

## TASHBAR SEPHARDIC YESHIVA KETANA

Candle Lighting: 7:35

Shabbat Ends: 8:37/9:06

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

פרשת במדבר

## MESSAGE FROM THE MENAHEL



Dear Parents,

In this week's פרשה, we learn about the counting of בני ישראל. Each and every head of household had to come forward with his מגילת יוחסין-his historical document of how he was descended from יעקב אבינו.

עם ישראל is unique. On the one hand, we are all part of one unit-אחד בלב אחד. Just as the hand, the heart and the little toe are all part of one person, עם ישראל is one unit working together for כבוד שמים.

On the other hand, we are individuals. We each count and we each matter. Sometimes, people can feel lost in the masses, and that is a time to refocus our efforts on our individuality. Rabbi Reuven Leuchter has been speaking in many forms with the same message. This pandemic is Hashem's way of telling us that He cares about each and every one of us as individuals. Our תפילה, our individual לימוד התורה, our individual שלום בית, our individual מידות, our individual relationships with our family members. The outside world was shut down so we can build our inner world.

We are so grateful to see thriving תפילה, תורה, and general learning going on so successfully throughout our school. Please read through our newsletter to see the incredible work that is being accomplished.

In the coming weeks, we will be working hard getting ready for the start of the new school year, albeit with many necessary accommodations. Our priority #1 is and will continue to be student and staff safety. With Hashem's help, we will continue to thrive and grow even stronger and better from this!

With blessings for much ברכה והצלחה,  
Shabbat Shalom!  
Rabbi Moshe Abady

## MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL STUDIES DIRECTOR



“Game” Zu L’Tovah!

If there is one thing that everyone agrees on our current Shelter at Home Order, it’s that it gives children a lot more time with their families. Parents that are usually out of the house during the day are now at home. Brothers who were in Yeshiva are home. Sisters are back from Seminary. But mostly because there aren’t too many places to go, we’re all at home.

While there are plenty obligations that we have throughout the day, it’s important to schedule downtime activities-for the kids and the parents! Of course after spending so much screen time with school, the last thing we want is for kids to be on devices! This is a golden opportunity for families to spend time as a unit or for older children to spend time with younger ones.

When siblings are in different schools their schedules don’t always coincide. Younger children are home earlier than their older brothers and sisters. In the evenings High School siblings may be busy with school work or at night Seder. In some families there might be siblings who are dorming elsewhere.

One way to spend family time together is by playing board games. Play the games you have at home and if you can, order some new ones online. Choose games that can NOT be played on Shabbat; this will force you to play during the week.

Besides having fun, many board games have a greater impact on players

- Board games, when played without interruptions, can help lengthen one's attention span
- Games where players have to remember several pieces of information at once (who did what, and where) might help improve reading comprehension and paying attention to detail
- For teens, board games are an easy way to encourage healthy brain development. Strategy games can help the frontal lobes of the brain develop
- Games played with teams encourage kids to team up and work towards a common goal.
- Games often offer meta-messages about life: Things can change in an instant, for better or for worse. Nothing is guaranteed.
- Board games stress the importance of playing by the rules and encourage players to use coping skills and promote resilience when things don't go their way.

Spending time with each other and schmoozing are far more precious than enjoying the actual game! Be’ezrat Hashem, we will soon be able to say “Gam Zu L’Tovah!” when this is past and we’ll have enriched our relationships within the family.

-Rabbi David Miller

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-KODESH

In 4th grade we have Baruch Hashem accomplished much. We finished Masechet Sukkah and are well into our new Masechet Megillah which the boys are enjoying a lot. We are also almost finished with Parashat Bo. Please keep up the daily review now more than before to keep our young Talmidei Chachamim sharp and going!

-Rabbi Segan-Kohanim

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-GENERAL STUDIES

Wow, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys have sure adapted easily to our new virtual school! They have already displayed their computer savvy by learning the Zoom program very quickly! This has really been a unique experience, allowing the boys the opportunity to learn differently, in a new setting. Distance learning is proving to be fun and experiential. Students are using laptops, tablets, cell phones, and any other devices available to attend class. Some boys are working at desks, while others are using tables in the kitchen or dining room! There is a strong camaraderie amongst the boys. Using helpful resources and their computer knowledge, the boys have been able to stay in touch and actually “visit” each other individually or in school groups via Zoom. There are always lively discussions at the end of school about “meeting up”.

Our time in “class” is spent learning from our regular curriculum. We are reading the historical novel, “By the Great Horn Spoon”, which takes place in 1849 during the Gold Rush, our next unit to be studied in Social Studies. The boys look forward to hearing each chapter read aloud, anticipating the next adventure. This classic book is filled with rich language and expressions from long ago. It is fun to read and discover what all these new words mean. Vocabulary is taken directly from the novel, with written comprehension questions assigned as homework. In Science, the boys have been actively learning about the properties of sound – how it travels, and is absorbed and reflected. They have been trying out simple experiments involving vibrations, recording their findings, and sharing them with classmates. Our unit on sound will culminate with a surprise guest! Mrs. Palatt’s husband, an accomplished professional violinist, will be “visiting” to teach how musical instruments produce different sounds. The highlight will be Mr. Palatt demonstrating on his violin, playing music while explaining how the strings vibrate to create the lovely sounds!

-Mrs. Palatt

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-KODESH

We are Zooming right along with our Gemara, Mishna, Navi and Parasha! Our goals are to finish Mishnayot Rosh Hashana and Navi Shofetim, and pack in as much Gemara as we can by the end of the year! In Gemara we are learning very practical halachot about what to do if somebody forgot to add in yaale ve'yavo in Shemone Esre.

In Mishna we are learning that when the Jews had problems such as Amalek attacking or snakes bothering them in the desert, it wasn't Moshe Rabbenu's hands, or the metal snake on the pole that was really helping them. When we think things are happening at random, or we believe that we can do things on our own without help from Hashem, it's like rejecting and pushing away Hashem's presence, protection, and blessing, chas v'shalom. When the Jews looked up at Moshe Rabbenu standing on the hill holding up his hands, or at the metal snake high on the stick, they were reminded that everything comes from Hashem. This realization actually brings us closer to Hashem and enables Hashem's protection and blessing!

-Rabbi Aufrichtig

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-KODESH

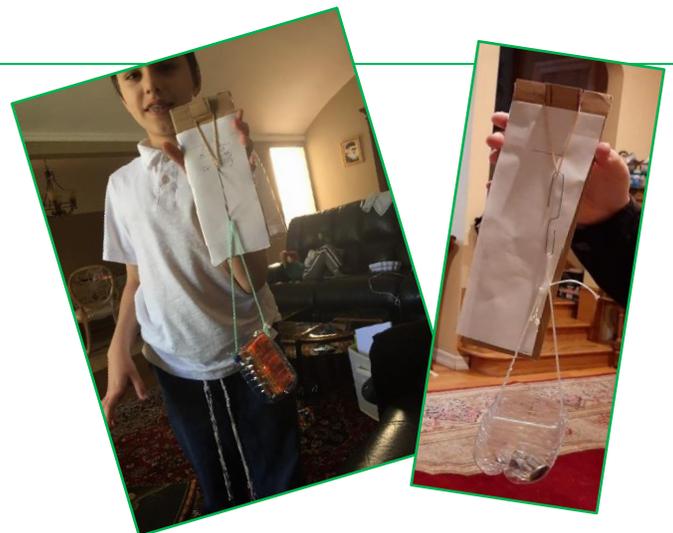
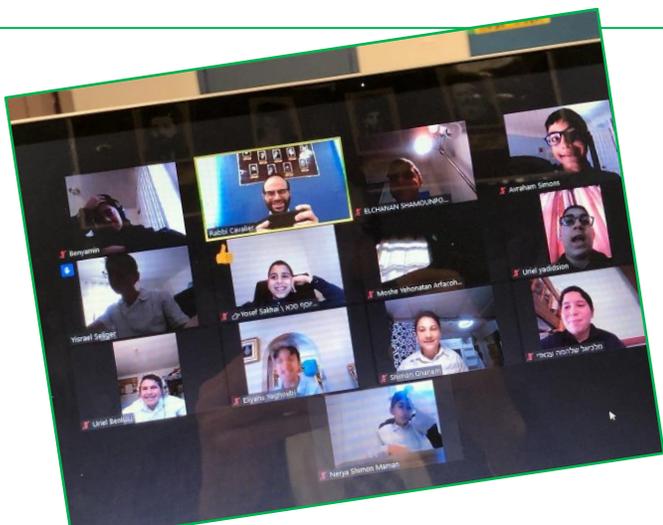
The 6th grade boys are plowing through Bava Kamma! They are mastering the 100 most common Gemara phrases and working on memorizing Shakla Vetarya of Daf Dalet! Zoom hasn't put a dent on their seriousness for Gemara, Chumash Parashat Beshalach, and Navi Shemuel! The boys just finished learning the Halachot of Borer and have been practicing their Rabbinic skills by giving over a Devar Torah at the Shabbat table! Kol Hakavod! We're all proud of you!

-Rabbi Cavalier

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-GENERAL STUDIES

The 5th Grade at Tashbar is working hard on many things: Reading, Writing, Math (fractions related to division), Social Studies and Science. We've filled out a chart on American Indian Cultural Regions, and are using that chart to write an essay about how the American Indians depended on the natural resources in their environment to get what they needed to survive. In Math, we're relating fractions to division, and will soon start on multiplication and division of fractions. We'll be ready for 6th grade Math! In Writing, we wrote "Journal Entries in the Time of the Coronavirus". It was very interesting to read the students' experiences and perceptions of what this historic time means for them. In Science we made spring scales. A spring scale measures weight-that is the pull of gravity on an object. If a bag of potatoes weighs 20 pounds here on Earth, it will weigh  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  of that on the moon, because the pull of gravity isn't as strong on the moon as it is on Earth! A spring scale can be used for two things: to weigh an object, and also to be used as a force meter, measuring the force (in Newtons) needed to move an object. We made our spring scales from objects found around the home: a ruler, paper clips, rubber bands, cardboard, water bottles or cups, string, and nickels! We constructed the spring scales, as you can see in the pictures below, and used nickels to calibrate them. According to the US Mint, one nickel weighs 5 grams. That means 20 nickels weigh 100 grams ( $20 \times 5$ ). We used nickels to measure 50 grams (10 nickels) and 100 grams (20 nickels), and marked them on our spring scale. We then found objects that weighed 100 grams, added 10 nickels, and came out with 150 grams, and marked that on our spring scale. Next in Science I hope to use our spring scales as force meters! Stay tuned!

-Ms. Nielsen



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-ENGLISH AND HISTORY

In English Language Arts students have expanded their spelling and vocabulary skills by defining over 60+ new vocabulary words using them in three paragraph essays sometimes as creative stories. Students are also developing sentence frames using these new vocabulary words in sentences using conjunctions and identifying different parts of speech. Students are learning how to write thesis statements and support these statements with opinions and facts. In addition, students are testing their vocabulary words on family and friends by tallying the vocabulary word and the definition on a chart and having the person asked initial on their initial chart.

In reading and comprehension students are examining text and stories of famous people like Helen Keller and Albert Einstein and their contributions to society. They are examining articles in News on the Run on historical viruses like the Spanish Flu and Polio. Students are comparing and contrasting these events and are understanding the differences and similarities of health measures taken to assure the least amount of public health issues. Students are also reading inspiring and informative stories in Spectrum, a reading and vocabulary workbook. Spectrum reading includes evaluating these stories and articles in class and answering questions in group discussions.

-Ms. Johnson

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-SCIENCE

It has been an exciting few weeks for 6th graders in science class. We learned a lot of new material about air and water. We learned about different sources of fresh water and the reason we need to filter our water before using it. We learned how important it is to conserve our water resources and learned efficient methods not to waste our resources.

We also discussed air and water pollutions and what kind of effects they could have on lives of human beings as well as our nature and animals. For example, a pandemic happened in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1993. Many people got infected through drinking water from the same treatment plant which was contaminated by a microorganism which caused fever, nausea, and flu like symptoms. Many people died because of this. In addition, different factors could affect the quality of our drinking water. Hardness of water is one of them-which is basically the level of two minerals, calcium and magnesium in the water. The downside of hard water is it cannot form suds well and takes more detergent to wash clothes and dishes. It also forms deposits in pipes which could cause a lot of plumbing problems.

Our next chapter talks about the air around us and why it is so important to have “atmosphere” around the planet earth. The atmosphere protects us from the harmful rays of the sun, and makes conditions on earth suitable for living things. Besides, it provides oxygen which we need to breathe to stay alive and makes most of the earth’s surface warm for water to stay in liquid form. The atmosphere also protects us from being hit by meteoroids or chunks of rocks from space.

How grateful we should be for all the good things Hashem provides for us every second and we should not take them for granted!

-Mrs. Kohanchi

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS-MATH

Hooray for the 6th graders! It's been so nice working with them, and I have to commend them for making the transition into our distance learning program so seamlessly! This group is passionate about their learning, and we have been, BH, able to accomplish quite a bit thus far. Even away from school.

These boys like to take on the more difficult challenges first, and that's why their teacher's adding and subtracting fractions before multiplication and division. Although multiplying and dividing may seem easier, they would in fact, not be so simple (pun intended) without knowing how to reduce and cross cancel, skills learned through internalizing divisibility and greatest common factors when adding and subtracting fractions.

Looking forward to a great finish to the year!

-Mr. Sullivan

# THIS WEEK IN PICTURES!



For a chance to be featured in our weekly newsletter, email your pictures to [kmurik@tashbarsyk.com](mailto:kmurik@tashbarsyk.com)!