

Erev Shabbos
Parashiyos Acharei Mos –
Kedoshim
24th Day of Sefiras HaOmer
April 30, 2004
Candle Lighting: 7:41
Volume X, Issue XXXII



Dear Parents:

Today we had our third 3M (Monthly Middometer Medalist) Assembly of the year. Youngsters were singled out for demonstrating the trait of being *Mevater*, giving in in order to create an ambiance of peace and tranquility. This is one of the Big Four *Middos* on this year's *Hishtadel* calendar / program. (We hope you have kept these calendars in a prominent place, are following along with us each week, and are reinforcing at home all the concepts we've studied / discussed / practiced.) Ideas included in our focus on being *Mevater* were:

- ◆ Getting up the courage to admit mistakes.
- ◆ "Looking away" from minor irritations.
- ◆ Letting others go ahead of us.

The following boys and girls were recognized by their teachers for outstanding demonstration of and / or efforts to improve on being *Mevater*. (Some were selected for special effort in showing *HaKaras HaTov*, our previous 3M characteristic.)

KB

Moshe Greenspon
Avi Miller
Shmuel Dovid Raichik

KG

Meira Yaffa Arzouan
Sarah Leah Danesh
Shayna Gewirtz
Nechama Mendlowitz
Nesha Sukol
Ahuva Wakschlag
Shifra Leeba Yelenik
Esther Bayla Young

1B

Shlomo Yaakov Danesh
Yoni Ferneau
Meir Komarow
Amitai Landy
Aharon Leiman
Dovid Levine

1G

Gavi Cohen
Aliza Ifrah
Chana Aliza Miller
Chaya Bryna Niman
Amira Rosen
Yaffa Rosen
Ilana Ruchelman
Hadassah Solomson



Torah School of Greater Washington

E.S.T.E.R.

2B

Mendel Backman
Dovid Nachman Fisher
Max Frankl
Aviaad Grunhaus
Aharon Komarow
Yechezkel Levine
Naftali Schwartz
Rafi Singer

2G

Chaya Gitty Idstein
Sarah Pollock
Miriam Esther Slater
Sara Miriam Sukol

3B

Chaim Shlomo Komarow
Nachmi Kott
Yehudah Rudack
Naftali Simcha Swartz

3G

Ariella Baars
Bracha Baars
Liba Klein
Tova Kwiat
Mushkie Newman
Sarah Schwartz

4B

Yaakov Deitsch
Mordechai Goldstein
Yoel Jaffe
Gavi Rosenbloom

4G

Toba Cohen
Shana Feldman
Sarah Ruchelman

5B

Nesanel Biberfeld
Aharon Feldman
Ze'ev Katz
Zeke Melman
Yisroel Mond
Noach Aryeh Schwartz
Ari Seiden
Akiva Singer

5G

Avital Gewirtz
Mihal Jacobson
Elisheva Keleman
Miriam Klein
Alana Mailman
Rivka Malka Swartz

6B

Noach Bergman
Gedaliah Kott
Dovid Kreiser
Nesanel Lipsky

6G

Tova Baars
Rena Friedman
Atara Gedalowitz
Avigail Jaffe
Gila Levine
Eliza Melman

We thank Rabbi Hoffman for relating to the kids a personal, very moving experience as an introduction to our very comprehensive unit on *Shemiras HaLashon* (which begins on Monday). We also express our *Hakaras HaTov* to Rabbi Feldman's computer and Miss Jackie Baratt.

Yom HaAtzmaut Activities

We're now firmly ensconced in our "Eye on Israel" month, with ongoing programs to enable us to keep this focus. (See below for further info.) To quote the famous statement of *Dovid HaMelech* in *Tehillim* 137:5: "If I forget you, *Yerushalayim*, let my right hand forget its skill".

We began last week with lessons/discussions about our relationship with *Eretz Yisrael* and its significance and importance to us. It is mind-boggling to note that *Ramban* in *Vayikra* 18:25 says that all *Mitzvos* (even those not requiring our being in Israel to perform them) have *Eretz Yisrael* as their main/real/actual place of performance. We also studied the basic geography of *Artzeinu HaKedoshah* and did a bunch of map work (much of which is hanging in rooms and halls).

Then, as our *pièce de résistance*, every class made a 3D exhibit of a city/place/event in Israel. These artistic creations were then set up on Monday, *Yom HaAtzmaut*, in our gym. Thanks to Michelle Swartz, we had a painters'-masking-tape-outlined map of *Eretz Yisrael* (including the *Kineret*, *Yom HaMelach*, *Yardein*, and Mediterranean Sea) wherein each "large scale" diorama was placed in its (approximate) proper longitudinal/latitudinal location.

As the kids toured, they viewed and learned about the following sites which were designed by the following classes:

✓ Kindergartners gave us the opportunity to *Daven* at the *Kotel* (grass and all) and to even place *K'vitch* between the "stones". (During the clean up, I surreptitiously looked at a few of these anonymously written notes and found a number of interesting requests of *Hashem*. They ranged from prayers for peace in Israel to world peace to abolition of schools.)

✓ First Grade Boys vividly depicted a memorable scene from *Shofetim* 7:2-7, which took place in *Ein Charode*. In those *Pesukim*, *Hashem* instructed Gid'on to pare down his army from 32,000 men to only the most righteous few. After testing his soldiers via the way they drank water from a stream, Gid'on was left with a brigade of 300. This selection of the greatest *Tzaddikim* was accomplished by seeing the way they bent down to quench their thirst and was the very detailed event shown in this project. There is a very important lesson here about the qualities required by the Torah in a "warrior". As we also learn in *Devarim*, it is the pacifist/dovish/ *Tzaddikim* who are called upon to lead us in battle.

✓ First Grade Girls moved us back to *Yerushalayim* to the famous *Me'ah She'arim* neighborhood. (This name is based upon a verse in *Bereishees* 26:12 where it means "a hundredfold".) We actually got the flavor of these narrow streets as we viewed pictures of *Yerushalmi* garb, clothes hanging out to dry, a variety of storefronts, and a few "Dress Modestly" signs.

✓ Second Grade Boys took us north to *Har HaCarmel* where, through *Eliyahu HaNavi* (in *Melachim* Alef 18: 20-39), the miracle of a fire coming from the Heavens to consume a sacrifice occurred. This caused an immediate debunking of the *Ba'al* and the famous spontaneous doubled response by *K'lal Yisrael* of "*Hashem – Hu HaElokim; Hashem Hu HaElokim.*" The depiction of a pillar of fire descending from the sky was just amazing.

✓ Second Grade Girls sent us southeast to *Ein Gedi*. (Our Young Ladies had already learned about this spot in *Bereishees* 14:7, where it is called *Cha'tza'tzone Tamar*.) We saw beautiful waterfalls and the cave where *Dovid* (not yet) *HaMelech* hid from *Shaul HaMelech* and wrote chapter 142 in *Tehillim*.

✓ Third Grade Boys turned us northward to *Meiron* for a *Lag Ba'Omer* celebration. We saw a bonfire, a guitar, and a barber's chair.

✓ Third Grade Girls took us to *Amukah* where, the *Tana- Yonasan Ben Uziel* - promised, *Tefillos* for a proper *Shidduch* would be answered. We actually saw the *Chupah* of a very happy "couple" together with *Mechutanim* and friends.

✓ Fourth Grade Boys moved us to the south to *Kever Rachel* in *Beis Lechem*. There we read the famous *Passuk* from *Yirmihayu* 31:14 talking about *Rachel Imeinu* crying over the fate of her children.

✓ Fourth Grade Girls took us through the splitting of the Jordan River. We also viewed the wall around the city of *Yericho* (which later came tumblin' down) and the red string that *Rachov* hung from her window in order to guarantee that *B'nai Yisrael* would save her family and her.

✓ Fifth Grade Boys turned our sights to *B'nei Berak* where we saw the four great sages mentioned in the *Haggadah* as they stayed up all night discussing the Exodus from Egypt. On their *Seder* table, we found portrayals of each of the 10 *Makkos*. We also had an aerial view of the famous streets of this city, with the *Ponevitz Yeshiva* and a picture of *HaRav Shach*, *ZT'L* playing prominent roles.

✓ Fifth Grade Girls sent us southward to *Chevron* and *Me'a'ras HaMachpeilah*, where our *Avos* and (most)

Imahos are buried. We saw scenes from each of their lives which had major impacts on them and us.

✓ Sixth Grade Boys took us outside of *Eretz Yisrael* to *Har Sinai* (which was part of the post – 1967 expansion of Israel). Actually, *Matan Torah* gives us our *raison d'être* as a nation and for our living in *Eretz Yisrael*.

✓ Sixth Grade Girls brought us up to *Shilo*, which housed the *Mishkan* longer than any other location – for 369 years. In conjunction with their *Chumash* study, our young ladies made models of the Tabernacle and its vessels. Of great interest, all of our pseudo-*Kohanim* got to wash their hands from the “urn-turned-into-the *Kiyor*”. We also got to see a replica of the special garments of the *Kohein Gadol*.

We thank all teachers and students for creating a terrific learning and fun filled activity.

Making a Difference – Part I

Today's 3M assembly introduced our new *Middah* and its accompanying *Shemiras HaLashon* Weeks program. This is inextricably intertwined with *Ahavas Yisrael* and *Eretz Yisrael*, as it is designed for us to do what we can do to save lives and ensure that we keep *Eretz Yisrael*. On Monday, all classes will embark on a 17 day Chofetz-Chaim-Foundation-designed "Shemiras HaLashon Weeks" endeavor. Our main goals (besides self-improvement) are underscored in a letter from *HaRav* Shmuel Kamenetsky, *Shlita*, which is attached today and will be given to our 1st-6th Graders in specially designated folders. There are a number of facets to this project, which, when combined, are our most effective weapons to protect our people:

- Starting Monday, we will be learning and discussing important aspects of *Hilchos Loshon Horah* and how to implement them. In order to enable you to be engaged in these *Limudim* together with your sons and daughters, we've included a special supplement with copies of the materials the kids will receive. (Please note that there are separate sheets for K-1 and 2-6.)
- Also included today is a special edition of Chosen Words which zeroes in on *Shemiras HaLashon* and which is designed for *Shabbos* table follow-up.
- A *Machsom Lefi* (an expression which can be found in *Tehillim* and literally means "a muzzle for my mouth") is another feature of "*Shemiras*

HaLashon Weeks". All children will sign an agreement to make a SUPER effort NOT TO SPEAK *Lashon HaRah* and TO SPEAK *Lashon Tov* from 11:30-12:30 daily from May 3 through May 19th. (Editor's Note: This is not to suggest in any way, manner, shape, or form that the requirement for "Guarding Our Tongues" is limited to one hour a day for seventeen days. Rather, the purpose is to train ourselves for "Extended Speech Care" by demonstrating to ourselves that we **can** do it.) They have also been given sheets which contain the prayer recommended for daily recital by the Chofetz Chaim in which we beseech *Hashem* to help us improve in our talking patterns and in all interpersonal relationships. We will be saying this short *Tefillah* in class.

- In conjunction with the *Machsom Lefi*, we're again having a "Lashon-Tov-a-Thon". (Mrs. Mendlowitz is the originator of this.) The idea is similar to all "a-thons" - to raise money through obtaining sponsors. In our case, kids will be asking parents, relatives, and friends to contribute to the TSGW Israel Emergency Fund, based upon the children's involvement in the *Machsom LeFi*. Monies raised will be divided between Operation Embrace and another organization in Israel. (Editor's Note: Obviously, our success with being careful with what emanates from our mouths is hard to quantify. Therefore, donations are solicited for each child's **commitment to** and **effort in** this *Mitzvah*.) We've included a copy of the directions/sponsor sheet which will be given to our students. Please help and encourage your sons and daughters to help our brethren in Israel.

We truly hope that these efforts will achieve their desired goals and bring *Shalom* and the *Ge'ulah Shelaimah*.

Making a Difference –Part II The Tehillim-a-Thon

As another facet of our efforts for *Eretz Yisrael* and the entire world, we are in the final throes of our year-long TSGW *Tehillim-a-Thon*. Our goal has been for each class to complete the entire *Tehillim* by June.

Making a Difference – Part III

As mentioned before Pesach, we're also involved in a special Focus on Tefillah incentive program, sponsored by the Idsteins in memory of Rabbi Idstein's parents, Z'L.

Although we've only got 29 school days left and Little League season has begun, no one is winding down here. (In fact, lots of people are all wound up). Lots of terrific learning is going on in all subjects and in all grades. On display in our spacious second floor halls (outside Room 253), you'll find Third Grade Haikus with painted scenes. These are mounted on Shoji screens.

The First Grades are heavily into their science and social studies units about Interdependence and have much to display.

Grades 3 and 5 have completed their standardized testing. Results should arrive in late June and will be sent home during the summer.

4B got to visit the Seneca one-room Schoolhouse in Poolesville (home of Bill Murry). They had some heavy duty learning, participated in a spelling bee, and learned to call the teacher Ma'am. *Todah* to Mara Sanders, Shulie Bergman, and Rivka Goldstein for driving.

There is lots of study of geometry, fractions, and basic math skills at all the appropriate grade levels.

The Sixth Grades have been exploring Africa, with a little trip to the Middle East included.

We also had a very well executed fire drill today.

Lots of Expectations

Sunday, May 2

▶ 5th/6th *Shiurim*.

▶ 10:00 A.M. - Fifth Grade Boys' Celebration of starting *Gemarah* (a few months ago). Location: Cafeteria.

Monday, May 3

▶ 5th Grades to Aspen Hill Library. Boys in A.M., girls in P.M.

▶ 6B to Ben Yehuda sponsored by Masmid Govoha.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,

May 4, 5, and 6

▶ Full schedule of post-3:30 classes and activities.

Tuesday, May 4

▶ **Chemdas point accumulation deadline.**

▶ Special in-school, hands-on programs on Indian culture for Grades 4-6.

Wednesday, May 5

▶ *Pesach Sheini*. This is the fourteenth of *Iyar*. At the time of the *Beis HaMikdash*, those who were unable to bring the *Korban Pesach* (Pascal sacrifice) on Passover (for a variety of specific reasons) had a second opportunity to perform this important *Mitzvah* on this date, approximately one month after the original time.

Today, many people have the *Minhag* of eating *Matzah* (many save some *Matzah Shemurah*) on *Pesach Sheini*.

▶ Pizza. *Todah* for this week's lunch to Ellen Shames, Adina Friedman, and lots of staff people.

Thursday, May 6

▶ Annual Mishmar attendees trip to Baysox game after Mishmar. This includes all members of the male gender in Grades 4-6 and those 4th-6th young ladies who stay on Tuesday and/or Thursday for Rabbi Moskowitz' class. As in past years, our PTA will sponsor a deli supper (following *Mishmar*) and the bus to transport us back and forth. Those who own or can borrow uniform shirts will be admitted to the park without charge. **Any team uniform shirt (city, local neighborhood, county league) (e.g. Wheaton Boys Club, JCC, etc.) will get kids in for free.** Otherwise, admission is \$5.00 per child. We do need adult chaperones and a few vans to handle our overflow SRO crowd. Please let us know if you can come. If your son/daughter will be coming and/or if you can join us with a van, please fill out the form below. Details:

◆ 4:45 - Deli supper

◆ 5:30 - Leave for game from school

◆ 10:30 - Estimated time of return to school. Call school voice mail (301-962-8003 ext. 2) after 9:45 to find out more exact timing.

Important Notice: The stadium does **NOT** allow anyone to bring in food.

Friday, May 7

▶ **Scholarship application deadline.**

Monday, May 10

▶ Day after *Lag BaOmer* Field Day Activities.

Tuesday, May 11

▶ Kindergartens to Green Meadows Farms.

▶ 5B to Home Depot and Royal Dragon.

Thursday, May 13

▶ 3rd Grades to Imagination Stage.

▶ 5G to Home Depot and Royal Dragon.

Tuesday, May 18

▶ Kindergartens to Theaterworks.

Wednesday, May 19

▶ 3rd Grades to Japanese Embassy.

Thursday, May 20

▶ Chemdas Sr. trip for 3rd-6th Grades. Details TBA.

Tuesday, May 25

▶ *Erev Shavuot* – No School.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 26 and 27

▶ *Shavuot*.

Friday, May 28

▶ Full day of school in celebration of *Isru Chag*.

Monday, May 31

▶ Memorial Day – No school.

Wednesday evening, June 2

▶ *Masmit Govoha* Banquet for 6B in Baltimore.

Thursday, June 3

▶ Chemdas Jr. trip for 1st/2nd Grades. Details TBA.

Monday and Tuesday, June 7 and 8

▶ 6th Grade Boys' Graduation Trip.

Thursday, June 10

▶ 6th Grade Graduation at 6:00 P.M.

Sunday and Monday, June 13 and 14

▶ 6th Grade Girls' Graduation Trip.

Monday, June 14

▶ Kindergarten Graduation at 9:45 A.M. After the program, our budding First Graders are dismissed until September.

Tuesday June 15

▶ 12:00 Dismissal.

Wednesday, June 16

▶ Last day of school for 1st – 6th. 12:00 dismissal.

Monday, June 21

▶ THE MOVE begins.

Wednesday, September 1, 2004

▶ Opening day of 2004 – 2005.

On the Lookout

☉ We will be needing lots of help in packing and unpacking. If you're available from June 16 – 25, please let us know.

☉ We're also searching all over for chairpeople for our annual before-school BBQ. If you're available, please call Tsipi Hawk (301-754-0620).

Cell Phone Collection

Although the deadline has passed, cell phones can still be brought in on Monday.

We wish a *Refuah Shelaimah* to:

🕯 Rabbi Mendlowitz' father.

We wish a heartfelt *Mazel Tov* to:

☺ Ezra Feldman, his mother, Gloria; his siblings, Bayla, Tamar, and Shana; and his entire family upon his becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*.

☺ Atara Rosen, her parents, Larry and Aviva; her siblings, Yaakov, Amira, Yaffa, Ashira, and Ayelet; and her entire family upon her becoming a *Bas Mitzvah*.

☺ Miss Rivka Grant (who has been teaching for Sulam), upon her forthcoming marriage. Yesterday was her last day with us.

☺ Yaacova and Simmy Pollock, Sarah, Chana, and Sruli on the birth of a son and brother.

May they continue to be blessed with *Simachos*!

Good Shabbos!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yitzchak Charner
Headmaster

Mishmar Trip Permission Slip

I hereby give permission to my child/children, _____, to go on the Mishmar trip to the Bowie Baysox game on Thursday, May 6.

I know that my child needs a little league shirt or sports uniform shirt. We either have one or will borrow one.

Enclosed is \$5.00 to cover the cost. (My child does not have and cannot obtain a team shirt to wear to the game.)

I can come.

I can drive and take ___ children.

_____ Date
Phone #
Parent's Signature