

**Cincinnati Hebrew Day School  
Samuel and Rachel Boymel Campus  
Newsletter  
Friday, 1 Tevet ~ 5770 December 18, 2009**

***PARSHAS: Miketz***

**Friday Night Candle Lighting 4:57 p.m.**

**Havdala 5:59 p.m.**

Dear Parents and Friends:

Chanukah is, arguably, the most visible of the Jewish Holidays. As our candles burn by the window, a small, yet persistent glow radiates forth with a message of national survival.

The word ‘Chanukah’ itself, which translates as ‘inauguration,’ also illuminates a significant concept in Judaism which has bearing on every aspect of life, including the *chinuch*, or education, of our children.

It is commonly known that, historically, in the times of the Chanukah story, the Greek empire destroyed many holy vessels of the Temple, and defiled others. Thus, even after the Jews gained control of the Temple mount, they were unable to light the Menorah, save one small flask of oil that miraculously lasted eight days, instead of one. The Chiddushei HaRim asks a powerful question: we have a precept that ‘tuma hutra betzibbur-’ one is permitted to use defiled oil for the Temple service, for the benefit of the congregation. Hence, there was no legal obligation to rely on a scarce amount of pure oil; the abundant impure oil could have been used! Why, then, did they create a situation which necessitated miraculous intervention?

Answers the Chiddushei HaRim: The legal ruling allowing the usage of impure oil is to be followed when the Temple is in operation- but not at its inception. When something significant begins, there is no room for leniency and compromise. The Inception of the Temple service required absolute purity.

So too is the need for purity in Chinuch- or spiritual education. Indeed, the word for Chinuch shares the same letters (and meaning) as the word for Chanukah. In a spiritual sense, every child represents the inauguration of a new Divine Spark. We take great care in the food we give to our precious babies. We are cautious of food allergies, preservatives, and additives that we don’t hesitate to ingest ourselves. We understand that human body is more sensitive in its beginning. The same is true of our spiritual selves. Many of us must face the realities of ‘spiritual impurities’ in our daily lives. However, the notion that we should expose our children to them before they need to be is incorrect.

It was in this line of thinking that we recently held a night of “Technology Safety” with the help of our local police department. Parents who attended the class learned invaluable lessons on keeping their children safe. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend, we plan to send a letter in the near future with main ideas that were discussed.

As we wrap up the Yom Tov of Chanukah, we should try, as much as possible, to create an environment of purity for our children, to ensure an inauguration of solid foundations. This, in turn, will allow them to grow to become beacons of spiritual light for tomorrow.

Have a great Shabbos,

Rabbi Kernerman  
Principal

## Safety Corner

With the holiday of Chanukah upon us, it is important for all of us to remember that safety is a priority when it comes to lighting candles. Burn centers in Israel note that Chanukah is one of the highest points of the year for burn victims amongst children. Please take utmost care when lighting your menorahs. The following list is by no means exhaustive, but gives a few basic guidelines:

**\*\* A special note for today: As we are careful to use Shabbos candles on our menorahs today (so that they burn long enough), please note that this creates an additional fire hazard. Candles need a space between them, preferably half an inch, so that they don't melt into each other, and potentially spill over and spread fire. If you don't have space on your menorah, remember that you still fulfill the mitzvah on the eighth night by lighting ONE candle!!**

1. Keep children away from candles while they are being lit; take special care of children with long hair.
2. Never let small children hold candles, matches or flammable liquids.
3. Menorahs should rest on trays, which are inflammable or are covered with aluminum foil.
4. Never leave small children in the vicinity of burning candles, which are unsupervised by an adult.
5. If lighting the candles by the front entrance or window will leave the candles potentially accessible to small children, it is better to light them in another location altogether.
6. Although many have a custom where children have their own menorahs, it is definitely not required by halacha. This should be taken into consideration if the presence of many menorahs presents an increased likelihood of children's access to the menorahs
7. Make sure that the surface upon which your menorah is placed is sturdy. A wobbly stand can easily cause a menorah to tip over. This is especially dangerous if you are using oil, which can spill and burn.
8. If you are lighting your menorah next to a window, make sure that there are no drapes or curtains in close proximity.
9. If your candles have burned for the required amount of time (approximately 30 minutes after nighttime), they can be extinguished. Certainly, this should be done if you will be leaving the house
10. Make sure that smoke detectors are properly installed throughout your house, and check that fresh batteries are inserted.

## School News

**School Photo Problems-** there seem to have been some questions regarding the clarity of the recent pictures that your children brought home. The company is willing to retake both class pictures and individual pictures on Jan. 7th. Please email Mrs. Shapiro if you want your child's class picture retaken as well as your individual picture retaken. Mrs. Shapiro's email is [momshap9@aol.com](mailto:momshap9@aol.com). Please respond as soon as possible so classes can be notified that they will have their class pictures retaken.

**Swine Flu Vaccination Date-** Please be reminded that the Hamilton County Public Health has told us that children aged nine and under who received their swine flu vaccination **need to have a second dose**. They have announced that the date will be **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 p.m. at Nagel Middle School, 1500 Nagel Road, Cincinnati, OH 45255**. They will NOT be coming back to CHDS for the second dose. The clinic is open to children nine and under who need a flu vaccination booster (second dose) and **also to those school children (Kindergarten through grade 12) who missed the first round vaccination clinic (for any reason)**. In addition, it is open to all school staff (including teachers, substitute teachers, and all other support staff) who

would like to receive the vaccination. We will inform you the exact time that CHDS students are invited.

**RAFFLE 5770 NEWSFLASH!** Greetings parents and teachers of CHDS! The school's annual raffle drawing is just around the corner on Motzei Shabbos, January 16th, and we're excited to announce a new development in the evening's program. This year's event will include both live and silent goods and services auctions. We are asking all parents and teachers to offer either an item or a service to auction off. Items can be unused things of value you have in your house like new linens or judaica items etc. or a specialty food like a shabbos challah or shavuos cheesecake. Parent services can be anything from an hour of yard-work to music lessons or even an afternoon of babysitting! Some ideas for teachers to offer are a free homework pass or a trip with a student to get shlushies. Additionally, you can solicit your favorite local establishment for a gift card or significant discount. Just be creative! Everyone has something to offer. When you think of some talent, service, favor, or item to auction, please email [abigailkatz@gmail.com](mailto:abigailkatz@gmail.com) so that it will be included in the auction program. If you'd like some more ideas, just give us a call or email. And of course, we will gladly issue a tax receipt for fair market value of any goods or services you provide. Thank you for your contribution, and for making the event a night to remember! CHDS Raffle Committee (Tamar Smith, Raffle Chair, Avigaille Katz and Atara Robinson)

**We are thrilled to announce that all families that sell all ten of their tickets will be entered into a special raffle to win an exquisite ladies Raymond Weil diamond studded watch valued at \$2250!**

IMPORTANT RAFFLE NEWS! MANY THANKS TO THE **BARRY, BIDNICK, BRAMY, COHEN, FERTEL GOLDBERG, M. KIBEL, KIRSCHNER, KLAFTER, KERNERMAN, OTTENSOSER, POLITZER, PREIS, ROBINSON, ROSEDALE, SCHERER, SMITH, TRAVIS, WEINSCHNEIDER, WEISBERG, WILHEIM AND YOUNGER** FAMILIES WHO HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN TICKETS IN!!! Please keep up your much-appreciated efforts selling tickets! **As soon as you have collected any monies for tickets, please drop them off at the office with Pam Burns.** Remember, the family that sells the most tickets will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Krogers. Please contact Tamar Smith with any questions you may have at 531-0155 or [tamarsmith@cinci.rr.com](mailto:tamarsmith@cinci.rr.com). Hatzlacha Rabah!

### **What's New In The Classroom?**

The fourth grade navi class has been learning about the first battle the Jewish people fought in Eretz Yisroel, conquering Yericho.

In Pirkei Avos this week, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls have learned about the importance of "Opening your house wide", "Making your house a meeting place for Chachomim" and "Clinging to the dust of their feet".

This week in Mrs. Steely's class, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders began a new math chapter on multiplication. The students reviewed multiplication facts in a number of ways, including identifying patterns in multiplying by 2, 5 and 9 on a hundred chart. In English, the class learned about similes. Each student wrote a simile poem about a subject of their choice. The poems will be typed and displayed on the classroom bulletin board next week. The students continued their chapter on electricity in science; they had fun building and investigating series and parallel circuits. The class finished reading Number the Stars and will write book reviews next week.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Scherer and the fifth grade boys on their recent Siyum of Mishnayos Rosh HaShana! Rabbi Scherer tested the boys, and affirmed that they know their mishnayos well. In true Rabbi Scherer style, the boys visited other classes, with treats, poems and song in honor of the occasion! Of course, no siyum is complete without a seudah, which Rabbi Scherer (and Mrs. Scherer, of course) prepared for

students and their parents this past Tuesday night. After finishing Mishnayos Rosh Hashana, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys focused a lot on Hilchos Chanuka and the history of the Greeks vs. Jews. After going through their booklet twice, the boys got some exercise playing tic tac toe as they reviewed again and prepared for their test.

The fifth grade boys enjoyed dreidel day with Mrs. Shapiro this week. During the day dreidels were used to do math, language arts, writing and reading. For math, the boys had to first guess the probability of a letter landing the same time out of 50 spins. For writing, the class had certain Chanukah words that they had to use to develop a story. The day also lent itself to teamwork, as teams they had to make words using the letters from "We love Chanukah." A great day was had and learning took a different spin.

Thank you to everyone that helped out and participated in the Jump Rope for Heart event yesterday. It was a great turnout and lots of fun! Congratulations to the following students for being the top two jumpers within their grades: Rivka Dina Spetner, Gabrielle Rubinoff, Shaindy Scherer, Yehoshua Hagage, Levi Mangel, Esther Alden, Malka Motzen, Fayga Karp, Leiby Travis, Rivka Sollofe, Elana Kibel and Naomi Chriqui. A big THANKS to the top fundraisers from each grade: Esther Wilhelm, David Benzaquen, Sarit Benzaquen, Michal Sollofe, Shira Horvitz and a very special thank you to Aiden Samuelson for raising the most money out of the whole school!!!! Thanks again. Ms. Timmers.

**A Donor “Thank You-”** CHDS would like again to extend a warm thank you to Mrs. Bella Kleinman for generously donating an assortment of office furniture and supplies for school use.

### **SHERUT LEUMI VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

This week was a great Chanukah week! On Sunday, there was a community breakfast, held at the Golf Manor Synagogue. The food and the atmosphere were wonderful. The Bnot created different kinds of projects for the children by age group: a talking dreidel, a color book, and a candle-holder and shield.

On Tuesday, Shiraz and Nof coordinated a carnival: “Shuk Chanukah.” Check out the flyer with the pictures of all the fun! The Shuk was for K-5<sup>th</sup> graders. The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls helped set up the booths and clean up afterwards. Thank you so much!

After the Shuk, they announced the winners to the Menorah contest: Talya and Eitan Sivan who made a chanukia of the different mountains of Israel. Congratulations! Also a mazel tov to the first graders who won the class prize for best participation! Well done to all of the students who made chanukiot. They are all beautiful and full of hard work and creativity! Some of the chanukiot were transferred to the JCC to be on display.

In the evening, the girls supervised a “sticklight” volleyball game for the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade boys at CHDS. It was so much fun!!!

On Friday, the bnot led a Rosh Chodesh activity for many of the classes about the city Modi’in, where the Macabim used to live. Well done to all of the kids who came wearing a white shirt for Rosh Chodesh.

Thursday night, Nof and Shiraz coordinated a Rosh Chodesh party for women at Chana Weisberg’s home. There was an amazing turnout again, with lots of fun and lots of delicious food. Thank you to Miriam Karp for her very thoughtful Dvar Torah, and to their wonderful hostess Chana, who showed the ladies how to make and decorate Chanukah chocolate lollipops to take home and enjoy.

### **SHABBOS ACTIVITIES**

**Pirchei** this Shabbos will be for Group 1---Grades 1-2 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Please do NOT send your son early.

**The WOMEN'S HALACHA CLASS** with Rabbi Cobi Robinson will take place this Sunday (December 20) 8:00 p.m. at the Kollel (2245 Losantiville). Topic: "Winter Related Issues on Shabbos". Including- Making hot tea and cocoa, shoveling and salting snow, raising the thermostat, making snowballs, and much more.

**Parsha Class-** Every Shabbos, Paula Weinberg teaches a Parshas Hashavua class at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Aviva Minster, 6661 Meadowridge Lane. An “Ahavas Yisroel” chabura follows the class. Call Paula at 631-7227, if you have any questions.

**BNOS** - There will be **BNOS** this Shabbos from 3:30 to 4:30

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Volunteers needed** - to pick up card catalog units for our library (a mini-van should be large enough for this, but this job may require some lifting) from a public school location. A lady in the community to daven with our 6th-8th grade girls every morning (or perhaps even some mornings, on a consistent basis) from 8:00-8:30 a.m. This would be a nice opportunity for a lady who wants to enhance her own morning davening by setting a time and place for Tefillah. Anyone interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Rabbi Kernerman at school.

**Yaacov's Place** – 20% discount on all English titles continues until December 23. Open Sunday 9:30 till 11:00 a.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 to 9:45 p.m.

**Attention parents-** If you have good photos of the girls' performance or any other CHDS Chanukah happening please email ASAP to Miriam Karp, [miriamskarp@gmail.com](mailto:miriamskarp@gmail.com), we need them for a school publication.

If you are interested in advertising your business in the 2010 Community Information Refrigerator Magnet (with a target audience of over 400 people) please email [plotskers@gmail.com](mailto:plotskers@gmail.com) or call 513-826-0037. All proceeds go to Tzedaka.

**NEW AT KINNERET! FASTER Service & NO TIP Required!** We have switched to counter service to serve you better. WE NOW OFFER **SLICES EVERY DAY AT ONLY \$1.99! KINNERET CAFE IS NOW OPEN MOTZEI SHABBOS FROM 7:00-11:00 p.m.** Come in and check out our reduced pricing on many of our menu items. Don't forget that Tuesday is our \$5 Falafel Special - and Thursday is our \$10 Large Pizza Special.

**Save the Date** Rabbi Yinon Kalazan from Arachim is returning to Cincinnati as part of an Achim Shabbaton. There will be a shiur for all women Shabbos afternoon, January 2. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Rabbi Schwartzbaum at 276-6054 or [israeliachim@ymail.com](mailto:israeliachim@ymail.com).

**Ladies Class-** There will be a class at Dr. Elana Plotsker's house this Sunday at 11:15 at 6761 Meadowridge Ln. The topic is the Second Paragraph of Shma. Please note the change of location.

**Save the Date!! FAMILY BINGO NIGHT! Sunday, January 10 at the Mayerson JCC, 5:30-8pm. Check your mailboxes after Chanukah for more information!**

**Camp Ashreinu's** Girls' and Preschool Division reunion is approaching. Only 2 weeks away. Please see flyer in the school bulletin for all details and/or call Mrs. Tova Scherer for any questions.

**Save the Date:** There WILL be a Midwest Agudah Convention this year! December 24-27. Stay tuned for more details.

**RITSS G.O.** is looking for some extra "sheitel heads" (the Styrofoam type). If you have any "heads" that we can use, please call Atara Minster @ 513-254-2511 or Rivka Wilhelm @ 513-508-2104. Thanks!

**Beginner's Chumash class for adults.** This will be a traditional beginner's Chumash class, teaching adults how to translate the words and understand the simple meaning of the verses according to Rashi's explanations. Basic reading ability would maximize your benefit from the class but non-readers would benefit as well. Separate classes for men and women. Please call Rabbi Karp 307-2386 or [JewishEducate@gmail.com](mailto:JewishEducate@gmail.com)

**Kiddush-** Rabbi and Mrs. Barry extend an invitation to the entire community to a Kiddush in honor of the birth of their twin girls, Leah & Rachel, next Shabbos, Parshas Vayigash, December 26. It will be held at 11:45 a.m. in the CHDS lunchroom. They look forward to having you join them in their simcha!

CHDS has a sofa to give away, in fair condition. If anyone is interested in having it, please contact the office.

The Weinschenider's new address is 2193 Section Road. Their new phone number is 442-0841, or they can be reached on their cell phones – Dena at 295-8111 and Raphael at 545-4474.

**Mazel Tov to:**

**A belated Mazel Tov to Dr. & Mrs. Behrman and Mr. & Mrs. Ziv on the recent bar mitzah of their son and grandson, Naftali.**

Mr. & Mrs. Ottensoser on the birth of a baby girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob & Arna Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. Ellie & Tamar Smith on the birth of a granddaughter and niece.

**Condolences to:**

Mr. Barry Nagler on the loss of his father.

On behalf of the staff, Shabbat Shalom – Gut Shabbos,

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

Mrs. Susan Shapiro, Director of Curriculum