

Yom Kippur 5778 - candle lighting 6:27 p.m.

Hillel Highlights

May you be sealed in the Book of Life
for a good year!

גמר חתימה טובה

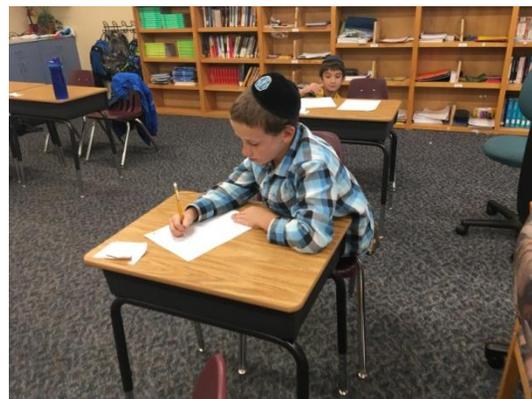
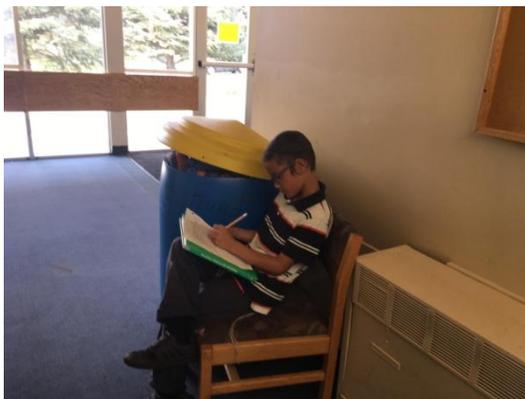
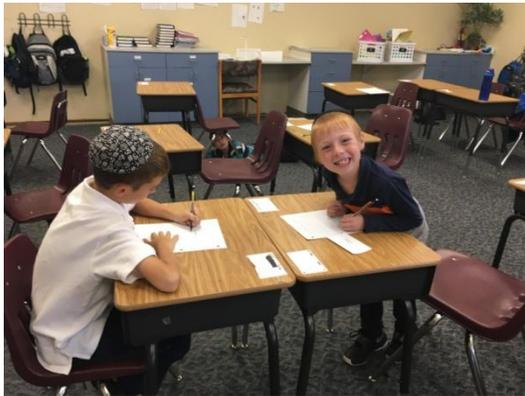


This Week at Hillel Academy

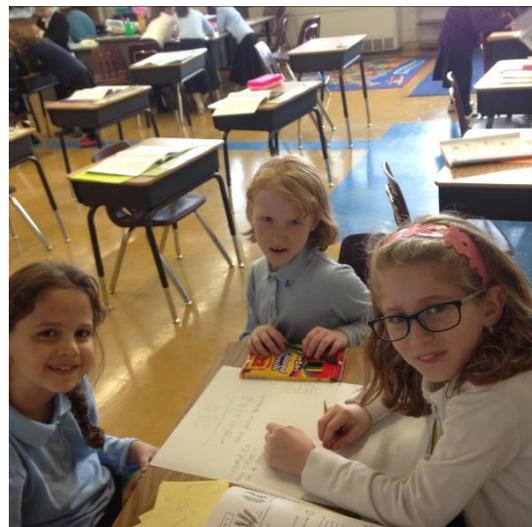
Moshe Berkowitz, Yisroel Seidenfeld, Mendel Mintz, Meir Borenstein and Dovid Krausz were given a special recognition for having completed a year-long project of taking notes on the gemara they have been learning. The boys created their own sefer from their notes. They each received a sefer, *Orhcas Chaim I'haRosh*, to commemorate this accomplishment.



The boys are working hard in Mr. Rawson's 3rd grade classroom.



The 3rd grade girls were divided into 4 groups to learn about 1 of the arba minim. After learning about it, they gave a presentation about their "min" to the rest of the class. They worked cooperatively in groups, taking turns and negotiating creating a mini poster together.





Just before Rosh Hashanah, the middle school girls made delicious individual apple kugels that were enjoyed at many yom tov meals!



Miss Goldbaum's PE class is just too cool!



Third grade boys have been working their core muscles in gym.



Preschool was extremely busy last week, getting ready for Rosh Hashanah. They reviewed all the simonim and enjoyed a pre-Rosh Hashanah meal.



Preschool pictures continued



This week preschool learned about Yonah and the great whale and about kapporos.



Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski spoke to the middle school boys about his experience in Houston after the hurricane and flooding. He talked about the tremendous community effort at cleaning up and how people came together to help their neighbors. He spoke of "rescuing" mezuzot from buildings damaged by the flooding. Rabbi Serebryanski fielded numerous questions from the boys about the aftermath of this devastating hurricane.



Counselor's Corner



*'If you want your children to improve,
let them overhear the nice things you
say about them to others'*

- Haim Ginott



D'var Torah

Avinu Malkeinu is one of the most intense tefillos we recite on Yom Kippur. This year too, although we do not recite Avinu Malkeinu on Yom Kippur on account of it coinciding with Shabbos, it is still included in the final, Neilah Tefillah at the end of this awesome day.

The first line of Avinu Malkeinu reads: “Our Father, our King, we have sinned before You.” On the surface, this admission of guilt seems straightforward. But – as is often the case – when we dig a bit beneath the surface and ask some questions, we see that there is more to this statement than what may initially meet the eye.

To begin with, the words, “before You” seem to be extra. Would it not be sufficient to merely state: “Our Father, our King, we have sinned”? Also, let us consider that Avinu Malkeinu is a confession made by every Jew, even the most devout and pious. How can such individuals honestly declare that they have sinned and how can they truthfully repeat the last lines of the Avinu Malkeinu prayer, “Our Father, Our King, be gracious towards us and answer us, because we have no deeds, act charitably and kindly with us and deliver us?”

Rabbi Yaakov Neiman, zt”l, in his work, *Darchei Mussar* helps us gain a better understanding of this issue by explaining that there are two levels of Teshuva – returning to HaShem. There is Teshuva for those whose sins indicate disloyalty to HaShem and there is also Teshuva for those whose loyalty to HaShem is never suspect. This can be illustrated by the manner in which a military court deals with a soldier who has deserted his unit in the midst of a battle and defected to the enemy. The accused soldier may also be wearing a dirty uniform, have lost his equipment and missed an important assignment, infractions that are usually cause for strict censure and punishment. But at the court martial these misdeeds may not even be mentioned. Why not? It’s because loyalty to the cause trumps everything else. Desertion and defection are crimes of treason and, in comparison to them, no other transgression is worthy of mention. Once a soldier has proven his loyalty, he is viewed as a representative of his government, and he may even be punished for a small stain on his uniform, something for which a civilian would not be held accountable.

It is the same with HaShem. Those who have been unfaithful to Him have but one thing to focus on when repenting – their disloyalty. But Avinu Malkeinu was also written for those who always stand in the presence of HaShem. Standing before HaShem, though, is like standing in front of a bright light – it reveals even minor imperfections. Chief amongst these imperfections is our failure to realize the extent of our obligations towards HaShem. Were we to properly understand them, we would realize that our present level of commitment is deficient and that even our good deeds are lacking. This is the sin that the pious refer to when they declare, “Our Father, our King, we have sinned before You!” and this is what they mean when they say, “be gracious towards us and answer us, because we have no deeds”. They mean that in light of their ever-expanding comprehension of HaShem’s greatness, they now realize that their previous attempts at serving Him were inadequate.

As we stand before HaShem on Yom Kippur and beseech Him to accept our Teshuva, we do not necessarily need to view ourselves as disloyal to HaShem. Even as loyal servants, we have much to repent for. Our sins of omission and commission are usually traceable to our failure to properly comprehend HaShem’s omnipotence and – by extension – the degree to which we are responsible to serve Him. Our task on Yom Kippur is to better recognize HaShem’s greatness so that at the end of the day we can declare with all our heart, “Hear Yisroel, HaShem is our G-d, HaShem is One”, “Blessed is the Name of His glorious Kingdom for all eternity” and “May HaShem reign forever and ever!”

Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Parents

As we near Yom Kippur and Sukkos, our students appear to be primed to gain the most from these Yomim Tovim. In every classroom, our students are encouraged in many different ways to gain a deeper understanding and a stronger connection with these special days in an age-appropriate manner. For younger students this means a focus on songs and projects, and for our older students this also means studying the halachos and hashkafos associated with each Yom Tov. As I visit classrooms throughout the day it is clear that each class – in its own way – has made Y'mei HaDin and the Aseres Y'mei Teshuva a reality to which our students are connecting in a palpable way.

As many of you know, I get to speak to the middle school boys on an almost daily basis after Shacharis, right before they go to breakfast. Today I skipped my talk and showed the boys a short clip from the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation that offers a simple, practical, Chazal-based tip for how we can merit a G'mar Chasimah Tovah. After visiting each middle school class to check for understanding, I am confident that you can ask most any middle school boy what the advice is and he will be able to share it with you!

Earlier this week our 3rd-8th Grade boys (and many of our girls classes as well) gathered together in our Beis Medrash at the same time as a major Aseres Y'mei Teshuva Asifa organized in New York by the Misaskim organization was taking place. Our program began with me sharing thoughts from the Rambam on the topic of Teshuva and ended with the inspired recitation of Tehillim by the students. In addition to our morning Selichos and Shacharis and Mincha with Avinu Malkeinu, this program helped the unique days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur take on real meaning for our students.

Visiting our girls classes, I posed the question, "Is Yom Kippur a day that we look forward to or one we wish we didn't have to deal with?" B"H, the girls answers were bang on, as they explained that Yom Kippur is a Yom Tov we look forward to because HaShem promises to cleanse us from our aveiros and give our Neshamos a fresh start. I pointed out to them that the fact that we make a Shehecheyanu as we usher in Yom Kippur proves the point that it is a special day that we look forward to with great anticipation.

On the General Studies front, we are pleased to share with you that Ms Cecelia Nelson has assumed the position of middle school science teacher. She began this week with the boys and will start on Monday with the girls. Although the many Yomim Tovim that punctuate beginning of the our school year have made the General Studies schedule especially choppy, all our classes have developed the routines that they will need to make real progress as soon as the Yomin Tovim are over.

As this is the last issue of Hillel Hilights before Yom Kippur and Sukkos, I want to thank every member of our faculty and administrative staff for a successful start to the school year. I wish everyone in our Hillel Academy community a G'mar Chasima Tova and a wonderful Yom Tov. May we enjoy much Bracha and Hatzlocha in all aspects of our lives and much nachas from our children and students!

Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum

Hillel Updates

Schedule Reminder

- Sunday, October 1 - delayed start for boys classes. Shacharis at 9 am.
- Sunday, October 1 - Esrog and Lulav pickup from 9 am to 5 pm. Pickup also on Monday, Oct. 2, 9 am to 5 pm and Tuesday, Oct. 3, 9 am to 1 pm.
- Monday, Oct. 2 - Southeast Esrog and Lulav order will be delivered to Aish for pickup
- Sukkos vacation begins Tuesday, Oct. 2 through Sunday, Oct. 15. All classes resume on Monday, Oct. 16th.

Mazel tov to Leah (Kimmelblatt) and Shnuer Zalman Paryzh on the birth of a daughter, Aliza Michal

Community Events

THE GREAT BIG CHALLAH BAKE 2017: Jewish women from all corners of our community are invited to knead together, inspire one another, and celebrate the power of unity on OCTOBER 26 at this year's Great Big Challah Bake! Participants will leave with two ready-to-bake loaves for their own Shabbos table. Doors open at 6:30 pm at BMH-BJ. Ticket prices go up on October 13th, so register early at challahbakeco.eventbrite.com.



Sports Galore Boys and Girls Grades K - 3rd/Game Time Basketball Boys Grades 6th - 8th

Code/Section	Day	Date	Time	Wks	Fee
Section 1	Tuesday	Oct. 17 - Dec. 5	3:30 - 4:15 PM	8	\$75
Section 2	Tuesday	Oct. 17 - Dec. 5	4:15 - 5:00 PM	8	\$75

Game Time Flag Football Boys Grades 2nd - 5th and 6th - 8th

Code/Section	Day	Date	Time	Wks	Fee
Section 1	Wednesday	Oct. 18 - Dec. 6	3:30 - 4:15 PM	8	\$75
Section 2	Wednesday	Oct. 18 - Dec. 6	4:15-5:00 PM	8	\$75

TUESDAY

***NONE

WEDNESDAY



FALL SPORTS

SPORTS GALORE

FLAG FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION
CLOSES OCTOBER
13TH. GO TO
[DENVER.HOTSHOTS
4KIDS.COM](http://DENVER.HOTSHOTS4KIDS.COM) AND
CLICK REGISTER
NOW!

HOT SHOTS SPORTS

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Denver.hotshots4kids.com

