

BNOS MALKA WEEKLY

OCTOBER 27, 2017 | פרשת לך-לך | 7 CHESHVAN 5778

From the Desk of Rabbi Michael Weichselbaum

Menahel

A close friend of mine recently sent me an article, asking for my opinion on it as a Menahel. In it, the author describes how he had reached a point in his life where he felt that he should sit down with a financial planner to see how he was doing financially. The news he received was not good. In order to be able to retire comfortably in the future, he would have to save 90% of his salary for the next 10 years. How did he get to this point, he wondered. He and his wife made respectable salaries. Where did all the money go, he wondered. Not surprisingly, his greatest expense was paying for his children’s Yeshiva education. He decided that henceforth, he would send his children to the local public school and provide them with after-hours instruction in Yahadus. With a few other adjustments, he could “Do Jewish” for \$40,000 a year. He felt fairly certain that his children would turn out frum and that they would be comfortable functioning in a Jewish neighborhood.

While you won’t get an argument from me contesting that Yeshiva tuition is a tremendous (even *that* word is an understatement) burden on most of our families, I would like to dispute the author’s assertion that everything will turn out OK in the end (as well as several other “FACTS” that he raises). In fact, I argue that the cost is worth the benefit. As my space in this column is limited, I will raise just one point based on this week’s פרשה.

Still, ‘ה commanded אברהם to leave his family and birthplace and head towards ארץ ישראל. This directive takes place within the first few words of our פרשה with the words ‘לך-לך,’ meaning “Go for yourself.” While many מפרשים address the difficulty of this phrase, “Go for yourself,” רבינו בחיי says that the words לך-לך are an allusion to the Hebrew word לכלוך, meaning dirt or filth. The

PARENTS: SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Parent Appreciation Melave Malka Motzei Shabbos, November 18th at 7:45pm

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!

פסוק now takes on the meaning, “And אברהם ה’ said to go from your house to the land which I will show you, lest you become filthy (affected) from the evil people of your family and birthplace.” לכלוך (dirt), both physical and spiritual, sticks to us and changes us whether we intend it to or not. Walk through a construction site and you will become dusty. Fry onions and the odor will adhere to you, whether you want it to or not. ‘ה is warning אבינו אברהם that eventually, he will be spiritually brought down a notch or two should he stay surrounded by his family.

Rav Shimshon Pincus quotes the הלכות דעה in רמב”ם:

דרך ברייתו של האדם להיות נמשך בדעותיו אחר ריעיו וחביריו ונוהג כמנהג אנשי מדינתו.

“The nature of Man is to be drawn after his friends in the way that they think and to act in the manner of the people of his neighborhood.” It’s important to note that the Ramban doesn’t say that a person often follows those around him. He says that man was created with an instinct to act and think as those around him do. This nature is so irresistible that even אברהם would not be able to withstand it.

Returning now to the article I read—while we can all commiserate with the author’s plight, would we not readily spend thousands of dollars to heal our children if they were physically ill? Or even to prevent illness? Do any of us believe that our children’s אמונה is greater than that of אברהם? Probably not! We all agree that we must find new ways to keep tuition as low as possible and help those families who can’t afford tuition. I also believe that frustrated parents, especially those who actually believe that Yeshivos are ripping them off to pocket tuition money (as does the author of the article), need to understand that, as a true מאמין believes, our children’s Jewish education is the foundation of their spiritual lives and our utmost priority.

Classroom Milestones

Mrs. Golda Yadlovker | 1st Grade

Since our return to school, the girls have finished their first book, *My ABC Book*, which proudly adorns the bulletin board outside our classroom. We have started working on our first Writing Fundamentals Unit—How Writers Work. The girls will learn how authors come up with ideas for writing topics and about the writing process, from first draft to finished product. In Science, we completed our unit on plants. Next, we will begin our unit on animals. The girls know what plants need in order to grow, the different parts of the plant and their roles in the plant’s growth. I hope you have had a chance to look at the link I sent for our Go Math book. It has tutorials and math videos which will help both you and your daughter!

UPCOMING DATES

Motzei Shabbos, October 28 at 8:00-10:00 PM
7th Grade Melave Malka

Monday, October 30
Pre-1a Trip to Queens County Farm Museum

Wednesday, November 1
8th Grade Trip to Machane Chodosh

Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30-8:00 PM
Challah Bake for 3rd & 4th Grade
Students & their Mothers
We kindly request that siblings in other grades do not attend.

Shabbos, November 3-4
Sixth Grade Shabbaton

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

CANDLE LIGHTING 5:39 PM | HAVDALAH 6:45 PM

BOX TOPS!

Our first Box Tops collection and prize day will be **Wednesday, November 1st!** A prize will be awarded for each sheet brought in. Please be mindful of expiration date. Additional sheets are available at the office.

Ms. Yocheved Weiner | 5th Grade

In 5th grade, the students have been busy learning multiplication. They have reviewed one-digit multiplication and moved on to study two- and three-digit multiplication. The fifth graders also looked at other strategies of multiplication like the area model method. In addition, they discovered how to solve problems that involve multiplication. Now, the students are turning to division, multiplication's inverse operation. They are learning how to divide with two-digit divisors using long division and partial quotients and how to interpret the remainder.

Ms. Yocheved Weiner | 6th Grade

The sixth grade students continued their study of ratios by looking at how ratios can be used in everyday life. They also learned how to find the unit rate of an item to compare two situations and determine the better buy. The students saw how to use ratios to convert between the customary and metric systems. Next, the students will go on to study percents. They saw that percents are part-to-whole ratios out of 100. They are also learning how to convert percents into fractions and decimals and how to solve problems with percents. Have a great Shabbos!

Mrs. Sarah Leibowitz | 5th Grade Limudei Kodesh

Kitta Hey has B"H smoothly acclimated to the new challenges that exist in middle school. The girls are motivated and eager to learn. In Chumash we are discovering how to become independent learners with the "DRaSh EMeS" method. The students work in pairs, read new pesukim and answer questions with the help of dikduk, Rashi, Unkelos and others aids. This guides them to understand the words and storyline. In Chumash Shemos, we are excited to discover how Bnei Yisroel were transformed from living as guests in Mitzrayim under the leadership of Paraoh and Yosef, to being persecuted as slaves. We also glean many lessons from the teachings of Rashi, such as Hashem's love for us and how we can learn from Yosef how to remain strong in our Yiddishkeit while living in galus. In conjunction with the upcoming Parshios Hashvua, we are learning about the ten tests of Avraham in our Yedios Klalios lessons. The girls have b"H mastered Gematria and the names and status (gedolah or ketanah) of the nekudos. I look forward to a wonderful year with your daughters with much learning, creativity, and fun. Have a great Shabbos!

Mrs. Shoshana Sabel | Fifth Grade Science

When you look around outside, what do you notice? Have you ever paid attention to the clouds above and thought that one looked puffy while another looked like a blanket across the sky? The fifth grade students can tell you all about different types of clouds, both basic cloud types and combination clouds. They have also been practicing their cloud observations, drawing and painting clouds or forming them from cotton balls for our class cloud project. As we wrap up our cloud unit with these projects, we are excited to move on to our next unit, Water. This week, we learned how clouds are formed from oceans, lakes, rivers and all other bodies of water. We solidified our understanding with an exciting experiment where we made our own clouds! Using a plastic soda bottle, warm water, and matches, we were able to see how water

evaporates, attaches to dust or dirt particles and creates a cloud. Looking forward to learning more about the water cycle!

Mrs. Shoshana Sabel | Seventh and Eighth Grade Science Fair

Have you ever gotten three Gimmels in a row while playing Dreidel? How about four, five, or even seven times consecutively? Do you think that is even possible? This week, the seventh and eighth grade students had the privilege of hearing Dr. Harris give a presentation about the Scientific Method. Using the Dreidel example, Dr. Harris explained the steps in the scientific method. This was especially relevant as each student has finished her background research and is now preparing to begin her experiment for Science Fair. All of the student's Science Fair questions are great, and I can't wait to see how the experiments turn out. A sampling of some of the girls' great ideas: Why are rubber bands more or less stretchy depending on the temperature? Does the smell of a room affect how well you can focus when taking a test? What's the best method to prevent crying while cutting an onion? Looking forward to seeing great experiments in the coming month!

Ms. Yehudit Yehoshua | 4th Grade Limudei Kodesh

A huge חומש in פרק ל"ג on their completion of נביא יהושע in פרק א' and ירדן led us to פרק ב' preparation to cross the ירדן. We can't wait to start learning פרק ב' and find out what happens next! As a חזרה we had a great time playing "Connect Four" together! In עברית the girls are wrapping up the דור (mailman) unit by writing their first חיבורים, titled אני המכתב or אני הדור describing the life and feelings of a mailman or letter in כתה ד' creativity shines through their beautiful work! We are also learning about חודש חשוון and all the important events that happened during this month. Wishing everyone a beautiful שבת!

Mrs. Ayelet Lehmann | Class 4 General Studies

The past couple of weeks in the fourth grade have been very eventful! We got back into the swing of things with some new and challenging math and learning how to multiply big numbers. We were even able to multiply a one digit number by a number in the tens of thousands place value! In the coming weeks, we will learn how to multiply two digit numbers by two digit numbers. If anyone needs a multiplication expert, we have them! In social studies we finished our unit on maps, and enjoyed an interesting trip to the Brooklyn Historical Society! Science is all about ecosystems and habitats, and we played a game that showed the importance of food webs. We will be starting book clubs soon, so stay tuned for some in-depth book recommendations. Class 4 is a busy and exciting place to be!

G.O. UPDATES

Yashar Koach to all the girls who really focused on positivity in terms of honoring their parents this week! So many girls brought in very full checklists! We can't wait to see which "Bnos Malka family" will win! The G.O. will be coming around with new checklists on Monday! Let's see who can get even more signatures in the younger grades and checks in the older grades!

We are so excited for the **upcoming 3rd and 4th grade mother-daughter program** on Wednesday! We also can't wait for **school-wide program commemorating Rachel Imenu's Yahrtzeit**, also on Wednesday!