

Our 5th Year

Ohr Chadashot

The אור חדש NEWSLETTER

September 4, 2015 כ' אלול תשע"ה
 Volume 5, Issue 1 פרשת כי תבוא

From the desk
 of
 Rabbi
 Margalese



Welcome to all of our OCA parents and students. As we enter our 5th year of OCA I am filled with a strong sense of *simcha* and encouragement for future growth.

Rabbi Yehuda Appel writes, "Throughout Jewish literature, the Sages emphasize the need to lead one's life - especially one's spiritual life - with passion." In Rabbi Kalman Shapira's powerful spiritual guidebook, "*To Heal the Soul*," he declares that every human being is filled with passion; the only question is in which direction we focus those passions.

In this week's Torah portion, Ki Tavo, the

Torah describes for us many things that come about if we do not follow the mitzvot, emphasizing that this happens only because "You did not serve the Lord your God with joy and goodness of heart" (Deut. 28:47).

Proper service of God does not simply consist of observing the mitzvot—it involves doing them with joy! Ultimately, our true self is discovered by the direction toward which we focus our passions.

Ohr Chadash has started off the school year with this understanding. Putting passion into greeting our students and having teachers who are deeply passionate about the vision and mission of Ohr Chadash, looking for the inherent *kedusha* in everything around us and letting that infuse us with joy. We have approached our learning with joy, meeting our new friends with joy, and building on our previous years of success with joy.

I am looking forward to working together with each of you to infuse everything we do with *simcha* and passion.

Welcome to OCA!
 Shabbat Shalom

Calendar Heads-up!



No School
 Labor Day



No School
 Rosh Hashanah



ECC 3's and 4's
 Field trip to Port
 Discovery



Early Childhood
 Parent
 Orientation
 7:30-9 pm



2:20 pm
Dismissal
 Fast of Gedaliah



Back To School
 Picnic 4pm

7310 Park Heights Ave
 Baltimore, MD 21208

OHR CHADASH ACADEMY
www.ohrchadashbaltimore.org

410-999-2200

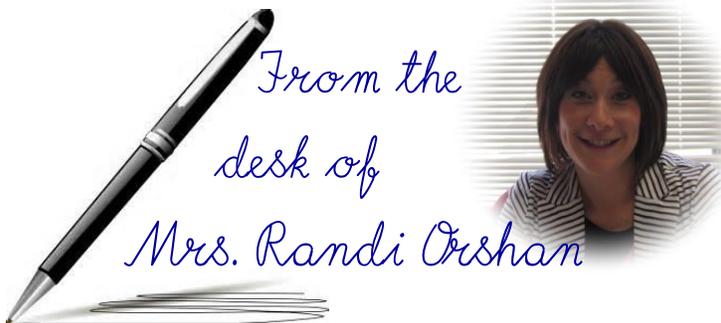


Welcome back to school! Our first ECC week was full of laughter, love, and learning. The ECC teachers have been working hard all summer updating classrooms, preparing new programs, activities, and centers to maximize growth and exploration. Our first activity was the Boo Hoo Breakfast, where parents and children came together to eat, shmooze, and transition into the school year. The cereal bar was a big hit and the children loved making their own chocolate milk at the drink station. Parents said goodbye after the breakfast and the kids were off to a jam packed day!

Over the course of the week children have been making new friends and connecting with

pals from last year. Our day starts with tefila and the three and four year old classes decorated beautiful siddurim to use throughout the year. An exciting addition to our program is Ivrit with Morah Abby Barnoy. Morah Abby brought her chaver (friend) Bentzi the puppet who taught the children how to greet each other in Hebrew. Rosh Hashanah is right around the corner and all of the ECC classes conducted apple explorations and activities. It's amazing how much has been accomplished over our first week and we can't wait to come back next Tuesday!

This year the ECC welcomes several new staff members to our teaching team. Morah Hadassah Swain is the new co-teacher in our four year old classroom. Morah Yona Engel is our new teacher for the two year old program. Morahs Zoe Ely, Rivka Marks, and Naomi Golfeiz are our new assistants. Thank you to our wonderful ECC parents for partnering with us to start the year off smoothly and successfully. We are looking forward to sharing much news and nachat (pride) over the year!



Welcome back to OCA! It is hard to believe that an entire summer has passed, and we are back in school for Ohr Chadash's fifth year. It was wonderful to see all of the smiling faces on the children as they walked through the jewels and received their treasures on the first day. OCA truly treasures each and every student!

There are so many exciting new things happening this year. Elementary electives, book clubs, and Play Works are just a few. More details to come! Your child/children will be coming home with a list of electives. Please be sure to rank each elective and send it back to school as soon as possible as electives will be starting after Sukkot. We are super anxious to start this program and feel each child will really enjoy having some free choice time in his/her day!

ParentLocker is an online school website that we will be using in place of Renweb. It is easily accessible and easy to navigate. We hope that you find it just as helpful and easy to use. ParentLocker is meant to open up a line of communication between you and the school and teachers. You will be able to stay informed and up-to-date on your children's homework, school news, events, how your children are doing in school, and more. You will also use ParentLocker to view report cards and schedule Parent Teacher conferences. If you have not done so already, visit <http://oca.parentlocker.com>, click the "Activate Account" link under the login box, and in the box that pops up, enter your activation code that was emailed to you. A daily email will be sent with your child/children's homework and an email will go out on Sunday if there are any events happening throughout that week.

We look forward to constant communication and a continued relationship.

Here's to a *great* year...

-Mrs. Randi Orshan

You Heard It Here: Personal Accounts of Week 1

Dahlia Carter, ECC 3's



"I liked playing games and playing. And I drew a picture of a happy face"

Ori Peretz, 3rd Grade



"It was fun getting the keys from Rabbi Margolese. And my mom packs me the greatest lunches in the whole class."

Yoni Kidorf, 5th Grade



"I liked the first week because I always feel welcome. Ohr Chadash is a very nice community"

Tilla Bennett, ECC 4's



"Today we had a Shabbos party!"

Tova Einbinder, ECC 4's



"I like to read a lot of books!"

Yardena Wollner, 2nd Grade



"My week at school is good, it's exciting. I love it! I'm having an awesome time at school."

Teacher's Account:

**Rabbi Mordechai
Bennett**



"It was awesome seeing all the new faces! We're ready for a year of learning and personal growth. We're excited to be setting up and integrating our new tablets. This week we began learning the Minhagim of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur"



MeOhr **raot**
Ohr Chadash:

Happenings in our Ohr Chadash Family

◆ Mazel Tov to Yeshaya & Shoshana Berzon on the upcoming celebration of their son Shmuel's bar mitzvah next shabbos, and on the recent celebration of their daughter Kayla's bat mitzvah

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*

While Rabbi Bennett demonstrated the proper procedure and etiquette for transitioning up/down the stairs...a student's shoelace became untied! Understanding the safety hazard, Moshe Scott quickly ran to tie the student's shoelace without anybody asking him! What beautiful מדות!



Like us on
Facebook!

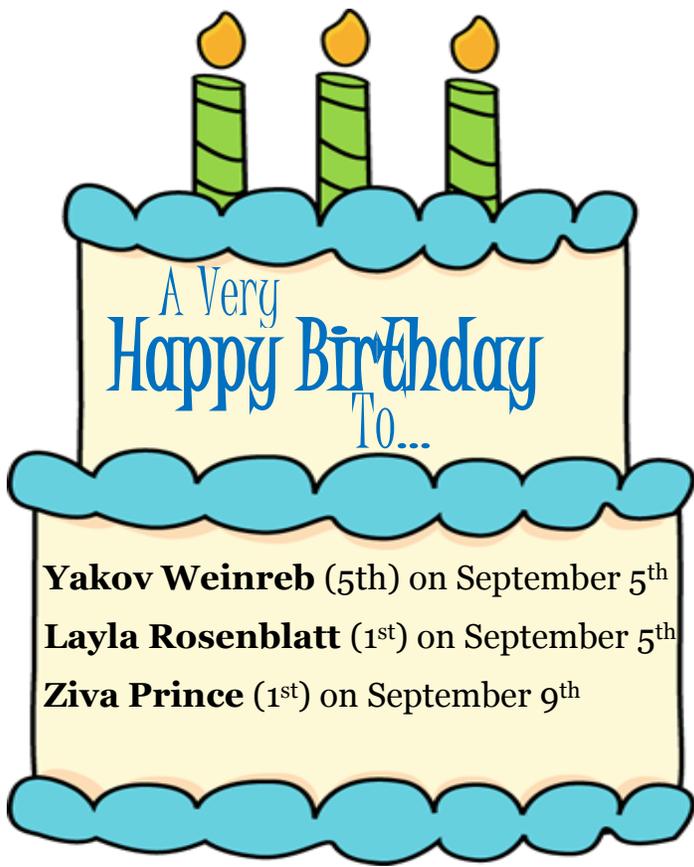
Visit our
website!...share
our website!

Spread the
beauty of
OCA

through
social networking!

Come check out our OCA photo gallery:

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



PTA News

Welcome back everyone!!!

The year has just begun and the PTA has *already* been busy welcoming our teachers back to school as well as the new families to the OCA family. Back to school night was a big success with many t-shirts, kippot, and headbands sold! Thank you to those parent volunteers who signed up for the various events we have coming up. We welcome more to do so.

We are currently looking for class parents. Please e-mail ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org if you are interested.

We look forward to seeing you on September 20th at 4 pm at our Back to School Picnic. If you are interested in helping out with this amazing event please email: ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org.

Until next time,
Yael and Kayla
 PTA presidents

HERSHEYPARK SM

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>



OHR CHADASH PICNIC

★ BACK TO SCHOOL ★

CELEBRATING OUR 5TH YEAR!

Where: 7310 Park Heights Avenue

When: September 20, 2015 at 4:00 pm

★ PRICE ★

\$10.00/Children

\$15.00/Adult

Family Max in Advance \$45.00

Family Max at the door \$50.00

pay via PayPal to
ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org
or checks accepted at the office

PICNIC DINNER ★ JUGGLER

★ MOON BOUNCE ★ BALLONS ★

COTTON CANDY ★ PONY RIDES

★ POPCORN ★ AND MORE ★

RSVP by September 11th to
ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org