

Hillel Highlights



Views from Hillel Academy

If you drop an egg – will it break?

Mrs. Sarah Novoseletsky, a parent volunteer, challenged the 5th grade girls to create a container to cradle a raw egg which would protect it from breaking when dropped from a height. The girls broke into groups and worked on figuring out the best container, how much padding, and how to secure the egg. After completing their containers, the eggs were dropped from the top of the play structure in the upper playground. The girls had fun creating their containers and then deconstructing them to see how their egg fared. Most containers were well made and all the eggs survived the drop (although some broke during deconstruction!).

The students then wrote a lab report on the hypothesis and outcome of this science project. Mrs. Novoseletsky led the girls in a discussion about the similarity of the egg drop to car crashes. The girls noted that when the padding was better the egg was safer and that the heavier the contraption, the faster it fell. These are all factors helpful in developing safer vehicles. It was a great, fun, learning experience. Many thanks to Mrs. Novoseletsky. (see pictures on the next page)

Pictures from the Egg Drop!



We experienced a glitch with our "all call" service and a number of people did not receive the call canceling last Sunday's class due to the weather. We have discovered the problem and fixed it. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Preschool enjoyed an "indoor" recess during one of the first snow days of the year. Looks like they had a great time playing catch!



The amazing Girls' Melava Malkah for girls in grades 4th-8th will take place this Motzei Shabbos at Hillel Academy from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Food, fun, and great activities. Looking forward to seeing you Motzei Shabbos!

Spotlight on our Teachers

Rabbi Avraham Abrams - 3rd Grade Boys Kodesh

Third grade is an exciting year, filled with many changes and transitions. Here is an overview of our progress:

The boys begin each day davening together. This year, we are adding Shemoneh Esrei to our tefillios, one bracha per week. We learn a little about what the bracha means and try to connect it to our daily lives.

After spending their formative years learning the skills necessary to be able to be active Chumash learners, we try to allow the boys to use these skills to progress more independently. Whether it be "chopping up" the words or preparing upcoming Pesukim, the boys are given the opportunity to learn independently and teach one another while they hone and fine tune these skills.

When we return from recess, we spend approximately 15 minutes a day on the topic of developing good middos. Using a wonderful and inspiring program from the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, we learn about what proper middos look like, and we discuss practical ways that we can improve our ability to incorporate these proper middos into our everyday lives.

Generally, after our middos program, we spend time building up our Chumash and Mishnayos vocabulary. Using many different tools, such as story writing, word-searches, jumbles, and "around-the-world" activities, the boys are afforded the opportunity to master approximately 160 of the most common Chumash/Mishnayos action words. The boys have been working very hard, and the results have been amazing.

After Succos, the boys entered into a new realm of learning, as we began, as a class, to learn Mishnayos. We are currently in the third Perek of Meseches Berachos. The boys are really enjoying Mishnayos, and they constantly want to learn more and more.

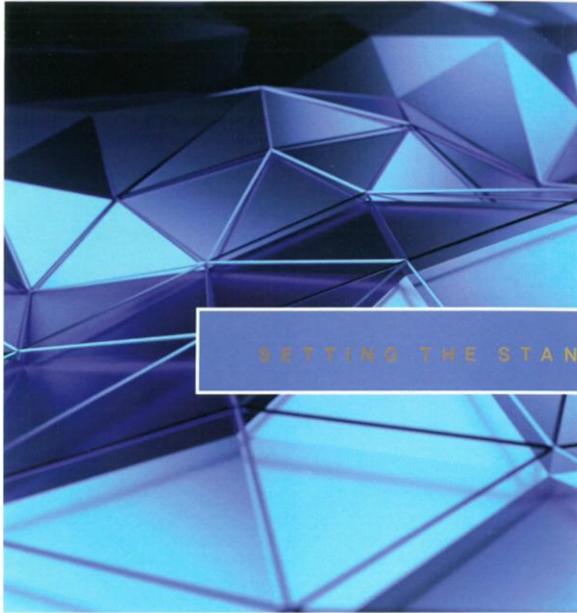
Baruch Hashem, this year's 3rd grade is an energetic, eager group of boys, who come to class everyday, enthusiastic and ready to grow. It has been an exceptional zechus to be able to be their Rebbe this year. B'Ezras Hashem, along with the rest of the student body of Hillel Academy, may they continue to give us all tremendous Nachas.

Mark Your Calendars
Hillel Academy's 66th Anniversary Dinner
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

you can make your reservations online at
<https://hillelacademyofdenver.com/dinner-reservations/>

Parents please remember that you are entitled to a full page ad along with your dinner reservation for 2.
Make your reservation online and place your ad at
<https://hillelacademyofdenver.com/dinner-reservations/>.

This is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to your children's teachers along with wishing our honorees, Rabbi & Mrs. Heyman, a mazel tov and thank you for all they do for our community.



SETTING THE STANDARD FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

The honor of your presence
is requested at the

66th Anniversary Dinner
of Hillel Academy
The Cornerstone of Denver's
Jewish Community

Tuesday Evening, January 23, 2018

BMH-BJ Congregation
560 South Monaco Parkway, Denver, Colorado

Couvert: \$400 per Couple

Reception: 6:00 pm - Dinner: 7:00 pm

With Tremendous Hakaras Hatov
Hillel Academy Honors

Rabbi Moshe & Mrs. Yehudis Heyman

with the
Kesser Shem Tov Award

Mr. Dov and Mrs. Shoshana Orr, Dinner Chairs

Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Selena Feister, Journal Chairs

Counselor's Corner

continued from last week

Tip #2

How to help your child deal with losing a game:

Focus less on winning and more on team effort, and having fun. Try not to celebrate and put much attention on YOUR winning too much. Try to focus on the point of the game; which is to have fun.

Tip #3:

Let your child lose!

It's tempting to save our kids from loss and failure. Often, we let our kids win, especially when we know they have no chance of doing so on their own. The trouble is, however, that this gives them a false notion of playing and competition. The focus shouldn't be on winning, and you shouldn't gloat your victories. Yet, allowing your child to lose gives him/her an even better gift than winning; **The ability to cope with disappointment.** Saving kids from every struggle won't shield them from disappointment. By allowing your child to lose, you're helping her develop grit, perseverance, and strategy. You're better off showing her new techniques to try, or explaining the rules once again. But don't allow her to win every game because you don't want her to feel sad or upset.



D'var Torah - Vayechi

Shortly before Yaakov died, he informed Yosef that his sons, Ephraim and Menashe, would be considered in many respects as independent *shevatim*: “*And now, your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Mitzrayim, before I came to you to the land of Mitzrayim, they are mine; Ephraim and Menashe are for me like Reuvain and Shimon.*” (Breishis 48-5) Yaakov’s words clearly convey that Ephraim and Menashe were the equal of his own sons. The fact that Ephraim and Menashe were deemed by Yaakov to have attained the illustrious status of the holy *shevatim* despite the temptations they must have faced having been born into Egyptian royalty speaks volumes regarding their exalted spiritual status. However, what did Yaakov mean to add to his message with the additional words, “*And now, your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Mitzrayim, before I came to you to the land of Mitzrayim, they are mine”?* How is the land of their birth and their being born before Yaakov immigrated to *Mitzrayim* relevant to their new status as *shevatim*? If anything, their birthplace would seem to disassociate and distance them from their grandfather and the other *shevatim*!

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, *zt”l*, explains that, on the contrary, the land of their birth and the fact that they were born before Yaakov and his family settled in *Mitzrayim* is the reason that Yaakov was able to claim Ephraim and Menashe as his own. Yaakov was certain that these two growing up as fully dedicated Jews in a foreign culture with no community support whatsoever could only be attributed to the extra care *he* had invested in Yosef’s Torah education so many years before. Nothing else could explain the passion that Yosef had for his own Jewishness, a passion that was evident in his sons’ commitment against all odds to the Torah traditions of their family. As for Yosef’s other sons – “*that you may bear after them*” – i.e., those sons that were born after Yaakov and the family established a Jewish community in *Mitzrayim* – “*they shall be yours*” (*ibid*; verse 6) – you, Yosef, may claim credit for their Jewishness, there being nothing extraordinary about such children growing up in the established ways of their Jewish community.

Rabbi Feinstein adds that the answer to this question also illustrates the degree to which Jewish parents must go to inculcate their children with Torah values. When we successfully instill Torah values in our children, we are not only investing in them but in their children and children’s children as well. However, this does not happen by chance; it is only when parents are passionate about their children’s Jewishness and are willing to sacrifice themselves to give their children a Torah-true education that this generational effect is evident. Children who sense that their parents are absolutely dedicated to their growing up as paradigms of Jewish values will almost certainly pass on those same values to their children, come what may! And when they do so, the credit goes not only to them, but in most cases also to their parents before them, who instilled within in them their Jewish passion.

Viewing Jewish education as Yaakov did, as the only guarantee of Jewish continuity, will increase our dedication to Torah education. Nothing other than a fully authentic Torah education has the power to inspire children with a Jewish identity so strong that nothing will shake it. May HaShem bless us in our educational endeavors so that we may see our children and students grow and develop into complete, passionate Torah-true Jews! ***Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum***

From the Principal's Desk....

Dear Parents,

The past week has been a productive one in spite of it being slightly truncated by icy conditions on Sunday, a legal holiday on Monday and a Ta'anis on Thursday. B"H, with Chanukah in the rear view mirror, students are falling back into well established routines and are primed for a regular school schedule beginning next Tuesday until winter break at the end of January.

Since Sukkos, Hillel Academy students have been participating in a nationwide initiative for Yeshiva Middle Schools developed by the Vehashayvosa Foundation called, "*The Rosh Chodesh Project.*" The project, a monthly chizuk in Emunah, is being encouraged and supported by Gedolei Yisroel, Menahalim, and leading Mechanchim including HaRav HaGaon Rav Moshe Shternbuch, *Shlita*, and HaRav Yaakov Bender, *Shlita*, who have strongly encouraged all Yeshivas to join in this project.

The Rosh Chodesh Project typically consists of a high quality monthly video featuring a charismatic speaker who focuses on a specific message on the topic of *Emunah* or one of the *Yud Gimmel Ikarim*. Rabbi Yosef Pruzansky (a Rebbe in Yeshiva Darchei Noam as well as a project director for the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation) hosts the video presentations. Also included in the videos are intriguing, topic related visual clips and inspiring songs to complement them.

Following the videos, worksheets are distributed to the students with questions designed to encourage individual thinking and internalization of the month's message. Hillel Academy then submits the worksheets to the Vehashayvosa Foundation, which marks the worksheets and enters them into a monthly raffle. This process is repeated monthly, as the Vehashayvosa Foundation provides new videos and worksheets.

B"H, our students seem to be enjoying and – more importantly – gaining much insight from the videos and follow up, and we look forward to continuing to offer them this opportunity to them throughout this year. The ultimate goal of the Vehashayvosa Foundation (as well as ours) is that these presentations serve as one more means to help our students better deal with the modern day challenges of our times and bring them closer to HaShem. Please ask your older children about these videos and the messages they contain so you can do your part in reinforcing them in every way possible.

Have a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum

Hillel Updates

- **Monday, January 1 - Noon dismissal for all students,**
- **Thank you to Rabbi Avraham and Hindy Mintz** for sponsoring the Boys Breakfast for this week in honor of their son, Mendel's, hanachas tefillin and on completing 2 perukim of Tanya baal peh.
- **Mazel tov to Rabbi Avi and Sari Wilen** on the birth of a granddaughter and to parents, Hillel and Ahuva Wilen (Israel).
- **Mazel tov to Rabbi Yisroel and Leah Engel** on the birth of a grandson and to parents, Dovber & Chaya Engel (New York).
- **Mazel tov to Ari and Mimi Weiss** on the birth of their son, Menachem.
- **Mazel tov to Reb Yoel and Dr. Barbara Unger** on the birth of a great granddaughter, Rivka and to parents, Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchok Anshel and Shana Baila Gelbfish.

Community Events

Thursday, January 4 - The MB Glassman Learn N' Swim - A new exciting program for boys in 4th – 8th grade on Thursday evenings from 6:50 – 8:30 at the JCC. Boys will learn Mishnayos, enjoy delicious cholent, and finish off with a swim! For more information contact Rabbi Sher at info@merkaztorah.org or (303) 335-7331.

Motzei Shabbos, January 6th – Aish Ladies Melava Malka – 7:45 to 10:00 pm – “The Special Role Women Play Every Saturday Night,” presented by Rochel Goldbaum. The evening will include a dairy dinner with sushi platter, entertainment by the Bais Yaakov Girls Choir, and a sale of hosiery, hats, snoods, cosmetics, and more. Cost is \$15, students \$5. For more information contact Mrs. Chaya Meyer 303.960.8189 /chayadenver@gmail.com

Sunday, January 7th, 7:30 pm - Bonei Olam 2nd Annual Event. Cost is \$18 a person, \$30 a couple. Program includes: Mr. Kleinbart; founder of Bonei Olam, Sarah Drexler (nurse midwife), Rachel Lubchansky, and Dr. Polotsky (infertility specialist). Come support this wonderful organization! Information and RSVP: Estie Rotstein at estierotstien@gmail.com

Monday, January 8th and for the next 10 weeks – Hebrew Nights at The Jewish Experience, from 7-8:15 pm. Hebrew reading, comprehension, or conversational/ulpan for all levels. Information and to sign up at TheJE.com/Hebrew or call 303-316-6412.

Sunday, January 14th - Bais Yaakov of Denver 50th Anniversary Gala – honoring Rabbi Myer J and Mrs. Bruria Schwab at the Doubletree Hotel, 4040 Quebec St. Gala buffet reception at 6:45 pm, program at 7:30 pm. To reserve, place an ad or for more information, visit www.bjhs.org, email reservations@bjhs.org or call 303-893-1333. Ad deadline is December 29th.

PIZZA LUNCH

- **FIRST GRADE, 2-5 GRADE BOYS,
2-8 GRADE GIRLS**
- **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3RD
2018!!!**
- **PIZZA AND LEMONADE!!!!!!!**

NAME: _____

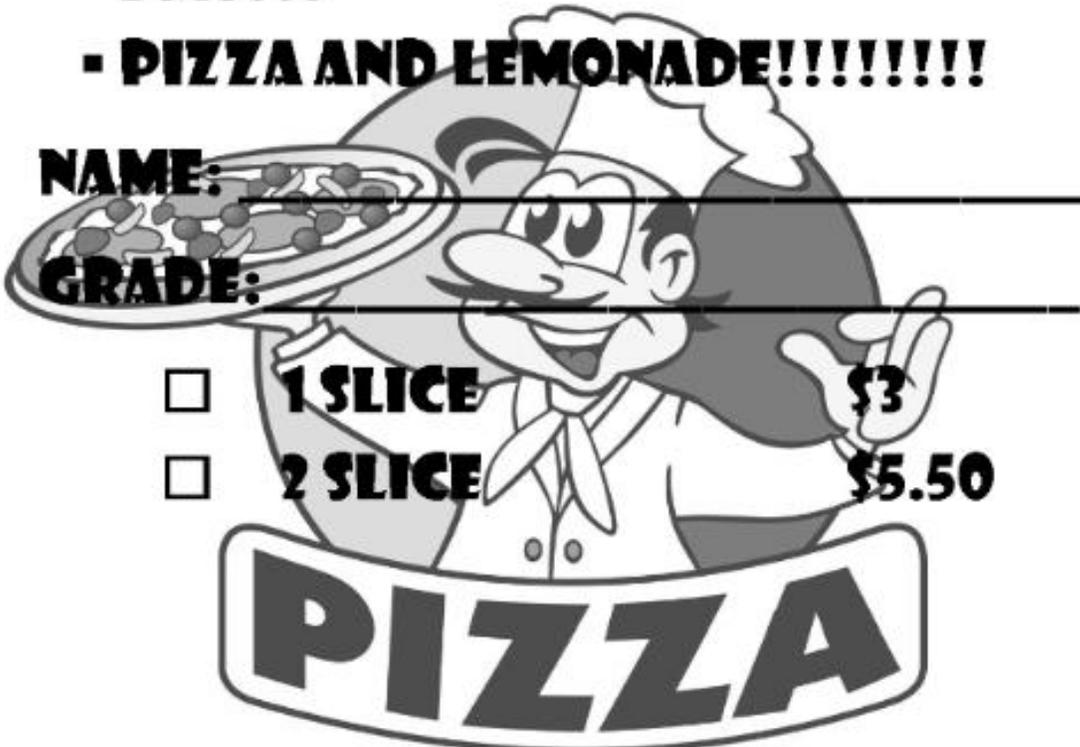
GRADE: _____

1 SLICE

\$3

2 SLICE

\$5.50



PIZZA

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE BY MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST.