

## TASHBAR SEPHARDIC YESHIVA KETANA

Candle Lighting: 7:30

Shabbat Ends: 8:31/9:01

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

פרשת בהר-בחוקותי

## MESSAGE FROM THE MENAHEL



Dear Parents,

This year's Lag Baomer felt more meaningful, more joyous, than I can remember feeling in previous years. Maybe it was the burst of joy and celebration that comes from music while we're in this challenging time of הסתר פנים together, or perhaps it was the depth of the message that Lag Baomer was teaching all of us.

Rabbi Akiva had every reason to feel despair. Can you imagine? Throughout his life, he had put all of his efforts into teaching Torah to the masses, culminating in the enormous accomplishment of building 24,000 תלמידי חכמים—leaders of future generations. And then, over the course of a short period, he lost everything. He should have thrown in the towel and given up, and he would have been justified. But he didn't. Rabbi Akiva's greatness shined bright and he picked up the pieces of his life and started teaching all over again. 5 Talmidim. And they became the future תנאים that all of mishnayot and gemara are based on.

Rabbi Akiva taught us that even in times when things seem so dark and the future is so unclear, we must never give up! Things will get better. גם זה יעבור. And when it does, the seeds that we plant today will provide the foundation for the future years and even generations. This Covid-19 will eventually pass. And when it is over, we will look back at this unique time in our lives.

Will we look back with regrets? I don't know. I know that with all the stress, pressure, and confusion, it's not easy. But I also see a tremendous opportunity. Just like Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai utilized those 12 years when he was "quarantined" in the cave and turned those years into transformative years to grow in levels in Torah and עבודת ה' that couldn't have been possible under normal circumstances, so too we can utilize this unique period to build ourselves, our homes, and our families. We can grow in Torah and tefilla in immeasurable ways. Before we know it, this will all be over. And when it is, let's plant those seeds now that will allow a beautiful garden to flourish for years and decades to come.

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Moshe Abady

## MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL STUDIES DIRECTOR



Parents: Welcome Back to School!

For many of you, the past two months have made *you* feel like *you* were back in school. While it's not homeschooling, schooling at home has changed the educational picture for everyone. Your patience has been amazing! Keeping track of the constant rush of texts, WhatsApp messages and emails has become *your* homework! Keep it up. Checking these messages will keep you updated with information about schedules, homework and assignments.

It's unbelievable to see how much our teachers and students have accomplished despite computer glitches, Internet issues and shortages of devices! When I visit the Zoom classes I see children reading, writing, learning math, discussing current events, doing science experiments, enjoying Library Story Time, and even participating in PE and art. Several classes have even gone on "virtual" field trips. It feels like school. All in all, we've settled into a routine, Baruch Hashem.

Encourage your child to be as independent as possible during class time. Backpacks should still be in regular use. Having books, writing supplies and other materials in one place saves a tremendous amount of time before, during and after class. Check and refresh supplies regularly. (This may include paper and ink for the printer, too.)

You've probably noticed that teachers have not lowered their standards because of this shift. Homework and classwork that are assigned are expected to be completed and returned. Remember, don't ask, "Do you have homework today?" Instead say, "Show me your homework." It's important for us all to maintain our routines. Make it part of your routine to praise your children for their hard work and perseverance! They're doing great! And you are too!

-Rabbi David Miller

### PRE1 NEWS-KODESH

The Pre1 Banot are on "fire" as they continue to "light up" the world with their Torah learning and Middot Tovot!

We went into details regarding the mitzvah of V'ahvta Lerecha Kamocha and what it means to respect others and be a good friend! As we count the days of Sefirat Haomer we are eager to show Hashem our improvement as Bnot Yisrael by delving into Pirkei Avot!

We learned that without our Zoom learning the world would cease to exist! For without Torah, Avodah and chessed - we wouldn't have a world to live in!

Another important lesson we learned was "Al tehi Noach Lichos" Don't get angry quickly- that may seem like a challenge these days with everyone home and not having our regular structure so we talked about some strategies in helping ourselves stay calm or to calm down. Some of the students said that going to their room for some quiet alone time helps them, while others said taking a walk, drawing or reading! We practiced some breathing exercises and felt so relaxed! Try this at home!

We are advancing in our Kariah Skills and Morah is so proud of the overall cooperation of her Talmidot! Yashar Koach! May we continue to shine our light!

-Morah Gila Cohen

### PRE1 NEWS-GENERAL STUDIES

Pre-1 girls are zooming through the alphabet! We learned the letter R and REVIEWED how to make different colors. We did a REAL time demonstration with food dye to REALLY see it in action. We also learned how RAINBOWS are made! Did you hear the NEWS? NOW we are on to letter N! In Math, we are learning addition through pictures and NUMBER bonds.

-Morah Simi Yellen



## 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE NEWS-KODESH

Baruch Hashem for Zoom, it has brought us a long way! Nothing can stop Kita Alef!! In Ketiva, we have travelled all the way to letter Shin and have learned all the rules in Keriya. We are making real progress and are mastering our fluency. We learned all about Lag B'aomer and I am certain the girls learned it well from all their high scores on our test! We jumped right into Shavuot and I am so impressed with everyone's focus and involvement in class.

In Ivrit, we are almost done with our unit and we are looking forward to our pajama late night next week! I am so proud of the girls' hard work!! Keep it up!!

-Morah Batya Nourollah

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE NEWS-KODESH

Kita Bet has become quite proficient in learning on Zoom in this short time. The girls are developing new levels of achrayut coming to class on time, ready and prepared with beautiful smiles each day. We have just begun learning פרקי אבות to keep us busy on the long shabbat afternoons! The girls are learning life lessons and amazing catchy songs. Ask your girls to finish this one..."It used to be that every Friday when I'd come home from school.... "לפום צערא אגרא"! The harder the work is to do the more schar Hashem gives you...." This is especially applicable now for all of us Zoomers -

talmidot, morot and parents to keep in mind!

Kita Bet also started a wonderful program called "Wednesday Friends-Day!" Each Wednesday the girls are paired up with a buddy and they have to focus on being a good friend to their chosen buddy. The girls call their buddy and shmooze about life. Another part of this program is to notice each other's good middot and qualities, making sure to use nice words and compliments. We learn a new "compliment" word each week. This really increases our love for one another. ואהבת לרעך כמוך!

I'm so proud of my girls!

We are becoming קריאה experts as we wrap up our קריאה skills.

In Chumash, we are learning how Hashem promised Avraham to give the special land of Eretz Yisrael to his children forever! May we all be zoche to live there very soon!

Shabbat Shalom!

-Morah Tehilla Shirken

## 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE NEWS-GENERAL STUDIES

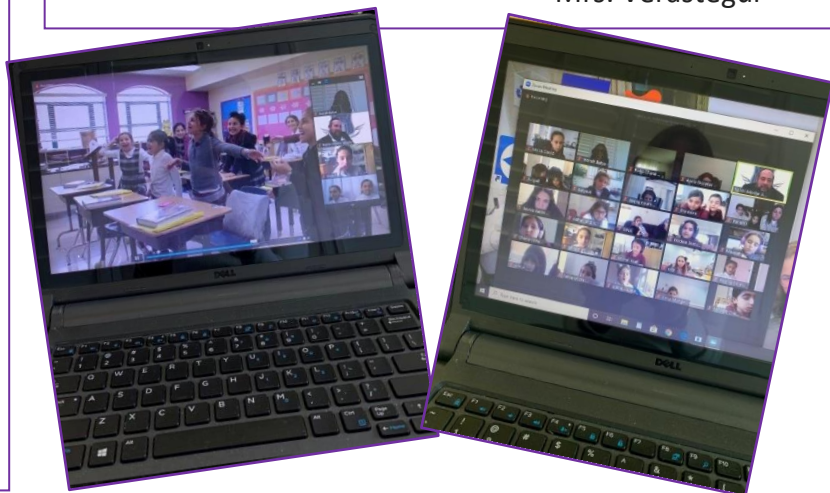
First grade is working very hard and having fun in the Zoom classroom. Every day we listen to a new book and work on our listening and comprehension skills. Along with working on our reading and math skills, we took a virtual field trip to a California dairy farm. While visiting we learned all about where our milk comes from and how it is processed. It was a very fun field trip minus the smell. We hope to go on many more virtual field trips before the year is over. Keep up the great work!

-Mrs. Goldstein

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE NEWS-GENERAL STUDIES

In second grade we are trying our best to keep our schedule as close as possible to our classroom one. We start with our Daily Oral Language Review and then work on our Weekly Science Question. After, we dive into Language Arts and finally end with Math. In Language Arts we are working on Unit 5, each week we focus on a different story that introduces students to story characters who act courageously when faced with frightening situations. In Science, we learned the importance of recycling and for Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> we created beautiful Earth Day Posters! Now, we are working on our Space Unit, learning all about Earth's orbit around the sun and the moon's orbit around Earth. This week we are learning about the different moon phases. In Math, we are very excited as we start our Money Unit! The girls will learn to count money in sets of bills and coins up to \$100. Finally, we were also able to do a virtual field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific where we learned fun facts about sharks as we drew one. While we miss our classroom, the distance learning set up has not stopped the learning!

-Mrs. Verastegui



### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE NEWS-KODESH

And now, for the moment you have all been waiting for!!!! Drum roll please.....

#### THIRD GRADE NEWS!!!!

(Isn't that really truly what you have been anticipating? Wait, what? Why are you hesitating? Ok, kidding. I know, I know, the only thing you are waiting for is school to be back in the actual building not on La Cienega but in Eretz Yisrael with Moshiach!)

But in all seriousness, the third grade girls have been working REALLY super hard since entering third grade many months ago. They are working even harder now that Morah is teaching through the computer. Here is a teeny tiny brief synopsis of what we have been up to!

Since we started davening the amidah, the girls have been learning the meaning and translation behind each phrase! Yes, you read correctly! Those brilliant, dedicated third graders have been memorizing the translation of the amidah, line by line, paragraph by precious paragraph!! Kol hakavod to them!! May the effort that they put in be a protection for them and their family.

The girls are also making headway in Chumash. They are learning about Yaakov Avinu's journey when running away from Esav. On the way, he rests up in a "makom" and gets a very kadosh visitor. None other than HAKADOSH BARUCH HU!!!! Hashem Himself came to Yaakov in his dream and had a whole conversation with him. You want to know what He said? Oh, he just spoke about you and me. He also spoke about your family and friends. He spoke about those relatives that you don't really know in Eretz Yisrael and about those friends of your parents who live in random places around the world. You must be so confused! Hashem tells Yaakov that he will have many children and they will be scattered all over the world.....And for that, we have a song as well!!! Baruch Levine used these words for his song Ufaratzta. The girls enjoyed listening to the song.

We learned about Lag Baomer and sefirat haomer and the halachot during this time.. We have been learning about the lives of Rabbi Akiva, his Tzadeket wife Rachel, Rav Shimon Bar Yochai, his son Elazar, and the students of Rav Akiva who were niftar. In ivrit we have been learning about 10 or so words for our weekly ivrit quiz. We have learned VIRTUALLY every kodesh subject. Morah is so proud of her girls. Kol hakavod! Keep up the hard work!

-Morah Mazal Guy

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE NEWS-GENERAL STUDIES

Third grade is doing their very best to continue learning! We have started our Reading Unit on "Country Life". We are reading about life out in the country, on farms, and from different time periods. It's great to be able to read about places so different from what we are used to. In math, we have been diligently working on learning fractions. We are getting better at comparing fractions and making equivalent fractions. I see the girls are making a big effort to learn these new concepts.

We recently had a "Field Trip" to the Pueblo of Los Angeles. We have been learning about how our great city began. Our virtual tour guide showed us and told us about some significant historical landmarks found on Olvera St. including the Adobe House, Pico Hotel, the plaza, and others! Also, 3rd grade had their first online art class this week. We all drew some fun pictures and colored as well. We continue to enjoy our gym classes every week, along with library time.

Altogether, we are making the most of the time we have to share and learn together. Thank you to the girls and their families for their continued support and immense effort!

-Ms. Olivares



## TASHBAR LAG BAOMER EXTRAVAGANZA 5780

Lag Baomer is a highlight of the school year at Tashbar every single year and this year was no different! Nothing can stop us!! On Tuesday, we had our first ever Lag Baomer Extravaganza via Zoom!

The night before our extravaganza, our extracurricular director, Morah Abady, together with a dedicated team of drivers, dropped off individually wrapped packets for each student with a S'mores kit and a Bingo board.

On Tuesday, our program began with introductory words of inspiration from Rabbi Abady followed by an inspirational and meaningful speech from our guest speaker, Rabbi Ari Bensoussan. Next up we had a concert recorded exclusively for Tashbar by hit singer, Uri Davidi!!! Uri Davidi sang some of our favorite songs, including Tefila Sheli, the soundtrack for our last year's banquet video. It was a hit! Of course we had to watch our banquet video too! What wonderful memories! We ended off with an exciting and interactive Bingo game! Congratulations to our Bingo winners-Yael Panahi, Tehila Kohanchi, Eliora Hakakian, Gavriella Kohanchi, Michal Asaf, Eden Masjedi, Esther Simons and Leeor Okonina! Congratulations! Your prizes are on the way...

Thank you to Morah Abady and all those who pitched in to make our extravaganza a smashing success!

## APPRECIATION...FROM OUR INBOX!

Wow!!! Amazing!!!!

Honestly, Tashbar has done the best in virtual learning! We are so impressed by the amount our kids are learning and thriving!!!

We are so blessed to have such an amazing Sephardi school for our children!!!

Thank you for all your hard work!!

Unreal!!!! Wow! Wish I could give my thanks to all those involved! Kol hakavod to all those involved in creating such a wonderful package. My children were thrilled to see this!!!

Thank you! Our school warms my heart!! So touched!!

The things you guys are doing are amazing!!! Unheard of in any other school!!!!

Thank you so much!

You are constantly going above and beyond for the kids.

Thank you for the new Kosher tablets for our boys, thank you for the Tashbar lag baomer extravaganza that is planned, and thank you for the wonderful deliveries to each child!!!

Really appreciate it. Really over and above any expectations!

## PTA UPDATES

Teacher Appreciation Week was this past week and we can't express enough our appreciation for all the staff's extra care and time going into changing the entire curriculum and adapting so quickly to this new way of learning. They are practicing so much love, patience and attentiveness every day with all our children. Every student was given creative range to express their appreciation during the week. The PTA provided a template questionnaire that the students could fill out to answer what they love most about their teacher, what they remember most about their class etc. Hopefully this highlighted many teachers' amazing qualities and made them feel extra special. On Thursday, we asked students to create a card, note, voice message, video or anything else of their choice to email, mail, or message to their teacher. In addition, all teachers received a gift certificate to enjoy a lunch on the PTA! We hope we were able to give back some of the love that they continuously show our children.

Mrs. Sara David

Mrs. Aviva Asaf