

# BNOS MALKA WEEKLY

OCTOBER 3, 2017 | סוכות | 13 TISHREI 5778

## From the Desk of Rabbi Michael Weichselbaum

### Menahel

I hope that everyone had an uplifting and inspiring Yom Kippur. As we approach the Yomim Tovim of Succos and Simchas Torah, we will begin a new cycle in regards to reading the תורה. As any child can tell you, we will start with פרשת בראשית which describes the creation of the world. The מפרשים tell us that everything that ה' created has a symbolic meaning, aside from its practical use.

As an example let's examine כוכבים, the stars in the heavens. Of course, their practical purpose is to provide illumination at night, when the sky is dark. However, says the כתב סופר, the כוכבים also provide us with a deeper, more meaningful lesson as well. He quotes a פסוק from ספר משלי which says, "ומצדיקי הרבים ככוכבים לעולם ועד." "Those who cause the masses to be righteous are as stars that last forever." The גמרא in בבא בתרא explains that the מצדיקי הרבים are מלמדי תינוקות, those who teach young children. These educators are in a unique position to gather many merits, not just from their own learning and מצוות, but also for every word of Torah learned and every mitzva performed by each of their young students for their entire lives. The implication is that the reward keeps being credited to the teacher long after he has left this world. They are truly comparable to stars--during the brightness of daylight we may not see the stars, yet we are certain that they are there. The same holds true for מלמדי תינוקות.

Even after they leave this world, as long as their students continue to follow in their footsteps, their merits continue to shine brightly as if they are still alive.

The כתב סופר poses a brilliant question on this. If teaching Torah provides a person with such merit, why does the גמרא say that only those who teach young students are compared to stars? Doesn't the teacher of older students get the same reward? Couldn't the גמרא have been more inclusive and written, "and those who teach OTHERS are like stars that last forever?"

The כתב סופר explains that when it comes to teaching older students, the teacher's reward depends on the success of the student. If the student becomes a צדיק, the Rebbe or teacher gets rewarded. However, if the older student rejects Torah and becomes a רשע, guess what the Rebbe gets? That's right! He is held liable for that as well. This helps to explain the story of יוחנן בן זכאי who cried on his deathbed because he was unsure where his נשמה would be placed following his פטירה.

The takeaway is that our young children, says the כתב סופר, are pure. They have not yet tasted עברה טעם and therefore, the reward for teaching them is beyond measure.

This is the respect due to a מחנך or מחנכת. And parents, please know that if you spend time doing homework with your child after your own long day, or if you live as a role model of ישרות and אמת for your children, you too qualify as a מלמד תינוקות and your reward will also be כוכבי לרום השמים.

## UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday October 4- Friday, October 13  
Sukkos Break-No School

Wednesday, October 18  
2nd Grade Trip to Alley Pond Park

Motzei Shabbos, October 28  
7th Grade Melave Malka

## IN THE BNOS MALKA FAMILY

Mazel tov to **Morah Sharon Herzberg** on her son's engagement!