



כוכב הצפון

NEWSLETTER

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY

EDITOR: MICHELLE RUTTA**LAYOUT & DESIGN: RACHEL SPINNER****FRIDAY NIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:26 PM** הדלקת נרות:**SHABBAT ENDS: 5:33 PM** זמן הבדלה:**Parashat Vayera**

HEALING FROM THE BOTTOM UP:

A Shabbat Message from Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Kobrin

Sometimes events occur that have different levels of meaning to us at the same time: a wedding or Bat Mitzvah, for example, is a lot of fun - but it should also be a moment of reflection and appreciation for those at its epicenter. Indeed, as I write this, we all wait to learn who will be the next leader of this great country -- which is a decision that has both national and personal meaning for each of us.



Rabbi Dr. Yonatan Grossman in his magnificent Avraham: Sipuro Shel Masa asks why Avraham had to learn of Yitzchak's impending birth twice. Hashem told him about Yitzchak once during the berit bein ha-betarim (in last week's parasha); then, this week in Vayera, the angels that came to visit his tent again told him and Sarah that she will give birth to a son. Rabbi Grossman argues that there are two threads that run through Avraham and Sarah's lives: the threads of family and of national destiny. When Avraham learned of a son while God promised him as many children as the stars in the sky, that was a promise of the continuity of a nation; but when the visiting angels told of a baby to be born after enjoying Sarah and Avraham's hachnasat orchim, it was a promise of family to a childless couple.

The first promise takes place under the stars, which symbolize the nation that will come from Avraham and Yitzchak; the second takes place in his home, a place that soon will house another family member, one who is only referred to as a "son." These two promises fulfill totally different needs but were both given to the same people (and promised the same thing). Avraham and Sarah lived two lives simultaneously: they were both the progenitors of a nation and a new, doting mom and dad.

These days it seems we all live several lives simultaneously: we live our lives as individuals, and our lives as part of the great American experiment. Like Avraham and Sarah, we each occupy various roles simultaneously. Political analyst Yuval Levin noted this in a column this week. We should react to the current tension in America not with anger or cynicism, but rather with an attitude of responsibility and integrity. We need to approach "our society in the first person plural — speaking less about 'them' and more about 'us,' he writes. We have to react as both private citizens and as members of something larger than we are, seeking to regain what he calls "relational responsibility."

These are important and heavy days, but we are up to the challenge: we have the models of Avraham and Sarah to show us how to live in two realities at once. As Levin concludes, "Some of the deepest troubles of this moment require us to see our society as the sum of our affinities and obligations to one another, and so to heal what's broken from the bottom up."

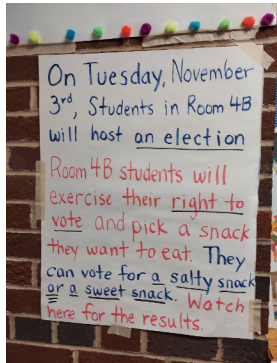
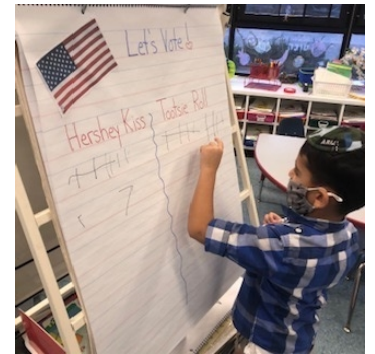
May we find the strength across this great country to heal ourselves and each other.

Shabbat Shalom.

By Lisa Weinstein, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

In his Shabbat message last week, Rabbi Kobrin shared, "One way we must acknowledge our relationship to our adopted home is by voting. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein famously tells us to vote to express our thanks that we can live in a place that allows us religious freedom." Election Day gives educators at North Shore Hebrew Academy the distinct honor of teaching our children about the importance of living in a democracy, how America's democratic process works, and about how we, as citizens, can engage in the democratic process. Over the past few weeks, throughout our school, these lessons and values were translated to our students in different ways. Below, you'll find a few in-depth snapshots of the many election focused activities that took place in each of our classrooms, across all three divisions, over the past few weeks.

As we walked down the hallways in Cherry Lane this week, red, white and blue banners hung from the Kindergarten classroom doorways, and campaign posters lined the hallways. Election Day was a huge celebration in each of our Kindergarten classes. In **KA, Morah Mor** discussed the importance of elections and Election Day with her students and read two books about elections, *Duck for President* and *My Teacher for President*. Students compared and contrasted the characters in these books and discussed what character traits a president should possess. At their learning tables, each child thought of a person they felt would be a great president and wrote about one of the character traits that would make them such. For some sweet fun to wrap up the day, an election was held. Students voted for their favorite candy - tootsie rolls or hershey kisses. Each child wrote their choice on a ballot, and put it in the ballot box. Students opened the ballots, tallied up the votes, and discussed which candy received a greater number and which received a lesser number of votes. Before going home, students got to enjoy the winning treat!



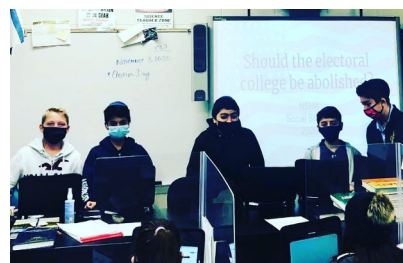
Over the past few weeks, **Colleen Dundon**, one of our new faculty members at Cherry Lane who has already proven to be an incredible resource to our Learning Lab students, taught **Class 4B** about elections and voting. Together, the students answered a series of questions including, Who can vote; Why does the government matter; and How to choose a candidate? The introduction to voting ensured by the Constitution left students curious about voting laws, which they further examined in a timeline about voter rights and amendments to the law. A particular unit highlight was learning about the electoral college and exercising their vote to choose. They debated whether a state should give all the electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote or split the electoral votes to better reflect the voters' voices. Two other

important conversations included the impact of switching parties and distributing campaign materials fairly. On Election Day, students hosted their own vote to select something quite important to their daily school life - choosing a sweet or salty snack. Students were assigned to either the "Salty" or "Sweet" party. As party members, they created posters, speeches, chants, and flyers. They registered select **2nd and 3rd Grade** voters and prepared the ballot for their very own election. In this unique exercise, students implemented persuasive tactics and built logical arguments to persuade voters. They managed the polling place and welcomed registered voters to place their paper ballots into the ballot box. The results were counted and results reported to the voters. All participating students will receive the winning snack of **Class 4B's** 2020 election on Friday November 20, 2020.



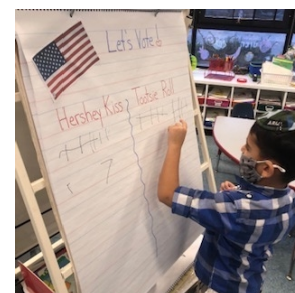
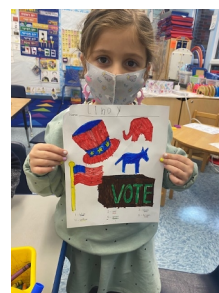
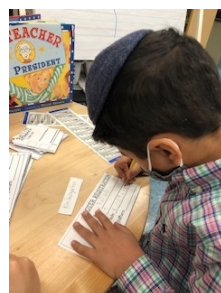
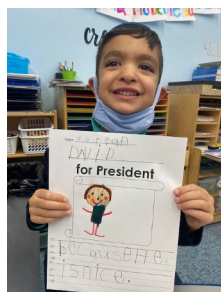
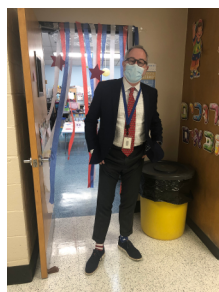
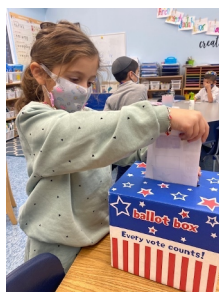
In our **6th and 7th grade** Social Studies classes, **Sophia Molcho**, a new faculty member at Old Mill, led her students in tackling the exciting topic of the 2020 presidential election in their social studies classes through discussions and Q & A sessions, which addressed questions such as, "How does one become the president?" or "What's the voting process like?" As a culminating activity, students participated in an in-class debate, arguing for or against the resolution: The electoral college should be abolished. Before coming to NSHA, Ms. Molcho taught

high school English and coached a high school debate team, and she used her expertise in this area to teach her students not only about the electoral college, but also about the sport of debate itself. Students spent days preparing their speeches, plans, and rebuttals, ensuring their work was persuasive and professional. The



debates were captivating and students were eager to share their opinions and research findings, and to "cross" each other, battling for the win! The unit as a whole was one that will have a lasting impact on students, as they learned about and experienced a truly historic presidential election.

*A special thanks to faculty members Mor Fyman, Colleen Dundon, and Sophia Molcho for their contributions to this article



GROW TORAH UPDATE



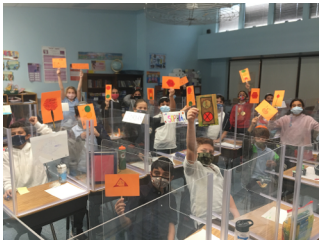
This week we sought out ways to emulate the chesed and kindness of Avraham Avinu that is emphasized in this week's parsha. We practiced our hachnasat orchim by welcoming Hashem's creatures that we met into the garden, planted more seeds so we can grow more food for donation, and cared for the earth by beginning to prepare the garden for winter using leaves from the trees as fertilizer.

Rabbi Gavriel Jansenson

In this parasha we read of עקידת יצחק (the sacrifice of Yitzchak), the most painful of all of Abraham's trials. As a parent, Abraham Avinu, had to overcome many powerful emotions in order to fulfill Hashem's commandment. Yitzchak, Abraham's son, also passed Hashem's great test by his absolute compliance with his father's wishes. Rabbi Neuman pointed out that the story of the Akeidah is known as Akeidat Yitzchak, with its focus on the son and not the father. What lesson can be learned from the name of this episode? The parasha continues that Abraham Avinu, after his great test, went back to Beer Sheva. Where was Yitzchak Avinu? Nothing was mentioned about him. Chazal teach us that Yitzchak Avinu immediately went to the Yeshiva of Shem V'Ever to study Torah. He did not glorify himself by thinking what a great person he was! On the contrary, he realized that he had to improve himself by studying Torah in order to reach an even higher madrega (level).

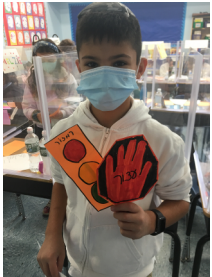


We are taught that מעשה סימן לבנים - the actions of our forefathers are a sign for their children and for generations that come later. We should learn that even as we succeed in one of life's tests, we should always return to Torah learning in order to prepare ourselves for the next challenge. Shabbat Shalom.

SPOTLIGHT ON: 5TH GRADE LASHON**Brought to you by: Morah Gilit Bessalely**

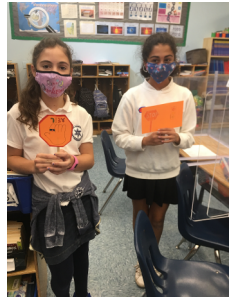
Punctuation week was a time for celebration and learning not just in the English classes, but in Ivrit as well! Last week we studied Hebrew grammar-infinitives and present tense and pronouns. We used these concepts and new vocabulary while covering and writing about the season of Fall and the weather that is changing.

As always, our Ulpan Or curriculum focuses on practical application of modern Hebrew. We engage in group work and utilize media. Students first watch and listen to videos,



then engage with new vocabulary and concepts in the classroom in groups and then create their own media projects in which they use their newly developed skills. The students also learned vocabulary relating to safety on the road after which they made their own traffic signs and wrote songs using their new vocabulary to the tune of their choice.

The students really enjoyed listening to the Israeli news on Ulpan Or and we engaged in discussions about current events. We also found opportunities to experience Social-Emotional learning and discussed and expressed our feelings which is a big part of our classroom community this year.

**SPOTLIGHT ON: 4TH GRADE GENERAL STUDIES****Brought to you by: Ms. Steffany Perlman, Ms. Debra Spilkevitz and Ms. Joy Sutton**

Whether we are on zoom or in the classroom, the fourth grade has been working hard in all academic areas.

In math, the fourth grade has been busy learning how to multiply using the Distributive Property, using expanded form and partial products. The students have also learned how to multiply two and four-digit numbers with regrouping. Students were taught different strategies on how to solve multistep multiplication problems.

The fourth grade students have been reading novels in class. Students are reading *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* or *Because of Winn Dixie*. Both realistic fiction texts encourage students to make connections with their own lives. While reading these books, students are learning new vocabulary, studying the impact that figurative language has on a reader's experience, and working on their comprehension skills. They are especially enjoying the class discussions that revolve around these books. Our students also participated in Punctuation Week last week. After nominating their favorite punctuation mark, they designed and decorated campaign posters that are currently hanging in the halls.

After writing personal narratives and realistic fiction during this Writing unit, students wrapped up the unit this week by revising and editing one last personal narrative. It has been amazing to watch the growth of our students' writing over the course of this unit, and we are incredibly excited to celebrate their hard work at our Publishing Celebrations next week.

It is hard to teach Social Studies in November 2020, and stay within the confines of our textbook! Not only have students been learning about the early beginnings of New York State, but they've been learning a lot about the election. Students learned the importance of voting in the United States and some classes held their own mock campaigns and elections, as well.

PICTURE DAY THANK YOU

Picture Day ran smoothly at all our campuses thanks to the hard work of our parent volunteers. Thank you to **Lobat Hakimian, Vivian Kron** and **Odelia Namdar**.



THE SHEFA SCHOOL HOSTS A PARENT WORKSHOP



Parent Workshop: The Courage to Set Limits: Why discipline is so important for kids and how to do it compassionately and effectively

Presented by Yoni Schwab, PhD

Setting limits with children and allowing them to suffer the consequences of their actions are keys to helping a child grow up to be happy, responsible, and self-disciplined. And yet, parents (and other adults) seem more and more reluctant and confused about how to set limits effectively. This workshop will give an overarching vision and practical strategies for setting limits with children - from toddlers to teenagers - that strengthen parent-child relationships, reduce yelling, foster strong values, and help kids grow up to be mensches.

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30pm

Free and open to the public

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83250630913>

RSVP to office@shefaschool.org



NSHA BIRTHDAYS!

OCTOBER

1 Lilianna Melamed | 1 Adina Kalter | 3 Sara Cohen | 4 Charley Hammerman | 5 Ziva Kalter
7 Micol Kordvani | 7 Claire Secunda-Kramer | 8 Lea Secunda-Kramer | 9 Nathan Abergel
10 Jakob Baum | 11 Sabina Santodonato | 13 Emanuelle Abergel | 13 Brody Hammerman
18 Tova Hackel | 18 Jonah Gelberg | 22 Jaren Marans | 23 Edie Gross | 24 Liv Santodonato
27 Ruby Gelberg | 30 Nina Wilson

NOVEMBER

2 Teddy Hacoheh | 4 Cayla Ghassabian | 20 Kayleigh Kordvani | 26 Adiel Moghadasian