

Volume 4 Issue 6  
December 12, 2014

20 Kislev 5775  
Parashat Vayeshev

## ***From the Principal's Desk***



As a school, we have been focusing on the מידה (middah) of יש כח במעט, that there is strength within something small. It can be a simple smile for one of your friends, welcoming a guest, saying thank you, lending a pencil to your peer, or picking up a wrapper from the floor.

Each small act has strength within it that is more powerful than we can visualize. As Chanukah approaches, this message gets reinforced as we gaze at small flames that light up the room. The כח (strength) that is hiding within these small flames, is the strength to connect our נשמה (soul) to its source.

At Ohr Chadash, our small flames have helped give light to over 100 children, to their families, to their grandparents, to the Baltimore community, to the Jewish community at large, and to the world we all live in. We accomplish this by noticing each child and appreciating the light that he/she has within and understanding that his/her כח (strength) goes much deeper than what the eye can see.

Thank you for being a part of this small flame, Ohr Chadash.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Moshe Margolese

## ***Important OCA Dates***

**Monday, December 15:** Kabbalat HaSiddur

**Friday, December 19:** Chanukah Break: No School

**Thursday, December 25 - Friday, January 2:** Winter Break (school resumes Monday, January 5)



## From the Desk of Mrs. Randi Orshan

Each month, the students of Ohr Chadash are introduced to a new *midda* (מדה) by watching an assembly performed by a specific class. Some classes perform skits, some perform songs, and others bring in guests to share the new *midda* with the school. Awards are given out to the children who best exemplify the *midda* from the previous month, but it doesn't end there. These *middot* are practiced daily, and the students are taught to be conscious of them in all that they do.

Last month, the *midda* was *הכרת הטוב*—being thankful. Each child said he/she was thankful for his/her family, friends, clothes, school, and food. While these things seem like the “norm” for most of us, it is not the “norm” for many other people throughout the world and even within our own city. Because of that, the school came together and decided to participate in the Let's Do Lunch program where bagged lunches were sent to a homeless shelter. Thanks to the generosity of the OCA families, we were able to provide the homeless shelter with 86 bagged lunches that included a sandwich, a drink, snacks, and fruits. Being able to put what students are taught into practice in real life is what education is all about.

For the month of Kislev, the *midda* is *יש כח במעט*—strength in a few. We are teaching the children that they have the power to help and to change a situation or situations. Again, to further our understanding of this *midda*, we decided to tackle a challenge going on outside our classrooms and collect Chanukah toys for children who may not otherwise receive presents. A collection box, which will go to the Jewish Caring Network, is set up in the main office as well as in the preschool. We will be collecting until December 18<sup>th</sup>. Knowing that we have the power to put a smile on someone's face and make their Chanukah that much more enjoyable is what this *midda* is all about! Thank you to everyone for partnering with us to make these *middot* come to life in more ways than one!

## "Spread the Light" Campaign

The class whose parents send in the most compliments/positive feedback/nice emails over the month of Kislev will win a special field trip for their child's class. We encourage you to do this daily. Some examples include responding to an email, telling the teacher what your child said they learned, expressing that you really like how the Friday newsletters look, or telling teachers how happy your child is in school. Say thank you for dedicating their time, effort and resources to the Jewish people, to the next generation. It can take you a few short seconds...but it will go a long way. The power of light is very strong. One small amount of oil can illuminate the holiest place for 8 days! One comment to the teacher will make your teachers shine.

**Grades 3-5 at the  
MD Science Center**  
**See article and more pictures  
on page 4**



# Around the Halls of OCA



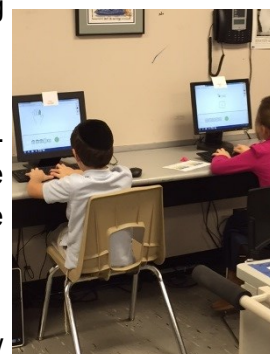
**Pre-K4**, with Morah Anne and Morah Milka Baila, is investigating the life cycle of plants. Last week, they took seeds from a spaghetti squash and put them in a Ziploc bag with a piece of wet paper towel. They then taped them to their windows to watch them grow.



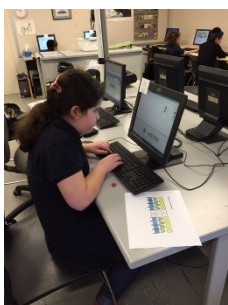
In Morah Yael's and Morah Shoshana's **Pre-K3**, they are busy learning about Chanukah. Both classes have decided to donate their Tzedakah to the Jewish Caring Network before Chanukah so that they can help children who do not have presents or Chanukah gelt or other necessary items to celebrate Chanukah. Pre-K3 is also learning about the values of coins as they count Tzedakah!



Mrs. A's class, **Kindergarten**, has been learning all about Chanukah. They even had a mock war with the many Yivanim fighting against the few Chashmonaim. It was a great way to showcase the Middah of the month, *yesh koach b'm'at*—there is strength in the few.



In Mrs. Taragin's **technology classes**, the students are working very hard, learning how to type and keyboard. Even the Kindergarten class is progressing and learning the fundamentals.



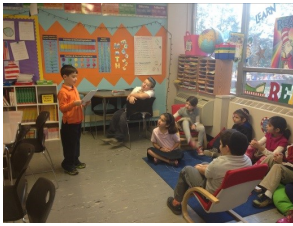
Mrs. Rubenstein's class (**2nd Grade General Studies**) is reading "*Families Working Together*" and "*Families Work*" in their *Wonders* reading anthology. They talked about how important it is to help one another, especially as a member of a family. Each child was able to relate this theme to his or her role as a member of a family. That made for a lively discussion! With the help of Mrs. Taragin, the technology teacher, 2nd grade learned all about subjects and predicates in a fun way, on the smart board. Learning these fundamental grammar rules will help the children to become very good writers.



Morah Avigail Barnoy's **Kitah Gimel** loves reviewing for tests. Last week they had a special visitor, Rabbi Margolese, who played shoshonah bingo with them. They also enjoy Morah Becky Gordon's music class very much. They sing with such enthusiasm!







Mrs. Mann's 3rd grade brimmed with excitement as they showed off their newly designed Newberry medals and discussed their opinions and feelings on the books they read, when presenting their book reports before Thanksgiving. Kol Hakavod, 3rd grade!



Mrs. Mann's **4th-5th grades** are now published book critics. They had the opportunity to publish their book reviews on Barnes and Noble's website. This will assist other readers in their literary selections

# MD Science Center Trip

Last week, the **3rd and 4-5 grade classes** went to the Maryland Science Center. As OCA scientists, they were able to see, touch, hear, and even smell science! From laying on a bed of nails, to using air pressure to shoot a tennis ball fifty feet into the air, to seeing their hearts beating on a huge screen, the whole day was filled with amazing experiences. They spent the day as they spend every science class; discovering new things. It was wonderful to have such a hands-on opportunity for them.

They were also able to integrate what they are learning in their Judaic Studies on this trip. They have been learning about Hashem's wondrous creations during bayur tefillah. It was exciting to see the Imax movie about the forces of nature.



# Me"ohr" aot Ohr Chadash-Happenings in our Ohr Chadash Family

- Welcome to Mrs. Shira Reischer, our new P.E. teacher.
- Mazal tov to Mr. Jonathan Polirer (father of Lexi, grade 3), on his recent engagement to Chaya Gittel Fordonski.
- Mazal tov to the Mrs. Tova Taragin (educational technology coordinator and coach) and husband Alan, on the recent Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Daniella Shields.
- Mazal tov to the Nourmand family (Elisha, grade 5), on the birth of a new baby girl.
- Mazal tov to Mrs. Leah Lando, Mr. Yaakov Sternbach, and Chaya Sternbach (grade 5) on the marriage of their daughter and sister, Chany, to Raphael Wittow.
- Condolences to the Brandriss family on the loss of the great-grandmother of Ora (Grade 1) and Noam (Grade 3), Mrs. Perla Brandriss, of blessed memory.

## Happy December Birthdays

<i>Kira Milner Pre-K3</i>	<i>Sara Schoenfeld K</i>
<i>Koby Schwarzenberger Pre-K4</i>	<i>Ori Peretz 2</i>
<i>Sammy Carter K</i>	<i>Hadassah Juni 4</i>
<i>Eitan Bier K</i>	<i>Elisha Nourmand 5</i>



Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Ruth Jankowitz for donating the beautiful sofa and love seat which adorns our school office.  
Please see their advertisement on page 10.

Mr. Matt and Dr. Susie Schoenfeld for dedicating a day of learning on December 10, in honor of their daughter's birthday. Happy Birthday Sara!

# OCA-PTA News

Lanie Carter and Rena Einbinder, Presidium

Dear Parents,

Chanukah is just around the corner, and the PTA is looking forward to partnering with the OCA administration to provide some great fun and treats for your children during this special time. If you have not already done so, please send in your contribution of \$15 per child for the **OCA Faculty Chanukah** gifts. This is a great time of year to show our appreciation, and we thank you in advance for your participation. Checks can be sent to the office or PayPal payments sent to [ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org). If you have not placed your Hot Lunch orders for December and January, please do so ASAP as orders will close Thursday. You can place your order by clicking on this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ni6BIPFdNPvoM\\_KydvjYxqkBJz9u1nAw6KYZZRc9J0U/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ni6BIPFdNPvoM_KydvjYxqkBJz9u1nAw6KYZZRc9J0U/viewform). Remember hot lunch must be paid for in advance to ensure your child will receive their order.



We also invite you to join OCA as we **light the Menorah at the Chanukah House on the 8th night of Chanukah, Tuesday, December 23rd at 6:30 pm**. It is a beautiful time to come together with members of the community and celebrate Chanukah. PTA will provide treats for everyone!

It's cold out! Stop by the office to pick up an OCA sweatshirt for yourself or your child for \$15 each. We are also fully stocked with OCA t-shirts if you haven't had a chance to buy one yet.

As always, please remember the easy ways that you can support OCA PTA:

## Target

Sign up your card for their Take Charge of Education Program:  
<http://www.target.com/tcoe> (our school ID is 153097)

## Giant

Sign up your card for their A+ Rewards Program:  
[http://www.giantfood.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/?\\_requestid=1228038](http://www.giantfood.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/?_requestid=1228038)

## Amazon

Bookmark this link and use it every time you shop:  
<http://www.amazon.com/?&tag=ohrchadashbaltimore-20&camp=212361&creative=392013&linkCode=wsu&>

## Lovable Labels

Buy your personalized labels for all occasions here:  
<http://www.ohrchadash.lovablelabels.ca/>

## Box Tops

Please save us your Box Tops! Each Rosh Chodesh we will collect them and have a raffle for a free Pizza for all families that participate!

Lanie and Rena



# Accessing ParentsWeb on Renweb



If you are having trouble accessing ParentsWeb on RenWeb, please follow these directions:

**RenWeb School Management Software** gives you, the busy parent, an opportunity to get more involved in your child's academic progress and future success – all via the Internet!

**RenWeb's ParentsWeb** is a private and secure parents' portal that will allow parents to view academic information, specific to their children, while protecting their children's information from others.

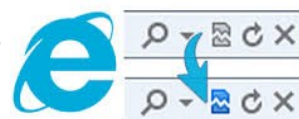
**RenWeb's ParentsWeb** is the way to access your child's homework assignments, report cards, when they are issued and an easy way to communicate with your child's teachers.

Here's how to access our easy-to-use **RenWeb ParentsWeb**:

- Make sure that the school has your email address in RenWeb.

In Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari, go to [www.renweb.com](http://www.renweb.com) and click **Logins**.

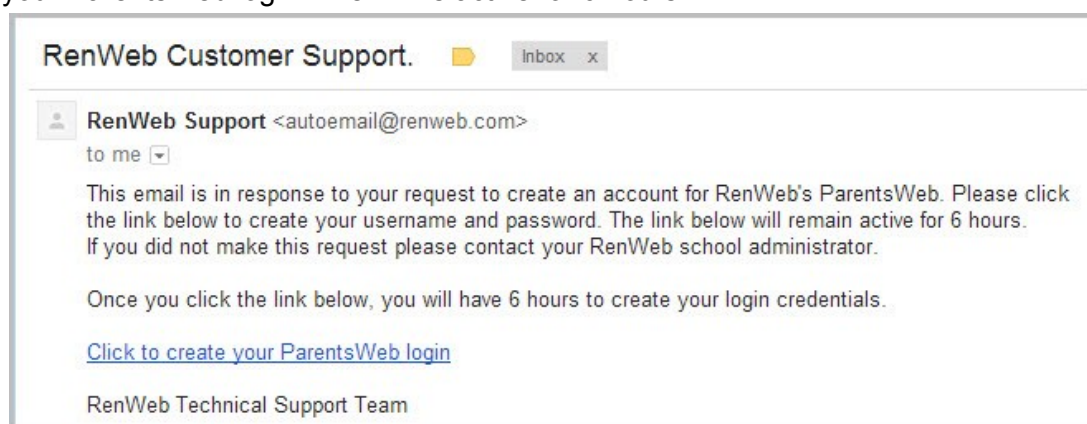
On IE, if it does not load, and there is something that looks like this (torn piece of paper) in address bar, click on it and it will fix the compatibility problem and you will have no trouble loading RW.



- Type the school's **District Code** **OH-MD**

Existing parents who have logged in before and are having trouble: Make sure you use the same email address you used when applying or reenrolling on RW last year. If you are unsure what email you have registered with RW, please email [office@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:office@ohrchadashbaltimore.org) and they will let you know.

- To **Create New ParentsWeb Account**:
- Click **Create New ParentsWeb Account**.
- Type your email address and click **Create Account**. An email will be sent which includes a link to create your ParentsWeb login. The link is active for 6 hours.



- Select the **Click to Create your ParentsWeb login** link.
- A web browser displays your **Name** and RenWeb **Person ID**. (continued on next page)

- Select the **Click to Create your ParentsWeb login link**.
- A web browser displays your **Name** and RenWeb **Person ID**.

Type a **User Name**, **Password**, and **Confirm** the password.

Change/Create Password					
Name	Person ID	User Name	Password	Confirm	
Callie Johnston	11519	<input type="text" value="cjohnston"/>	<input type="password" value="*****"/>	<input type="password" value="*****"/>	<input type="button" value="Save User Name and/or Password"/>

- Click **Save User Name and/or Password**. A message displays at the top of the browser, "**User Name/Password successfully updated.**"

<b>User Name/Password successfully updated.</b>					
Change/Create Password					
Name	Person ID	User Name	Password	Confirm	
Callie Johnston	11519	<input type="text" value="cjohnston"/>	<input type="password" value="*****"/>	<input type="password"/>	<input type="button" value="Save User Name and/or Password"/>

You may now log in to ParentsWeb using your new User Name and Password.

To view your child's report card, click on "student information" and "report card."

## *Computer Calligraphy and Invitations by Tova*

Commercial invitations and party  
supplies available  
Custom Hebrew/English invitations,  
laminated benchers and tefillot also  
available.

Computer Calligraphy on envelopes,  
place cards, table cards.

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

Call Tova Taragin at 410-371-9194



# ***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 we know that every child brings something of "home" with them when they enter the building. As an expression of being a school family, we are instituting 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 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](mailto:office@ohrchadashbaltimore.org).

## ***Inclement Weather Alerts***



**First**, we advise you to sign up and opt-in to our emergency text alert system. This will ensure that you receive emergency text alerts from Ohr Chadash on your cell phone. We encourage you to opt-in for text alerts in general, in the event that instant notification would be needed for an emergency.

If you did not already sign up last year, please do the following to opt-in to the system:

**Subject Line:** OCA, **Text to** 292929

If you already receive text alerts from the JCC, or any other Call-Em-All client, you will need to change the subject line to: **Subject Line:** JOIN OCA

You should receive a text back confirming that you are signed up for the service. If you do not get a text back saying that you are signed up, you may need to check with your cell carrier to make sure that you do not have a "short code block" on your phone.

**Second**, we will be sending an e:mail to everyone on this e:mail list.

**Third**, you may call the school office after 7:00 am to check if any late openings or closures have been posted. We will try and have the announcement posted even earlier, if possible

**Fourth**, on days when there may be weather-related delays for school openings, please check either WBAL-TV or radio (1090 AM) for announcements.

If you have any questions concerning the above, feel free to call or e:mail the school office.



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

Contact : [ruth@goldstarfurniture.com](mailto:ruth@goldstarfurniture.com) - **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](http://www.target.com/tcoe).  
Our school ID is 153097



**Don't Lose It, Label it!**

Label Camp Clothes  
and School Supplies  
with Ease!

Support OCA by buying  
Lovable Labels.



*Don't lose it, label it!*

[http://  
www.ohrchadash.lovablelabels.ca/](http://www.ohrchadash.lovablelabels.ca/)



**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](mailto: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 (we receive the difference between 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.



## Join OCA-PTA for Motzei Shabbat Family Learning!

Dates and times below. As always, there will be pizza, raffles, and fun!

Frequent attendees will receive a great prize at the end of the season!



November 8—At OCA 6:40 PM

November 15 -At OCA 6:40 PM

November 22 -At OCA 6:20 PM

November 29—No Family Learning

December 6—At Ner Tamid 6:45 PM

December 13—At OCA 6:40 PM

December 20— At OCA 6:40 PM

December 27—No Family Learning

January 3—At OCA 7:00 PM

January 10—At Ner Tamid 7:00 PM

January 17—At OCA 7:00 PM

January 24—At OCA 7:00 PM

January 31—At OCA 7:00 PM

February 7—at Ner Tamid 7:30 PM

February 14—at OCA 7:30 PM

February 21—at OCA 7:30 PM

February 28 —at OCA 7:45 PM

March 7 - at OCA 7:45 PM

Please contact [ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org) with any questions or to sponsor a family learning session.

Now that we are in Kislev, Chanukah is near  
A time of celebration, joy and cheer  
OCA PTA invites to you participate  
In giving gifts to our faculty and staff who are amazingly great  
Let's express appreciation for all they do  
Making a difference for our children the whole year through  
To make this program a success, we need you!



A recommended \$15 per student will provide gifts to every teacher and staff member.

Please send your check payable to OCA PTA to the school office or send us a PayPal Payment at [ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org) by Monday, December 15th.

The staff will receive a list of all participants.

E-mail [ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org) with any questions.



## Light the Chanukah Menorah at the Chanukah House with Ohr Chadash Academy

**Where: 6721 Greenspring Avenue**

**When: 8th night of Chanukah, Tues., Dec. 23 at 6:30 PM**



Treats will be provided by OCA

# Kid Chefs



Students ages 6—12

Cooking classes for children in a safe learning environment that encourages discovery and creativity

**\$20 for 4 classes**  
**\$7.50 for individual classes**

**Sunday mornings 9:30—11 am**

**Sunday, November 09, 2014 Three Layer Cake**

**Sunday, December 07, 2014 Tuna and Salmon Pâtés**

**Sunday, January 11, 2015 Rolled Lasagna**

**Sunday, February 01, 2015 Dips & Sauces (Guacamole, Salsa etc.)**



Ner Tamid Youth

6214 Pimlico Road

Register by November 5 for the 1st class

Register at [nertamid.net](http://nertamid.net)

For info: [youth@nertamid.net](mailto:youth@nertamid.net) or 410-764-6241