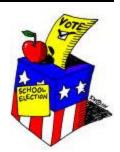
Shaloh House UPDATE Wovember 5, 2010 28 Cheshvan, 5771



The Shaloh House Jewish D? y School Newsletter

Student Council Elections

18 Candidates, 192 votes, and 6 offices, 5771's student council election was full of excitement. Weeks of getting speeches, posters, and platforms ready lead to the big day. Visiting the local polling center, just up the road, students had a chance to see a general election in progress before voting in their own.



After a lunch filled with last minute campaigning, students entered our third floor meeting hall to listen to speeches focusing on class length, pizza, repairing the elevator, pizza, adding classes, pizza, recess, pizza, field trips, pizza, monthly events, pizza, eliminating breakfast, pizza, holiday events, and oh yes...pizza was mentioned.

A brief question and answer period followed, but most voters were ready to line up and cast their ballots. Our science room, transformed into the ward one polling place for Shaloh House saw a record high turnout of thirty-two voters lined up eager to vote. Observing a strict no campaigning within 23 feet of the polling center, the line was abuzz with the changes the election brought to look of the school, and among the older students how much it looked like the polling center they went to before lunch.

The election commission quickly tallied votes and declared the winners. Our new Presidents are Dania Mael for 2nd Grade, Ilya Nemirovsky for the 3rd-4th Grades, and Leah Rodkin for the 5th Grade. Our Vice Presidents are Zalman Rodkin for the 2nd grade, Aviel Danan for the 3rd-4th Grade, and Shimon Sherman for the 5th Grade.

Thursday, November 4th is the first student council meeting during lunch. Our newly elected councilors wasted no time, before starting to work out which issues should be brought up for the first meeting.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

TURN THE CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR—SAT NIGHT, NOV 6

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND - NO SCHOOL

NOV 25—26, THURSDAY—FRIDAY

CHANUKAH

DECEMBER 2—9

Parshas Toldos Kaddish at Fenway

By Nechemia Schusterman

It took almost two years, but I finally landed at my first Red Sox game as a resident of Massachusetts. I got a call from a colleague about an hour before game time. "I

got an extra ticket, Royals versus the Sox, do you want to go?" After approving it by the boss, my wife, I was on my way.

The game started out all right. During the second inning, a fellow walks over to where the four of us were sitting, and asked us if we'd join a minyan. I was a little surprised but agreed. As instructed, at the seventh inning stretch, I headed for the

agreed upon location, (the ramp, not far from a beer stand) and there it began. We prayed the evening service, and kaddish was said.

I often wonder how we look to others who are watching us do our thing. Such as when I find myself praying with Teffilin on an airplane or fulfilling some other religious practice in any number of situations that must look unusual.

There is a Chassidic adage, "In the place where one's desire is, there he is to be found." Where your head is, that is where you are. Not physically of course, but conceptually.

I believe that is also true about perceptions. When one is insecure about something, his haircut, tattoo, beard (if you are me), or choice of clothing, then others perceive the discomfort. They pick up on it, instinctively understanding that something is out of place, and take a second glance. That is when they perceive the oddity that you are so insecure about. If I am not comfortable, then

I'm almost begging for (negative) attention, since I am not aligned with myself. My heart and my being are in two separate places.

A person who is confident in his manner and stride and about what he represents gives off an aura of security that doesn't force others to do a double take. If my heart is in the right place, and I am secure about what/

who/where I am and what I'm doing, then I am truly there, and nothing is out of place.

Just before his death, Moses begins to review much of the Torah's laws and stories. He rebukes the people for their failings and iniquities, and enjoins them to keep the Torah and observe its commandments in the land that

G–d is giving them as an eternal heritage, into which they shall cross after his death.

Without taking the literal message of Moses out of context, perhaps we can extend what he was saying. He was enjoining them to follow the Torah and observe its commandments since that is their true identity. It is your essence, part of your identity like the native land you inhabit. And if you are to survive and be successful, you need to first be at peace with who and what you are.

Back at Fenway. We prayed the whole evening service, perhaps ten minutes or so, and no one even batted an eye. We were doing our thing, what we were supposed to, and no one felt like we were out of place. "In the place where one's desire is, there he is to be found."

The Sox came back from behind and took that game, and the whole series for that matter. Go Sox!

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Detail from a painting by Sarah Kranz

What Do I Do If I Don't Believe?

By Aron Moss

Question:

I don't pray every day. Sometimes I'm not so sure that I

believe in G-d enough to pray. I just don't think I can have the unwavering faith that people like you seem to have. I'll never be so sure. Can you pray and be a good Jew if your faith is unsteady?

Answer:

To be a Jew means to struggle. The very name Israel means "one who struggles with G-d." Faith is not a light switch that you turn on and it stays on. Faith is a fire that you need to tend to and fuel, and sometimes rekindle. It is a wrestle that never ends.

There are days that your faith shines through and everything fits into place.

On these days, you feel at one with yourself and G-d, and prayer comes naturally. Then there are days that you wake up and all is dark, your faith seems to have dried up. G-d, soul, prayer, goodness--all seem like annoying insects buzzing in your ear, and you just want to just roll over and go back to sleep.

But even on those days, you have to find the motivation to get up and get on with it. Perhaps your faith won't get you out of bed, so how about trying another approach. Putting aside your faith in G-d, what about G-d's faith in

you?

There is a powerful prayer that we say as soon as we wake up in the morning:

I give thanks to you, Living and Eternal King, for You have returned my soul to me with kindness. How great is Your faith.

The faith referred to here is not our faith in G-d, but rather "Your faith"--G-d's faith in us.

The very fact that we have woken up is proof that G-d believes in us. He knows that we are not perfect, is well aware of our failings and knows the mistakes we have made. And yet, in the morning after our sleep, He returns our soul to us and gives us another chance, because He trusts us. He has faith in our ability to change and make today a bit better than yesterday. We may or may not believe in Him, we may or may not believe in ourselves, but G-d believes in us.

Humans are fickle; G-d is constant. His

faith in us is firm and unchanging, even if our faith in Him is shaky. That's the faith of an Israelite, one who struggles with G-d. We may be struggling, but we are struggling with G-d - He is always there.

If you woke up this morning, if your soul was returned to you to see another day, then give thanks. Start your day with a prayer, if not out of your faith in G-d, then at least out of G-d's faith in you. He trusts you enough to give you a precious soul. Use it.

From www.Shaloh.org/Magazine

Toddler Room

We are excited to let you know that this week two new wonderful girls Noya and Raz joined our class!





This week we were very busy learning color GREEN! We made beautiful projects: green leaves, frogs and grapes!





On Thursday and Friday we learned the story about the sale of the birthright from Parsha Toldot! We found out about Yaakov buying the birthright with a plate of lentil soup! We even listened to a song about it:



Yaakov was cooking beans Eisav was out hunting, 'I am hunting, give me soup'. Eisav came in punting.

We also started learning Chanukah songs with our music teacher Morah Irina!

Preschool Room

We had such an interesting week! The Parchiyot just keep getting more and more exciting!

We LOVED the stories about Yaakov and Esav, the sons of Yitzchak Avinu. We learned about them last week and we even made puppets of Yaakov and Esav! We also learned a song about them:

(TTTO: Frere Jacques)

Yizchak and Rivka (x2) Esav went hunting (x2) Had twin boys (x2) Yaakov made soup (x2)

Esav and Yaakov (x2) Esav came home hungry (x2)

Brought then joy (x2) And ate it all up (x2)

Please ask me about the Parsha:

- The Parsha of the week is (Toldot)
- Mommy Rivka really wanted to have a (baby), so she (davened to Hashem). Hashem gave her not one baby, but (two babies).
- When Mommy Rivka went near the (shul), the good baby (jumped in her tummy).
- But when she walked near bad people, (the bad baby jumped).
- The good baby's name was (Yaakov), and he was very (cute).
- The bad bay's name was (Esav), and he had a lot of (red hair) all over his body.
- When the twins got bigger and bigger, Yaakov loved to (learn Torah and do Mitzvot).
- But Esav loved to (fight) and (hunt animals).
- One day, Yaakov was cooking (soup). Esav came home tired and (hungry). He asked Yaakov for some soup and Yaakov said, "Yes, but only if from now on I will be the bechor (firstborn)."
- Another time, Yitzchak asked Esav to make him food, but Yaakov also wanted to give him food, so Yaakov put on a furry coat, so that he would feel (hairy, like Esav). And Yitzchak gave Yaakov a (beracha).
- When Esav came home, he saw that Yaakov got the beracha. He was very (angry) and wanted to (catch Yaakov), so Yaakov (ran away).

This week in Aleph-Bet, we learned about the letter Bet. We made a "Bet for Bayit" apple and hope you'll hang it up right next to the Aleph apple. We learned many words that begin with Bet, including Betzah (egg), Bayit (house), Besamim (spices), Barvaz (duck), banana (it's the same in Hebrew) and bet Haknesset (shul).

The exciting event of the week was that we started learning about the ABCs. Im Yirtze Hashem (God willing), each week we will learn one letter of the ABCs and make a project with it. Please hang them up, so that your child can have the whole alphabet and practice at home.

This week was A-week. We made an A-for-Apples. We also sang a song for A: (TTTO: The farmer in the Dell)



Let's sing hurray for A, Let's sing hurray for A, Let's sing hurray for A today, Let's sing hurray for A! Apple and Ant start with A, Asparagus starts the same way. Let's sing hurray for A today, Let's sing hurray for A!



Enroll now for

Shabbat Shalom, Morah Ruti, Morah Polina, and Morah Basya

Pre K

This week the Pre K continued to practice the days of the week by singing a song Monday, Tuesday, etc. to the tune of "Oh, my Darling Clementine". The children enjoy this and sing enthusiastically. We also practiced singing the ABC and Aleph Bais song. We danced to a song every morning called "Let's be Friends and Join Together because that's the Torah way" and the children are now holding everybody's hands and swaying as opposed to dodging certain people's hands!

We continue to expand our vocabulary and recognition of our abc's (letters A through E) and the aleph bais (Aleph through Hey) and we are now counting up to five. Music class is always a favorite and our class is practicing traditional Chanukah songs as we get ready for our next holiday!

This week we colored parsha coloring sheets and acted out a skit illustrating a few points in this week's Parsha. In this week's parsha Toldos we learn that for every mitzvah we do, no matter how easy or difficult the mitzvah might be, we earn tremendous reward.

We also learn that Rivka gave birth to twins Yaakov and Eisav. But the twins not only looked different, they had very different characteristics. Yaakov was very good and full of chesed but Eisav was wicked in every way possible. The only mitzvah Eisav did was honor his father. He honored his father by hunting special animals and preparing the meat for his father. We spoke about the mitzvah of honoring one's parents and we will continue to do this next week.

Good Shabbos! From Morah Illana and Morah Marina

Enjoy some pictures from the K Junior Class:





Shaloh House Update #5 (5771)

Friday, November 5, 2010

Light Candles at 5:16 pm

Kindergarten Junior

Thank you for sending in mitzvah notes! This helps create a strong connection between home and school. Please continue sending in mitzvah notes. The children are so excited when Morah reads them out loud.



The weather is changing- please bring appropriate outdoor clothes to school-hat, jacket, mittens, and sweater.

We do not allow children to use the school kippas to prevent lice from spreading. We are pleased that many children have brought their own kippa/hat, and we would like all the children to bring their own kippa/hat to wear in school.

Each Friday, please bring home your child's sleeping bag from their cubby, wash it, and bring it back on Monday. Please do not bring any toys from home to school. Some children have difficulty sharing and the toys get lost. We are not responsible for lost toys and the child getting upset over their lost toy. We have a good opportunity to come to school between 8:15-9 to work individually with a Morah on letters, numbers and alef bais.

We celebrated our cook, Svieta's, birthday. We made a project together with the seniors. The Seniors made a clay heart, and the Juniors decorated a box to put the heart in.

In English, we concentrated on letters J, K, and L. We played bingo, and reviewed words starting with letters A-L. We practiced writing letters A-L as well. We read "And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street." This book helps develop imagination. We named objects we saw in the book, from a horse pulling a carriage to an elephant pulling a music band. We encourage the children to listen and answer questions on the story. Two times a week we share-this helps the children develop vocabulary and speak in public. The children report information from the weekend, or how their week was. Please ask your child how their day was. Ask them detailed questions, so they will answer with details. We introduced the month of November. The weather is getting colder, the rain water is freezing outside, and the windows on cars are getting frozen as well. We learned how there are seven days of the week. We do not go to school on Saturday or Sunday, and we go to school from Monday-Friday.

In math, we are continuing to count from 1-10, forward and backwards. We worked on recognizing the number six. The number 6 is sometimes confused with number 9. Number 6 has the body on the bottom with the hand sticking up. Number 9 has his head on top and standing on one foot. We watched interesting cartoons for numbers 1-10 and counting objects. We practiced writing our numbers on the board, and matching numbers with objects. We love playing the clapping game. Each child has a turn to clap his hands and the class needs to figure out how many times he clapped his hands. We read "My Shabbos 1,2,3" by Surie Fettman. This is a book on numbers 1-10 in rhyme style. Each number has that number objects on the Shabbos table.

Vav was the alef bais letter we concentrated on this week. We learned that vered is a rose, and varod is pink. We practiced writing vav on the board. We had fun searching for varod objects in the classroom. We've been reviewing our letters alef-vav. The children have been enjoying reviewing on a new alef bais poster we have

Continued on page 9...
Continued on page 9...

Kindergarten Senior



Parshas Toldos

Judaic Studies

The children are bringing home the gorgeous challah covers they made last week. They are very excited about using them. They also made decorative plaques that contain the Jewish blessing parents give their children on Friday nights. (In our parsha, Yitzchak gives a blessing to his children, Yaakov and Esav.)

A Jewish Way to Say "Hello"

On Tuesdays, the Kindergarteners usually learn an interesting tidbit about Jewish law and/or the Jewish way of life. This week, we learned that there is a Jewish way to say "hello!" In Pirkei Avos, a book of ethics, we are taught four things about greeting someone. 1) We should try to be the first one to say "hello," instead of waiting for the other to greet us first. 2) We should not give the same bland smile to everyone; rather, our smile should make the other person recognized as a special individual. 3) We should show the other person our full face when we say "hello" and not just rush past them with a sidelong glance. 4) We should give them a nice smile, not a little grimace.

At the same time, in Hebrew conversation, Morah Lilia reviewed the Hebrew ways we say "hello" and "how are you?" We had a lot of fun practicing these new skills.

English

We have two wonderful learning groups for English studies. Group One is continuing work on sounding out the letters of the alphabet and recognizing lower-case letters as well as writing them. This week, we read a book with the short-vowel "o" sound called "The Tot and the Pot." Group Two children read a book with words that had three consonants in a row, like "spring," "splendid," and "strike" called "The Robin."

We want to remind parents that we offer intensive, one-on-one instruction in both reading and math from 8:15 to 9 a.m., so please bring your children at 8:15 a.m. so they can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Math

In math, we have three groups. The first group is working hard on math problems. They read the problem, decide what kind of computation it requires, write out the equation and then compute the answer. They also are continuing to count up to 100 and identify which number is the larger between two different numbers. They are starting to add three numbers together. They also add and subtract sums up to 25. Group two is continuing to count to 20, forwards and backwards. They are also finding missing numbers in a series and adding up to 10. Group three counts up to 20, writing numbers from one to 10, finds missing numbers in a series, and counting objects up to 10.

Hebrew

This week, we continued working on our second vowel sound, Patach. We are reading three- and four-letter words with both vowel sounds. In Hebrew vocabulary, we added a new page to our Hebrew dictionaries with Hebrew words beginning with the letter "Vav." In conversation skills, we practiced greeting the teacher, greeting each other, and saying "My name is..." in Hebrew.

Parsha

This week we learned a crucial lesson from our parsha, or weekly Torah portion. In this week's parsha, "Toldos," Yitzchak and Rivka give birth to twins, Yaakov and Esav. These twins were born to the same parents, who were both extraordinary human beings. But our parsha teaches us that – no matter how wonderful (or how base) a person's ancestry – each individual still chooses how refined and good a person they want to be. One twin, Yaakov, chose to emulate his parents and be the best person he could be. The other twin, Esav, had tremendous potential, but chose to use those impressive powers for evil. The children learned that we are each the sum of the choices we make each day – our future is in our hands.



...Continued from page 7

in our class. We've been using flashcards to recognize the Hebrew letters in our name, and some children even practiced writing alef bais letters with blocks!

In parsha, we learned:

- Yitzchak and Rivka davening to Hash-m for children and Hash-m gave them not one, but two children: Aisav and Yaakov. Ask your child what Yaakov and Aisav each looked like. Yaakov was a big talmid chacham, and Aisav hunted for animals.
- One mitzvah that Aisav did do was Kibbud av va'aim.
- Yaakov was cooking lentil soup, and Aisav wanted some. Yaakov gave Aisav soup in exchange for the bichora-the birthright. Aisav was the firstborn, but Yaakov wanted to be able to do the special jobs in the bais hamikdash that only the bichora can do. We made yummy red lentil soup-it was delicious.
- Rivka gave Yaakov food to bring to Yitzchak so Aisav would not get the special brachos that Yitzchak wanted to give to Aisav.
- Yaakov got the special bracha, and Aisav wanted a bracha also, so Yitzchak gave Aisav a different bracha.
- Aisav was very mad at Yaakov for taking his bracha. Rivka told Yaakov to go to Lavan's house.

Good Shabbos! From Morah Tovah, Morah Esther, Morah Sarah and Morah Lilia

Elementary School NEWS

Hebrew Liliya Gabelev

1st Grade

We learned the story "Ah tov", in grammar we continue the subject of feminine and masculine words and how to recognize it.

We learn 5-10 new words every week and widen our vocabulary.



2nd Grade

We learned the story "Ha'etim shel Miri" from the book "Shaa shel menucha" and had a quiz on the words from the story. We began learning the clock and practice in our grammar book.

3rd and 4th Grades

We learned clothing-related vocabulary and practiced that in our grammar book. This week we are learning fruits and vegetables and a song related to that topic.

We learned a story "Shlosha yeladim zadikim" and had a quiz on the new words.

5th Grade

We are working in 2 separate groups according to the students' Hebrew level, although sometimes we work as one group when we have a common subject.

This week we covered the clothing vocabulary and had a quiz. Also we learned fruits and vegetables. We practiced the topics in our grammar book and had a summarizing vocabulary game.

We read the story "Sakana" from our text book.

We began reviewing Mas/Fem/Singular/Plural numbers and the clock with one of the groups, while with the other group we continue with the subject of pertinence.

Language Arts Merlyn Carey

1st-5th Grades

In honor of Tzivos Hashem's 30th birthday, Power of Jewish Children is holding a competition for boys and girls from 5 years old to Bar or Bat Mitzvah age. The contest is writing an essay, and including a video if desired about either a Mitzvah done by the child, a talent of the child, or the mastery of a difficult concept by the child. By focusing on the Heart (Chesed), Hand (Performance), and Head (Achievement) students are able to chose which of their many successes they care to focus on.

This ties into the work we've been doing on learning not only the topics of our classes, but also how we learn best- the thinking about thinking that leads to becoming a life-long scholar. The contest offers a range of great prizes, but even more importantly, offers a broad prompt for some reflective writing. Over the next several weeks, we'll be working on drafts in the second through fifth grades, along with our spelling, hand-

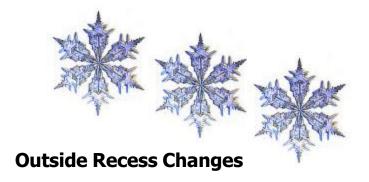
writing, grammar, and other tasks.

Spelling as a weekly assignment is going strong, with classes fully in the routine, allowing the focus to move from how to do the pages into the pages themselves. In some grades, this shows as a slight increase in the number of pages for homework- and in others, it leads to changes in spelling books. Upholding Shaloh House's reputation for being at or above grade level in our work, the number of 3rd grade books being used by second graders, 4th and 5th grade books in 3rd and 4th, and 6th, and 7th grade books in 5th grade is common, here. What is even more rewarding than the color spelling book a student is in, is the conversations with students intent on finding the best possible challenge, tricky enough to have some struggle, yet comfortable enough as well.

Computers Michael Kahn

1st-5th Grades

We are learning PowerPoint through presentations about our favorite scientists. Students gather data from the internet and books and put together their own slideshows. The younger students are learning how to create their own folders, about computer organization, and about different types of files and how to save and reopen these files.



With the start of the cooler and soon to be colder weather, we've made the change to indoor snack and outside recess.

When it is 20 degrees (including wind chill) to 40 degrees, children can chose to go outside during recess or stay inside.

Below 20 degrees is indoor recess for everyone, and over 40 degrees is outside recess for everyone.

With this in mind, please make sure to bring winter gear: Warm coats and gloves days for every day and snow boots to go on the snow, once it arrives. With snow pants needed to be able to play in the snow, and still be warm and dry for the rest of the day.

School Happenings

Change a light, Change the World

Monday morning brought two visitors to Shaloh House. Agent Watt and Agent Nova stopped by to talk about energy use, as well as test Shaloh House student's knowledge of how to save energy. We learned some very cool, and a few very surprising facts about energy and where new sources of energy can be found. Learning that some cars can run off the fumes from cows was a popular discovery.

The agents also talked about how much energy a single CFL or compact fluorescent light bulb can save. By using 75% less energy and by lasting 8 to 10 times longer we can not only save energy, but a good deal of money as well, easily a hundred dollars or more when changing even just a few bulbs.

This lead to the student fundraiser, Shaloh House students are selling CFL bulbs between November 1 and the 15th. We'll send in orders on the 15th and roughly three weeks later the bulbs arrive. On December 6, students will start passing out bulbs to their customers.

NSTAR donates prizes for our students selling bulbs, as well as 100% of the money raised. Allowing us to help reduce our energy usage, save money, and support our school all at the same time.

Join Shaloh House School PTO

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to having another exciting school year!

As you might know, last year we officially formed PTO and would like to continue this tradition during this year. The PTO offers numerous opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of our school. Room Parents are the hearts of our organization. This is a great chance to meet other parents and to participate in a personal way in your child's education and school experience. The time commitment is minimal: occasionally being a part of an e-mail chain or assisting at an event of your choice.

However, you do not have to be a Room Parent to be a PTO volunteer! Volunteers are needed for assisting with our family and school events, planning teachers appreciation breakfast and some other activities. We ask each family to pay PTO dues of \$36.00 annually which are used for teacher appreciation gifts, for school events and "wish list" items. This is a tax deductible contribution. You can pay with the check or cash and mail it or bring it back to Shaloh House front office.

It will be our pleasure to discuss PTO and opportunities for involvement. Please contact Luba Aronchik, PTO Chair at 617-257-0677 or laronchik@verizon.net

Sincerely, Luba Aronchik

SHALOH HOUSE PTO Volunteer Opportunities 2010-2011

Getting involved with the Shaloh House PTO is a great way to meet new people and build community.

Name:
Telephone number/e-mail:
Child(s) name/room number(s):
Please check all committees that you would like to get involved with:
1. Room Parent: Assist in coordination of classroom communication, planning classroom getogether, and organization of teachers' gifts.
Room Parent (Please insert room number here)
2. NSTAR Fundraising: November 1,
tasks to be clarified
3. Family Fun Night: January 9, 5:00-7:00 pm
shop for food/supplies set-up clean-up
4. Invention Convention: January 19,6:00-7:00pm
set-up clean-up

Mazel Tov



on your Birthday

Birthdays this week 22 Cheshvan—28 Cheshvan:



Staff:

Svetlana Chestukhin







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???? NEXT WEEK AT SHALOH HOUSE

TASTE OF HEAVEN

CHALLAH BAKING & TORAH CLASS FOR MOTHERS WITH DAUGHTERS

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 6:00-8:00 PM

DONATION \$5 TO COVER COST OF THE INGREDIENTS

