

**Cheder Menachem
General Studies Gazette
September 2011**

B"H

Dear Families,

It was a pleasure meeting so many of you at Back to School Night. School works so much better for students when there is parent support and participation. As discussed that evening, we need students practicing reading and math skills every day at home, so that we can spend more class time on projects and experiential learning.

We have, thankfully, completed necessary beginning of the year student assessments, and we can now get on with the business of education! Classroom novels are being introduced, geography and mapping have begun, and science projects will be starting. Read the teacher contributions below to find out each grades' focus for the coming weeks.

Our school library is in full swing and all students should be filling in their reading logs and getting them signed at home. Thank you to 7th grader **Moshe Stark** for helping to organize the library along with 5th grader **Dovid Menkes**. Much appreciation to those parents who heard my plea for donations to our fledgling library at Back to School Night and immediately came forward with Barnes and Noble gift cards, cash, and checks! Anytime you can, please help us grow our library. Every \$10-15 makes a difference. Torah *hinuch*, historical fiction, and biographical materials are what the boys enjoy reading and what we are buying to fill our library shelves. Please continue to contribute as you can. The boys will gain immediate benefit from your gift!

I want to wish you all a *K'siva V'chasimah Tova*. May you each enjoy a year of health and well-being,

Mrs. Rooks

General Studies Principal

**Pre 1A – Mrs. Fayge Lieder
Assistant – Morah Fayge Hauck**

Pre -1A is off to a great start B"H. We have been practicing writing strokes, brushing up our rhyming skills, and learning letter names and sounds. Find opportunities to ask your son about what we are learning so you can reinforce these concepts at home. For now a good way to do this is to have your child identify beginning sounds i.e. Ssss...spaghetti, cccc....carpool.

Each week we have a small science experiment to go along with the letter of the week. We made our own bbbb...bubble solution and bbbb...blew bubbles with gum as well. We had great fun exploring cccc...carbonation by using cccc...candy to explode bottles of cccc...coke. If you'd like to come in and do an experiment with us, please let me know.

Wishing you all a k'siva v'chasima tova, a gut gebentchte yohr. I'm looking forward to an exciting, productive year full of growth, learning and of course fun!

**1st Grade – Mrs. Sivan Kamish
Assistant – Morah Sandra Maldonado**

Welcome 1st Graders! The boys had a great start this year. We have been practicing writing their full names and learning the right way of writing their ABC's. The boys have been very enthusiastic working in their new books, as well as working on their autobiography. We also started our weekly spelling words. Boy, do I have good spellers!

In the first unit, Let's Read, we have been talking about poems and writing in complete sentences. In Math, we've been going over our numbers and learning to write them the correct way. We already had our 1st Chapter test, and I'm so proud of their outstanding marks. Wishing you all a Shana Tova and a K'siva V'chasima Tova. Looking forward to a successful year.

1st Grade – Rabbi Burston

Our first grade class has had a very creative start. Our Star Board has enhanced our writing practice with a multitude of colors and designs. It is not only fun but useful. When reading, we first analyze the

pictures together, and then read. We are learning about sentence structure - nouns, verbs, punctuation, and adjectives. I'm very proud of the good behavior so far (may it continue)!

**2nd Grade – Mrs. Marilyn Kalson
Assistant - Morah Esty Plotkin**

All aboard and welcome to 2nd grade! We're off to a good start and moving right along. The boys have been getting very excited with all their new books.

In Open Court Reading, we will be starting with the unit "Sharing Stories". In addition to reading stories that incorporate this theme, the boys will have an opportunity to express, both orally and written, how stories are shared by them.

In Math, we will be sharpening our addition facts and move on to more advanced skills.

2nd Grade- Rabbi Marcus

Our class has begun reading the small decodable stories as well as our first Open Court story. We have begun our spelling book and first

spelling list. We are practicing writing, each boy on his own level. In math, we are reviewing our numbers and basic addition and subtraction. We are also learning how to tell time. Our goal is to help each boy move forward from where he is now. Wishing you a K'siva v'Chasima Tova for a good and sweet year.

3rd Grade – Mrs.. Rose Mizrahi Assistant – Morah Sara Mizrahi

Welcome back to school and to third grade. I would like to thank those parents who have stayed on top of the homework to make sure it is completed and returned the next day. Yosher Koach!

As for what is taking place in class so far: The boys have finished their inventory testing in Math, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Reading Fluency, Grammar and Usage, Spelling, and Penmanship. They have received all their books, journals, and planners, as well.

We have so far accomplished in the following subjects:

Math: Place value to 10,000, different ways of writing numbers, and number patterns to solve word problems. We will be finishing Chapter 1 this week. We also have our daily timed math.

Reading: The boys worked on developing their fluency by reading words and the decodable book. The first unit's topic is "Friendship". We discussed what friendship is and what the boys would like to learn about friendship.

Spelling: The boys had their first spelling test. Unit 1 - Lesson 1.

English: The boys have written and designed a few projects: An "All About Me" poster, a "Little People" project, "We All Fit In" puzzle piece, and a story entitled, My Goals This Year. Everyday we start off with

Oral Language. We are busy, busy, busy, learning, learning, learning. B"H.

4th Grade – Mr. Mauricio Gallego

In September, the fourth grade began by reviewing classroom rules for behavior and procedures for each day. In Math, the students practiced skills learned in years past to flex their mental muscles and prepare for upcoming discoveries in math. Skills reviewed included place value, multiplication of facts and large numbers, and long division. In the upcoming weeks, the class will investigate fractions and decimals and how to add and subtract with them.

In Language Arts, the class began with reading Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Also, we investigated the concept of "sentence," and elements of literature such as character, setting, and plot. In the upcoming weeks, we will explore comprehension, the writing process, and spelling. We will also be reading "By The Great Horn Spoon," a novel by acclaimed children's author Sid Fleischman. The fourth grade also looks forward to solving the "Riddle of the Week" every Thursday as they match their wits and sharpen their brains with Mr. Gallego and his accumulated list of riddles and mental puzzles. It's going to be an exciting month... and an exciting year!

5th Grade – Mr. Milton Zaft

I am very pleased to be at Cheder Menachem and look forward to a very rewarding school year. Currently I am getting to know your child and your child is getting to know me. I appreciate any support as we work together.

I am asking parents to check homework, sign agenda books, and give rewards for good notes/student

of the week awards, and weekly behavioral reports. The weekly report will go home on Thursdays with a possible total of 16 points per week. Students get points for listening, focusing, being on task, and good behavior. Point totals will be used for special events.

Our American Indian Project will be due the end of October. Students will pick one American Indian Tribe to research, report on, and make a display. We will be working on essay writing, grammar, maps and geography.

Spelling tests will be given each week, along with a Math quiz or test. In Science we will begin a unit on the eye.

6th Grade – Mr. Greg Gutstein

A big warm welcome to the new school year to all the sixth graders! We are reviewing the background math skills necessary for the sixth grade curriculum and hope to be ready to go soon after the Chagim. We have begun our literature unit and are working on our writing skills and reading comprehension. The boys have received their spelling and literature workbooks and you should be seeing them at home on a nightly basis. Also, students have received a behavior rubric that will enable us to keep in touch if any work habits or motivational issues come up that need to be addressed before parent-teacher conferences.

7th Grade English – Mr. Gutstein

Welcome back to all the seventh graders who were traveling around this summer. We have begun working on our literature, grammar and spelling/vocabulary units. The students have already turned in their first book report from their summer reading assignment. We hope to encourage a fondness for

writing this year that will pave the way for success in high school. Also, students have received a behavior rubric that will enable us to keep in touch if any work habits or motivational issues come up that need to be addressed before parent-teacher conferences.

7th Grade Math – Rabbi Y. Greenbaum

Math is an exciting interactive portion of each child's learning experience here at the Cheder. The week is divided between Pre – Algebra and Basic Geometry. The students have mastered basic word problems, are translating them into simple equations, and using the multistep method of solving them. The 7th grade has begun the Study of Geometry learning new terms as they relate to these basic concepts through the use of the smartboard, visualization, hands on activities and logical proofs. They have developed a deeper understanding of lines, angles, and triangles.

8th Grade English – Mr. Jeffrey Silverman

This year's 8th grade English class is small but mighty. It is comprised of just six students. However, each one of them brings a wallop in energy and creativity. Each morning class begins with a quote I post on the board. The students write a short paragraph of four to five sentences in response to the quote. Then one student takes his place in front of the class in the 'Author's Chair', where he reads his writing to the rest of the class. How would you respond to the quote 'It is man's peculiar duty to love even those who wrong him?'

8th Grade Math – Rabbi Y. Greenbaum

The eighth grade has explored some of the more exciting aspects of Mathematics in this Pre-Algebra class. At the same time as reviewing basic math skills, the class began to

explore the world of numbers, the relationship between rational, irrational, and imaginary numbers. With the assistance of the smart board they have observed number series and patterns in nature, such as the Fibonacci Series. We used this to explain how the finite and the infinite exist in this physical world, a basic concept in the study of Chassidus. The eight graders also studied alternate number systems such as the binary number system.

Student(s) of the Month

Pre 1A

Avremel Bart

Mrs. Kamish's 1st Grade

Zekey Schuller

Michael Jacobi

Rabbi Burston's 1st Grade

Dovid Cunin

Chaim Meir Friedman

Mrs. Kalson's 2nd Grade

Shlomo Malka

Chaim Wuensch

Rabbi Marcus's 2nd Grade

Chanania Gottlieb

3rd Grade

Yossi Safranovitz

4th Grade

Noam Taylor

Eliyahu Ratner

5th Grade

Mendel Malka

6th Grade

Tzemach Smith

Yitzi Farber

Mendel Kreitenberg

7th Grade English

Shi Tauberman

7th Grade Math

Shlomo Laskar

8th Grade English

Avraham Ganjian

8th Grade Math

Mendel Friedman

Coach Eldad Younessi

Regardless of the sport being played, every single player on both teams is required in order to have a proper game. For example, a full court basketball game does not function well if it is five against four players; each player is required to make the game happen! If this is true regarding the game as a collective whole, then how much more so is this true regarding an individual team.

Every position on the team is important to securing victory. A team cannot win while playing "Capture the Flag" if not for the flag-guard and the jail-guard. While it may seem that their functions as jail-guard or flag-guard is not as important as the players who capture the other team's flag, yet it is the guards who provide the rest of the team with the assurance that their territory is protected while the rest of the team attempts to capture the other's flag.

The above offers an important lesson in our daily lives; namely, every individual is crucial in actualizing HASHEM'S Plan for creation. Every one of us is regarded as one singular body. Just like every part of the body has its own specific function, so does every individual. Moreover, each part of the body is required to make the body function properly, so too every one compliments each other in their own special way. As the Rebbe teaches with regard to this past week's Torah portion of Nitzavim-Vayeilech, which is read before Rosh Hashanah, that even the most elevated part of the body (the head) cannot function without the feet; moreover, it is specifically the feet which complete the rest of the body (including the head)!

May we all be written and inscribed for a sweet, healthy & happy new year! Moshiach now!