

# BNOS MALKA WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 3, 2017 | פרשת וירא | 14 CHESHVAN 5778

**From the Desk of Mrs. Shuly Zuckerman**  
*Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8*

This week’s Parsha opens with Avraham sitting at the entrance of his tent waiting for guests. We are all familiar with Avraham’s kindness and his attitude towards אורחים. Despite his frail condition, אברהם was sitting, waiting, and hoping that a guest would come for him to serve.

The Pesukim continue מראה באלוני ד'. Our Chachamim teach us that the reason for the presence of Hashem on this occasion was to be מבקר חולה to Avraham.

רבינו אשר, in his commentary to רש"י, explains that the wording of the Pasuk וירא אליו ד', followed by silence as to what Hashem said, indicates to us that Hashem said nothing at all, he just visited. The Talmud uses this as the source for the מצוה of ביקור חולים, that we should emulate Hashem in His kindness. As we continue to read the Pesukim, we discover that there is so much more here than meets the eye.

The Pesukim go on to tell the story of that day: Avraham raised his eyes and behold, before him were three guests. Avraham hurries to welcome them into his home and prepare a meal for them. The Torah then shares the true identity of these visitors: they were מלאכים, each one on its own important mission. One מלאך was to inform אברהם and שרה that they would have a child, a second was on a mission to destroy סדום, and the third came to heal אברהם from his Bris Milah.

After reading this entire narrative, one can’t help but wonder: if Hashem was coming to visit Avraham himself, then why did he have to send a מלאך to heal him? Surely Hashem was capable of “multi-tasking” to visit and heal at the same time!

The answer is beautiful in its simplicity. If Hashem had both visited and healed Avraham, then the love and care expressed in His visit would have been overshadowed in some way by the healing function of His visit. Hashem therefore designated a מלאך to perform the healing, so that Hashem’s full presence would be felt by Avraham.

To take this a step further, it is interesting to note the task that Hashem sent מלאכים to accomplish and the one that He did personally. Hashem chose the delicate task of providing emo-

**PARENTS: SAVE THE DATE!**

**Annual Parent Appreciation Melave Malka**  
Motzei Shabbos, November 18th at 7:45pm  
at Young Israel of Forest Hills

We invite you to enjoy an evening together as we celebrate our wonderful parent body.

**Rabbi Menachem Penner** will be our guest speaker.

A buffet dinner, sushi and desserts will be served.  
We will be launching our **Annual Raffle**, so pack your bags!

tional care for Himself and left the other tasks to his מלאכים.

I think that we sometimes fail to recognize the importance of emotional care in our own lives and the lives of our loved ones. We are constantly busy “multi-tasking,” taking care of the physical needs of those around us. But how often do we contemplate the emotional needs of others? Do we focus our mind on the words of others to absorb their words and the emotions behind them? Physical needs are important and we must of course attend to them, but we must make sure not to neglect emotional ones.

The message we can glean from the multiple windows in Avraham’s tent and Hashem’s visit, apply to our own homes and windows. We have “windows” on our computers, phones and tablets. As we gaze at those windows we generally multi-task. We shop online while we talk to our friends, we talk to our friends while we care for our children, we care for our children while we make dinner, we eat our dinner while we gaze at those windows, and so the circle continues.

We live in a society that glorifies this type of life, which they call being productive. The message of the Parsha though, is that when we want to do something well, we need to close all of the windows of distraction. When we attend to someone, we need to attend to them emotionally as well. We need to close the windows that divert us from ourselves and open the window into our soul and into our life. Have a wonderful Shabbos!

**UPCOMING DATES**

**Shabbos, November 3-4:** Sixth Grade Shabbaton

**Monday, November 6:** 7th grade Historic Richmond Town

**Tuesday, November 7:** 8th Grade to Tenement Museum

**Wednesday, November 8:** 6th Grade Trip to Alley Pond Park

**Wednesday, November 8:** 4th Grade Navi Breakfast

**Thursday, November 9:**  
5th Grade Trip to National Museum of the American Indian

**Friday, November 10**  
No Sessions for Pre1a-8th Grade  
Sessions for PKA Only-NO BUSSING

**Sunday, November 12**  
Open House for Prospective Parents

**Motzei Shabbos, November 18 - Save the Date!**  
Parent Appreciation Melave Malka

**Classroom Milestones**

**Morah Eileen Cohen | PKA-C & Limudai Kodesh**

We are having a great time in PKA-C. Our students are doing a wonderful job comprehending all of the new concepts that are being introduced to them. My Five Senses was this month’s Interdisciplinary Unit of Study. Each week we explored different senses. We took a sight walk around the playgrounds and each child discussed and drew something that they saw. The students were delighted to imitate all of the sounds they heard in the book Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? Everyone enjoyed participating in a smell graph where they got to choose which smell they liked the best. Examples included: coffee, vinegar, dryer sheet, and cinnamon. The most exciting part of the sense of taste was probably getting to taste something salty (pretzels) something sour (one sour stick) and something sweet (candy corn). We are looking forward to exploring our last sense in the unit and that is the sense of touch.

Our Limudai Kodesh program is proceeding beautifully. Our students are becoming very proficient Daveners and Bentsh

### 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MOTHER DAUGHTER CHALLAH BAKE

Thank you to the 3rd and 4th grade girls and their mothers for making Wednesday night’s event such a beautiful program. The program focused on the lessons we learn from Sara Imeinu in Parshios Vayeira and Chayei Sara. The girls came dressed beautifully for the occasion. The mother and daughter pairs began by designing an elegant mirror tray for under their Shabbos Neiros. The girls displayed beautiful handmade centerpieces based on different Miforshim about the Mitzvah of Hafrashas Challah. The next part of the program focused on the Sara Imeinu’s Challah. All girls and their mothers performed the special Mitzvah of Hafrasha Challah, and everyone was Mispallel for a Yeshua. The Challahs came out wonderfully! As the evening came to a close, the entire fourth grade performed a song about the Imahos. Each girl then presented her mother with a letter and gift—a handmade plaque with the Tefillos for Hadlakas Neiros and Hafrashas Challah. It was an inspiring night for all!

quite well. We discuss Parsha every week. The students learned in this week’s Parsha Vayaira that Avraham went out of his way to feed his guests and make them feel as comfortable as possible, despite not feeling well after his Bris. They also were quite interested in discussing and learning about the mitzvahs of Hachnasas Orchim, Bikor Cholim and the importance of Bruchim Habaim. Best wishes for a good Shabbos!

#### Morah Bracha Leibowitz | Pre-1a-C General Studies

We have been very busy in Pre1a-C learning seven new letters and our first sight word “I.” We are in the middle of our unit on “All About Me.” We have connected our theme to many areas of our classroom. In Science, we explored solids versus liquids and their different properties. In Art, we drew pictures of what we look like, that you can see hanging in our classroom, along with something special and unique about each girl in our class. We also illustrated our very own family portraits. In Math, we graphed the number of letters we each have in our name. We are looking forward to another exciting week in Pre1a!

#### Mrs. Shani Gelb | 2nd Grade Limudei Kodesh

Kittah Bet is working on becoming experts in Parshanut skills so they will be ready to receive their Chumashim on Sunday, December 10th iy”H! We are diligently learning the different parts of a Milah, a word, and are going to work on building our own. We have been learning all about the month of Cheshvan and the importance of Geshem, rain, while immersing ourselves in this wonderful Stav, Fall, season. Simultaneously, if you can believe it, we are using many new Sh’mos Etzem and Poalim, nouns and verbs to talk all about our classroom. Kriyah groups are in full swing to help us become better readers, each in our own way. We are so excited to come to school each day!

#### Ms. Hilary Carone | 3rd Grade General Studies

We have been very busy in third grade. This week, the students have been working hard in each and every subject. In Math, we have been learning multiplication and mastering new skills to help us solve equations. In Social Studies, we are continuing our unit on maps and we have begun to discuss cultural differences between countries. We are wrapping up our Science unit on matter and next, we will begin exploring the various forms of energy that affect our world. The girls are continuously using their reading and writing skills each day. I am looking forward to another wonderful week of learning!

#### Mrs. Leya Thurm | 6th Grade Limudei Kodesh & Science

This week has been jam-packed, preparing for our exciting Shabbaton, as well as learning and growing. We began Perek Yud Tet of Chumash, preparing ourselves for Matan Torah and

### MINDFULNESS CORNER



What is mindfulness? It is something to experience, more than to define, but it can be described as falling awake as opposed to falling asleep; falling into a natural state of wakefulness, presence and openness with every moment. The choice to fall awake opens up what is within our Bechira.

“V’halachta b’drachav,” “Walk in His ways;” if Hashem does not will us into existence at every moment, we would cease to exist. Hashem stays mindful of our existence at every moment, and we can aspire to emulate that presence of mind in all that we do and have intentionality in our actions. Stay tuned for more about our mindfulness program.

trying to understand the lessons Hashem wants us to internalize while accepting the Torah. In Science, we had the opportunity to be teachers, as the students did a stellar job presenting their beautiful projects on biomes. Yasher Koach to all!

#### Mrs. Chana Lederman | 8th Grade Limudei Kodesh

Most people know the Chanukah story and the great Nais of the oil, however not many people know what happened afterward. The 8th grade’s Historia curriculum began with the aftermath of both the war and the Nais. Despite the Jews having the Bais HaMikdash again, we discovered that unfortunately, it was far from a happily ever after for them. We learned that the political struggle for power and wealth can lead people to act unethically—even to their own family members. Students in both classes made excellent associations like the connection to the concept of Nigios that we discussed in our first Perek in Navi. In general, the 8th graders often make cross-curriculum connections that are not limited to their Judaic studies. They often bring up relevant concepts learned in Social Studies to further understand an idea discussed in Historia, Navi or even Halacha. It’s clear that the 8th graders are dedicated and active learners.

#### Ms. Atara Kanner | 7th & 8th Grade Math

The 7th graders have been adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing all kinds of numbers, with plus and minus signs, and have been super positive about it! We are going at full speed into our topic of expressions and equations. We like combining “like terms” which makes our problems so much more likable, because they’re much simpler! Looking forward to a great second trimester!

In the 8th grade, we have excelled in exponents and scientific notation. Translations, rotations and reflections literally transformed our classroom into a fantastic environment this semester. The girls are always working hard and working together. We have been figuring out which shapes are congruent to each other using our transformations. Looking forward to starting our upcoming topic—Similar figures! Looking forward to a great second trimester!

### 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MELAVE MALKA

Last Motzei Shabbos, the 7th grade enjoyed a special Melava Malka just for them. The girls had a wonderful time having the school to themselves “after hours.” First, they enjoyed an exhilarating aerobics/Zumba class, led by our very own Mrs. Blumberg, followed by a slightly calmer game of human Bingo. The girls for to show their abilities to perform rather interesting talents like wiggling their ears or eyebrows, solving a Rubik’s cube in two minutes or counting to ten in three different languages. The girls listened to a Dvar Torah as they enjoyed the delicious menu of crudités, bruschetta, onion soup and pasta. They also made their own salads at the salad bar. The meal was follow by a dessert of ice cream and waffles! Thank you to Mrs. Wasser and Mrs. Heisler and to Mr. Salzbank for the scrumptious food.