



Morah Marnie introduced 4Y to her friend "Tolaat," which means worm in Hebrew. Tolaat helped teach the children all about Rosh Hashanah!



Morah Sara's 4Y explored apples by using them as stamps to make apple prints in honor of Rosh Hashanah.



Morah Geula's class counted the seeds of a pomegranate by grouping them into sets of 10 and skip counting. They found 580 seeds!



Mrs. Palmieri's kindergarten class explored magnets during center time.



Morah Miriam's kindergarten class mixed colors in a bag and each child decorated his or her own shofar.

והיה כי יבאו עליך כל הדברים האלה הברכה והקללה
אשר נתתי לפניך ושבת עד ה' אלקיך ל:א

And it will be when these things will come upon you, the blessings and the curses and you will return to Hashem your G-d...

In this week's parsha, Hashem tells us that when the predictions of the Torah come to pass, both "...the blessings and the curses...", we will repent and return to Hashem.



When something bad befalls a person, one tends to think about things. This will cause them to do Teshuva and to return to Hashem. However, when everything is good, people don't think about things. We don't necessarily use the good as a motivation to try and become better. If that is the case, then why does the passuk say **והקללה והברכה** together? It is understandable how **קללה** causes **תשובה** but how does **ברכה** cause **תשובה**. The Ohel Yaakov explains it in the following way. The **ברכה**, the good thing, will not be happening for **כלל ישראל**. Rather, it is happening for the nations of the world. These may be bad for us at times, or we may wonder why Hashem is causing evil governments to succeed. This will cause us to reflect and to try to become closer to Hashem. A lesson that we can learn from this is that everything that happens in the world, happens because of **כלל ישראל** and is intended to get us to serve Hashem better.

Have a good Shabbos!

Zahava Friedman

NAMES NOT NUMBERS

"Names not Numbers" is a program implemented in schools across the country to encourage students to learn about their Jewish identity, begin conversations with Holocaust survivors, and turn young students into documentarians. Our eighth grade students will have the opportunity to interview and create a documentary revolving around survivors' stories. They will learn filming and interviewing skills in sessions with a journalist, study Holocaust history in their social studies class, and learn script writing in their language arts class. In a grand, culminating event which will be open to the whole community, students will present their final documentaries, and a movie will also be shown documenting the students' progress in developing their projects. The final products will also be archived in Yad Vashem.

If you know of a Holocaust survivor who can participate in this program, please email Tanya Libesman at tlibesman@taphila.org.

BULLETIN BOARD OF THE WEEK

Mazal Tov to our first Derech Eretz Raffle winners of the year:
Zach Hirsch, 1st Grade
Nili Obstfeld, 5G

BULLETIN BOARD OF THE WEEK



Host our B'not Sherut for a meal

[Click here](#) to view and sign up for the meal schedule.

TA Text Messaging

Stay informed with important TA information such as emergency announcements, school closings and event reminders.

To opt in - [click here](#)

CTA SNAPSHOTS



[Click Here](#) for the 2017-2018 School Calendar

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