



IN-FOCUS

7 Teves 5784/ December 18, 2023
Issue #4



Monday, January 8-Friday, January 12
Midterms

Sunday, January 14- Sunday, January 21
Midwinter Vacation

Monday, January 22
School Resumes



GEDOLIM PRESENTATIONS

Yasher Koach to the 10th grade for the outstanding job they did on their gedolim presentations. Each pair of students researched their assigned gadol, prepared a handout for the school, and created a powerpoint presentation which they shared with the school. The first round of gedolim/Noshim Chashuvos were: The Alter of Kelm, the Alter of Slabodka, The Chofetz Chaim, Rav Elchonon Wasserman, and Sarah Scheneirer.

iOwn It Challenges and Rewards

The girls officially finished phase 1 of the iOwn It program and they were rewarded with a night of fun inflatable bounce houses in Torah Academy. The next phase began with a Yom Iyun at sunrise where the girls explored nature and saw the beauty of Hashem's creations. Rabbi Spiro gave an inspirational speech about Derech Eretz which is the overall theme of phase 2. The girls were split into groups with five presenters who led a roundtable discussion, illuminating the idea of Derech Eretz.

The girls participated in Chaburahs in the evenings, in which they explored various aspects of Bein Adam Lechaveiro. A special thank you to our Chaburah leaders, Mrs. Hindy Kulefsky, Mrs. Elisheva Weinberg, Mrs. Batsheva Neuberger, Mrs. Chaya Malka Rosenbleeth, Mrs. Liba Stoll, and Miss Becca Kushner. The girls gained immensely.

With the end of phase 2, the girls prepared posters, skits, and songs depicting the depth of their understanding of Derech Eretz, and then presented it at a school Melava Malka on Motzoei Shabbos. This was followed by ice skating as a reward for all the hard work that the girls put into this phase. We're so proud of how far they've come.

Thank you so much to iOwn It Heads: Yael Ghermezian, Sarah Idstein, and Sarale Mayer. Thank you so much to iOwn It Advisors, Mrs. Aviva Crystal and Miss Brochi Spar.

9th-grade Workshop

Mrs. Chaya Botnick gave the 9th grade a workshop about adjusting to high school. To highlight one of the points she was making, each girl received a container of Play-Doh and a marble, and they rolled the marble through the Play-Doh. At first, it was hard to make an impression but the more they rolled the marble, the deeper the pathway got. So too in our brains the more we experience something, the easier it gets, because we create neural pathways to help us adjust to our surroundings.



9th-10th Grade Honors Chumash

Mrs. Shaindy Mandelbaum

We grew up hearing the story about Yosef being sold by his brothers and eventually ending up in Mitzrayim as viceroy to King Pharaoh. This year, our class is exploring the topic in depth according to various מפרשים and many additional sources, all while improving our reading and comprehension skills.

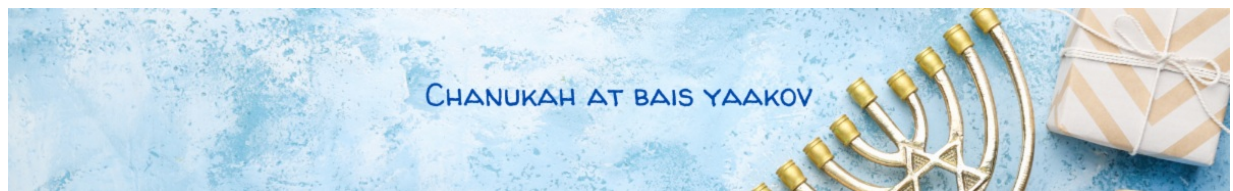
How could such holy men as the שבטי קה have extremely strong feelings of hatred and jealousy towards their brother? Why would Ya'akov show favoritism by giving Yosef a special כתונת פסים? Why would Yosef Hatzadik report back to his father all the wrongdoings that he saw his brothers committing? Were the שבטי truly guilty of what Yosef reported? All that and much more is what we are discussing in honors ninth and tenth grade Chumash class this year. The girls are given

weekly הכנה-preparation sheets so that they can explore the מפרשים ahead of class and be prepared to discuss the topics in class.

As we study the פסוקים we emphasize the fact that our Torah is our guide, our teacher, with so many lessons we can glean from the Torah that apply to us today. The students know that in addition to all the skills, knowledge, and appreciation to the vast depth of the Torah, they are acquiring, it is really the לימודים-lessons for life, that transform us to יהי to become better people.



We often hear students describing their experiences in math as being "challenging, stimulating, makes me think." We know that it is due to their teachers, who are outstandingly clear and are able to break down complex concepts into logical, structured step-by-step lessons. As math is heavily dependent on skills, we offer our students a range of math classes to allow students to confidently progress at their own levels, with honors level and basic level classes across the grade levels. This year, our students are studying Pre Algebra, Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, College Math, as well as Life Skills Math.



CHANUKAH YOM IYUN

On Thursday of Chanukah, we had an incredible Yom Iyun on the topic of "Hashemen Eino Misarev." Oil does not mix with other liquids, and so too Klal Yisroel Eino Misarev! Just like oil was created with a nature that does not mix with any other liquid, so, too, Benei Yisroel is not meant to and will not be able to mix with any other nation. Anti-semitism is on a rise and we learned how we can counteract that. Just like the Chashmonaim recognized that the battle was between Kedusha and Tumah, so too we now understand that we need to bring in more Kedusha into our lives. Kedusha means separate and that enables us to bring Hashem closer into our lives and unto the world. We started off the day with a beautiful davening, singing out loud Hallel and Aleinu. Then we were introduced to the theme by Sora Leah Goldberg and Miss Cohen, followed by a fascinating speech by Rabbi Chaim Goldberger. Next we watched a video interviewing people in the community who spoke about the gedarim (boundaries) they set for themselves in the workplace, and who related stories about the beauty of being separate. After a delicious food break, we started an interactive workshop that asked the girls if they agreed or disagreed with a scenario displayed on the board. Thank you to the Yom Iyun heads- Tamar Chodos, Rachel Ghermezian, Sara Leah Goldberg, Dena Kupfer, and Sara Leah Schulman for creating such a beautiful day of inspiration! Thank you to Mrs. Ruchama Leah Berkowitz and Miss Devora Cohen for serving as Yom Iyun Advisors. What a success!

CHANUKAH FESTIVITIES WITH TEACHERS/MECHANCHOS

In addition to learning about the halachos and the lessons of Chanukah, Bais Yaakov girls celebrated Chanukah with their teachers and mechanchos. The ninth grade made latkes at the home of Rebbetzin Gibber and enjoyed a beautiful Chanukah mesiba at the home of Mrs. Shulamit Gibber, their teacher/ mechaneches. The tenth grade enjoyed a beautiful mesiba with their teacher/mechaneches, Mrs. Avigayl Mintz. The eleventh and twelfth grade enjoyed a wonderful mesiba with their teacher/mechaneches, Mrs. Aviva Crystal.

CHANUKAH CHAGIGA

By Rena Mandelbaum, Rochel Spiro, and Dena Kupfer- Chagiga Heads

Tuesday night of Chanukah we had an amazing Chanukah Chagiga! The theme was "The Nes of Chess" - "Eileh V'rechev V'eileh Basusim Va'anachnu B'Shem Hashem Elokeinu Nazkir." The Torah Academy lunchroom was transformed into a chess tournament with life size chess pieces and chessboard. We had two amazing guest speakers! Rabbi Rothstein came and spoke about how we need to plug into the messages of Chanukah, inspiring us with some ideas that we should be taking with us. And our very own Chana Spar gave a Dvar Torah about how Hashem helps us in every situation and how we turn to Him no matter where we are. We played an entertaining game of chess/Bais Yaakov Malarkey to win adorable chagiga merch - and fun prizes! We also enjoyed a delicious milchig supper! Thank you to all the girls who volunteered their time and talents to make this chagiga a smashing success. A HUGE thank you to Miss Rivka Engelson for taking her time to arrange and coordinate everything, and for working extremely hard to put this whole event together! We can't wait for Purim!



Mazel Tov to our Alumni

- Noa Singer on her engagement to Joshua Dimbert. Mazel tov to Mr. and Mrs. Neil Singer and the entire Mishpacha!
 - Yaakov and Yehudis (Kutoff) Finkelman on the birth of a baby girl. Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Maier Kutoff and the entire mishpacha
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Mazel Tov to our Bais Yaakov Family

- Rabbi and Mrs. Aryeh Cohen on the birth of a granddaughter. Mazel tov to Miss Devora Cohen, Chaya, and the entire Mishpacha!
 - Rabbi and Mrs. Mordechai Skapino on the engagement of their son Jonie! Mazel tov to Bracha Skapino and the entire Mishpacha!
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The Bais Yaakov faculty thanks all the parents who contributed toward the gift cards that we received on Chanukah. It is very much appreciated.

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