



# כוכב הציפור NEWSLETTER

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY

EDITOR: **MICHELLE RUTTA**LAYOUT & DESIGN: **RACHEL SPINNER****FRIDAY NIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:08 PM** הדלקת נרות:**SHABBAT ENDS: 6:18 PM** זמן הבדלה:**Parshat Mishpatim**

## SEMICOLONS:

### A Shabbat Message from Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Kobrin

True confession: I've been a grammar nerd for years. I am one of those elitists who enjoys dissecting the various parts of speech; who gets annoyed when others use commas incorrectly; and who geeks out reading an article on semicolons. I think one of the aspects of grammar that appeals to me is the sense that it offers a set of rules with clear meaning and purpose, rules that have to be studied but which ultimately make sense.



This week's Torah reading of Mishpatim similarly offers a long list of rules that have meaning and purpose. The thirteenth-century Chizkuni notes that these dinim, these laws, immediately follow the story of the Aseret HaDibrot, the Ten Commandments, because God first wanted to teach the people yir'ah, or awe, and could then begin to teach them logic. The mitzvot make sense -- certainly the rational ones in this parasha -- but they are built on a foundation of an emotional relationship with Hashem.

Ramban notes that these laws provide a structure for the entire world. He cites the Midrash which says kol haTorah teluya be-mishpat, "the whole Torah depends on justice." Without justice, he explains, we would slip into anarchy. This is why these laws are called mishpatim. They make sense, and they serve to provide us with meaning, structure and protection.

But unlike the rules of grammar, the Torah's laws have an additional feature. Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveichik, the nineteenth-century sage (and great-grandfather of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik) writes in his magnificent Beit HaLevi that we must study the mitzvot not only to know what to do and what not to do; we have an additional commandment of limud Torah, of studying Torah for its own sake. This is why, he famously explains, at the end of the parasha the people told Moshe na'aseh ve-nishma, "we will do and we will listen." They would learn enough to know what to do, and then they would keep learning beyond that, they would keep "listening" -- just because it was Torah.

In a period of our lives when we seem to be drowning in rules, rules which often change, rules which to many of us (as so many of you tell me when you call and email me) seem unclear as to their meaning and purpose, it can give us strength to remember that these various rules and guidelines will ultimately fade away.

God's rules, however, will always be there, and will always make good sense. Just like semicolons.

Shabbat Shalom.

## PERSUASIVE SPEECHES RESULT IN A 3RD GRADE PAJAMA DAY!

Third graders in Ms. Fitizisky and Ms. Mojocoa's classes kicked off their new Persuasive Writing unit by thinking, discussing and writing about the changes they wish to see in our school. The first item on their agenda was to write speeches to persuade me that third grade should have a Pajama Day.

Each class wrote and presented a speech over Zoom, last Friday. Students included their argument, along with many reasons why they wanted a pajama day. Reasons included that after almost a year of working hard during a pandemic, third graders deserve some Covid-friendly fun, that pajamas are more comfortable than uniforms, and that they can learn about their classmates' interests and style when they wear pajamas.

The students' persuasive words resulted in a grade wide Pajama Day for our third graders this past Wednesday. It was powerful for our students to see that their carefully constructed writing including an argument and reasons resulted in a fun day.

We look forward to reading many more speeches, letters, and essays our students write during this unit, with the goal of making our community and the world a better place.



## BUILDING AN INTEREST IN ARCHITECTURE IN KINDERGARTEN B!

KB had a guest on zoom this week! Jordan's mommy Mrs. Amanda Zar who is a trained architect gave us a lesson on architecture. We read the book Iggy Peck Architect and watched a slideshow about famous structures in NYC and around the world. We learned what architects do and what shapes are strongest as a foundation. We then built unique structures out of mini marshmallows and toothpicks. Thank you Mrs. Zar for inspiring our KB students!



## DVAR TORAH: PARSHAT MISHPATIM

### By Rabbi Nir Shalom

Parashat Mishpatim contains many mitzvot, most of them ben adom lachavero (between fellow Jews). One of these mitzvot, that of lending money to a poor person, is the one that I would like to focus on.

The verse states: "אם קסף תלוה את עמי את העני עמך...לא תשימון עליו נשך" - "If you lend money to my nation, to the poor among you...exact no interest from them." Our rabbis explain that the use of seemingly repetitive language (my people, the poor among you) is to communicate the need for an added level of empathy and sensitivity towards the poor and towards all Jews in need. Rashi points out that the word ami ( my nation) challenges us to relate to poor people with compassion and identify with them since they are also Hashem's children.

Rashi expands upon this idea by looking at the next part of the pasuk: "את העני עמך" - the poor among you". According to Rashi, this phrase is included in the pasuk to teach us not only to be sensitive to the poor but to view ourselves as no better than they are. If you are the donor, and he is the recipient, he is among you, on your level. Lending someone a helping hand does not mean that you are superior.

A similar idea can be found in the thinking of the Or Hachayim Hakadosh, who offers an additional explanation for the words "את העני עמך". He senses that the Torah is telling the rich man that his money was given to him to share with those in need and thus enabling him to perform the mitzvah of tzedaka. Therefore, the money that the rich



man is giving the poor already belongs to the poor man, thus he is “among” you.

In conclusion, the Torah is training us to view the mitzvah of tzedaka as an expected and humanitarian act. It teaches us that in the eyes of God we are all equal, and that the blessings in our lives were given to us to be shared with others with kindness and mindfulness. Shabbat Shalom

## SPOTLIGHT ON: MUSIC!

### Grades Toddler-3 by Mr. Izzy Kieffer

With Purim just around the corner, all of our students in grades Toddler-3 are busy brushing up on and learning new songs to celebrate the holiday. Singing is such an important way of building Jewish identity. We're sure that some of the songs our children still learn today were also some of our parent and grandparent favorites growing up.

In Early Childhood, we had a busy few weeks preparing for our Chanukah and Tu B'shvat winter Zoom invites for Nursery and Kindergarten. Some of our upcoming classroom Zoom invites will celebrate Purim, Shabbat, Books and Reading as well as the story of Yosef and his brothers.

It's an exciting time for our grade 1-3 students who are learning how to read music.

We start off simply by learning notes and will eventually translate this into musical instruments God willing when we can resume our recorders after COVID. In 2nd and 3rd grade our students are already familiar with 16 notes!

Our 1st and 2nd grade students are also busy preparing for their Siddur and Chumash celebrations which will God willing take place in the Spring.

### Grades 3-8 by Mrs. Marcelline Yellin

My 3rd grade class and all 4th and 5th grade classes have enjoyed a totally different music curriculum due to the pandemic. It is great to see how even though things look a bit different, we can still truly soak up the joy of music.

We start with some body percussion (rhythms tapped on different parts of the body) that we then pass around the class while keeping the beat. It works as a concentration game as well. Our students seem to love it; the harder the pattern, the more they enjoy the challenge.

First, I present a short YouTube video on music history or notation. This gives a wide variety of work, gets the blood flowing, and provides new information in a game format.

When we meet on Zoom during remote learning, our sessions are much more oriented to the historical aspects of music history or performance. Examples from last week: Beethoven's 5th symphony is presented as a cartoon, then viewed being played by an orchestra (conductor's role being focused on) and then analyzed by watching a graphic animation that points out the repeated four note motif over 200 times throughout the first movement. Students try to count the first 67 times but Beethoven is faster than their pencils.

I have loved joining our second graders and Mr. Kieffer who are meeting in the auditorium in small groups that are socially distanced, in order to add some movements to their Chumash songs which they are practicing for their upcoming Spring celebration. We know the Chagigat HaChumash will be both beautiful and meaningful!

We are also preparing for a school wide musical video that's in the works by singing our two Hebrew songs during music classes.

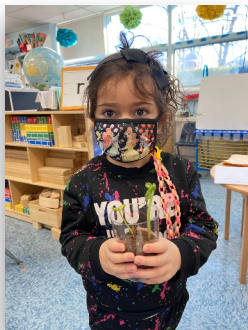
Old Mill children are learning to tune and play songs on their ukuleles. We now know the most common chords (C, G, A minor and F). These four chords will enable us to play hundreds of songs! We have learned : Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu, You are my Sunshine, Happy Birthday, I Have a Little Dreidel, Maoz Tsur, Rip Tide and I'm Yours. The gift of this little instrument means our children can be active participants in music making, not just laid back listeners.





## SPOTLIGHT ON: PREK JUDAIC STUDIES

**Brought to you by: Morah Karen Fromowitz, Morah Katie Lichter, Morah Gali Naftali**



PreK is busy as usual. The week before our January break we learned about Tu B'shvat and the birthday of the trees. In Eretz Yisrael the climate is a bit different and the trees, specifically the almond trees, start to blossom around the time of Tu B'shvat. Of course, trees don't actually celebrate birthdays but, it gave us the opportunity to learn more about the cycle of the trees, and all of the many things we get from trees. How could we not celebrate them?

Upon our return to school, we continued learning the weekly Parasha. The children are always so eager to learn what's next and are excited that they're familiar with some parts that remind them of the Pesach story! They couldn't wait to hear that Bnei Yisrael were finally freed from Mitzrayim and that Hashem provided them with food called Maan while they were in the desert. They were enthralled by the burning bush, and that Hashem chose Bnei Yisrael as His nation to receive the Torah.

Now Chodesh Adar is upon us and there's a new buzz in the air. Happy sounds of Purim are ringing in our hallways. We're so excited to learn about Purim through songs, props and of course Megillat Esther. We'll be learning about the four mitzvot of Purim. We'll read the Megillah, we will give Matanot L'Evyonim, and Mishloach Manot, and we will eat a Seuda. We will remember the miracle that the Jewish people were saved from the wicked Haman and we will hear Parshat Zachor. We will even compare a Torah and Megillah. We'll discuss what makes them different, and how they are the same. Shabbat Shalom from the PreK Family!

## SPOTLIGHT ON: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**Brought to you by: Andy Sandler, Davi Carleial, Sarit Neeman, Donna Tieri**

Learning.com

EdTech classes are about to get more personalized and interactive! Our students in grades 1-8 are now enrolled in Learning.com, a digital literacy, web based learning platform. Using a personalized account, students will learn the necessary technology skills to navigate technology in the modern world by participating in a variety of activities, lessons and projects.

Students will start with basic skill sets in a variety of subject areas, and will build on those skills over the course of their elementary and middle school careers. Subjects covered include, but are not limited to, Computer Fundamentals, Keyboarding/Touch Typing, Online Safety and Digital Citizenship, Word Processing, Spreadsheets and Databases, Multimedia Presentations, Computational Thinking, and Coding.

In other exciting EdTech news, our families and teachers in grades 1-3 are now using Seesaw which is a digital platform that streamlines accessing, submitting and reviewing classwork and homework assignments. Seesaw is especially important during periods of remote learning or when a student is absent from school. Through the easy to use apps, students or parents can easily upload and access assignments which teachers can then view, markup or comment upon. We hope our parents have found it to enhance their family's experiences and we look forward to hearing any feedback they might have.

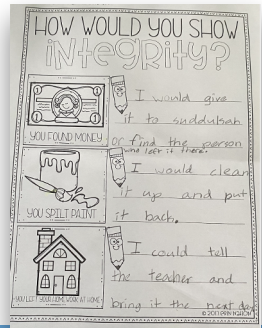
## SPOTLIGHT ON: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Students in grades PreK-2nd started a new unit in which they will learn to set goals, both personal and in the classroom, and create a plan with action steps. Students were introduced to goals by watching a short video clip on Goal Setting, then brainstorming different types of goals. Students learned that goals should challenge them, but it shouldn't be TOO hard. Goals should be realistic, which means it is very possible for us to reach them with hard work!

In grades 3 through 5, students discussed the connection between achieving goals and perseverance. Students then watched a TedxYouth Talk about perseverance. Students were encouraged to think about their own goals and what they can do to persevere through challenges and achieve them. Students were also introduced to the topic of



integrity and learned about the importance of integrity and acting with kindness, honesty, and fairness. They reflected on their own integrity and defined what integrity looks like and sounds like.



## PTA HAPPENINGS


**Purim is fast approaching!** We are excited to bring back our Mishloach Manot program. The NSHA PTA will distribute Mishloach Manot across all 3 campuses (to NSHA students and to our amazing faculty and administrators.) Everyone should have received an email with your personal log in code and instructions on how to participate. \*\*\*If you didn't receive this email, please contact Sadie or Marla, and we will resend\*\*\* Please check your spam folder, the email may have gone there. Chag Sameach!!




NSHA PTA PRESENTS TO YOU THE 2021 CHERRY LANE

# SPIRIT WEEK!

*we've got spirit, yes we do!*



WE'VE GOT NSHA PRIDE!

<b>MONDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 22</b> <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 23</b> <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 24</b> <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 25</b> <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>WE LOVE ISRAEL DAY!</b></p> <p>COME TO SCHOOL SHOWING YOUR ISRAEL PRIDE! DRESS TO IMPRESS IN BLUE AND WHITE OR IDF GEAR FOR EXTRA POINTS!</p> <p>ISRAELI THEMED TREAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED</p> <p><b>*SPECIAL*</b>  TONIGHT @ 7pm  Purim Kahoot!  with Mr. Sigal</p>	<p><b>PAJAMA DAY!</b></p> <p>WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PJS TODAY! LET'S HAVE A BIG NSHA PAJAMA PARTY!</p> <p><b>*GIRLS, DON'T FORGET YOUR SKIRTS!</b></p> <p>ICES TREAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED</p>	<p><b>COLOR WAR!</b></p> <p>REPRESENT YOUR GRADE!</p> <p>PRE-K &amp; K: RED  1ST: ORANGE  2ND: YELLOW  3RD: GREEN  4TH: PURPLE  5TH: BLACK</p> <p>CANDY TREAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED</p> <p><b>*SPECIAL*</b>  TONIGHT @ 7pm for Grades K-5  A Purim Event for the Entire family</p> 	<p><b>COSTUME DAY!</b></p> <p>THE DAY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SINCE MARCH 2020!</p> <p>COME TO SCHOOL IN YOUR PURIM COSTUMES!</p> <p>MISHLOACH MANOT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED</p>



We are excited to welcome "The Bible Players" for a Purim-themed improv event. All families in grades K through 5 are encouraged to watch and participate!

Join us this Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 PM.  
Email Rachel Spinner (rspinner@nsha.org) to RSVP



## DAYS OF LEARNING AT NSHA

A Day of Learning across all our campuses was generously sponsored by the NSHA families listed below. On **Monday, February 8th** our students learning was in memory of **Muriel Laskin, z"l**, beloved mother of our parents, Dr. Emma Laskin, Mother-in-law of our Executive Vice President, Bart Baum and beloved grandmother to Esther ('20), Sophia (12), and Jakob (8).

Dani and Marcy Aharon  
Michael and Zehava Atlas  
Andrew and Sara Feldschreiber  
Navid and Natalie Hakimian  
Natan and Dina Hamerman  
Eliot and Erica Zucker Heisler  
Rabbi Sholom and Aksana Jensen  
Erran and Lisa Kagan  
Eliott and Julie Kalker  
Marc and Amy Kalter  
Jonathan and Ilana Kroll  
Micah and Marla Lemonik  
Rabbi Ian and Katie Lichter

Jason and Kimberly Mayer  
Zachary and Yifat Mittleman  
Jonathan and Daniella Muller  
Jared and Elizabeth Ort  
Rabbi Dale and Ellen Polakoff  
Jonathan and Amy Reiss  
Steven and Michal Rosnezweig  
Aaron and Lilia Shemesh  
Evan and Jessica Shusterman  
Seth and Lauren Silberstein  
Chazzan Yitzzy and Rachel Spinner  
Steve and Jill Swartz

A Day of Learning was generously sponsored by Chana and Daniel Kamelhar at our Old Mill and Cherry Lane campuses. On **Tuesday, February 9th** our students learning was in memory of **Ira Silbergleit, Yitzchak Shlomo Ben Moshe Leib, z"l**, beloved father of Chana Kaemlhar and Grandfather to Jeremy (6) and Sophia (PreK).

A Day of Learning was generously sponsored by Akiva and Sharon Fisman across all our campuses. On **Thursday, February 11th** our students learning was in memory of **Allen S. Rudoy, z"l**, grandfather to Jesse (7), Jonah, and Joelle Fishman. A consummate educator and lover of all things American History. He zealously taught his family and his students that only through the study of History, can we fully engage in the present and successfully impact our future.

A Day of Learning across all our campuses was generously sponsored by the NSHA friends and families listed below. On **Friday, February 12th** our students learning was in the merit for a refuah sh'leima- a complete and speedy recovery- for NSHA parent **Paulette Cohen Shanat, Bracha Paulette Bat Rachel**. Wife of Ronnie Shaban, mother to NSHA students Shelly (8), Abie (7), Simone (4), and Miriam (K).

Arie and Alexandra Aboulafia	Steven and Kimya Kreinik
William and Doris Ahdout	Noah and Susannah Malen Leibowitz
Shahab and Marlie Cohen	Rabbi Ian and Katie Lichter
Joseph and Randi Cohen	Abraham and Edna Mayeri
Francine and Lior Cohen	Gary and Nicole Mazer
Tamir and Rosy Dardashtian	Yonni and Jennifer Mrejen
Oren and Tannaz Dror	Dona Omari
Lev and Alina Dynkin	Hersel and Violet Rabanipour
Rebeka Ebrahimi	David and Leora Refoua
Matthew and Janine Ellis	Abraham and Yael Freeman Reshtick
Andrew and Sara Feldschreiber	Michael and Aviva Rosenberg
David and Dina Gad	Eric and Rebecca Senderowicz
Emil and Lorraine Ganjian	David and Rebecca Setareh
Charles and Doreen Hadid	Manoush and Yedid Setareh
Vaizman and Jennia Hakakian	Evan and Jessica Shusterman
Erik and Anna Herz	Daniel Simany
Miri Illuz	Shawn and Malka Torkan
Marc and Amy Kalter	Sara and Jonathan Tsur
Reuben and Jamie Kerben	Joshua and Jennifer Zaboulani

**By sponsoring a Day of Learning you can help our students experience the mitzvah of studying 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.**

**The day will be recognized with an email sent out to our community, included in that day's morning announcements with our head of school, and a mention in our weekly Newsletter.**

**If you would like to sponsor a Day of Learning please visit <https://www.nsha.org/dayoflearning>. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Spinner at [rspinner@nsha.org](mailto:rspinner@nsha.org) or 516-487-8687 ext. 136.**