

Our 5th Year

# Ohr Chadashot

The אור חדש NEWSLETTER

September 25, 2015 י"ג תשרי תשע"ו  
 Volume 5, Issue 2 פרשת האזינו

From the desk  
 of  
 Rabbi  
 Margalese



As Jews our goal is to fill every moment of our lives with meaning and purpose. We have been going through a journey of intense meaning and purpose over the last month: blowing the Shofar during Elul, preparing for Rosh Hashanah, experiencing Rosh Hashanah, Aseret Yimay Teshuva, and Yom Kippur. Now we are about to continue our journey through the yom tov of Sukkot. The middah associated with this chag is Simcha. What is generating the Simcha?

We all know, that when a child comes into the world, there is an overpowering feeling of joy. This joy is experienced differently by everyone: some people cry, others dance, others share their joy with everyone who sees them, while still others are just reflective. We have gone through a very long process of recreating ourselves and now after Yom Kippur we reenter the world as brand new people. This rejuvenation of the Jewish

people generates Simcha in the whole world. At this time Hashem commands us to stop what we are normally doing, build a sukkah, to dwell in it and enjoy, absorb, dance, or sing—whatever enables you to be able to feel and share in the Simcha of the Jewish people.

The halacha teaches us that when we are sitting in the sukkah we should be cognizant that we are fulfilling the mitzvah of sukkah. We also learn that one should have in mind that the walls of the Sukkah represent the Ananei Hakavod that surrounded us in the desert. We should recognize as we sit in our sukkot that we are absorbed in Hashem's clouds of glory and protection. This awareness takes our Simcha and magnifies it to an even greater degree.

Over the past year, I spent a great deal of time meeting the many new OCA families and each new student. This past Sunday the OCA-PTA organized a beautiful, elegant, and fun filled "Welcome-Back-to-School Picnic." Having everyone come together to experience the entire Ohr Chadash family born anew, brought a higher level of Simcha to our school community. As we walked into the bricked in area of OCA where the picnic was held, we all felt a sense of community, joy, excitement, and left with a feeling of not wanting to leave. Thank you to our wonderful OCA-PTA for organizing this event and to all of our families for creating this feeling of Simcha in our school.

May HaShem bless us with the ability during Sukkot to stop and fully experience the Simcha that each of us as an individual and as a community helps to create. Chag Sameach!

## Calendar Heads-up!



No School  
Sukkot



School  
Resumes



ECC  
KG Truck Day



Midah Assembly  
11am



World Wide  
Shabbat Project



State of the Union  
Address 7:30pm  
Kindergarten Trip  
to Pearlstone

7310 Park Heights Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21208

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www.ohrchadashbaltimore.org

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brings home for Sukkot! Morah Yona's class took several nature walks to gather sticks and materials to "build" their own sukkot. Morah Yael and Morah Shana's classes learned how to shake a lulav and etrog. Morah Anne and Morah Hadassa's class built a life size sukkah in their classroom and invited Rabbi Margolese to be their first guest.

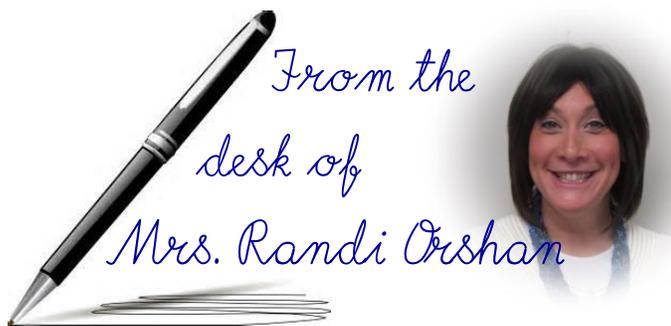
In the middle of all of our Yom Tov preparations, we took a break for our first field trip of the year! Last Friday our 3's and 4's classes were invited to take part in a city-wide day school experience at Port Discovery. This trip was organized by the CJE and included six different Baltimore preschools. Our students had a fabulous time at the museum. In addition to the established exhibits, we got to play in a specially constructed "percussion garden" and unleash our creativity in the art room where a leaf printing project was waiting. Our jam packed morning made us hungry for lunch and after refueling in the Port Discovery community room, we headed back to OCA. Thank you to Mrs. Bakaev, Dr. Einbinder, Mrs. VanderWalde, Mrs. Orshan, Mrs. Selis, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Carter, Dr. Birnbaum, Mrs. Breitowitz, Mrs. Zakharin, Mrs. Erez, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Friedman, and Mrs. Lasson who were our wonderful chaperones! We are already looking forward to our next trip: Truck Day on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of myself and the ECC morot, we wish you and your families a Chag Sameach!

Shana Tova! It has been a joy and a pleasure getting to know all the fantastic boys and girls of the OCA ECC over the past few weeks. Our ECC students are full of ruach and have jumped right into learning, playing, and building friendships. Our focus has been the Chagim and our ECC morot keep the exploration and activities coming! Our classes have enjoyed apple units for Rosh Hashana, which included applesauce making in Morah Yona's room, apple printing with Morah Yael and Morah Shana, and hand-painted apple decorations facilitated by Morah Anne and Morah Hadassa. Many children were excited to discover the "secret star" hidden inside every apple.

Our Yom Kippur preparations included learning the steps of Teshuva and discussing the importance of being kind to our friends. Morah Anne and Morah Hadassa's class created a physical representation of the 4 steps of Teshuva and the children practiced walking from one point to the next.

Enjoy the beautiful decorations that your child



<http://www.playworks.org/about/why-playworks#sthash.ijdITKIQ.dpuf>

To further encourage the students, OCA will be calling its version of Playworks, OCAworks, with the motto: **everyone is a team player!** We hope to have something special for each child to wear during recess with that motto.

OCA is so excited to announce the launch of Playworks. OCA and Playworks' vision is that every child will get to play - every day. Playworks creates a place for every kid on the playground, a place where every kid belongs, has fun, and is part of the game. It offers an essential opportunity for children to explore their imaginations, to connect with other kids and to stretch and grow physically, emotionally and socially.

The first set of organized games being offered include hula hoops/jump ropes, 4 corners, 3 fly, tag games, football, and infinity kickball. Teachers will be assigned to each game to help the children and cheer them on. Our P.E. teacher, Mrs. Reischer, will be in charge of introducing the games and running the program during recess. Games will switch every month.

I encourage everyone to check out their website:

If you have any further questions about this awesome initiative, please let us know!



**What We Have To Say About Our New**



**Tablets!**



**Morah Abby:** "I'm excited to use the app called ספר מתכונים החברתי—it's a social cookbook!"

**Ami Adler:** "It's awesome that we could use electronics to learn!"

**Ayala Goffin:** "I love the PowToon app we use to learn Mishnah, it's hilarious!"

**Jonathan Rosen:** "It's awesome that you don't need to write everything down."

**Isaac Reitberger:** "It's great that we could take pictures on it."

**Mrs. Ellie Shulman:** "I'm excited to use the video making apps!"

**Jessie Gaither:** "I like using Google Classroom."

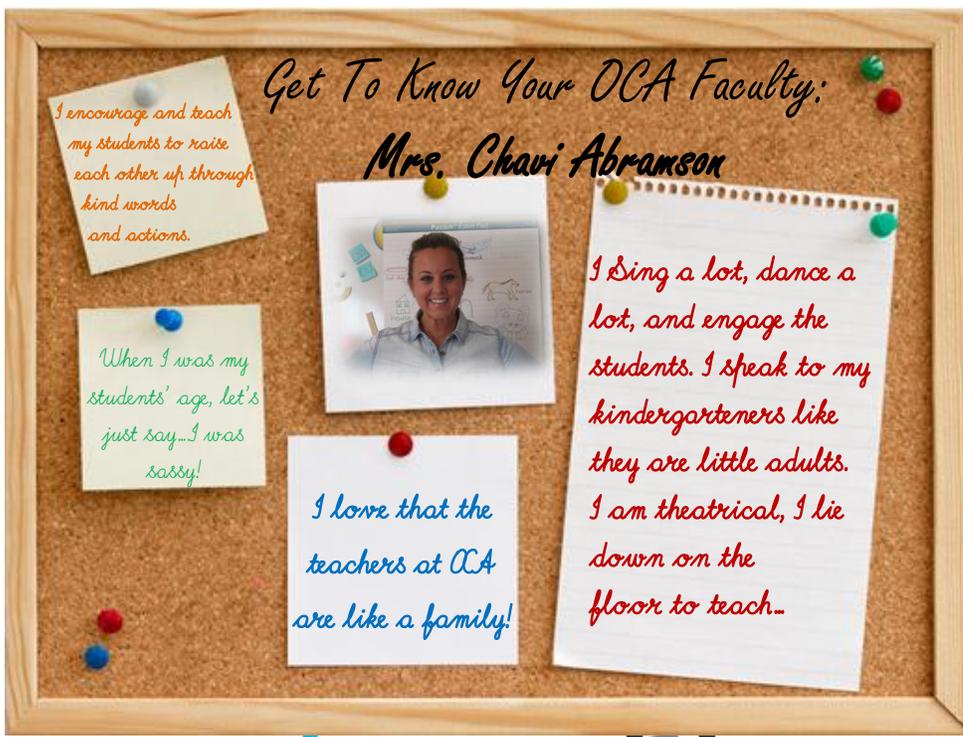


**RENAISSANCE<sup>™</sup> LEARNING**

OCA continues to thrive and grow each day! This year we implemented a new computerized program to keep track of our students' progress called STAR testing. With STAR testing, we will benchmark our students three times per year to assess their growth in math and reading skills. Teachers will be able to use the data to help differentiate within their classrooms, providing your children with personalized attention. Additionally, a copy of your child's report will be sent to you, allowing you to see their progress. (More information will be shared

regarding STAR testing at a later time). For more information, please contact Leah Golfeyz at [lgolfeyz@ohrhadashba.ltimore.org](mailto:lgolfeyz@ohrhadashba.ltimore.org)





*Meohraot*

*Ohr Chadash:*

*Happenings in our Ohr Chadash Family*

- ◆ Mazal Tov to Donni and Mimi Ankri on the birth of a baby boy, Zach! And Mazel Tov to big brothers Gavi (Kindergarten) and Jake (Pre-K 3s)!
- ◆ Mazal Tov to Ken and Yocheved Gelula on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Mollie Werbel!
- ◆ Mazal Tov to Nadav and Rachel Spiegler on the birth of a baby girl! And Mazel Tov to big brother Jaiden (Pre-K 2s)!

Like us on  
Facebook!

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website!...share  
our website!

Spread the  
beauty of  
OCA

through  
social networking!

*מדות Spotlight*

Given our focus on *מדות*, we reserved this corner to celebrate and bring attention to—or to focus the **spotlight** on—glorious *מדות* moments during a regular Ohr Chadash day

If one steps foot into Ohr Chadash, they will find on their immediate left a bulletin board dedicated to our Middah of the month. Each class is given a big smiley face. These smiley faces are littered with stickers they earned as they exhibited the Middah of the month: סבר פנים יפות, greeting people with a smile. So as this *מדה* comes to a close, and we begin our next, I would like to uncover the story behind a few of the Kindergarten's stickers...

As I quietly walked into the Kindergarten classroom one morning, I was met with shining smiles of the few children by the door, "good morning, Mr. Dear!" And as the other children looked up, they too exclaimed with a smile, "good morning, Mr. Dear!" The entire class shined their smiles as they wished me a good morning. Mrs. A complimented their Middot as she proudly handed me a few stickers for the bulletin board.

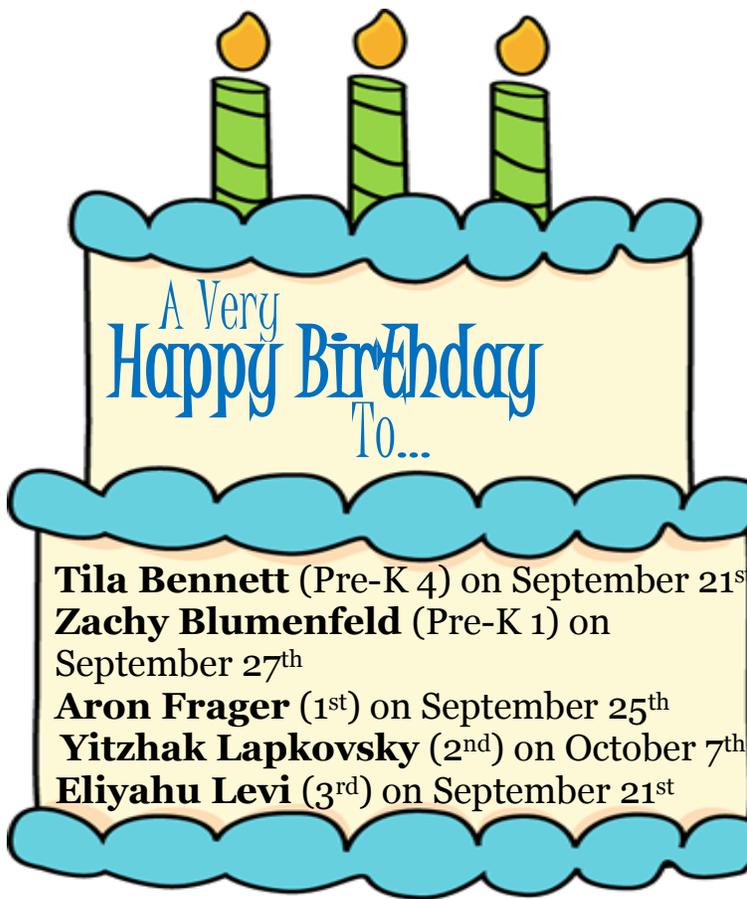
It may seem pretty simple, it may seem like not such a big deal.

But as we learned, greeting others *בספר פנים יפות*, with a shining smile goes a long way in brightening the other's day.

And it sure brightened mine!

**Come check out our OCA photo gallery:**

Log onto [www.ohrchadashbaltimore.org/school-life/gallery/](http://www.ohrchadashbaltimore.org/school-life/gallery/) to check out all that's going on here at Ohr Chadash!



What are you doing this Chol Hamoed Sukkot? Hershey park tickets are now available for sale!! Click on the link below to purchase your tickets for Sukkot.

<http://lancastersukkot.com/fundraiser/oca.php?c=fundraiser>

## PTA News

Is it the end of September already? We cannot believe that another two weeks at OCA have passed.

Our Back to School Picnic was a huge success with over 350 attendees! From juggling to balloons, face painting to pony rides, popcorn, cotton candy and a moonbounce for all ages...fun was definitely had by all! Thank you to Aaron Shiller for the festive music and to Jacob Fader and Hoffman & Co. for the delicious dinner!

But none of this would have been possible without our amazing parent volunteers. Special thank you to Jen Erez and Holly Vanderwalde for working on this event from beginning to end. Thank you Kori Pomerantz for your creativity and expertise. And to the following parent volunteers who assisted with the different booths during the event: Yael and Yitzchak Applebaum, Julie Blumenfeld, Adena Burstein, Lanie Carter, Chana Dena and Chanaya Cohen, Rina Einbinder, Jill Fishbein, Eva Gonsler, Risa Levi, Goldie Milner, Hinda Rosin, Susie Schoenfeld and Esti Taragin.

Enjoy the pictures from the event.

Thank you Eli Taragin!

We're looking forward to many more events together! Be on the lookout for SNL, our Saturday Night Learning!

May the upcoming year bring you and your family a year filled with many reasons to celebrate.

Shana Tova,  
*Yael and Kayla*  
 PTA presidents

**Hold onto your box tops!**



**Rosh Chodesh Cheshvon will be here before you know it!**

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