

Chayei Sarah 5778 - candle lighting 4:30 p.m.
This week's Hilights is sponsored by:

- Mr. & Mrs. Yankie & Debbie Werther in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Chana Raizel, and proud parents, Mordechai & Miriam Werther
- George & Hermine Blau
- Hillel Academy in honor of Miriam & Mordechai Werther and the birth of their daughter, Chana Raizel
- Mr. Mordechai Hoffman & Rabbi Goldbaum in honor of the birth of a baby girl to Avi & Abby Mehler and to grandparents Jay & Joyce Moskowitz and Phil & Leah Mehler

Hillel Hilights



Views from Hillel Academy



These 3rd grade boys enjoyed a pizza lunch as a prize for participating in the Sukkos Hasmoda program. They were among the more than 80 students in grades 3-8th who received either pizza lunches or fleshig lunches (for middle school boys) as Hasmoda prizes. Our 1st and 2nd grade Hasmoda participants received some cute prizes - lipstick erasers for the girls and basketball pens for the boys. We'd like to thank the Harry H. Beren Foundation DIB for partially funding this program and a big thank you to the East Side Kosher Deli and Brooklyn Pizza for assisting with the lunches. As always a tremendous hakaras hatov goes to Mrs. Chaya Abrams for organizing this amazing program.



Zayin is for Zayde! Kindergarten invited Zaydes to come to class throughout the week in honor of learning the letter zayin. Each Zayde brought his favorite book to read to the class or props to use when talking about his life. The kids had great time learning about their classmates' Zaydes.

Welcome to Hillel Academy - (left to right, top to bottom) Zayde Negreann (Temima Negrean), Zayde Sessel (Penina Hines), Zayde Shapiro (Keturah Shapiro) and Zayde Rudnick (Tirtza Rudnick).

What do all of these pictures have in common? Ask any preschooler and they will tell you...they all include something that starts with a "Gimel!" They made a guf - an outline of their body, geshem - rain, and goo - just fun to play with!





Third Grade Girls have been reading books and learning about autumn. They painted autumn trees and created acrostic, cinquain, or sensory poetry. Their art and poetry writing are showcased on the bulletin board in the front hallway.

Girls and Ladies Swim at Lakewood Links!

Lakewood Links has recently been renovated and we are excited to offer a Girls and Ladies Swim night on Sunday, November 26th, from 4:45-5:45 pm. The cost is \$5/child or \$15 family max. There will only be 4 swim dates this year so make sure to take advantage of this special opportunity.

As per Lakewood Links safety policy, 1 parent for every 3 children under the age of 6 must be IN THE WATER with the children! You can also designate an older sister (12 years or older) to WATCH the little ones IN the pool.

Lakewood Links - 1295 S. Reed St, Lakewood, CO





Picture day is Wednesday, November 15th. Please make sure your children are in school on time as we have a tight schedule with the photographers. Also try not to plan any appointments for that day. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help on Picture Day!

Spotlight on our Teachers **Ms Drechsel - Kindergarten General Studies**

In Kindergarten we start off our day Davening with Morah Chaya Devorah. At the end of Davening, we gather in a circle and greet each other by name with a smile and a wave. Sometimes we sing a greeting song with everyone's name. We then break into three small discussion groups. The children get to express their opinions or tell of an event. It is wonderful to see their excitement as they share things about their life with others. We are building a community of friendships that will hopefully last far into the future.

In the morning program we have a variety of ways the children are learning. Before instruction starts, the children get their bodies moving. We usually have a fun dance song or bean bag action song. The "Bear Hunt" has been very popular lately.

After some movement, the children settle on the rug for calendar and weather report. We have a special helper each day. The children are learning many math concepts during calendar time.

Next comes a large group math lesson with several pages of the workbook to complete. We love using the big books that go along with the math curriculum. The children are also using hands-on materials that enhance math learning.

After snack, the children get a 15 minute recess followed by an hour of learning centers. There are 5 groups of children rotating around the room. We have a teacher-directed phonics and hand-writing center, a writing center, a teacher-directed reading center, puzzles and games, and art center. Our room is buzzing with happy children, who are finding much enjoyment in learning.

They especially love story-time. Sometimes it seems like the entire class is watching a thrilling movie with all eyes on the book, bodies leaning forward and hardly anyone moving because they are so engaged in the story. I love these teaching moments and I look forward to many more this year!

Scenes from Ms Drechsel's Kindergarten Class



Yasher koach and many thanks to Mrs. Devorah Fleisher for helping us get our website www.haod.org, back up and **secure!** You can always find the school calendar, past Hilights, or make a donation, along with other important information and links at www.haod.org. Watch for the link to the upcoming Chinese Auction.

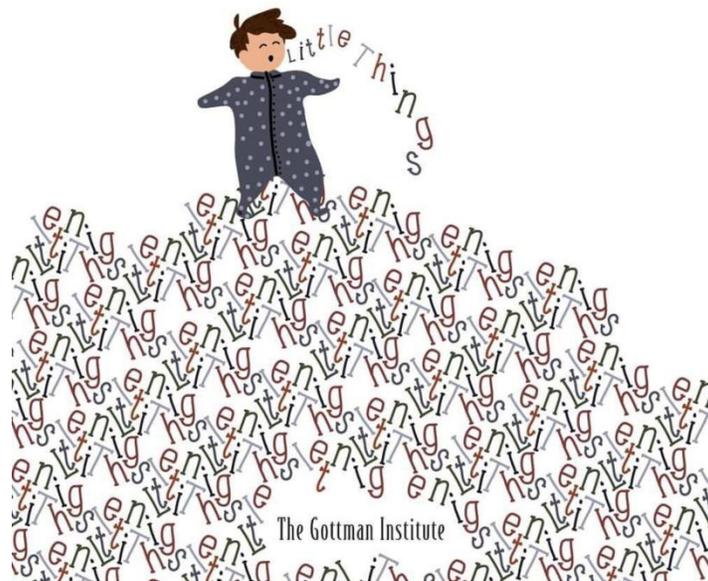


SAVE THE DATE!!
Hillel Academy PTA Chinese Auction
Dec. 10, 2017 @ EDOS

Counselor's Corner

If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

C.M. Wallace



From the Principal's Desk....

Dear Parents,

I am fortunate that I get to speak with the middle school boys on an almost daily basis and weekly with the middle school girls. This is an opportunity for me to share with them Torah values and hashkafos, usually culled from the weekly sidra. This week, the theme I chose to focus on was the power of one, and how Avraham Avinu, a solitary individual sparked a world-wide revolution with the (re)introduction of the monotheistic concept in its most pristine form.

As part of our discussion I listed many of our luminaries who even in relatively recent times have sparked revolutions within the Torah-observant world. Names that were mentioned were R' Chaim Volozhin, R' Yisroel Salanter, the Ba'al Shem Tov, R' Shamshon Raphael Hirsch, R' Nossion Tzvi Finkel (the Alter), R' Aharon Kotler, the Chofetz Chaim, R' Shraga Feivel Mendolowitz, R' Menachem Mendel Schneerson, R' Noach Weinberg and others. We spoke about the qualities that these giants possessed that enabled them to inspire their followers and infuse them with a sense of mission, and focused on the fact that each of these gedolim was able to empower and uplift the people around them to be the best that they could be. We spoke about how important it is for each of us to make those around us feel safe by focusing on our friends' strengths to build them up, and how this is one quality that makes people popular and transforms them into leaders.

We are concluding our fall MAP testing. As our students grow more comfortable with the MAP testing routine the results become more valid. We hope to be able to share with you the results of your children's MAP scores at Parent-Teacher Conference. Although these scores are informative, the interpretation, context and commentary that the teachers will provide are even more important, and will help you gain a deeper understanding of your child's performance in school.

This is the first time that we used the Signup Genius platform for parent-teacher conference signup. We know that there were a few kinks in the system, and that is to be expected with any new roll out. Please let us know your impressions of the system so that we can do an even better job next time.

As we head into the latter part of Cheshvan there is an atmosphere of "shteiging" in the building. One example of this is the 8th grade boys who have decided to review Meseches Makkos (which they completed last year with Rabbi Schnall) along with the Daf Yomi pace and schedule. They have given up recess time to do this and the class is on pace to complete the review of the masechta with Rabbi Schnall within a month's time. We are proud of the 8th grade for their dedication to learning and for setting a high standard for the younger boys to aspire to. May HaShem bless their efforts with success!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!
Rabbi Y. Goldbaum

D'var Torah

The Torah does not share with us any information about Efron's background prior to the time when Avraham purchased the Machpeilah cave from him. However, I would be willing to wager—based on his ability to flip-flop on the issues – that Efron must have been a politician. How else can one explain Efron's innate ability to shamelessly renege on his initial, munificent offer to grant Avraham the cave free of charge and to then extort an inordinate fee for it – all in the span of one interaction? Ah... the master politician at work!

On a more serious note, though, Efron is a classic example of instinctive behavior at work. Imagine for a moment a hungry lion that has been trained to stand upright on a stool, roaring and pawing the air, for the promise of a reward. Now imagine the chaos that would ensue should a spectator toss a slab of juicy, red meat into the ring in which the lion was performing! In all likelihood, even a well-trained lion would – in an instant – abandon its act and pounce on the tantalizing treat. No amount of training can ever undo a lion's instinctive nature, and, if that instinct is stimulated, let the lion tamer beware!

While animal behavior is well defined and uniform – all members of a breed will possess similar traits and impulses – human beings are more complex. One person's weakness for indulging in food may be very different than another's need to fawn for approbation. Yet, in one respect, humans are no different than trained animals: Our inborn drives and desires have the ability to overpower the cultured facade that society demands of us. This is basis for Hillel's teaching: "Do not trust yourself until the day of your death." (*Avos*; 2:5)

We can now better understand Efron's blatantly inconsistent behavior. Efron's weak point was a lust for money. So, as long as he was not actually teased with the cash, he was able to play the part of the generous benefactor, eager to graciously part with his cave so the grieving Avraham could afford his wife a fitting burial. However, as soon as Avraham said, "*I have given the silver for the field, take it from me!*" (*Breishis*; 23:11), which strongly implies that Avraham showed the silver to Efron, Efron couldn't contain himself and his true colors were revealed. Pavlov (remember his salivating dogs?) might have labeled Avraham's silver coins as a US (unconditioned stimulus) and Efron's unabashed desire to take as much as he could for himself a UR (unconditioned response), and in this situation, Efron's "nurture" was no match for his "nature"!

Although Efron's reaction may be extreme, we are all afflicted by similar inconsistencies in our behavior. If one of our "buttons" is pushed, we are liable to react instinctively in ways we will later regret! So what are we to do? The Gemara teaches (*Kiddushin* 30b), *Barasi Yetzer Hara, Barasi Torah Tavlin*, that the one effective antidote for managing our baser natures is to live in congruence with the Torah. When we lead lives that are in harmony with the Torah and infused and saturated with its ideals, the less likely we are to succumb to our weaker natures.

In overcoming our natural responses even when our desires are stimulated, we will be emulating Avraham. Avraham, despite his grief, was able to deal with Efron like a "mentch", even in the face of Efron's maddening shenanigans. This was due to his lifetime pursuit of personality perfection based on the dictates of the Torah. The ability to rise above a trying situation and to sanctify HaShem's name in the process is the true measure of a Torah personality. May we all merit achieving such distinction!

Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum



Mazel tov to Aron Goldbaum for putting tefillin on for the first time in preparation for his bar mitzvah and to his parents, Rabbi Yisroel and Rochel Goldbaum.

Hillel Updates

- **Friday Dismissal is at 1:15 pm for K-8th grades from now until Friday, March 9th. Preschool is always dismissed at 1 pm.**
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences - Tuesday, Nov. 14th and Monday, Nov. 20th from 6 pm to 9 pm. All students will be dismissed on those days at 3:30 pm.**
- **Shabbos Vayeitzei, November 24/25 - Boys Shabbaton on the Westside. Details to follow.**
- **Sunday, November 26th - Ladies and Girls Swim at Lakewood Links from 4:45 to 5:45 pm.**
- **Mazel tov to Avi and Abby Mehler on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents, Jay and Joyce Moskowitz and Phil and Leah Mehler.**

Community Events

November 11-12 Kehilas Bais Yisroel and Merkaz Torah v'Chesed – Shabbos Shel Chizuk. Rabbi and Rebbetzin Yissochor Dov Eichenstein, Rav of Mercaz Torah U'Tefilla of Baltimore, MD, will be the special guests during Shabbos Parshas Chayei Soroh. The Shabbos will include spirited tefilos, Oneg Shabbos, and divrei Torah from Rabbi Eichenstein. For more information email info@merkaztorah.org

Shabbos Tolodos – November 18 - Yeshiva Toras Chaim Shabbos of Chizuk Across Denver, is coming to the East Side of Denver on the 18th of November, Shabbos Parshas Toldos, and to the South East and West Sides of Denver on November 25th, Shabbos Parshas Vayetzei. Join the Leil Shabbos Oneg and be inspired by Divrei Torah together with YTC Roshei Yeshiva and Rebbeim. Details to follow. For more information, please call 303.629.8200 or email yticinfo@ytc.edu

Tuesday, November 28 - Yeshiva Toras Chaim's 51st Tribute Dinner at BMH-BJ Hall, 560 Monaco Pkwy, Denver. YTC will be paying tribute to its Legacy Building Partners, securing Torah learning and education in Denver for the coming half-century. Honorees are Zvi & Shoshana Gelt, The MB Glassman Foundation, Larry & Cindy Halpern, Michael & Barbara Katch, Burt & Lee Levy, Ronald & Sandy Schiff, Ari Yeruchem (Andy) Siegel obm, and Morey & Joni Troy. The keynote speaker will be Howard Tzvi Friedman of Baltimore, MD. Cocktails at 5:30 pm, Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm and Program at 7:00 pm. followed by dessert. To place an ad or dinner reservation, or for more information, please visit www.ytcdenver.org, email ytinfo@ytc.edu or call 303-629-8200. The deadline to submit ads for the Tribute Journal is Tuesday, November 21st.

Going to Overnight Camp for the 1st time next summer?

PJ Library offers a \$1,000 grant to first-time overnight campers through a lottery system. Applicants will need to request a personalized PJ Goes to Camp referral code to enter the lottery. All lottery applicants must complete the on-line One Happy Camper applications with the code by November 12, 2017. For more information on the required submission data, and details on how campers qualify for a PJ Goes to Camp incentive, visit www.pjlibrary.org/pjgtc.

To request a PJ Goes to Camp access code to submit as part of the lottery application, families should visit www.pjlibrary.org/pjgtc/referralcode. Referral codes for lottery applications will only be distributed through this website form.