

כוכב הצפון NEWSLETTER

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY

EDITOR: **MICHELLE RUTTA**LAYOUT & DESIGN: **RACHEL SPINNER****FRIDAY NIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:14 PM** הדלקת נרות:**SHABBAT ENDS: 5:21 PM** זמן הבדלה:**Parashat Toldot**

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT:

A Shabbat Message from Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Kobrin

Sometimes we can feel too comfortable with others.

Several people -- adults, not children -- complained to me this week either about how nastily other people spoke to them or how they saw other people speaking terribly to each other. In each case, the parties began with common ground, which let them speak freely with each other; but their interactions quickly devolved into hurtful speech.



The conversation between the twins Yaakov and Esav at the start of Parashat Toldot is also one where closeness allows for disrespect. In one of the Torah's first recorded sibling dialogues, the weary hunter Esav returned from the field to find his studious brother Yaakov cooking up a nazid, a stew. Esav asked for some: hali'teni na min ha-adom ha-adom hazeh, ki ayef anochi, "gimme some of that red stuff, because I'm exhausted." The commentators explain Esav's exhaustion: Rabbi Yosef Bechor Shor writes that hunters sometimes spend days in the field pursuing their prey and can get lost in the woods, which makes them very hungry and thirsty. Or was it something else?

The Midrash (hat tip: Rashi) famously tells us that Yaakov was cooking a lentil stew for the family as they mourned the death of the twins' grandfather, Avraham. (In a regular year, many of our early childhood classes cook lentil soup this week and bring us samples in the office. I never tell them that Yaakov's soup was the original "comfort food.") Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik in his Beit Halevi offers a unique explanation of what happened: Esav came home, saw the soup and knew immediately that Avraham must have died. But he pretended not to know. The gluttonous Esav claimed exhaustion so he could get Yaakov to pour it down his throat (that's the word hal'iteni, a hapax legomenon, a word which only occurs once in the entire Tanakh). Had Esav used a spoon, he would have seen the lentils and been forced to mourn for his grandfather. This way he wouldn't even know what he was swallowing. Esav went to such lengths because he was selfish and sneaky. He exploited his closeness to Yaakov for his own mirma, or trickery. And all because he was ayef. He was tired.

These days we are all psychologically and emotionally exhausted, and it's too easy to take out our anxieties and fears on those closest to us. That's when we are not on our best behavior. This can happen in person, on the phone, and especially on social media, where people interact with a level of comfort that quickly leads to comments that hurt -- and the record of which remains forever.

While it's completely understandable that we communicate inappropriately due to our current fatigue, it's still not okay to do so. When I find myself acting Esav-like, I try to remind myself that there are impressionable people around me. It helps. We're all tired, but we can keep pushing to remain our best selves.

Shabbat Shalom.

By Rabbi Yonatan Hakimian



This week's parasha, Toldot, opens with the words "תולדות יצחק בן אברהם אברהם הוליד את יצחק", "These are the generations of Yitzchak son of Avraham, Avraham begat (had a son) Yitzchak." This pasuk just stated that Yitzchak was the son of Avraham; why does it need to inform us again that Avraham begat Yitzchak? Don't we know that already? We get it: Avraham was Yitzchak's father -- every child in elementary school knows that. We know that there must be a reason why Hashem introduced these words in the Torah. The Torah does not waste any words, so why the repetition?

The Arizal comments that each of our Avot (forefathers) had a primary core characteristic. Avraham's primary quality was חסד, kindness, which he displayed by serving Hashem through love. Yitzchak's primary quality, on the other hand, was גבורה, judgement and severity which was manifest in his serving Hashem through fear and awe. Yaacov symbolized תפארת or beauty, compassion and harmony, a balance of chesed and gevura (kindness and severity) combined.

Herein the Torah is teaching us important lessons. If one just has love for but no fear of God, no respect for the laws of Torah and no boundaries of behavior, there can be no peace in the world. If one conducted his life with only judgment and severity, there would be constant machloket (strife between Jews), and then serving Hashem would take place only out of fear. Judaism requires us to have both love and fear of God. In reciting the Shema, we say "ויחד לבבנו לאהבה וליראה את שמך" - "cause our hearts to hold fast to Your commandments and be single-hearted and undivided in our love and reverence of Your Name." Therefore, our goal should be to connect these two qualities. love with fear and fear with love -- for God.

The only way to fear Hashem properly is when fear and awe are simultaneously connected to love. Perhaps that is why the Torah tells us that both Avraham and Yitzchak each had a child who deviated from the path of Torah and Mitzvot. Symbolically, this teaches us that when parenting, using either love or fear alone will likely negatively impact upon a child. Imagine a mother supplying her child with a lifetime supply of candy and allowing him to indulge at will. Or picture a parent being unrelentingly strict without exhibiting any love or warmth. Either of these approaches could result in long term disastrous effects. Yaakov Avinu was able to synthesize love and fear, and perhaps that is why his children remained true to God's commandments. The Zohar refers to love and fear as the "wings" of our mitzvot. May we be zocheh to have real אהבה and real יראה and "fly" in our service of Hashem, in a healthy and balanced way.

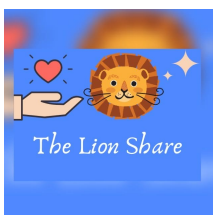
Shabbat Shalom.

PICTURE DAY MAKE UP



For any child who missed Picture Day at Cherry Lane, photos will be taken on **Monday November 23rd** if payment and forms have been submitted. Please contact **Vivian Kron** (516) 244-6330 or **Odelia Namdar** (516) 770-5969 with any questions.

PTA'S LION'S SHARE



Thank you to all our parent volunteers who delivered lunches and books this week for our families who needed assistance. If you would like to hear about future opportunities to assist fellow parents within our community, please contact **Sadie Hakimian** at sadiehakimian@gmail.com or **Marla Lemonik** at marla.lemonik@gmail.com for instructions on how to join the **PTA's Lion's Share** group on Whats App.

FROM THE DESK OF ELANA HELFGOTT

We are thoroughly enjoying the month of November! Our Parsha learning and the coordinating classroom activities have been amazing. We enjoyed making tents and talking about the importance of our homes, especially during this time. We enjoyed making salt collages in conjunction with the story of Lot's wife and the pillar of salt. We enjoyed learning about the power and importance of women in all our Parsha stories. In honor of those amazing women, many of our classes made individual Challot to bake at home.



Gobble, Gobble, Gobble - We are also busy getting ready for Thanksgiving. We are learning about the holiday's history and customs. We are busy making all kinds of crafts to take home for this holiday. We are also learning our favorite Thanksgiving songs. Although we will miss our grade-wide Thanksgiving feasts, we are focused on being thankful for what we have right now.

Election Day in all our EC classes is always a fun event as we use the day to demonstrate the concept of voting. All our Toddler - Kindergarten classes voted on their favorite snacks and activities. It is so adorable to watch our students express their favorite things.

Thank you to Sara Berlin, our school social worker for implementing her Social - Emotional Learning Curriculum for our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. It certainly provides our students with additional support during these challenging times.



On Veterans Day we had an amazing day of faculty training. Our morning was focused on learning how to help our students during this pandemic and how we can best continue to relieve their anxiety and create a "normal place" for them. The rest of the day was dedicated to our EC staff. We learned how to keep our anxiety "in check" so that we can give our very best each day to our students. All our teachers came away with a lot of useful information and felt re-energized to move forward.

Our Zoom Parent - Teacher Conferences worked out well. We had a wonderful turnout. We were sad not to see you all in person but were happy to be able to talk to you in depth about your children. Having school open during these challenging times has been a true blessing. There is nothing like in person learning for children of this age group. While our teachers do a great job on zoom when needed, every day we get to keep school open is a blessing. Thank you for following all the COVID protocols each day. We know this year hasn't been an easy one but together we are doing a great job!



THE SPECIALTY OF SHABBAT

Brought to you by Morah Roza Barukh, 4th Grade Judaic Studies Teacher

You may ask, if Shabbat is so special, why did Hashem create it last?

According to the Midrash, it was Hashem's first intention to create Shabbat first; he even crowned the Shabbat and called her Shabbat Hamalka (Shabbat the Queen) but in the end, he decided to create Shabbat last as a cherished gift for people to enjoy after six days of work.

When we think about how Hashem created the world, there was much to accomplish.

We learn that in the beginning the world was תוהו ובוהו, chaos. But then Hashem created the land and the skies, the water and mountains, the trees, birds and animals. When he created אדם וחוה He could now sit back and enjoy the completion of his work on the seventh day – the Shabbat.

In learning this Parasha with my students, we discussed the mitzva of "זכור את יום השבת לקדשו" (Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy) and "השבת" (Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy). Zachor specifies the



I am so happy to be part of the NSHA Family! My goal this year is to challenge students to grow by thinking about and making art. My goal is to create inspiring art lessons that engage and challenge all our students to see links across subjects and across many diverse types of learning experiences. I believe this focus is particularly important as students begin to see themselves as developing artists and maturing contributors to the community.

Linking art to the development of our students is key to my pedagogy. Our art program broadens students' understanding of the role art plays in all our lives by teaching students about diverse traditional and contemporary artists as they explore many types of art. Sharing my love of art with students and encouraging them to believe they are all artists is important. An art educator's job is not only to teach students about art, but also to help them be creative, responsible risk-takers. Students develop literacy skills, mathematical skills, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving skills as they create art both in person and remotely. I am very proud to share with you our student work in progress.



Sukkot Holiday Sukkot Mobiles

First Grade - CDs

Second Grade- Wood Apples

Third Grade- Wood Hamsa

Fourth/Fifth Grade- Sukkot Signs

Sixth, Seventh, and Eight Grade- Tin
Mobiles



After completing our Sukkot holiday projects, NSHA students have been working on many exciting projects. First graders made fall self- portraits and learned about American portrait artist Mary Cassatt. Inspired by the work of French painter Henri Rousseau, our second and third graders created jungle animal landscapes.



Our fourth fifth graders were introduced to the work of American artist, photographer, and author William Wegman. Students learned how to draw dogs and cats in a lesson entitled, "Pets in Sweaters".

Middle school students in sixth ,seventh, and eighth grade studied the art of Brazilian Pop artist Romero Britto. Students chose Jewish holiday symbols for their unique designs or they chose a theme that interested them in his work.

NSHA Day of Learning

A Day of Learning was generously sponsored by our 8th grade girls at all our NSHA campuses. On **Thursday, November 19th** our students learned in memory of **Dorina Kalaty, z'l**, beloved wife of Ariel, beloved mother of Ethan (HS'18), Jonah (HS '20)and Leya (8th) and beloved sister of our parent, Doron Hakimian.

A Day of Learning was generously sponsored by the Goldberg Family at our Middle School and Cherry Lane campuses. On **Friday, November 20th** our students learned in memory of **Lawrence Kerben, z'l**, beloved father of Reuben and Jamie Kerben, grandfather of Noah (9th), Cory (7th), Maya (4th), Judah (PreK), and Ezra.

Our students are experiencing the mitzvah of studying both Torah and Madda in the merit of another person, a mitzvah that we hope they will continue to practice throughout their lives. Funds raised through this special program go directly to provide additional educational programs for the benefit of our children.

To sponsor a Day of Learning or for more information, contact Arnie Flatow at aflatow@nsha.org or 516-487-8687 ext. 133.

By Mrs. Carrie Silberman

We were excited to launch our first (Virtual) Book Fair 2020 event this week! While Grades T-5 were out of session for Parent-Teacher conferences, we continued our learning and had lots of fun when 80 families met on Zoom for an author Zoom program with Daniel Kirk. Mr. Kirk is the award-winning author and illustrator of more than 40 books for children including the best-selling and NSHA fan favorite, Library Mouse series. During his presentation, Mr. Kirk talked about how he developed his beloved character, Sam, and how his original story changed significantly throughout the revision process. Mr. Kirk highlighted that when authors work with professional editors, it is very similar to how students work with teachers to improve their writing skills. He even spoke about how he keeps his own writer's notebook and goes back to his stories many times in order to make them better and better, just like we do at school. We were so excited that Mr. Kirk shared the newest book in the Library Mouse series, Home Sweet Home.



Students were thrilled to participate in a drawing lesson where Mr. Kirk taught us how to draw Sam the library mouse, and were very proud to share their sketches with him. Mr. Kirk took the time to answer every question posed by our inquisitive students. NSHA is very appreciative of the time Mr. Kirk spent to inspire our budding writers and illustrators, as well as his generous offer to donate copies of his stories that have been translated into Hebrew.

Thank you to the NSHA PTA for sponsoring this wonderful event in honor of Book Fair 2020!

BOOK FAIR UPDATES!

Mr. Sigal's Kahoot! is Back!

SPECIAL NSHA BOOK FAIR EDITION

Topic:
Mythology



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
AT 7:00 PM**

**NSHA PTA
BOOK FAIR 2020**
Covid Style- coming up...

**We are very excited to announce our new and improved
virtual BOOK FAIR!!**

December 6th - 10th

- * We will be collecting donations for the always successful Classroom Library Fund (formerly known as Wish List).
- * The classroom libraries are more important than ever as the main school libraries are closed for Covid safety.
- * Parents and grandparents are encouraged to support NSHA by purchasing books or gift cards online
- * Books can be delivered in school (free of charge) or shipped to you
- * We are planning a lot of exciting book fair programming this month!
- Stay tuned for KAHOOTs, author zooms, themed recommended reading lists and more!!!

**Stay tuned
each week
for more
details!!!!**

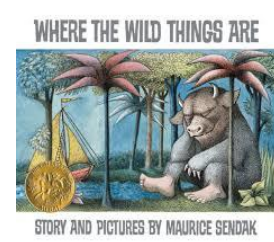
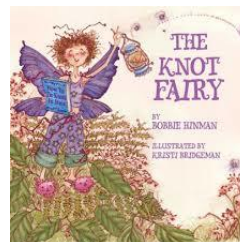
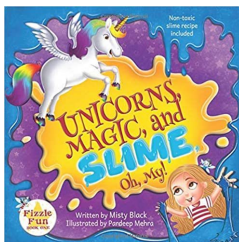


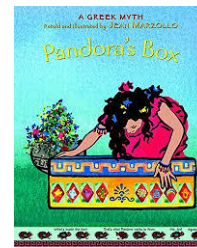
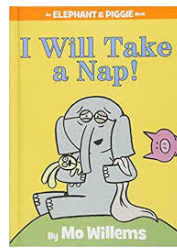
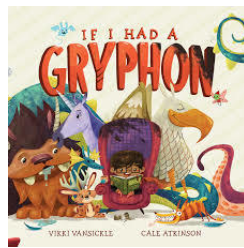
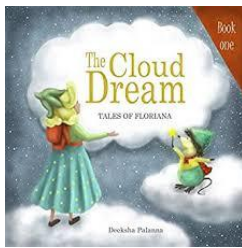
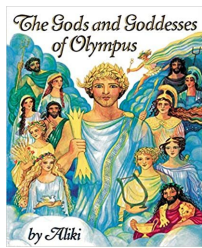
**For questions, please contact
Susannah Malen,
Nadine Shatzkes & Anita Kashimallak**

**WE'RE SO EXCITED FOR THE 2020 VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR THAT WE'RE
BRINGING YOU SPECIALIZED BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS EACH WEEK!**

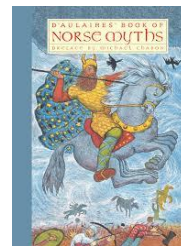
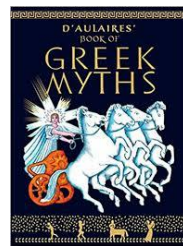
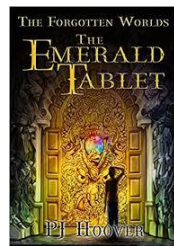
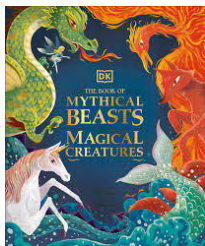
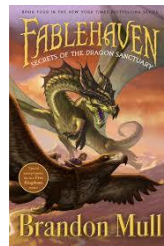
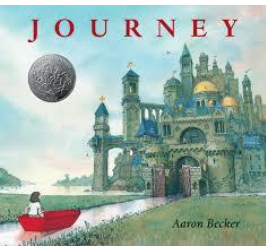
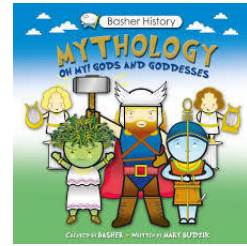
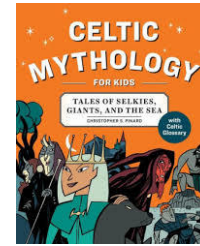
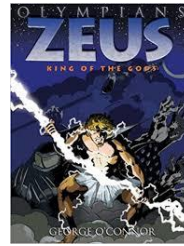
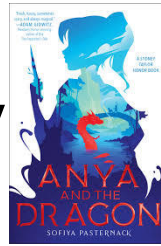
Themed book list recommendations for the week:
Mythology

Preschool





Elementary



Middle School

