

# BNOS MALKA WEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 | פרשת האזינו | ראש השנה | 28 ELUL 5777

## From the Desk of Rabbi Michael Weichselbaum *Menahel*

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to serve as a prospective juror in Federal District Court in Brooklyn. Following a slog of over an hour, with stops in Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn, I had to run to get to the Courthouse on time at 8:30. It didn't help that the three police officers whom I stopped to ask for directions had no idea that there even was a Federal Courthouse in the area. Once there, our contact with the outside world was severed by taking away our cell phones. We were then asked to have a seat and wait. And wait I did! From 8:30 until 5:30 my name was not called.

During my wait I noticed that most of us prospective jurors had one thing in common. We had no interest in being there and wanted to get back to our regularly scheduled lives ASAP. To effect this, each person had an excuse which they carefully reviewed with the person sitting next to them. Although I didn't get the chance to go before the judge and tell him about the upcoming High Holidays, I was aware from my previous stints as a prospective juror how most of my colleagues would fare with their escape plans once they had the opportunity to speak directly to the judge.

Several summers ago, I remember sitting in the jury box as the judge asked us why we could not sit on a jury that was about to try a man for armed robbery. A juror said, "Your honor, I don't believe that I could be impartial having been mugged at gunpoint myself." The judge replied, "Sir, we live in New York. If I dismissed everyone who was mugged we wouldn't have any jurors. You will serve." The other jurors who had planned on using similar stories to gain their freedom were rendered speechless. The next prospective juror was a foreigner who arose and told the judge, "I no English." Maybe the judge thought he meant, "I know English." At any rate, the judge then asked him, "Sir, do you have a job?" "Yes," he rejoined. "You will serve," responded the judge. When they reached my turn, I told the African-American judge that Orthodox Jews would soon commemorate the destruction of our Temple by fasting and praying all day, to which he replied, "Oh, Tisha B'av-You are dismissed!" Only in New York.

As we stand just one day before our Day of Judgement, we know that during the previous year we have done some things and said some things that we should not have. We probably also believe that we had some extenuating circumstance that not only made it permissible, but even in our case a Mitzvah. It may seem like a valid excuse today, but what will happen when we stand before the מלך מלכי המלכים who is familiar with our every thought and motive. Will our excuses still be valid? I would guess that, in most cases, the answer would be no. Our best game plan therefore, should be to ask for מחילה, both from the person we wronged and from Hashem, and commit ourselves to improve ourselves in the coming year. In this זכות may we all be blessed with a כתיבה וחתימה טובה לנו ולכל ישראל.

## Classroom Milestones

### Morah Eileen Cohen | PKA C

Our Limudei Kodesh program has gotten off to a wonderful start. We daven and bentch every day. The Yiladim enjoy singing all of the songs and Tefilos during davening.

Learning about Rosh Hashana was amazing. We discussed that Rosh Hashana is on the first and second day in the month of Tishrei. It is the beginning of the New Year and we daven to Hashem for a good, sweet year. We talked about going to Shul and being very quiet during davening and when the Shofar is blown. Apples are an important part of the Yom Tov, too. Apples dipped in honey are eaten for a sweet year and the Yiladim actually participated in an apple and honey graph. The Yiladim were given a choice of what they liked best—an apple dipped in honey, a plain apple or someone who liked neither could choose the column that was marked "Not My Taste." Everyone enjoyed this activity very much. The Yiladim designed lovely honey dishes, created shofars, and sent Shana Tova cards to their parents which they placed in the mailbox across the street and also took home a Rosh Hashana memory game.

It is a very happy time in PKA-C. Our students are outstanding. They are extremely eager to participate in our daily discussions and activities. It is truly remarkable to see them develop such a beautiful love of learning at such a young age. We are looking forward to a fantastic year and already can tell how outstanding, adorable and precious our students are. Best wishes for a Ksiva V'Chasima Tova!

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

Kittah Bet is already in full swing. We have begun preparing for Rosh Hashana by learning all about its names, the shofar, minhagim and halachos. We are ready for the mitzvah of hearing the shofar, teshuva, tefillah, and tzedakah. We jumped right into hachana l'chumash and look forward to receiving our first Chumash in December iy"H! Learning grows stronger with chazara, which we have been actively involved in. Looking forward to a wonderful year in Kittah Bet. Ksiva V'chasima Tova! Shana Tova U'Mesuka!

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

We have gotten off to a great start in 3rd grade. It has been my pleasure getting to know all of the girls each day. We are all eager to learn wonderful new concepts in all of our subjects! In math we have already jumped into place value and rounding numbers, in social studies we have been introduced to world geography, and in science we have started our discussion on "What is Matter?" We will begin our writing unit discussing what writers can do and say. I am looking forward to an amazing school year!

שנה טובה ומתוקה!  
Have a good, sweet year!

## UPCOMING DATES

September 20-22

Rosh Hashanah-No Sessions

September 26-27th

5th Grade Trip to the Forest Hills Library

September 29

Erev Yom Kippur-No Sessions