

Cincinnati Hebrew Day School
Samuel and Rachel Boymel Campus
Newsletter
Friday 21 Shevat ~ 5770 February 5, 2010

PARSHAS: Yisro

Friday Night Candle Lighting 5:43 p.m.

Havdala 6:46 p.m.

Dear Parents and Friends:

If we were to try to pick a theme for this week’s Torah portion in the area of character refinement, we may well choose the theme of humility. Humility is a character trait that we all wish to possess, and which we all aspire to pass on to our children. A closer look at the parsha may help us understand how to do so.

The Torah tells us that Moshe was “exceedingly humble.” Indeed, the beginning of the Parsha shows us just how humble he was, as he lowered himself to accept the advice of his father-in-law Yisro, regarding the delegation of judgment amongst the nation.

Another famous example in the Parsha is found in the Midrash, which tells us that Hashem chose to give the Torah on Har Sinai, since it was the “humblest” of mountains (as manifested by physically being the lowest of mountains). One of my Rebbes, Rabbi Yochanon Wosner of Monsey, would often quote a Midrash which gave a deeper insight into what this quality of humility really was. The Midrash explains that Hashem, as it were, asked the mountains to donate rock to create a mountain worthy of having the Torah given on it. Each mountain offered an amount of stone, but Har Sinai offered to give more rock than any other mountain! Thus, it became the smallest physically, because it wanted to give the most to help assist G-d in His task. The Midrash is teaching us that to be humble, we have to be givers, not takers. We need to view our possessions and talents as G-d given. When we gain this perspective, we will be more inclined to share with others when there is a need.

This attitude helps combat the attitude which is the antithesis of humility: haughtiness. The Talmud (Sotah 4b) teaches us that a haughty person is considered as an idolater. Our sages explain that this is due to the fact that a haughty person does not look at his talents as G-d given, and consequently he prides himself, and leaves G-d out of the picture. This is tantamount to idolatry, which at its core is the attribution of power to sources other than G-d.

This passage in the Talmud gives yet another fascinating insight into the attribute of humility. The Talmud discusses the various opinions as to how much haughtiness is appropriate for a person to possess. The Talmud is working with the assumption that all character traits are needed in one measure or another. For example, a person should perhaps have an air of haughtiness about himself in the face of scoffers who would attempt to bully him and mock him for his religious values. One opinion in the Talmud presents an intriguing amount of haughtiness for a person’s moral diet. Rabbi Chiyah Bar Ashi says in the name of Rav: an eighth of an eighth of a measure of haughtiness! Clearly, the indication that Rav gives is that one should spice his persona ever so lightly with haughtiness, yet the number begs clarification. The Vilna Gaon gives a fascinating insight into this number. He states that this number is not giving a lesson in fractions; rather, it is a code: look in the **eighth** verse of the **eighth** Torah portion for the measure of haughtiness we should aspire to possess! Indeed, if we look at this verse in Parshas Vayishlach (32:11), we see the exceedingly humble words of Yaakov Avinu: “I am humbled by all of the kindnesses and truths that You, G-d, have bestowed upon your servant...” Thus, implies the Vilna Gaon, one’s actions and thoughts should always be tempered with this attitude: we should look at our possessions and talents as ultimately coming as undeserved gifts from G-d, and this will save us from the ills of haughtiness.

In this age of consumerism, this is no small task. We are constantly encouraged to increase our possessions, and keep up with our neighbors. This puts a tremendous pressure on our dear children, who can often feel a sense of inadequacy around their peers who have “bigger and better” possessions. Parenthetically, this is one of the rationales in favor of school uniforms, which our community is now examining for our school.

Perhaps another way we can assist our children in acquiring the attribute of humility is to help them realize how incredibly fortunate they are- how they are blessed with an abundance of food, shelter, education, and an almost endless wealth of opportunities in this country. We can remind our children that this is one of the reasons why we make blessings on virtually every type of benefits we receive in this world.

May we all merit to grow in our ability to see the blessing in our lives, recognize G-d as the source of this blessing, and in so doing, may we become authentically humble people.

Wishing you a good Shabbos,

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman
Principal

School News

Rabbi Ginsburg’s Curriculum Review- CHDS benefited greatly with the visit of Rabbi Ginsburg before our break! Rabbi Ginsburg and his assistant, Mrs. Moniker, gave an insightful perspective on our community and our opportunities for improvement and growth. We are anxiously awaiting a complete set of recommendations, at which point Rabbi Minster and his committee will begin their analysis of recommendations. We will keep parents abreast of the developments as they are happening.

CHDS Tribute Dinner -Save the date!-CHDS Tribute Dinner, Monday evening, May 31st. Join us for a delightful cruise down the Ohio on the majestic *Belle of Cincinnati* as we recognize the many contributions of Rabbi Raffie and Sherri Zuroff to our school and community. This is an event you will not want to miss! A DINNER COMMITTEE IS NOW FORMING-TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT RABBI TRAVIS IN THE OFFICE.

Reminder: All parents renewing or registering for an EdChoice Scholarship, please turn all paperwork into Mrs. Shapiro as soon as possible. Please remember to include a resent utility bill which shows your address. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Shapiro.

Torah Fair Projects: Students should please remember to bring their Torah Fair projects in to school on Tuesday morning. They should be kept in classrooms until 3:15 pm, when they should all be brought into the gym and placed on the appropriate table. Judges will view the projects on Tuesday evening and then families are invited to come and look at the projects on Wednesday evening during the eighth grade dinner from 5:50-7:00 p.m. Out of respect for all the time and effort that the students put into their projects, no children will be allowed into the gym without their parent.

Rabbi Glaser Visit- Students in grades 1-8 were treated this week with a visit of Rabbi Glaser, director of Soveya. Children heard intriguing divrei Torah on the subject of eating, and learned that eating healthy foods fulfills the commandment of “ushmartem me’od lenafshoseichem”- you shall guard your health- according to some opinions. The students also learned that when we make healthy choices in our diet, according to some Rabbinic opinions one actually elevates their meal to a “se’udas mitzvah!”

Barton's Chocolate Sale Update - There are 3 weeks left for the Barton's chocolate fundraiser. Please help support CHDS by selling. Don't forget to bring your sale packet with you when you head out of town for winter break. Also, remember that the chocolates make great host/hostess gifts for Pesach.

Chumash Mesiba - The community is invited to the Chumash Mesiba for our 1st graders, Sunday, February 14th, 10:00 a.m. at CHDS. Mazel Tov!

What's New In The Classroom?

In Rabbi Gabay's class, the fourth graders have been studying the berachos that Yaakov gave to his sons before he died. Most recently, they have focused on the blessings to Shimon, Levi and Yehudah. In Mishnayos class with the boys, they have been learning the laws of berachos- from the source of the Mishna itself! This week in Rabbi Scherer's class the 4th grade girls focused on Mishna Zayin which discusses the idea of "avoiding bad influences, distancing your self from a bad neighbor, and not to befriend those known to be wicked. In Rabbi Berger's Navi class, the fourth graders just started perek ches in Sefer Yehoshua. Bnai Yisroel is about to attack the city of Ai for the second time.

In Dinim class with Rabbi Scherer, the 5th grade boys have begun learning about the Four Parshiyos leading up to Pesach, starting with next week's Parshas Shekalim. Our 5th grade boys have started their Gemara lessons with Rabbi Scherer this week! The boys spent a solid week learning about the history and back round of Gemara, what exactly it is, when it was written, why it was written, and who wrote it. As well, the were introduced to their fist page of Gemara, Maseches Brochos, Perek Tefilas Hashachar, Daf Chaf Vav Amud Aleph. In Chumash class with Rabbi Lifshitz, the boys have begun learning in the Aseres Hadibros the Mitzvos between man & Hashem, as well as the fact that the Mitzvos between man & man are equally important, as indicated by the 2 equal Luchos. In Navi they learned about the miracles relating to the birth of Shimshon, as well as his being a Nazir, in order to maintain his righteousness while battling the Plishtim in his unique way.

This week in Mrs. Steely's math class, the 4th graders learned to multiply two and three digit numbers. In writing, the students learned about metaphors. They typed metaphor poems and read them to each other during shared reading time. The students began a new social studies chapter. They learned about transportation in Ohio during the 1800s and had fun decorating pictures of steamboats. In science, the students learned how sunlight affects air temperature. They measured air temperature using a thermometer.

This week in Mrs. Shapiro's 5th grade class the students finished a math unit on division. The class will now start their study of fractions. They will learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide with fractions. The students will be presenting reports representing a famous person whose birthday is in February. On the persons birthday their biography will be presented to the class. In social studies the boys are having a taste of teaching. With this chapter each student will be teaching a section. They have made up worksheets and explain the section they are presenting as the chapter is read. This is a good experience for the class on organization and presenting material.

The 6th - 8th grade girls have just finished their Basketball unit in PE class. There were 2 teams, Bopits and Pinklets. The Bopits were coached by Naomi Chriqui and the Pinklets were coached by Shira Horvitz. The girls played 3 games total. The Bopits won the first 2 games but the Pinklets pulled through

in the last game to take a win by 1 point. MVP (Most Valuable Player) for all 3 games for the Bopits was Chaya Mangel. She was the only player to make a 3-pointer and had the most points out of both teams (15 points). The MVP's for the Pinklets were: Game 1 - Devorah Kattan (2 points) Game 2 - Esti Karp (10 points) Game 3 - Menucha Shaina Kalmanson (6 points and 2 assists). The girls did a great job and had lots of fun! Both teams got to decorate their own t-shirt and took them home on Monday.

After School Mishnayos- Rabbi Eli Polsky is pleased to announce that the 4th grade boys will be invited to join mishnayos classes starting next week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. The boys will be starting a new mesechta- to be announced. Rabbi Polsky will also be hosting a siyum Shabbos morning next week (Parshas Mishpatim) at 11:30 a.m. for boys in the 5th-8th grades who participated. Mazel Tov!

School Minyan- Once again, CHDS is attempting to have a Mincha minyan for our 6th-8th grade students at 3:50 p.m. Monday through Thursday. In order to make this happen, we need the commitment of several men in the community. If you are interested, and can commit to certain days, please call Rabbi Kernerman, or email him at ykernerman@yahoo.com.

In Ms. Timmers' PE classes the students have finished their Cup Stacking tournament. Here are the quickest cup stackers in their classes:

3-3-3 Stack: Kindergarten - Mordechai Scherer 1st Grade - Eitan Sivan 2nd Grade - Shaindy Scherer 3rd Grade - Koby Bernstein 4th Grade - Chana Karp and Fayga Karp 6th Grade - Rivky Lifshitz 7th Grade - Elana Kibel

6-6 Stack: Kindergarten - Mordechai Scherer 1st Grade - Rebecca Bashari 2nd Grade - David Benzaquen 3rd Grade - Levi Mangel 4th Grade - Chana Karp 6th Grade - Rivky Lifshitz 7th Grade - Tania Cohen

Full Cycle: 3rd Grade - Levi Mangel 4th Grade - Chana Karp 6th Grade - Rivky Lifshitz 7th Grade - Chasya Klafter

Here are the quickest cup stackers in the whole school:

3-3-3 Stack: Coby Bernstein **6-6 Stack:** Levi Mangel **Full Cycle :** Levi Mangel

SHABBOS ACTIVITIES

Pirchei this Shabbos will be for Group 2 grades 3-5 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

There will be bnos this week.

WOMEN'S HALACHA CLASS with Rabbi Cobi Robinson will take place this Sunday (February 7) 8:00 p.m. at the Kollel (2245 Losantiville). Topic: TBA

Parsha with Paula Weinberg at the Weinberg's at 4:45-5:15 this Shabbos until further notice.

MISCELLANEOUS

Barton's Chocolate Sale - There are only 2 weeks for the Barton's Chocolate sale. Please do all you can to make this year's sale a success. Don't forget that all order forms and monies (**checks made out to CHDS**) are due on February 15th. Please contact Ms. Burns if you misplaced your packet.

Relief For Earthquake Victims In Haiti- The Jewish Federations of North America is partnering with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to provide aid and relief to victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday. If you are interested in donating funds to help this cause, visit www.jdc.org/donation/donate.aspx and click on the "Haiti Earthquake Relief" option.

Additionally, Agudath Israel has also indicated the following charity as a distributor for aid: **American Red Cross National Headquarters**, 2025 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, www.Redcross.org.

Camp Ashreinu News -Although the thermometer is telling us it's cold, plans for Camp Ashreinu Summer 2010 are really warming up. Enrollment for Camp Ashreinu 2010 is well under way. Many have already received their complementary CD of Memories of '09 for sending in their registration forms.

NOTE: All scholarship requests must be made **AND** registration forms received **BEFORE** next Sunday, February 14th. For any questions regarding Camp Ashreinu, please call Rabbi and Mrs. Scherer at 351-7424 or 702-1513.

Want to get ready for the Chaggim? Need an extra something? Not sure what it may be? Come to the BRACHA PARTY! Rescheduled to Saturday, February 20th, Motzei Shabbos at 8:30 p.m. at Yiska Simcha Guigui's house. Her address is 6616 Meadowridge Lane. Please join Yiska Simcha Guigui and WendySue Steinberg for an amazing evening of Brachas, sisterhood and food. Women only. We will see you there!

Chaya's Playgroup The famous Morah Chaya's playgroup is taking reservations for this coming fall!! Filled with a fun and loving atmosphere, with hands on projects, group play, circle and exercise time in a spacious and friendly location! Age: Around 2 yrs old. Contact: 531-7738. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call Morah Chaya for more details and to reserve your spot.

Leila Kibel is selling children's shabbos and weekday clothing by catalogue order. All girls' clothing are tznius. To view the catalogue, please contact Leila at 351-0137.

SARAH'S PLACE UPDATE -- Thank you to all the very generous donors of new and gently used clothing. The Gemach is chock full of tsnusdik ladies', girls' and children's clothes. We also have brand new bed sheets, shoes and coats. Due to the large influx of new items, Sarah's Place will NOT be accepting any more donations at this time. We are now holding our yearly CLEARANCE SALE with the ENTIRE STORE at over 50% off! Our ultra-low prices easily beat out Snooty Fox, Once Upon a Child, and any thrift store you can find. We will not be undersold! Make an appointment today by calling Shifra Motzen 924-0538, Leah Politzer 337-5676, or Ruth Henn 731-3495. All proceeds benefit RITSS High School. If you are interested in working for this very worthy cause please call Shifra Motzen.

Cholov Yisroel Products at Costco- Kosher consumers should be aware that the Costco on Fields-Ertel now has some cholov yisroel cheese products- like 2 lbs of shredded mozzarella cheese for \$7.99 and 3 lb bricks of cheese slices for \$10.99! Many thanks to Miriam Younger for her efforts in making these products available!

Play Group - Michal Jacobson (has over 16 years teaching experience) is planning to start new play group in September 2010 for ages 1-2 years old (this will be my third year having play group) I might consider younger ages. Please email me: shalommick1@aol.com or call 885-4984 (cell) or 699-5702 (home).

Anyone interested in a playgroup for ages newborn-and up for this year or next year please contact Rebecca Pressman at 407-3400. References upon request.

The Motzen family invites the community to a kiddush NEXT shabbos, parshas Mishpatim (February 13) at CZE. The kiddush is sponsored in honor of the birth of their daughter, Michal (6 months ago) and in gratitude for the many people who helped by cooking meals, running errands, and providing child care following her birth.

"New!!! Drop off babysitting available for your toilet-trained tots! Hours of operation are 1:30- 4:00 pm. Please call Avigaille Katz for more information at 351-1085.

If you are interested in purchasing a print or original of the paintings displayed at the auction, contact Miriam Karp at 351-8246.

Take 'N Bake for Adar: CHILDREN The next scheduled Take 'N Bake will be next Friday, February 12 (or Thursday night after tzeis). To participate this month and/or add names, please contact Michal Mendelsberg (mmendelsberg@gmail.com or 513-351-6637) by Tuesday, February 9.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is Looking for a Few Good Menches! Are you a man or woman between the ages of 21 and 81? Are you willing to donate a few hours a week for a really good cause? If the answer is yes, then ***WE NEED YOU!*** Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association of Cincinnati has children and teen-agers on our waiting list—all waiting for mentors—someone like you to be their friend, role model or just someone to talk to. You have what it takes... **no special skills are needed** only a desire to have fun and make a difference in a child’s life. Positive role models help children build self-esteem and also assist them in navigating the difficult terrain of childhood and/or adolescence. By volunteering, you can make a huge impact on a child’s life and develop a long- lasting relationship. We’ve been making matches for more than 100 years and we need a few good menches to make them for 100 more. Have fun and do something new this year. You’ll be surprised by the change it’ll bring into your own life. For more information, please call 761-3200 or e-mail jennifer@bigbrobigsis.org.

The Schwartzbaum family invites the community to join them for a kiddush in honor of their daughter, Ayala, next Shabbos, Parshat Mishpatim (February 13) at CHDS, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

BTMS Cookbook Order – Now is the time to place your order for this very useful and attractive cookbook featuring recipes for all different types of vegetable dishes. Cookbooks should arrive in time for Mother’s Day. Each cookbook will be available for \$20.00. Please make checks payable to Beth Tevillah Mikveh Society or BTMS. Any questions call Barbara at 513-325-1682 or Kayla at 513-503-2144.

LOST -- did you borrow an even flow exersaucer from the Weinbergs baby gear gemach? It is green and blue with a multicolored seat. Please call the Gemach if you have it at 924-0538. Thank you!

Condolence to:

Mrs. Tova Kirschner on the recent loss of her father.

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi & Mrs. Schwartzbaum on the birth of a baby girl, Ayala.

Mr. & Mrs. Raubvogel on the birth of a baby girl, Tamar Michal.

Rabbi & Mrs. Lifshitz on the engagement of their daughter Chavi to Shimon Ash of Australia.

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

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

Mrs. Susan Shapiro, Director of Curriculum