



Calendar Corner

פינת לוח הזמנים

March 27, 2015

Candle Lighting 7:35 p.m.

ז' ניסן, תשע"ה

פרשת צו, שבת הגדול



Tues. 3/31

Regular dismissal and
afterschool classes

Wed. 4/1- Fri. 4/10

NO SCHOOL – Pesach recess

Mon. 4/13

School resumes- regular time

Mon. 4/27-Fri. 5/1

2nd-5th grades- Iowa Tests

Mon. 4/27-Wed. 4/29

6th-7th grades- Iowa Tests

Thurs. 4/30- Fri. 5/1

6th grade COGAT test

Mon.-Tues., 5/4-5

3rd grade COGAT test

Below: Pesach preparations of all
kinds and at all grade levels.

A Message from our Head of School

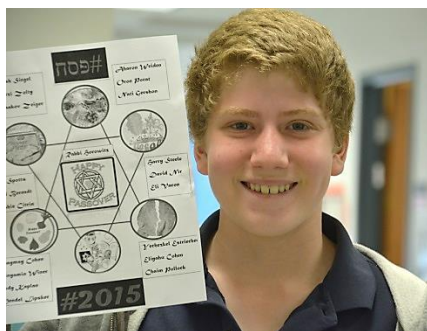
The time we spend preparing our homes for *Pesach* is truly mind boggling. There is cleaning, shopping, cabinet re-arranging, *kashering*, and more, all of which adds up to hours upon hours of effort and work.

At Torah Day School, YOUR children, with their *morahs* and *rebbes*, have also spent much time preparing for Pesach. It's just a different kind of preparation. Walk through the halls at any time of day, and you will hear the "buzz" of *Pesach* as we prepare the students to be active participants at their *sedarim*. *Morah* Dena's class is singing the *Mah Nishtanah*, while the older students are debating the meaning of *matzah* and *maror* on a more intricate and intelligent level. Another class may be discussing the amounts of *matzah* and wine we consume and why, while another class is learning the correlation between *Shabbos Hagadol* and *Pesach*. The learning and preparing are all differentiated, based on grade level and ability.

I sincerely hope that you will *shep* much *nachas* from their knowledge and insights. I think you are in for a real treat at each of your *sedarim*. May our enriching experience bring the *geula* so that next year we will all be together in *Yerushalayim*.

Good *Shabbos* and *chag kasher v'sameach*,

Rabbi Joshua Einzig



Divrei Torah by Eighth Graders for Parshas Tzav and Pesach

By Rivky Stein

In "וַיִּשָּׂא אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וְלָבַשׁ בְּגָדִים אֲחֵרִים" which means "and he shall remove his garments and don other garments." Why does the *כהן* change his garments?

י"י answers that he might make his holy, beautiful *כהונה* dirty, so therefore he should wear older, more worn *כהונה*. The *חכמים* elaborate that it is not appropriate to wear the same clothes that a person would wear in the kitchen when he is serving wine to his master. This teaches us that, after wearing our regular clothes to prepare for *Shabbos*, we should change into our nicest clothing. Even if you do not go to shul, we should bring wine to our Master, *Hashem*, in our most pristine and beautiful clothing!



By Raizy Lew



If one thinks about it, it is quite bothersome the way the wicked son is treated in the *Haggadah*. When the wicked son asks a question, we are instructed to blunt his teeth. Is the *Haggadah* tolerating and even encouraging violence?

There is a beautiful answer given to this seemingly strange concept. There are wicked children out there. There are kids that are negative, intolerable and bad. But none are completely bad. Underneath the surface, beneath the layers of rudeness and rebellion, there lies an innocent soul. Even the most wrong-doing children have goodness at their core. It may be buried beneath layers of hurt and pain, but the soul itself remains pure.

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It is up to the parents and teachers to engage the wicked children and try to uncover the hidden goodness within. Look for the cause of the rebellion; find out what set the child on the wrong path. He may have been exposed to a bad crowd of friends or a negative role model; he may have been let down by those he looked up to. Or he may have never been taught how to overcome his own negative tendencies; he may have never learnt how to be good.

Behind his wickedness there is a story, there is a reason why he allowed his innocent soul to become tainted by his evil side. Identify the root cause, and then counteract it. Reverse the process that led him astray, and bring him back to his inner goodness. This is what the *Haggadah* means when it says "You should blunt his teeth." Remove the sharpness and bitterness from his bite. Smooth out his rough edges, heal his wounds and allow the goodness in his soul to surface. Take the wicked child and make him righteous.

In fact, this idea is right there in the words of the *Haggadah*. In the Hebrew language, every letter has a *gematria*, a numerical value. Therefore, every word has a number, the sum of its letters. We can learn hidden messages by looking at the numbers behind Hebrew words. The *gematria* of *rasha* is 570, and the *gematria* of *tzaddik* is 204. The difference between them is 366. Beneath every *rasha* is a hidden *tzaddik*. We just need to remove the layers of evil and we will find his goodness. Numerically, we have to remove 366 to get 204 from 570. So we must blunt his teeth. "His teeth" in Hebrew is *shinav*. Its numerical value...366. De-fang the *rasha*, and you will find his inner *tzaddik*.

Class Acts פעילויות בכחות

K-5 Science- Dr. Feingold

Kindergarten children spent 40 minutes of self-discovery, learning how magnetism and static electricity work. First, they were given two magnets and instructed to discover for themselves how the magnets worked. Next, they were told to figure out what materials the magnets would stick to with magnetic force. Finally, they were given balloons, shown how to make static electricity, and encouraged to determine what balloons would stick to with electric force.



Teams of fourth graders tried to build the tallest structure they could using only index cards. They could cut or bend the cards but could not use tape or glue. This was an exercise for them to practice the "4 C's"-creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking. They were not taught how to do anything; the teams had to work together to solve an engineering problem and create their own solutions. A number of original ideas and much trial and error were used to perfect their techniques. They learned that they can solve problems on their own even if they have never been taught how to do it. The important principle in science is discovery, figuring out for themselves how things work by using observation, experimentation, and critical thinking.



Seventh grade boys– Rabbi Oratz's *Limudei Kodesh*

In addition to the pages upon pages of *halachos* for Pesach, our class has bumped it up a notch with a deep discussion about TIME! We noticed that one of the unique factors in *chametz* is the time that is needed to let the dough rise. Apparently time is the enemy. We saw this from another angle, namely, the fact that we left *Mitzrayim* "*b'chipazon*" - with haste. Even though it takes way longer than 18 minutes for six million people to leave Egypt, and even though we knew we were leaving the night before, still we went out quickly! Why!? Because we were trying to escape the chains of *time*!

The concept is as follows: Our *neshama* is not from this world, so if you want to "feed" the *neshama* then you have to give it food that was grown from the same place the *neshama* came from! And that food is called *Torah* and *mitzvos*. But the sad reality is that even when you do *mitzvos* and live the *Torah*, you are still doing it in this world, and this world is bound by time! When you feed your *neshama* with a *mitzvah*, it is covered with the grime of time. The only way to scrape off some of that 'time grime' is to do the *mitzvah* in the least amount of time possible! This is the concept of *zrizus* - serving Hashem with efficiency.

During *Pesach*, when the national *neshama* of the Jewish people was born, is the prime time to act in a way where time is a minimal factor! We had to leave with haste because our *neshama* as the people of *Hashem* was in the process of being placed, and the only appropriate setting for its inauguration was to replicate the context of its origin - a place without time. Now you know why we despise *chametz* so much - it's all full of time.



Seventh grade boys – Rabbi Alterman's *Limudei Kodesh*

Mazel tov to our class on their completion of *perek Hakones*, the sixth chapter of *Bava Kama*. We celebrated Thursday with a deluxe *siyum*, highlighted by steaks grilled in our own classroom. Special thanks go to Rabbi Pransky for honoring us by participating in our *siyum*. On Friday, we played a SMARTboard review game demonstrating our detailed knowledge of the entire *perek*. We discussed the importance of constantly reviewing what we have learned, especially this first *perek* that we completed, and of setting our sights on learning and completing more and more *perakim* and *masechtos*. Our long-term goal is a *siyum* on all of *Shas*!



Guest Speakers

Rabbi Reuven Stein, Director of Supervision of the Atlanta Kashruth Commission, addressed middle school boys and their rebbeyim, explaining issues with various ingredients that can make products chometz. In this season, when Rabbi Stein is extra-busy with pre-Pesach questions, we truly appreciate that he takes the time to enrich our students' knowledge.

CLUB FUN CORNER by Mrs. Shira Yablok, MS, CCC- SLP

While some of our groups have a few weeks left to meet, others are coming to an end. As sad as it is to let many of my students go, I am so incredibly impressed with how much progress each and every one of them have made, both on an individual level and as a group.

I have seen improvement in our students' ability to work together no matter which "group" they are in or who their partner is. This is a sign of maturity and flexibility. I have also noticed that many students, both boys and girls, have been more tolerant of each other and have been more willing to be "inclusive" in an activity or conversation. We have discussed the importance of including others no matter what we are in the middle of doing; when you make other people feel good (by including them or smiling, or making eye contact) then you feel good too!!

When it comes to being tolerant of others, that can be a bit more challenging. We have talked about what it means to be "different" from one another and how we each have strengths and weaknesses. Our job is to focus on one another's strengths and to see the good in others even if they are different from us!

While these are very deep and lofty ideas to adopt and practice in our daily lives, the students in "club fun" have done an incredible job of doing so nevertheless! They have each gained so much from trying to challenge themselves to become better in their social interactions. I will miss the students who have completed their 10 sessions and look forward to the time I still have together with the other groups!!

Mazel tov מזל טוב:

- **Our April birthdays:** Miriam Axelrod, Eliyahu Cohen, Gavriella Ellenoff, Dovi Fleshel, Rachel Frank, Yaakov Freitag, Batsheva Friedman, Elisheva Goldberger, Aryeh Leib Graiser, Koby Grossblatt, Tzvi Izenberg, Shifra Levy, Shira Lewis, Shally Lipszyc, Aviva Pransky, Kira Slifkin, Shayna Stroll, Shmuel Yablok, and Rachel Zeiger.
- Dr. Raphael and Mrs. Martine Gershon and family on the marriage of their daughter, Yael, to Jon Korman of Chicago. Yael is a TDSA alumna.
- Rabbi Ahron and Mrs. Gitty Golding and family on the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Eli.
- Mr. Hudie and Mrs. Estee Lipszyc and family on the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Shally.

Our Alumni

- *Yasher koach* to our graduates, Daniel Filreis, Yisrael Levy, Avrumi Lewis, Chagai Perez and Simon Schoen, and their *rebbeyim*, Rabbi Estreicher and Rabbi Neuberger, on taking third place out of eight teams in the Model *Beis Din* Competition last Sunday at Lander College in New York.

Please let us know about your *simchas*; our TDSA family likes to share in your *nachas* with you! A great way to celebrate your *simcha* is by sponsoring a TDSA Day of Learning for \$180 to sponsor a full day or \$90 for half a day (must be shared with another person). You can also do a Group Day of Learning if you have a number of friends who want to sponsor with you. Please contact Ms. Shawndrika Lewis in our Business Office, 404-982-0800 or email dlewis@torahday.org.

In the Community

Yad L'Yad will once again be collecting *chometz* before *Pesach* this year!

Yad L'Yad helps over 30 families in the Greater Atlanta communities each month with food and food gift cards. Before *Pesach*, we provide our families with hundreds of dollars in extra gift cards and *Pesach* groceries; such as *matzah*, oil, tuna, and more to ensure that every family can celebrate *Pesach* with *simcha* and dignity. The *chometz* will be sold before *Pesach*, in accordance with *halacha*, and then distributed after *Pesach* to YLY families.

Drop-off bins will be located in the TDSA lobby. Food can be dropped off from Thursday, March 26 through Tuesday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Once TDSA closes on Tuesday afternoon, YLY will no longer be able to accept any food.

We gratefully accept food that is non-perishable, not expired, in a sealed package, and has a visible certified *kosher* symbol on the package. Thank you for your continued support!!

Kosher Day at the Braves 2015 is coming!

Kosher Day is a popular community-wide event where participants enjoy *kosher* "stadium" food while enjoying a game at Turner Field with their friends. This year, *Kosher Day* will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, when the Braves will play the Cincinnati Reds. We hope you will be able to participate in *Kosher Day*. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Reuven Stein, Director of Supervision of the Atlanta Kashruth Commission at the AKC office, [404-634-4063](tel:404-634-4063) or akc@kosheratlanta.org.

