



# SPOTLIGHT ספוטלייט

## Calendar Corner

פינת לוח הזמנים

**Sun. – Mon. 5/24-5/25**

Shavuot- NO SCHOOL Mon.

**Mon. 6/1**

Annual Meeting; Installation of Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.- TDSA Gym

**Mon. 6/8**

8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation- 7:30 p.m. at Beth Jacob

**Wed. 6/10**

Kindergarten Graduation- 10:30 a.m. at TDSA  
Last day of school for Kindergarten

**Thurs. 6/11**

NOON DISMISSAL- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Below: 8B meet our Senators in D.C. and got "tweeted" by Sen. Johnny Isakson!



**Johnny Isakson** @SenatorIsakson 3h  
@sendavidperdue & I enjoyed meeting students of @TorahDayATL this afternoon! Thanks for stopping by the @uscapitol.



## A Message from our Head of School

One of the major missions of Torah Day School is to inculcate in our students the love and importance of *Torah*. We learn, we daven, we are careful with what goes into our mouths (the food we eat, and the *brachos* that we say) as well as what comes out of our mouths

(*lashon hora*, unrefined speech). We acknowledge *Hashem* in everything around us. This past week, our eighth grade boys traveled to Washington D.C. as part of a culminating experience following studying history and government during their middle school years. During our time in Washington, we visited Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Newseum, the National Mall with all of the monuments, and Capitol Hill. For fun, we threw in a National's baseball game. But we were always Torah Day School, with the emphasis on TORAH. Our students davened three times a day, they learned each morning, and each young man behaved as a true *ben Torah*, and represented us well. Thank you to their chaperones, Rabbi Shalom Yosef Horowitz and Rabbi Tzvi Oratz, for being role models in their learning and their living. It was so gratifying to be a part of this enriching experience.

Our seventh and eighth grade boys will be learning *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, here at Torah Day School with their *rebbeim*, Rabbi Horowitz, Rabbi Oratz, Rabbi Gross and Rabbi Alterman at 12:15 a.m. Our students beautifully reflect our aspirations for them and they are bringing our mission to life. They are students who love G-d, who observe the *Torah*, who strive for personal excellence, and who, IY"H, will pursue life-long learning.

Good *Shabbos* and good *Yom Tov*,  
Rabbi Joshua Einzig

## Divrei Torah by Eighth Graders for Parshas Bamidbar and Shavuot

By Summer Pitocchelli



"...Lift the heads of *Bnei Yisrael*..." (1:2) (א:ב)

In this week's *parsha*, *Hashem* is telling *Moshe* to count the heads of *Bnei Yisrael*, and to do so in a very specific way. *Hashem* was teaching us not only a way to count, but a way of life! Counting can be used in a good way, to make others feel that they matter and that they're worth something, or in a derogatory way, making them feel small and unimportant. Here we are taught an extremely important lesson which we can apply to our day-to-day life. We should try to make others feel important and cared about, and we should put every effort into doing things that bring happiness and comfort to the world.

This was and is especially significant in our lives, especially in the past seven weeks. During the *Omer*, we particularly focus *לחברות* because Rabbi *Akiva's* students were not respectful to each other, resulting in their deaths. Now that we are in the הגבלה, or even into שבועות, we still need to keep that in mind as a part of our obligation to *Hashem* and each other. (inspired by the Artsroll *Chumash*)

May 22, 2015

ד' סיון, תשע"ה

Candle Lighting 8:19 p.m. פרשת במדבר, ערב שבועות



Each week's Spotlight may be sponsored with a donation of \$18 to TDSA PTA. Please email Mrs. Levin at [dlevin@torahday.org](mailto:dlevin@torahday.org) by Wednesday to arrange sponsorship.

By Shayna Stroll

"Z'man Matan Torah-teinu- The time of the giving of our Torah..."



Rav Simcha Bunim says that immediately after *Hashem* gave over the Ten Commandments, He had *Moshe* tell everyone to go home. *Hashem* wanted everyone to go home so that they could begin using the *Torah* in their homes.

The *Torah* was not given to us to only use in *shul*; rather, we should bring it into our lives and use it every day. Once, one of Rav Gifter's students asked him how he was able to retain *Torah* so well even though he learned it many years ago. Rav Gifter answered that, when he sailed from Europe to America right before World War II, he was running low on food and all he had left were a few drops of whiskey and a few crumbs of bread. Every time he took a sip or ate a crumb, he savored it, not knowing when he would get more. So, too, we should savor every bit of *Torah* we learn so it lasts us a lifetime.

### From the Desk of Mrs. Leslee Morris, Admissions Director

The moment we walked into the *Keetah K*, it was obvious something special was about to happen.

Taking honored guests on tours at Torah Day School of Atlanta is one of my favorite jobs. I get to see the classrooms, the teachers, and the students through fresh eyes, and Tuesday morning was no different. As I entered *Keetah K* with *Rebbetzin* Diane Liff from *Har Nof*, Israel, *Morah* Dena and the kindergarten children did not miss a beat with their beloved line, "Would you like a drink and something to eat?" What followed next was *Morah* Dena asking the guest to tell something about herself. *Rebbetzin* Liff was in Atlanta visiting a *talmidah* of hers...all the way from ISRAEL. The *rebbetzin* continued to regale the group with how exciting it is to celebrate *Shavuos* in Israel. "Many men and women learn our precious *Torah* all through the night," she told them, "and then hundreds upon hundreds of people meet at the *Kotel*, at daybreak announcing '*Shema Yisrael*'. Then they continue with *davening Shacharis* and dancing!" One of the kindergarten students could not believe that people learn even until midnight! After that, as if by spontaneous combustion, the fifth grade girls marched into the classroom, singing and dancing songs about *Shavuos* and the *Torah*! It was one of those "picture perfect" moments. However, I did not have my camera! Our very moved and overwhelmed guest could only say, "What Torah Day School is doing in Atlanta, Georgia is *lo pushut* (not simple)." She went on to elaborate upon how beautiful our school was and how nice it is to see the *Torah* learning and the *achdus* (unity) in Atlanta, Georgia. I truly wish I could share with you in adequate terms the pride I felt as I watched our students, your children.



### Class Acts פעילויות בכח

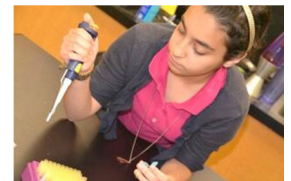
#### Third grade boys and girls – Mrs. Bolnick's General Studies

We visited the Legoland Discovery Center this week in conjunction with our emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) activities. A tour of various exhibits and two exciting rides were our introduction. In the Tall Towers workshop, the children were challenged to build the tallest tower they could that was stable enough to withstand a natural disaster such as an earthquake. Their teamwork, creativity, and communication skills went into designing and refining imaginative structures, to which they then applied a mock earthquake. After seeing the effects of the quake, they applied critical rethinking to their designs. Thank you to Rabbi Minkowiz, Mrs. Ovdat, Mrs. Lew, Mrs. Freedman, Dr. Ellenoff, and Mrs. Rabinowitz for joining us.



#### Seventh grade boys and girls – Mrs. Castle's Science

The seventh grade classes were deeply engaged by a visit from the Georgia State University Bio Bus, a mobile student-staffed laboratory that presents hands-on, inquiry-based activities designed to encourage students' interest in science. Learning about DNA and taking finger prints were just two of the activities in which the students were involved. This program beautifully complements the science curriculum. Thank you to Mrs. Christine Castle for arranging this enriching experience for our students.



#### Middle School girls– Mrs. Bernstein's Ivrit

We are finishing part 4 of our Neta book. As chapter 18 introduced vocabulary about clothes, we talked about different types and styles of clothing and the girls' preferences. We discussed historical clothing styles and different kinds of people according to their clothes. Chapter 19 developed our understanding of past tense verbs. The girls drew on this to speak about their families, where they came from, and their family history. We also conversed about youth movements in Israel. Now, we are learning about the future tense and the girls' short-term and long-term plans. It was great to get to know the girls, to learn about their families, and delightful to hear about their clothing preferences. I wish them *בהצלחה* in the future. I especially want to wish Shifra Levy and her family shalom and good luck in Israel.

## Guest Speakers

Power. Peace. Purpose: three key elements Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg shared with our middle school students. In separate sessions, Rabbi Goldberg, founder of Kids Kicking Cancer, explained the **power** of being connected to a tremendous source, *Hakadosh Borachu*, and that one's *neshamah* makes one powerful. Through prayer and connection, one can channel strength from G-d. Rabbi Goldberg compared the two Hebrew words for soul, *neshamah*, and for breath, *neshima*. He taught the children the power of breathing to relieve pain, stress, anger, indeed any challenge, based on his martial arts background. He instructed the students, "Breathe in and then, when you don't think you have room for any more air, breathe in a little bit more. Hold it for three seconds, and release." Breathe in the light, blow out the darkness; breathing can bring **peace**. Our **purpose** is to teach the world. Rabbi Goldberg also asked the students, "Who are we to bless G-d, when we say *Baruch Hashem*?" The answer is that everything in life comes from *Hashem*. When we say *Baruch Hashem*, we are accepting the power of G-d, and accepting the challenges that He gives us. Through Kids Kicking Cancer, Rabbi Goldberg teaches children facing painful and frightening procedures how to breathe and use relaxation techniques to help control their emotions and fear. He then tells them that it's their mission to share their knowledge. Kids Kicking Cancer has helped over 5,000 children in four different countries. Rabbi Goldberg is also the author of the book, *A Perfect G-d Created An Imperfect World Perfectly*. Thank you to Mrs. Landman for helping us to bring Rabbi Goldberg, who will be the Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Beth Jacob this Shavuot, to TDSA.



## Refuah Shelemah רפואה שלמה

- to Chaya Temima bas Pesha Shoshana for upcoming surgery on Wednesday.
- to Sara Miriam bas Dina Rus, Mrs. Susan Krohn, for upcoming surgery on Wednesday.

## תנחומינו With our Condolences

to Mr. Ramin Khalili and family on the passing of his father, Mr. Barokh Khalili.

**May you be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem**

## מזל טוב Mazel tov

- Mr. Semon and Mrs. Viktoriya Barayev on the engagement of their son, Bechor (William) to Sara Liba Isaacs of Passaic, NJ.
- Mrs. Michal Esral and family on the birth of a granddaughter to Mr. Yaakov and Mrs. Tehila Milch. Tehila is a TDSA alumna.
- Dr. Ron and Mrs. Hadassah Ezoory and family on their son, Eli Zeiger, putting *tefillin* on for the first time.
- Mr. Michael and Mrs. Dawn Siegel and family on the engagement of their daughter, Rachel, to Alex Straus, son of Mr. Jozef and Mrs. Vera Straus of Ottawa, Canada. Rachel is a TDSA alumna.

Please let us know about your *simchos*; 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](mailto:dlewis@torahday.org).

## Summer Tutoring and Enrichment

Many of our rebbeyim, morahs and teachers are available for summer tutoring and enrichment. Please contact them if you are interested in their services for your child.

- Rabbi Michael Alterman: Kriah, Gemara, Chumash, Mishna, any other Judaic subjects; grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>; [mlalterman@torahday.org](mailto:mlalterman@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Beverley Bolnick: Math and Language Arts (all general studies subjects); grades K-4<sup>th</sup>; BA Elementary Education, 17 years experience; [bbolnick@torahday.org](mailto:bbolnick@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Naomi Cohen: Chumash skills; grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> girls; [ncohen@torahday.org](mailto:ncohen@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Michal Donowitz: Kriah any age, Chumash for rising 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders; [mdonowitz@torahday.org](mailto:mdonowitz@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Mindy Haller: All general studies; grades K-8<sup>th</sup>; [mhaller@torahday.org](mailto:mhaller@torahday.org)
- Rabbi Shalom Horowitz: Kriah and Gemara, grades 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>; Orton-Gillingham Method; [shorowitz@torahday.org](mailto:shorowitz@torahday.org)
- Ms. Andrea Lewis: General Studies, K-8<sup>th</sup> grades; [alewis@torahday.org](mailto:alewis@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Gila Litvin: Judaic subjects, Hebrew language; elementary -12<sup>th</sup> grade; [glitvin@torahday.org](mailto:glitvin@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Sara Nir: Hebrew language K-12<sup>th</sup> grades, Limudei Kodesh K-9<sup>th</sup> grade; [snir@torahday.org](mailto:snir@torahday.org)
- Rabbi Tzvi Oratz: all Judaic studies; grades rising 6<sup>th</sup> through adult; MSE,MTL; [toratz@torahday.org](mailto:toratz@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Malka Schwarzmer: Limudei Kodesh, Kriah, Biblical Hebrew skills (decoding, roots & independent learning skills); grades 4 -adult; 10 yrs. experience 5<sup>th</sup> grade-adults, MA Ed. Leadership- Columbia Univ.; [mschwarzmer@torahday.org](mailto:mschwarzmer@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Dina Shmuel: Written and conversational Hebrew; grades 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>; [dshmuel@torahday.org](mailto:dshmuel@torahday.org)
- Mrs. Chana Wiggins: Kriah; grades K-8<sup>th</sup>; Orton-Gillingham Method; [cwiggins@torahday.org](mailto:cwiggins@torahday.org)