



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 5:41 PM

22 Adar 5778/March 9, 2018

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 mazurek@taphila.org.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

National Association of Independent Schools Head Pat Basset wrote an article that speaks strongly towards developing self-sufficiency in our children.

In school, there's a blessing in letting children wrestle with learning without parental interference. As Stanford researcher and psychologist Carol Dweck documents in her book Mindset: The New Psychology of Success, having a "growth mindset" - one that views failure as an opportunity to work harder or to consider the task at hand more deeply - is one of the greatest assets a child can have. The most dangerous "helicopter" parents are those who want to intercede whenever their child has a setback - argue a poor grade, make excuses for an absence, or, in its worst manifestation, bring an attorney to school to fight a disciplinary action. The lessons students learn from such over-parenting is lifelong dependency: "I'm not capable of fighting my own battles or accepting the consequences for my bad behavior, so thank G-d my parents will rescue me."

This may be why colleges are reporting problematic parents trying to register classes for their children, why workplace employers are reporting parents trying to negotiate their children's first job contracts...

In this week's Parsha, we are commanded: *Do not ignite a fire in any of your residences on the Shabbos day.* The preparation for Shabbos should not begin on Shabbos itself, but rather, it should begin earlier.

The Chasam Sofer interprets this to refer to igniting a spiritual fire to become more elevated on this holy day. One can not stumble into Shabbos and assume that it will immediately be a day of Kedusha and tranquility. Preparation must be made, and a mindset must be put into place.

In much the same way, we can not under or over protect our children and simply assume that all will be well when they get to Middle School, High School, turn 18,

attend Seminary, Yeshiva or College. We must realize that we are teaching lessons for the present, and more importantly for the future.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Isaac Entin

MAZAL TOV

To Sara and Josh Bleier and Family on Joey's Bar Mitzvah!

RABBI ENTIN'S RECOMMENDED READING

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 16: Regular (3:50) Friday Dismissal (No Middle School Bussing)

Wednesday-Sunday, March 28-April 8: Pesach Break

Monday, April 9: Classes Resume

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

The last few months have been busy in science class. Our sixth graders have studied cell parts and chemistry, and are now moving on to bacteria, viruses, and protists. Both classes had a super time plating sample swabs from different locations in the building on agar to see if bacteria and/or fungi would grow. We spoke about the differences between bacteria and viruses and the differences in how they are treated. The importance of helpful bacteria in the environment was also dealt with, and students were surprised at how many foods are made with the assistance of bacteria and mold.

The Seventh and Eighth Graders are now endeavoring to understand the intricacies of organ systems. Students are becoming specialists and presenting units on a specific system, along with running a lab experiment that relates to their subject. Dr. Bleier and Dr. Kupfer, specialists in their own fields, visited classes and piqued students' interest in medicine with detailed explanations and demonstrations relating to their specialties. Students particularly enjoyed using Dr. Bleier's surgical stapler to 'repair' a turkey cutlet. Additionally, students have undertaken a number of modeling projects of various organ systems in order to more fully understand the intricate working of their bodies. We have just begun to explore the vast territory of the nervous system and brain, and look forward to our continued exploration!



Mrs. Appel and Mr. Gilman

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM - 2ND GRADE LIMUDEI KODESH



Our day in the Second Grade Judaic Studies classroom is jam packed with learning and love of תורה. חומש ח, we are so close to completing פרשת לך! Walk into the room on any given day and you will find the students learning with a partner in order to translate and understand blocks of פסוקים by incorporating the skills learned thus far. The students are able to see the many lessons and values that are learned from the

פסוקים.

We began creating our very own הגדות as פסח is quickly sneaking up on us. פסח in the classroom begins by learning the calendar of חודש ניסן. We then dive into the הגדה and learn it inside. The class is so excited and cannot wait to complete it!

In קריאה, we are reviewing and practicing the skills we've learnt and built on, in order to increase our fluency and accuracy in reading. In order to do this, we divide into groups. Each group rotates to different centers that focus on skills in a fun way!

Good Shabbos!
Mrs. Chinksey

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM - 6G HALACHA

The world of Jewish law is so vast, but our class of 6th grade girls are not the least bit intimidated! As we make our way from the excitement of hilchos Purim to the intensity of hilchos Pesach, we are exposed to the Mishna Berura, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, and many other cornerstone books of our heritage.



Over the past few months, the students have explored the halachos of tzedaka, of the different holidays, and - most importantly - of Kibbud Av Va'em! Hold them to it- they know to stand up for you and bring you a drink when you walk into the room!

As we move forward in the last few months of the year, we will be expanding our knowledge by exploring how the mishna makes way for the discussions in the Gemara, and how the Gemara is the blueprint for the halachos that we fulfill today. The girls are motivated and curious, and it is a pleasure to embark on this journey with them!

Have a Good Shabbos!
Mrs. Bauer

STUDENT DVAR TORAH - MEIR RUDENSTEIN

When Quality Not Quantity:

In this week's פרשיות there seems to be a redundancy. משכן and פרשיות ויקהל talk about the detail of the משכן. This is strange because פרשת תרומה talks about the building of the משכן and there is no need to restate it here.

Rashi (35:27) describes a midrash that says that the nesiiim were going to bring everything that the Jewish people didn't donate, but because they underestimated the Jewish people's willingness to give to the mishkan, the only thing left for them to bring were the jewels for the choshen. Although this gift was greater than the other gifts, it was given as a specific task, not just for the sake of a mitzvah. This type of act was not as great as those who gave willingly - that's why people had to donate "asher yidvenu liebo", so it would be a greater action.



In pasuk 40:17 Hashem wants to reward Moshe for erecting the mishkan even though Moshe didn't do it. Hashem is trying to show the same message here as before. Moshe had wanted to help, so he was rewarded as if he had actually built the mishkan. Hashem was showing us that trying to do a mitzvah is what is important, and making it fancy isn't what is important.

From this we can learn that it is better to willingly do a mitzvah than to do a greater mitzvah unwillingly. We can learn that it is important to care about the mitzvos and that they are not something that we should "just do" to be done with.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Spotlight on CTA Studio with Rabbi Schwersenski- Grades 6-8

From Bezalel designing the mishkan, to stained glass scenes depicting stories from the Tanach, to beautiful kiddush cups and mezuzot which adorn people's homes and serve as a form of hiddur mitzvah, art has always had a deep connection to Judaism. Our CTA Studio artists are drawing, sculpting, painting, and delving into mekorot as guidance to create their own Judaic artwork.



Spotlight on "Limudei Code-esh" girls with Morah Elana, boys with Mr. Gilman- Grades 6-8

When posed with the question, "How can we use coding/robotics for uniquely Jewish purposes?", our middle school coders got creative! The students learned how to use the coding interface of their robots, and then they started planning and designing robotic eruv checkers, automatic "shushers" for minyan, and Passover-themed obstacle courses. We can't wait to see, and to share, the students' final projects!



ECP SPOTLIGHT



Morah Tamar's class started learning about Pesach using props. They discovered that there is so much that they already know!



In relation to this week's Parsha, Morah Dini's class kneaded fake challah dough in their sensory center, while learning about Shabbos.



Morah Alyssa's class used props to introduce the Seder plate.



Morah Marnie's class learned about safety on the playground in the snow.



Morah Sara's class continued their unit on Artists. They painted on the ceiling, just like Michelangelo.



Morah Nava used props and songs to teach the words of the Ma Nishtanah.



As one of their afternoon center choices, Mrs. P's class played with board games.



Morah Miriam's class decorated Kiddush cups for their Pesach Seder.

NAMES NOT NUMBERS

After many weeks of studying the atrocities and miracles of the Holocaust, 8th grade students had the incredible privilege and opportunity to interview and video survivors. As a part of the Names, Not Numbers INC©: an interactive, multi-media Holocaust project created by educator Tova Fish-Rosenberg, students learned the best camera angles and interviewing techniques to ensure a meaningful interview and recording of the survivor's Holocaust



experience. The students greeted each survivor with the largest smiles and the deepest respect. The students emerged from the meetings both touched and shaken, but always with the perspective that they are now the better for having met a survivor, knowing full well that they are the last generation who will be able to do so. The students will spend the next few weeks working on video editing to create a joint documentary of everyone's stories.

CHESS TEAM

Congratulations to the Caskey Torah Academy Chess Team for winning second place in the K-9 under 600 Division at the PA State Chess Championships. Members of the team were Yisrael and Moshe Hoffman and Sefi and Chani Runyan.



GUEST SPEAKER

7th and 8th grade students had the privilege of hearing from a representative from HIAS Pennsylvania speak to our students about the ways Pennsylvania contributes to refugee aid. After reading *A Long Walk to Water* in 7th grade, hearing Salva's experience seeking refuge, and learning about the Holocaust in 8th grade, we are internalizing the importance of taking care of our fellow people, and always making those who are different from us feel welcome and at home. One powerful picture Mrs. Buchalter showed us spoke for itself, as it displayed a couple from Sudan, an individual from Myanmar, Sudan, and Uganda, amongst others, all in one frame and all being helped by HIAS. We hope to continue our relationship with HIAS moving forward as we have so much to learn from the variety of people around us!

PTO NEWS

Ongoing PTO free FUNdraisers make a big difference!!! Please save the following items on behalf of the CTA PTO...and urge friends and family to participate in these easy, no cost programs.

Currently, we are collecting Box Tops for Education logos (go to www.BoxTops4Education.com for a complete product listing and for offers and sweepstakes) and Brown's Shoprite and Fresh Grocer receipts (must be current...within the last 5 months). A collection box for these items is at the front security desk.

Please register your Giant Bonus Cards (www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus) to benefit CTA PTO (use CTA id # 23875)...anyone with a Giant card can participate in this program and you can support up to 2 schools. Once you have registered, there is no need to re- register for the new school year.

CTA also participates in the Amazon Smile program and in the www.goodsearch.com and www.goodshop.com programs, so keep CTA in mind as you shop online.

For any questions about these programs, please contact jeisenberg345@gmail.com.

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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