

Oh Chadashot

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Issue 11
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11 Nidan, 5775
Pre-Pesach Edition

From the Principal's Desk



During the Pesach seder, we do many actions to keep the children awake and interested. One of those actions is eating the afikomen. The afikomen is the climax of the seder. We want the afikomen to be the very last taste in our mouths. We answer the chachom, wise son, by telling him all the laws of Pesach up to not eating anything after the afikomen. We spend the night building up to the end.

At the same time the afikomen represents the very beginning. This was our statement that Hashem rules over the world and that we were no longer serving the Egyptian gods. This was the start of the Jewish people coming together to become one nation. This is what led us to be able to leave Egypt and walk through the Yam Suf and reach Matan Torah and go into Eretz Yisroel. We can liken this to the day you were born. For nine months, there are many changes and shifts being prepared by your parents. Excitement builds, nervousness of the unknown, and then finally, a baby is born and there is a calmness knowing how great of a moment was reached. But it is only the beginning.

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Important OCA Dates

Wednesday, April 1—Sunday, April 12	Pesach Vacation
Monday, April 13	School resumes
Wednesday, April 15	Yom Hashoah
Sunday, April 19-Monday, April 20	Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Wednesday, April 22	Yom Hazikaron
Thursday, April 23	Yom Haatzmaut

From the Principal's desk (continued from page 1)

You have not yet developed your personality, you have not yet found your soul mate, you have not yet helped shape the world into being a better place.

This is what we focus on the night of the seder. We build up each step of the seder until we finally reach the afikomen, the last taste in our mouth and at the same time, we know that we are just beginning and we have so much more ahead of us to accomplish.

It is my tefilla that each of us in our OCA community and our community at large continue to be invested in this awareness of appreciating where we came from and knowing that we have so many more great things to come.

Chag kasher v'sameach
Rabbi Moshe Margoless

Happy March Birthdays

Ella Rosen — PreK4

Moshe Sitrin — 4

Leora Juni — K

Isaac Reitberger—5

Yehoshua Gunzburg — 1

Tziporah Gunzburg—5



Happy April Birthdays

Ariella Erez — PreK3

Omer Peretz— 1

Jack Weisbord—PreK3

Aliza Reich—2

Maayan Abramson—PreK4

Neima Fogel — 4

Daniella Eastman — K

Around the Halls of OCA

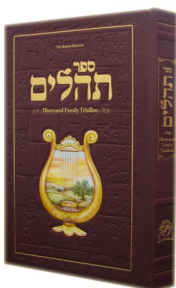
Mrs. A's kindergarten class prepared so much for Pesach. We are so sure that all the K parents will be surprised and pleased to see how much their child knows about the chag. K students learned all about the letter tzadee last week. They are almost finished with the letters of the alef-bet. Kol Hakavod. The Kindergarten class also had a surprise when Mrs. A's cousins and uncle from Eretz Yisrael came to their class. They were in the middle of working on their Parsha project when they came in. In conjunction with Parshat Vayikra which teaches us all about the Korbanot, they were discussing why a person would bring Korbanot and that we don't bring korbanot today. Instead, they talked about davening to Hashem. The class was busy writing their own, personal Tefillot when Mrs. A's cousins came. Cousin Meir told the kids that he would take their Bakashot/Tefilot back to Israel and leave them at the Kotel. It was so exciting



for them .

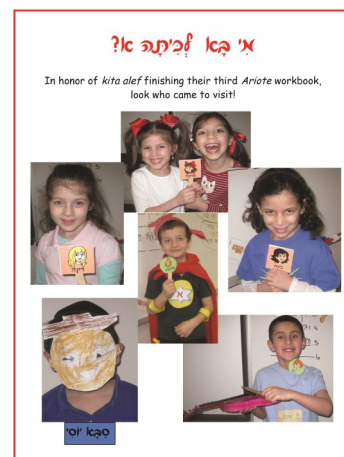
In **Mrs. Golfeyz's first grade**, the students are continuing their study of how light bends by looking through microscopes, magnifying glasses, and water. With great excitement during their writing centers, the first graders worked on their book they are about to publish! Each student will become an official author and illustrator, contributing to a book called, "OCA, A Place Where We Want to Stay." We all can't wait to see it in print!

Morah Ziffer's kita alef students celebrated finishing Ariote #3. Not only did the students enjoy cupcakes, they also had some "special quests!"



Morah Yaffa's kita bet all give mazal tov to their classmate, Eliyahu Levi, who made a siyum on Sefer Tehillim. At home, Eliyahu completed reading the entire Book of Tehillim. Kol Hakavod Eliyahu. We are all proud of your accomplishment.

Mrs. Rubenstein's class (second grade general studies) completed their research projects and dioramas about animals living in different habitats. This topic developed through their reading in



their *Wonders* anthology book. The children proudly shared their work in small groups and eagerly explained, in detail, what they had learned. There were many interesting questions from the children as they listened to the reports. This was definitely a hands-on project that everyone enjoyed.



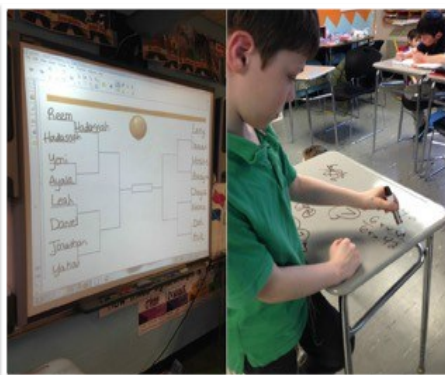
Mrs. Mann's third grade was busy in language arts last week as they accomplished many different tasks! On Monday, the students received their first taste of literature circles as they worked in groups to answer challenging comprehension questions about The Lemonade War. One person from each group was designated as the Discussion Director, and this person was in charge of recording student responses and facilitating conversation between participants. The students enjoyed this challenge and are looking forward to future literature circle activities.



Morah Avigail's kitah gimel finished Parshat Toldot last week. Over the course of this year, they have learned many new skills. The first was how to use a Milon to read from the Chumash. At this point, most of the students are able to break down a Pasuk without using a Milon! They are now able to deduce the main ideas and main characters from the Psukim that they read. In a class discussion, the students took pride in their accomplishments over the past year.



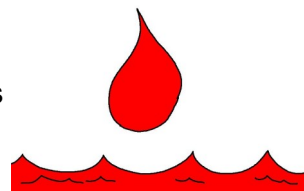
They noted how skills that were difficult in the beginning of the year are incredibly easy now. They even wondered how they could have found those skills to be difficult at all. Last Sunday, they celebrated the accomplishment of finishing Toldot with a siyum.



Mrs. Mann's fourth and fifth grade class kicked off math last week with Fractions March Madness! The students competed to convert fractions into like fractions and then compare the two. The student with the correct answer moved on in the bracket, and in cases where both students were correct, the tie was decided by the greater than/less than symbols. Congratulations to each and every student who participated in this exciting opportunity! A final winner will be determined after Pesach. This week, the students also

learned the concepts behind mixed numbers and improper fractions and how to convert between the two.

Rabbi Bennett's fourth and fifth grade boys' class began learning about the makkot. They made their own blood. Some students even drank it. They poured it on an incline to experience what the Nile looked like. The boys also watched Netanyahu's address to congress during their Siyum. And they acted out Mishnayot from the seventh Perek on their way to completing it.



Morah Shulman's fourth and fifth grade girls' class completed their star chart and celebrated by going out for pizza and ice cream last week.

In art class, they began creating lovely clay kearot for the seder. They added THREE different ideas to their Hagaddot about matzah, and added an Origami Moon to commemorate the very special mitzvah that Bnai Yisrael received in Perek Yud on Shmot. The mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh was given to Bnai Yisrael last week in Mitzrayim all those years ago. Please enjoy the Navi News interviews on the next few pages.

NAVI NEWS: GIDEON BEN YOASH

Interviewer: Hello and welcome back to Navi News. This is reporter Ayala. Today we are interviewing Gideon.

Gideon: Hi everybody! I'm so glad to be here with you!

Ayala: Let's get on with the interview. Why did you go to Midyan's camp?

Gideon: I went there because Hashem said it would make me feel better about my little army of 300 men.

Ayala: Wow! That's a little army! Who are your enemies?

Gideon: Midyanites and Binai Kedem. I hate them!

Ayala: Why did you have pitchers?

Gideon: My army put torches inside them and dropped them to make a lot of noise.

Ayala: I was thinking about this the whole time. How many sons do you have?

Gideon: This is a hard question for me to answer. Give me a minute. 1...2...3...4... I got it! 70!

Ayala: Whoa! That's a lot of children! Isn't that a hard job for your wife?

Gideon: I should have told you earlier, but I have a bunch of wives. It makes the job a lot easier.

Ayala: I see. Now back to the topic of the war. Why did you blow that horn thing?

Gideon: Do you mean a Shofar?

Ayala: Yeah a shofar.

Gideon: I blew it to let everyone know that war was coming.

Ayala: To wrap it up, why did some people bow down to the river? You're not Egyptian are you?

Gideon: No, we are not Egyptian. They did it because they are idol worshipers.

Ayala: Thanks for reading Navi News, and next up is Gideon's son.

Gideon: Which one? I've got 70!

Me'ohr'aot Ohr Chadash-Happenings in our Ohr Chadash Family

Mazal tov to Lanie and Joel Carter (Dani, grade 4 and Sammy, K) on the birth of a new nephew.
Mazal tov also to OCA grandparents Naomi and Carl Lazerow

Condolences to Josh and Terri Rosen and Baruch and Rus Jankowitz on the loss of Josh's and Baruch's grandfather. Great-grandchildren Jonathan (4), Alina(1) and Ella Rosen (PreK4), and Binyamin Jankowitz (2).

Thank you to Grade 3 who generously and scrupulously helped Mrs. Shulman to scrub the tables in the art room.

Navi News—Avimelech

Basya: Hello, and welcome to Navi newspaper! Here is Avimelech.

Leah: It's a pleasure to be here.

Basi: First of all, why did you kill your brothers?

Leah: I wanted to take revenge because they were really mean to me and I felt left out.

Basi: Why did you hire airheads for your army?

Leah: Because they were the only people I could hire for my war.

Basi: What siblings did not get killed?

Leah: YOTAM. He is my ENEMY.

Basi: How many siblings did you kill?

Leah: Sixty-nine.

Basi: Wow, that's a lot!

Leah: Yeah, I guess.

Basi: How many years were you a shofet?

Leah: Three.

Basi: Why were you a shofet if you were bad?

Leah: Because people wanted me to lead them, and we all have free choice.

Basi: How did you die?

Leah: I died in a civil war. My followers rebelled against me. Even though I totally destroyed them in battle, I... well, I'd prefer not to talk about it.

Basi: Who killed you?

Leah: Definitely not a woman. A woman most certainly did not kill me. I made sure a man killed me. So there.

OCA-PTA News

Dear Parents,

OCA PTA is busy gearing up for the end of the school year! There are lots of great events to look forward to. **Hot Lunch** ordering is now open for April and May. Place your orders here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CrF0S69GwgKMxxPpVRrJv2MQm5fgGN5fEXY2bXtsiO0/viewform>. Orders are due on Thursday, April 2. Please note that there are different pasta options for April and May and each needs to be selected separately. Payment must be received in advance.

IMPORTANT HOT LUNCH SCHEDULING ANNOUNCEMENT - On Monday, March 30 the majority of the school will be going on a field trip over lunch and **hot lunch is cancelled that day for the entire school**. We will have a make up day the first week in June for this hot lunch day and an additional day missed due to snow.

OCA is participating in the Jewish Caring Network's 5k races in the spring! To sign up for our women's team go to http://www.wizathon.com/jcn5krun-women/index.php?p=display&action=team_Page&id=653. We are looking for a volunteer to chair the men's team. Please contact us if you are interested. JCN is an amazing organization that we are fortunate to have in Baltimore and we would love great participation from OCA students, parents and staff in this important event.

SAVE THE DATE: We'll be hosting a Ladies Night Out at OCA on Monday, May 11. We'll have great salads and desserts (made by you! with recipes to share!), a dvar Torah and a chance to socialize with your fellow OCA moms.

We will also be hosting a Shavout bake sale again this year. We'll be gathering the roster of baked goods shortly after Pesach so think about what you would like to contribute!

Wishing you a Chag Kasher V'samayach!

Lanie and Rena

Re-enrollment for Next Year

Re-enrollment for **current** students is now open. You will be receiving a large white envelope in the mail that contains the re-enrollment contract for your child. This package also contains instructions on how to complete the re-enrollment process on-line. This is a two-step process. Please note that the signed enrollment contract must be returned to the office along with your deposit AND the on-line process completed before your child has been re-enrolled for next year. There is no fee for re-enrollment of current students.

Applications for **new students/siblings** is on-going. There is a lot of interest in our early childhood learning center for next year so the spots are going quickly. Applications for new students/siblings is done through our website. If you have any questions about either process, please call Pat Scullen at the school office.

Yom Hakdasha - a Day of Dedication

Ohr Chadash Academy proudly announces the creation of Yom Hakdasha, a Day of Dedication.

We believe in being our students' home away from home, because they know that every child brings something of "home" with them when they enter the building. As an expression of being a school family, we instituted a Dedicated Day of Learning program – a *Yom Hakdasha* – to provide you with the opportunity to dedicate a day of learning in honor of a student or in memory of a loved one.

Dedications can be made for yahrzeits, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, academic achievement, receiving a first siddur or chumash, or any other occasion. On the day of dedication, if a student is being honored, they are honored with holding the American and Israeli flags.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please contact the school office at office@ohrchadashbaltimore.org.



Days of Learning

4/20 — Matt & Susie Schoenfeld , sponsoring in honor of the yahrzeit of Aunt Esther.

Computer Calligraphy and Invitations by Tova



- ♦ Commercial invitations and party supplies
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- ♦ Computer Calligraphy on envelopes, place cards, table cards

Mention OCA when you call and a portion will be donated to our school.

Call now for personalized, custom laminated Pesach benchers and Tefillah cards

410-371-9194 or tovtar@gmail.com





They will give all OCA families and referrals from OCA a 10% discount and they will donate 10% of the purchase price to OCA.

Contact : ruth@goldstarfurniture.com - [410-935-2063](tel:410-935-2063)

Have a Target Redcard? Sign up so OCA can receive a donation every time you shop!

Sign up at www.target.com/tcoe.
Our school ID is 153097



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STAPLES



Please Help Ohr Chadash when shopping at Staples

When you shop at Staples or redeem toner cartridges please give our Staples Rewards number which is 2877957023

Ohr Chadash Tzedakah Scrip

If you are interested in ordering Agudah Scrip to benefit OCA, please send an email to ttaragin@ohrchadashbaltimore.org. or call 410-484-3931. If you give tzedakah to meshulachim (tzedakah collectors) at your door or in shul, using Agudah Scrip, a portion goes to our school. It is an easy way for OCA to get tzedakah too. It was conceived years ago, so that all our tzedakah money does not leave the city, but in addition, helps the local institutions (they receive the difference bettheyen the amount on the face of the scrip and the cost). The amounts available are:

50 cents scrip cost \$.75	\$4.00 scrip which costs \$5.00
\$1 scrip which costs \$1.25	\$8.00 scrip which costs \$10
\$2.50 scrip which costs \$3.00	\$20 scrip which costs \$25

Checks are to be made out to Agudah of Baltimore. Ordered scrip can be picked up in the school office or at the home of Tova and Alan Taragin. Arrangements can be made for delivery.