

**Cincinnati Hebrew Day School**  
**Samuel and Rachel Boymel Campus**  
**Newsletter**  
**Friday, 8 Elul ~ 5769 August 28, 2009**

*PARSHAS: Ki Seitzei*

**Friday Night Candle Lighting 7:56 p.m. (not before 6:44p.m.)      Shabbos ends 8:56 p.m.**

*The following D’var Torah is reprinted from ’03, when CHDS underwent major renovations. Nevertheless, since we did have some very last-minute construction this year, I felt I had poetic license to reprint it- keeping in mind the main idea was the lesson to be learned. I also added a second lesson as well.*

Dear Parents and Friends:

“Will the school be open on time?”

This was an oft-asked question over the summer (of 2003), and frankly, none of us knew the answer. The job was immense, and the task seemed ominous. Just looking at the gutted building in June gave the impression of a larger-than-life task that lay ahead. What we were lacking from the outset, through our inexperience in construction, was a vision for how a building is built, one step at a time. We were simply overwhelmed.

In truth, this is analogous to the feeling of some students as they start a new year of school. “Can I really learn it all?” can be an uncomfortable question as a child takes note of the thickness of the textbook handed to him.

Our sages had an expression which I think can be applied to the above scenarios: “All beginnings are difficult.” Why is this wise saying so true? Why is it often hard to start out on a new endeavor- be it a new class, or a new project?

Perhaps if we look carefully at the expression of our sages, we can infer a different message, and therefore help us answer our questions. Instead of simply reading “all beginnings are difficult,” we could emphasize the first word of the phrase- ‘all.’ Perhaps our sages are telling us the following message: why are beginnings difficult? Because we tend to look at the ‘all.’ As a consequence, the ‘beginning is difficult.’ That is to say, we can get fixed on the enormity of the project at the beginning, and become overwhelmed with the daunting tasks that lie ahead. Thus, when we see a school in June that looks like Saddam Hussein’s palace after the U.S. Air-force bombings, we fixate on what we know the final project must look like just weeks away. It becomes disconcerting. We cannot break the project down into manageable pieces. Similarly, as students, we tend to look at the entire sefer we are handed, and get overwhelmed. Hence, we look at the ‘all,’ and, therefore, the ‘beginning is difficult.’ It takes reflection and contemplation to realize that we only have to learn one posuk at a time, and then in good time, we will finish.

It is an important task, both as educators and parents, to give our children knowledge at a rate at which they can comprehend. Moreover, we must teach our children to focus on today’s task, and not to be overwhelmed with the enormity of the given project. For in truth, the end of the sefer is also not the end. We hopefully give our children the message that learning is a life-long endeavor, and that there is no end. As we learn from Rabbi Tarfon in the Ethics of our Fathers: “You are not required to complete the task, yet you are not free to withdraw from it.”

Years after writing this D’var Torah, I heard that Rabbi Moshe Sherer of Agudath Israel said the same drasha on this teaching. I would like to add one more related idea, based on a shiur I heard recently from noted author and lecturer, Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz of project Y.E.S. Sometimes, he said, we have disappointing moments in our observations of our children’s educational and social development. A parent may ask: “Why don’t they know more?” or perhaps, “Where are their manners?” He stated that the following phrase is often: “When I went to school...” or, “When I was their age...” Rabbi Horowitz said that we, as parents, sometimes forget the timeline of our youth. We may be remembering our mature behavior when we were 17, which we compare to our child of 7. Thus, the ‘beginning is difficult,’ because we look at ‘all’ of our own growth. Knowing what we expect our children to become, we sometimes may make unrealistic expectations as to what they can accomplish at their beginning.

Rabbi Horowitz related the following true story that happened to him.

*Late one night, close to 11:00 p.m., Rabbi Horowitz received a call at his home from a frantic parent: “Rabbi- you have to help me- I need to find a camp for my boys! And not just any camp- I need a real camp with a serious learning program!!” “How old are your boys?” asked Rabbi Horowitz? The man’s answer: “Four and five years old.” Rabbi Horowitz thought to himself: ‘What do you want them to learn? How to cut paper?’*

Obviously, Rabbi Horowitz believes in the importance of Torah learning and raising our children to succeed. However, I believe that his point was the point mentioned above: we must allow our children to develop at an age-appropriate pace, and not rob them of the joys of playtime. Not to mention the fact that development is also found in many ways that are hard to quantify- such as cutting, drawing, sharing and imaginative play.

We pray that we successfully assist in teaching our students to grow one step at a time, and that we, as parents, can help them celebrate the successes of each step of this growth.

Wishing you a great Shabbos,

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

## **School News**

**OPEN HOUSE: Please be reminded that open house for students in grades 1-8 will be Monday night, August 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 7:30 p.m. Open house for preschool/Kindergarten children will be held on Wednesday night, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

CHDS CALENDAR-Final call to all those wishing to participate in this year's CHDS calendar honoring former parents Matt and Nannette Fox. All ads must be in by this Monday, August 31st. Please complete the contract at the end of the newsletter.

CHDS SUIT SALE- As you hopefully are aware, CHDS will be conducting a sale of fine men's suits at the JCC September 6th,7th, and 13th, 9AM-3PM. Offered will be top of the line Adolfo wool suits for below discount retail

pricing. LaScala Select 80s 2 Ply cotton shirts and woven silk ties will also be available-please see the flier in back of the newsletter. Please help us spread the word!

We will be needing people to staff the sale, as well as people to help with set up, transportation etc. This is an opportunity to receive work/volunteer credit for those with this requirement, or to work off an outstanding obligation or past Give or Get balance. Give or Get credit for this year will also be given to those who are current and work the sale. Please contact Rabbi Travis at [chdsdod@juno.com](mailto:chdsdod@juno.com) if you are able to help.

**Parking Lot Safety-**We would like to inform our new parents, and remind our returning parents, that **traffic through the service drive from Elbrook into the school parking lot is ONE WAY for drop-off and dismissal times.** When exiting the parking lot, kindly exit onto Losantiville.

**Walking School Bus-** Would you like to encourage your children to get more exercise? If so, you are encouraged to visit [www.walkingschoolbus.org](http://www.walkingschoolbus.org) for information on organized walking groups to school. If you are interested in escorting a group of children to school, or have your children walk in a group, please speak to Melissa Bernstein.

**Public Safety Note-** Parents should take note of the fact that a law was recently passed by the Ohio General Assembly, making Ohio the 44th state to enact a booster seat law. It requires children ages 4 through 7 and shorter than 4 foot 9 to be in a federally approved booster seat. Drivers can be cited after November 6<sup>th</sup> for failing to restrain their children in booster seats.

**Safety Day-** The Village of Golf Manor is having a safety day on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 p.m. This day promises to be a fun-filled afternoon for children of all ages! Exciting safety and rescue trucks and personnel will be on sight at the village. Special thanks are due to Rabbi Dovid Bidnick and Officer Forrest of the Golf Manor Police Department who both advocated strongly to make this event inclusive for the Orthodox community; consequently, it is being held on Sunday (as well as Shabbos) and the free food (such as hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy and popcorn) will be KOSHER (certified by the VAAD)! Please see the attached flyer for more details about the attractions. Drop by before you head over to the Kollel picnic, and show your appreciation to the Village for their Shabbos/Kashrus accommodations!

**Thanks to our Volunteers-** School opening would not have been the same without the numerous volunteers who helped out! The Sunday before school was “weeding day,” organized by the Samuelsons. Their entire family was joined by the Epsteins, along with members of the Benzaquen, Smith, Daniel, Kirschner, Heigh, Kattan, Kernerman and Elias families. Many thanks to all involved! Moreover, there were many students who helped for HOURS with help cleaning and organizing in the days leading up to the start of school. Included in this separate crew were Yali Travis, Moshe Alden, Akiva Kirschner, Basya Kirschner, Yisroel Meir Elias, and Yosef Kirschner. Special mention must be made of Mrs. Tova Kirschner, who spent countless hours in the school- often with her adorable newborn in hand! Mrs. Ingrid Epstein has also spent many hours helping, especially with our new “math-a-minute” program which is soon to be launched! New to our community, Mrs. Rivky Fertel has taken little time before getting involved, and was also recently volunteering for this program.

**Phone use by Students-** We would like to remind parents that the office phones are not to be used by students under regular circumstances. Exceptions may be made in urgent cases; however, in general, use

of the office phone by students ties up the lines and prevents parents and others from reaching the secretary. This is especially problematic at dismissal time, when many children want to make phone calls (often for such things as arranging play dates), and parents are trying (unsuccessfully) to call the school about important and time-sensitive dismissal information.

## **What’s New In The Classroom?**

### **Technology Class**

This year in the computer lab, students will be learning and reviewing many different skills. All students will practice typing skills in addition to other assignments and projects. Assignments, projects and vocabulary will be given based on quarterly topics for each level. Below is a quick summary of the topics we will cover during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Students will be assessed through products and observation to determine their mastery of grade level skills for each topic. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs.

Morrison.

Kindergarten- Parts of the Computer and Basic Computer Functions

1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Basic Computer Functions and an Introduction to Microsoft Word

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Microsoft Word

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Microsoft Word

4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Microsoft Excel

5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Microsoft Excel

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Research Skills, Microsoft Publisher

### **Art Class**

Thank you to all the parents who have brought in the art supplies for their children. Unfortunately, there are a few who have not done so yet. Please bring them in on Monday. Your children will be using them, and are confused when they do not have supplies they need. Thanks for all your help. Yiddes Bidnick, Art Teacher (grade 1-8). Supplies need are as follows: (i) oldest child per family: markers, ruler, eraser, smock; (ii) per child: 1 bottle of gold tacky glue (4 oz.), 2 bottles of Elmer’s glue, sharpie black markers, brick (paver stone).

## **SHERUT LEUMI VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

We were thrilled this week to welcome Nofit (Nauffe) Hadad and Shiraz Feivelovich to CHDS this week. aided in the Kindergarten class, which they will be doing over the course of the year. Stay tuned for more exciting developments about this program!

## **SHABBOS ACTIVITIES**

**Pirchei-** will meet this week for grades 6-8 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. on Shabbos at Rabbi Scherer’s house, 6700 Elbrook. **Please do not send your children early.**

**Father and Son Learning-** will be both at the Kollel and CZE locations this Shabbos, from 5:30-6:15 p.m. Both hosts have asked again that boys are not to be sent without their parents or guardians, and similarly should not be left without adult supervision in either building once the program has ended.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Piano Lessons in Your Home** – An experienced, patient and dedicated teacher; doctoral student and CCM in piano performance, providing individual private piano lessons to music lovers of all ages. Call Assaf at 324-5769.

**Kiddush-** The Bidnick family invites the entire community to the kiddush celebrating the bas mitzvah of their daughter Nechama, Parshas Ki Savo **Shabbos September 5** (not Sunday) following davening.

**Ladies Singing Event-** Women and girls are invited to hear composer and singing sensation **Malky Giniger** THIS Sunday evening (August 30) 7:15 PM - CZE auditorium - 2445 Section. Malky has produced 10 albums, runs a program for performing arts with branches in seven cities in the U.S. & Israel and has wowed audiences across the US, Canada, in Israel, and Russia. Admission: \$10; students: \$7

**Creative Cakes by Adena** – Offering unique designs for special occasions or to grace your Shabbos table. Please call Adena Goldberg, a Wilton trained cake decorator, at 351-9566 for more information.

**Playgroup-** Michal Jacobson has one spot in her play group for 3 days (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) ages 1-2 years old. Hours 9:00-1:00, flexible about the days (can be one, two or three days). Please contact me by email: [shalommick1@aol.com](mailto:shalommick1@aol.com), cell phone: 885-4984, home phone: 699-5702

**Mazel Tov to:**

Rabbi and Mrs. Preis on the recent Bar Mitzvah of their son Yeshaya.

Rabbi and Mrs. Barry on the birth of their twin girls, Leah and Rachel

Rabbi and Mrs. Motzen, on the birth of their daughter, Michal.

Dr. and Mrs. Len and Marilyn Horwitz, on the recent marriage of their son, Shlomo Glowitz.

**Welcome to our new School families:**

Dr. and Mrs. Eric and Sharon Bramey, Dr. and Mrs. Baruch and Rivky Fertel, Mr. and Mrs. Baruch and Elisheva Nieznanski, Dr. and Mrs. Bezalel and Orly Sivan, and Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchok and Dena Stern.

**Found-** a brand new, brand-name MP3- type device. Please see Rabbi Kernerman to identify.

**Lost-** Did we lend you our baby bath or baby swing? If so, please call the Motzens’ at 924-0538.

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

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

Mrs. Susan Shapiro, Director of Curriculum