

Cincinnati Hebrew Day School
Samuel and Rachel Boymel Campus
Newsletter
Friday, 5 Cheshvan ~ 5770 October 23, 2009

PARSHAS: Noach

Friday Night Candle Lighting 6:29 p.m.

Havdala 7:30 p.m.

Dear Parents and Friends:

Empathy: the ability to enter fully into another's feelings or experience. This is perhaps one of the human characteristics that most sets us apart from the animal world. Our religious beliefs put social welfare, which is based on empathy, above almost all else. In this week's Parsha, we see a fascinating lesson in relating to the suffering of others.

The Torah teaches that Noach was commanded: 'And you shall take of all that is eaten and gather it to you; and it shall be for you and for them (Noach's family and the animals) to eat.' (Beraishis 6:21) The question is asked: what are the words "and it shall be for you and for them to eat" coming to teach us? Are they not superfluous?

Rav Elchonon Wasserman Zt"l offered the following explanation. According to the Midrash, the world before the flood was on a different level of existence. Plants were more lush and fertile, and consequently, the food was much more nutritious and delicious. Surely, Noach, being a prophet, would have known that the world he would be occupying after the flood would be an inferior world, with inferior food as well. Why not, one may ask, take some of the special foods from before the flood to eat afterwards? To this, question, says Rav Wasserman, the Torah states: "it shall be for you and for them **to eat**" In a sense, G-d is telling Noach: "Do not save the food for the future; take only what you need to survive in the Ark. When everyone else is eating inferior food, it is not proper that you should be enjoying better food." If G-d was teaching sensitivity to Noach to such a mild degree of "suffering," as it were, how much more so should we be sensitive to more authentic suffering of people!

Indeed, we see this character trait of empathy in other Biblical events. The Jewish nation did not recite songs of praise to Hashem after being saved at the splitting of the sea, since G-d's children, the Egyptians, were drowning. For this reason, we remove some wine from our cup at the Passover seder- our joy is not full (symbolized with a cup that is not full) in the midst of human destruction.

A more contemporary story illustrates this point as well:

In the year 1895, a great fire in the city of Brisk destroyed many houses. By day and by night, Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik of Brisk devoted all of his energy to helping those who had lost their homes. During that period, Rav Chaim did not sleep at home. He slept instead on the floor in a side room of a shul. His family implored him to rest at night in his own bed, but to no avail. "I am not able to sleep in a bed when so many people do not have even a roof over their heads," said Rav Chaim (Ishim v'shitos, pp. 76-7)

Not surprisingly, empathy is one of the characteristics that takes so long to develop in people. As I once heard a Rabbi explain, we start out life with clenched fists (indicating that we grab whatever we can) and only later in life do we gain the ability to relax them (indicating that we can open our hands to share and give to others).

It is for this reason that one of the focuses in our Middos program at CHDS is to praise children for helping their friends and classmates in either academic or social settings. With this type of reinforcement, may we merit to see our children grow to become empathic and caring Jews.

Wishing you a great Shabbos,

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

School News

Collaboration with Judaic and Secular Teachers- This week, CHDS held collaborative meetings between our secular and Judaic staff. We hope to plan and implement cross-curriculum projects throughout the year. One such project took place recently in the fifth grade. In Rabbi Lifshitz's class the students learned about reciting the Shehechyanu blessing on new fruits, and using pomegranates as one of the “simanim” for Rosh Hashana. Our sages teach that we pray that our mitzvos should be as numerous as the seeds of the pomegranate. Since we know that there are 613 commandments, Mrs. Shapiro's students opened the pomegranates and counted the seeds to see if there were really 613! This involved a math and a writing lesson. Many thanks goes out to the parent volunteers who helped out at school this week, covering duties of the teachers, to allow these meetings to happen. Specifically, thanks go to Mrs. Maltinsky, Mrs. Epstein, Mrs. Kirschner, Mrs. Guigi, and Mrs. Sollofe.

PAINLESS SUPPORT FOR CHDS!!!-Do you know that a percentage of your purchases at more than 700 retailers (on-line) can benefit CHDS? CHDS is enrolled as a beneficiary for on-line purchases done through the igive.com website. **MEMBERSHIP AT IGIVE IS FREE AND ENTITLES YOU TO DISCOUNTS!** Please see the flyer regarding iGive at the back of the newsletter for more details or go to www.iGive.com/CHDS. Please contact Rabbi Travis in the office if you have further questions.

What's New In The Classroom?

This week the **first graders** began learning about Shabbos and the ways we go about preparing for it. In Kriah, they practiced reading words that have a 'sheva' under the first letter and words that have a 'patach' under the last letter. In Kesiva, they learned how to write letters, 'koof' and 'ches'.

In first grade Ivrit with Mrs. Schwartzbaum, the class did a unit on weather. They learned the words for rain, snow, wind, drops, and more. The children played a weather memory game and a weather bingo game where they had to write the words in Hebrew on their bingo boards.

In Mrs. Duff's class, the **1st graders** have been learning the short “I” vowel sound and are working on comparing it to short “e” and short “a”. Everyone's reading is coming along nicely. Each child is also getting progressively harder books to read each week. The class went to the zoo on Wednesday to see all the animals as well as to observe and collect data related to whether male or female bonobos are more active. Students are getting ready to start a math unit on addition and subtraction next week.

In Rabbi Berger's class, the **second grade** has reached the point in parshas Noach where the teivah is sealed and the flood begins to rage. The next section of the story will be done "fast speed." In Ivrit, they completed a unit on people and will learn about parts of the body next.

The **third graders** just finished their first Parsha this year, Toldos. They've started reviewing for a whole Parsha test next week. After learning how to bake a cake and set the table in Ivrit, the class will continue with a unit on breakfast.

Both grades have started learning about the rules of Netilas Yodayim in Dinim.

In Mrs. Grad's class, the **second and third graders** have completed writing autumn poems and stories for English class. Each class has also been working on different skills to help enhance their writing. Third graders have been working on dictionary and thesaurus skills, along with writing paragraphs with topic sentences followed by interesting details. Second graders have been learning to understand subjects and predicates in order to construct well written sentences.

In math, third graders have been comparing large numbers using less than, greater than, and equal to signs, along with rounding numbers to the nearest tens and hundreds. Second graders have been learning

about graphing through pictographs and bar graphs.

Both classes are learning about plants in Science and having fun with hands on experiments.

The fifth graders are working very hard on their Native American Indian reports. The students are learning how to take notes and organize their information. They are also starting to use the SRS reading kit. This allows each student to read and improve their reading on their own level and move at their own pace. In social studies the class is learning about the Mayans and Aztec Indian tribes and how they played a part in American history.

Upper level girls Rosh Chodesh activities with Mrs. Scherer – Tehila Spetner and Menucha Shaina Kalmanson did a super job creating an intricate scavenger hunt. Each team had to piece together their clues to form a fantastic picture pertaining to the month of Cheshvan.

After School Mishnayos – Rabbi Eli Polsky will be leading boys once again this year Monday and Wednesdays after school from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Open to grades 5 and up. Starts Monday, October 26th.

Lunch Program Note: If your child comes late to school, please ensure that they order lunch before going to class. There have been occasions where several students have failed to do so, and consequently not enough portions were prepared.

Safety Corner

New Traffic Pattern- With approval of the Golf Manor Police, the alleyway into the school parking lot from Elbrook will soon be designated as **ONE-WAY** into the parking lot. This will be effective as soon as traffic signs go up in the alley, which should be in the next week or so. This move should help ensure the safety of both drivers and pedestrians in the alley. When exiting CHDS, please exit on Losantiville **ONLY**, and please do not cut through the parking lot of the tax business on the corner. To do so is not lawful, and could create ill will with our neighbors, not to mention a potential Chillul Hashem.

Helpful Information on Carseats and Boosters- More than 8,700 ED visits linked to improper car seat usage, data indicate. USA Today (10/20, Szabo) reported, "More than 8,700 infants end up in the emergency" department "each year because their car seats are used improperly outside the car," according to research conducted by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Senior author Shital Parikh explained that "many parents like the convenience of the latest travel systems, which can be used as handheld baby carriers, as well as snap-in seats for the car or stroller." However, Parikh observed that infants could sustain injuries "when car seats fell off tables, countertops or other high surfaces. In some cases, babies who weren't securely buckled fell out of the seats." What's more, nearly eight percent "of the babies, or about 680 a year, needed to be admitted to the hospital," and "three died during the study period of 2003 to 2007."

Data indicate booster seats may reduce injury risk among children aged 4 to 8. WebMD (10/19, Hendrick) reported, "Booster seats with proper belt positioning significantly reduce the risk of injury in children aged 4 to 8 who are involved in traffic accidents," according to findings published in Pediatrics. Before reaching that conclusion, investigators at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia collected data "on 7,151 children involved in 6,591 car crashes in 15 states and Washington, DC, between Dec. 1, 1998, and Nov. 30, 2007." They soon noted that "children in belt-positioning booster seats were 45 percent less likely to sustain injuries than same-age kids in standard vehicle seats." However, those in "in side impact crashes benefited most from booster seats, showing a reduction in injury risk of 68 percent for near-side impacts and 82 percent for far-side." MedPage Today (10/19, Neale) also covered the story.

SHERUT LEUMI VOLUNTEER UPDATE

The Sherut Leumi volunteers really got the students excited about the new month of Cheshvan. Many of the students came to school wearing white shirts in honor of Rosh Chodesh. Nofit and Shiraz delivered candy to all the classes for the special day.

The 2nd and 3rd graders began “kriah”- Hebrew reading- with the volunteers.

Israel Club started for the 4th and 5th graders. 5th grade boys enjoyed an activity about rain and the tefillah in our davening for “Mashiv Haruach u’morid Hageshem”.

Next week Israel club will be for the 4th grade girls from 4-5 pm on Thursday.

Please contact Ahuva Goldman at 531-4440 to host the Sherut girls for Shabbat and Yom Tov meals.

This week the Sherut Leumi volunteers had their first Israel club for 4th-6th grade girls.

A beautiful new banner: **Mashiv Haruach Umorid HaGesem**, welcomes everyone back from their festive break, in the entryway to the school. Thank you Shiraz and Nofit!

SHABBOS ACTIVITIES

Important PIRCHEI announcement-For the first time this year, Pirchei this week will be for Grades 1 & 2 from 3:30-4:30 pm at Rabbi Scherer's residence, 6700 Elbrook Ave. Please do not send your son early.

PIRCHEI MASMIDIM BANQUET - What you've all been waiting for.....the Pirchei Banquet for the boys who learned & qualified for Prizes will be this Monday evening at CHDS, with Mincha at 5:45 in the School's shul and the banquet following. This learning is being sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ziv, as a merit for a speedy recovery for their son, Refoel Eliezer Aharon ben Esther Enya, by Dr. and Mrs. Ned Mehlman, as a merit for the Hatzlocho of their children and their families in all of their endeavors and by Rabbi and Mrs. Rafi Zuroff, li-iluy nishmas Dr. Arnold Zuroff, Avraham Ben Shlomo Z”L.

Parsha class – This Shabbos with Mrs. Paula Weinberg will be held at the home of Mrs. Aviva Minster from 5:30-6:15 followed by a chabura on Ahavas Yisroel. Children are welcome to come with their mothers.

MISCELLANEOUS

Box tops – the deadline for box tops is this Monday, October 26th for this quarter. Please scour your kitchen and bring in those box-tops!

The Fishmans’ new home phone number is 631-5551, please change in your CHDS calendar.

Birthday Party cancelled – Pinchas Guigui’s birthday party has been cancelled this Sunday. The party will be rescheduled.

Aryeh’s having his UPSHERIN! Please join our simcha at 2:00 p.m. THIS Sunday October 25th at CHDS. -Cobi and Atara Robinson

The **WOMEN'S HALACHA CLASS** with Rabbi Cobi Robinson will NOT take place this week.

YEARNING FOR REDEMPTION- There will be a video presentation of shiurim by Rebbetzins Tehila Jaeger and Tziporah Heller with a special message from Sara Yocheved Rigler on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 (Rachel Imeinu's yahrzeit). All proceeds will go to Aniyei Yisrael. The video will be shown at the home of Dr Ronna Schneider, 2450 Brookwood Lane at 8:00 p.m. Parking is limited, so please park

on Fair Oaks and walk. There will be another video presentation on November 21, Motzei Shabbos Parshas Toldos, entitled “ETERNAL IMPRINTS: A Jewish woman creates a home, a generation, an imprint that lasts forever.” The panel of speakers includes: Mrs Baila Friedman, Mrs Chani Juravel, Mrs Yael Kaisman and Rebbetzin Faigy Twersky plus much more. The program location is the home of Pammy Samuelson, at 6753 Glen Acres Drive (the fourth house on the right), at 8:30 p.m.

If you would like to host future classes, and have a large screen TV, please call Paula Weinberg at 631-7227.

DIAMONDS IN THE DUST. An original film by women for women comes to Cincinnati on Monday, November 2nd at the home of Mrs. Chaya Kibel, 2580 Section Road. (parking available in the driveway, up towards the house) Suggested donation \$10.00. \$5.00 for students. Call Paula at 631-7227 with questions.

Mark your Calendars—Girls' Chanuka Production This year's girls' Chanuka production will be on Monday evening, December 14, at the JCC.

Ladies—Save the Date You are invited to a day of learning with Rebbetzin Holly Pavlov on **Sunday, November 15**. There will be two text-based shiurim in the after noon, and another lecture in the evening. You can choose to come to any one, two, or all three shiurim. Rebbetzin Pavlov is the founder and director of She’arim, a learning program in Jerusalem for adult women. She has also authored two books. *Mirrors of Our Lives: Reflections of Women in Tanach* and *Water from the Well: Reflections on Being a Jew at the End of History*. Watch for a flyer with more information coming soon. Questions? Contact Gayle at 631-5293 or gjstat@juno.com.

Thanks to Bill Martin's Auto Body (2201 Losantiville Ave.) for repairing one of the school's cars for free. CHDS appreciates the community businesses that help CHDS flourish!

Girls Volleyball (grades 3 - 6) Wednesdays, 4:30 - 5:30 (8 classes) Beginning October 28. \$80 member \$112 public. To register, you can call [761-7500](tel:761-7500), or stop by the front desk. Feel free to contact Cathy Weinberger if you need additional information.

Take 'N Bake for CHESHVAN: SHIDDUCHIM The next scheduled Take 'N Bake will be next Friday, October 23 (or Thursday night) -- sorry! we're off Shabbos M'varchim by a week. To participate this month and/or add names, please contact Michal Mendelsberg (mmendelsberg@gmail.com or 513-351-6637) by Tuesday, October 20.

Ipod for Sale – Ipod nano, 4th generation for sale. For more information, contact Almog Sulam at (513) 351-7577.

Attention Women: If you would like to schedule an appointment to have your wig cut, my (twin) sister, a very experienced shatel macher from Israel, will be in for two days and will be available for a few evening appointments on Monday, October 26 and Tuesday, October 27. Full cuts will be \$110.00, recuts \$85.00. Call Yiddes at 351-1146 if you would like to schedule.

Do you enjoy making seniors smile? JEEP! Jewish Education for Every Person is hiring someone to head our "Five Minutes for Every Bubby and Zaydie" program. This program provides warm Jewish visits for seniors in nursing homes, etc. JEEP is also hiring a part-time administrative assistant. jewisheducate@gmail.com

Aryeh’s having his UPSHERIN! Please join us in our simcha at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday October 25th at CHDS. -Cobi and Atara Robinson

MP4 for sale – and MP4 player with 4 GB for sale. For more information call Adir Sulam at 351-7577.

For Sale: Dining room set. \$200.00. Includes table > 100” and 10 chairs. 6 of one set, 4 of another. All coordinate. For more information, please call the Bidnicks at 351-1146.

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

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

Mrs. Susan Shapiro, Director of Curriculum