

Volume 4 Issue 12
 April 24, 2015

Iyar 5, 5775
 Parashat Tazria-Metzora

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome back!

These past two weeks have been very full. We welcomed our students back with a picnic lunch and everyone enjoyed the start of the spring weather with delicious snow cones. In the classrooms, the students have, as always, continued to delve into the curriculum in meaningful ways. We have had assemblies and events for Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. The students really put forth effort to learn their songs, stomp and daglanut. They all came together and showed us a wonderful presentation. Thank you to all the OCA staff, parents, and volunteers. With your vision and dedication we are creating a truly unique place for our children.

In this week's parsha, we learn about a metzora/leper. The Sfat Emet presents a beautiful perspective on how to view the whole experience. He explains that the word metzora is a conjunction of two words: motzei ra, to bring out the bad. When a person has some tumah/impurity inside him, he is stuck with it. A kohein who is filled with love and kindness, the traits from Aron Hakohen, comes to the person and calls him a metzora. He brings the tumah from within the person to the outside. Only then, once the person is aware of the tumah and can see it, he/she can begin to fix it.

(continued on page 2)

Important OCA Dates

Wednesday, April 29

Pajama Day! Girls must wear skirt over pants

Sunday, May 3:

Sifriyat Pajama 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 7:

Lag B'omer Trip K-5

Preschool: activity on campus

Monday, May 18

Yom Yerushalayim assembly, grade 1

Thursday, May 31

Ohr Chadash Lot Market

From the Desk of Mrs. Randi Orshan



On Wednesday, April 15th, we had an inspiring Yom HaShoah assembly courtesy of the senior girls. They did a wonderful job portraying some of the many heroes from the Shoah. We heard how some non-Jews and some Jews risked their lives to save as many Jewish souls as they could by hiding them, providing food, or providing fake identity papers, all at the expense of their own lives. It was an eye opening lesson for us all knowing that just one act of kindness and bravery could save a life.

On Thursday, April 23rd, we celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The teachers and children busily prepared for this joyous day. Each classroom was set up to represent something related to modern day Chumash. For example, in the third grade classroom, students studied the shekel and how it has changed over time then made their own out of clay. The students compared maps in the second grade and learned about shmitta from Morah Ellie in the 4/5 grade girls' classroom. The experience was unique, and each child learned something new about Israel and modern day Chumash. We all enjoyed a school-wide lunch with delicious blue and white cupcakes courtesy of the PTA.

From the Principal's Desk

(continued from page 1)

During the days of sefirah that we are currently in, we spend time working on our middot, reflecting on how to improve our personalities and our relationship with Hashem. Many have the custom to learn Pirkei Avot during these weeks, which has a strong focus on developing our middot. If we use the approach of the Sfat Emet, then we can feel, with simcha, that we can see and notice our defects and the areas of our personality that need growth. We can see that gift Hashem has given us, not let things stay hidden inside, but to be motzei ra.

This approach/attitude is part of the fabric of Ohr Chadash. We can be receptive to the dedicated parents, board, and community members, who, from a place of love and kindness, show us the areas in OCA in need of growth. Additionally, we can appreciate them and thank them for their assistance. We also see our students role model for us how to take on areas of challenge for themselves, how they approach it with an attitude of using this knowledge, and making it a goal of growing.

Together we can all look after each other and help each other grow, to bring out the tumah within us and ultimately fix it and turn it into taharah/purity.

Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi Moshe Margolese

Around the Halls of OCA



Before Pesach, the students of the **ECC** enjoyed a Model Seder thanks to the help of the Student Government. We journeyed through the entire Seder, enjoyed yummy snacks, and loved singing all the songs we had learned. Special thanks to Mrs. Orshan and the Student Government for helping us through the Seder and making it so much fun!



Mrs. A's kindergarten class is learning so much this year. A book challenge was recently sent home to her class. That's right! She is challenging the class to collectively read level appropriate books to total 800 all together. Mrs. A feels that it is important children feel ownership over their responsibility to contribute to the class goal. That is amazing news from our kindergarten! In Judaics, they have been learning about Sefirat Haomer and selections from Pirkei Avot.



Mrs. Golfeyz's first graders are published authors! Congratulations to them on this accomplishment. The first graders wrote and illustrated their first real book called, "OCA, A Place Where We Want to Stay!" Each student wrote about their favorite part of first grade or something they like about Ohr Chadash. The first book was written with so much enthusiasm and excitement that the first graders have already begun their next piece called, "If you give a first grader a car..." Stay tuned if you want to hear about the adventures a first grader may have once given a set of car keys! In technology class with **Mrs. Taragin**, the first graders completed a unit making graphs of their favorite Shabbat foods using the word processing and desktop publishing tools they have been using all year. They enjoyed creating shapes, resizing, coloring and duplicating. These lovely graphs are hanging in the hallway outside of room 204.



What a wonderful first week back in school after Pesach in **Morah Ziffer's kita alef**. The students excitedly began their fourth (and final) Ariote workbook. They enjoyed the Peel Pelone story and celebrated its contents by making and eating a "salat shel peelim." Within the context of the pey/fey unit, the students learned how to write the letter fey sofit. After practicing their penmanship, many used their creativity and the letter fey sofit to create pictures of their own roller coaster rides. In tefillah, the children are davening beautifully. They began saying the bracha Asher Yatzar from their siddurim. The introduction of this bracha generated much discussion about appreciation for a healthy



body. The students recite the daily sefirah count at the end of davening. In conjunction with sefirah and in preparation for Matan Torah, kita alef began learning Pirkei Avot - one mishna is discussed each week.

Mrs. Rubenstein's class (second grade general studies) is so proud of the beautiful letter they received from the Jewish Community Services organization. The letter was in response to the Pesach cards that the children made for some of the less fortunate Jewish people living in Baltimore. Please see this letter on page 6. Second graders learned first-hand the importance of being a caring citizen in our community. In their *WONDERS* reading anthology, second graders read about the ways that they can show good citizenship. They also wrote about the way in which each child has shown that he/she is a good citizen at home, in school, or in the surrounding community.

Morah Yaffa's kitah bet has gotten off to a great start after their refreshing Pesach Vacations! We recently began implementing a "flipped classroom" approach to learning. This allows the students to decode the possuk at home on their own, leaving them with even more time in class for discussions. The students have a great feeling of satisfaction when they realize how many shorashim and skills they have mastered, and that they are really able to learn pesukim completely by themselves! Kol Hakovod Kitah Bet!

On their first day back from vacation last week, **Mrs. Mann's third grade** welcomed a special visitor to Room 213! A big thank you goes out to Chana Dena



Cohen who came to offer business consultation services to the students participating in The Lemonade War! Mrs. Cohen educated the students about the mechanics of a small business, from balancing a budget to making smart advertising moves. After her presentation, she consulted with both groups and gave invaluable advice! Last weekend, the treasurers calculated supply costs and soon students will begin putting their advertising plan in motion. **In Mrs. Taragin's technology class**, the



students have begun creating their ads.



Morah Avigail's kitah gimel and the entire school skyped with Morah Avigail's brother on Yom Hazikaron to discuss volunteering to serve in the Israeli army and fighting in Tzuk Eitan (the war against Hamas in Gaza) last year. His pluga (unit) received an award for amazing service. He served as a nega-



go into buildings and territories. Before the Skyping, in silence for 1 minute in honor of Yom Hazikaron



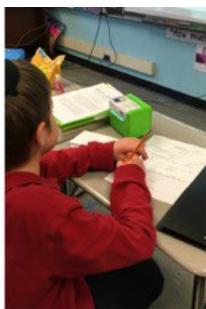
while the siren was sounded.



A big Yasher Koach to the girls of **Morah Shulman's senior girls' class** for running a beautiful Yom Hashoah program last week. ערב יום השואה. It was very moving to see our students up on stage, sharing inspiring stories and lessons about our heritage. They showed respect and honor to the survivors of the Holocaust, and by doing so they also showed kavod (honor) to their parents and grandparents, the school, and Jews everywhere. We in OCA are so proud of each one of the senior girls!



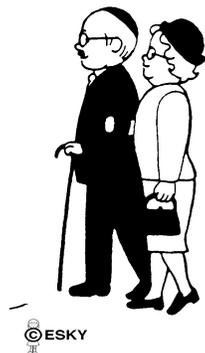
In **Mrs. Mann's fourth and fifth grade class**, they learned the research process In preparation for the students' upcoming book report. As a class, they researched for an essay entitled "The Road to War," examining the events that led up to the Boston Massacre/Boston Tea Party (the first essay topic). The students learned how to write research note cards and incorporate that information into an outline. Each student exited these lessons feeling confident and optimistic that they will be very successful with the upcoming project. What a useful skill for them to learn so early in life! In **Mrs. Taragin's technology class**, the fourth and fifth graders have been excitedly preparing autobiographical powerpoint presentations, "All About Me."



for the students' upcoming book report. As a class, they researched for an essay entitled "The Road to War," examining the events that led up to the Boston Massacre/Boston Tea Party (the first essay topic). The students learned how to write research note cards and incorporate that information into an outline. Each student exited these lessons feeling confident and optimistic that they will be very successful with the upcoming project. What a useful skill for them to learn so early in life!



On Friday, April 17th, 28 Nissan, **Rabbi Bennett's 4th/5th class** had the privilege of introducing the middah of the month for the month of Iyar. In Iyar, Ohr Chadash is focusing on Hadarat P'nei Zakein - Respecting the elderly. The presentation was comprised of four scenes illustrating this most important middah. Each scene was written and acted out by the students. It was most entertaining!



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

- ◆ Mazal tov to board member Josh Friedman and former OCA teacher Becca on the birth of a son, brother to Shuli (Pre-K4) and future OCA student, Bella.
- ◆ Mazal tov to board member Dr. Susie Schoenfeld and her husband Matt, on the bar mitzvah this Shabbat of their son, Noam, brother of Sara (K).
- ◆ Condolences to Melissa Mako on the passing of her grandfather, Leonard Glassman, great-grandfather of Sarah Chaya (3) and Shoshana (K).



Mrs. Rubenstein & her Second Grade Class
Ohr Chadash Academy
March 31, 2015

Dear Mrs. Rubenstein and Second Graders,

Jewish Community Services cannot thank you enough for sending us the beautiful Passover Greeting cards that you made for some of the people who we help to have a happy holiday. We know that Mrs. Rubenstein has explained that our job at JCS is to help families in our neighborhood who may not have as much to celebrate as other people in our community.

We can promise you that your beautifully drawn and decorated cards will bring smiles to anyone who receives them. It was very kind of you to take the time to think and act to make other people know that someone cares about them.

We consider your class our "special volunteers" who contribute to the well-being of the JCS families. There is no greater mitzvah than that.

We want to wish a Happy and Healthy Passover to you, your friends and your family.

Many thanks,
Rozi Rice

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rozi Rice'.

Rozi Rice
Volunteer Coordinator, Client Services
5750 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
410-843-7325
rrice@jcsbaltimore.org



Jewish Community Services
5750 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
410-466-9200 • Fax: 410-664-0551
www.jcsbaltimore.org

Yom Haatzmaut at OCA



Teacher Appreciation Week

Dear Ohr Chadash Families,

This has been an exciting week for me as I went to each class and collected the thank you notes and generous gift cards you sent to school. From May 4-8, our hard working staff will celebrate a memorable week at Ohr Chadash.

Thank you to the class parents who have sent out emails to tell you about the upcoming events of that week. Remember to send in the rest of the goodies on the designated days in May. Your class parent will send out a reminder.

Our families have been so thoughtful. We're not surprised!

Sincerely,
OCA-PTA, Janet Forsythe, and the Committee

Happy April Birthdays

Ariella Erez — PreK3

Omer Peretz— 1

Jack Weisbord—PreK3

Aliza Reich—2

Maayan Abramson—PreK4

Neima Fogel — 4

Daniella Eastman — K



Check out our Photo Gallery

To see photos of school activities, please check out the Photo Gallery on our school website at <http://www.ohrchadashbaltimore.org/school-life/gallery/>

OCA-PTA News

Thank you all so much for your support of our Yom Ha' Atzmaut program earlier this week! It was a wonderful evening and we could not have done it without our volunteers. Thank you to: Riva Abrams, Melissa Mako, Rivka Bluestein, Yael Applebaum and Terri Rosen.

Have you signed up for the JCN 5k race yet? We would love to see more smiling faces on our OCA teams. To sign up for the Women's team you can register at http://www.wizathon.com/jcn5krun-women/index.php?p=display&action=team_Page&id=653. If you are interested in chairing the men's team please let us know. OCA is proud to support JCN which provides much needed support to local families during some hard times.

SAVE THE DATE - On Monday, May 11th, we'll be having a ladies night out at OCA. Join us for an inspiring D'var Torah and the opportunity to share great food with your fellow OCA moms. A flyer will be sent out shortly.

In addition, in the coming weeks we will be having our annual Shavout Bake sale. Stay tuned for more information about ordering delectable treats for Yom Tov.

As always, 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/plus/?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=wsww&>

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 yearzeits, 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.



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

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 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.

SHEMESH PRESENTS

SPRING SYMPOSIUM

GPS for Social Success: Helping Children Navigate Their World



Keynote Address by Rona Novick, Ph.D.

Dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration at Yeshiva University

Sunday, May 3, 2015

8:45 - 11:45 a.m.

*Registration at 8:45 a.m. Walk-Ins Welcome
Program begins at 9:15*

**Weinberg Park Heights JCC,
Community Room**
5700 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore

Registration

\$10 early registration, by April 29

\$15 Walk In Registration

\$30 for 2.0 CEUs for mental health professionals

Followed by Breakout Sessions (choose one)

I. Helping the Socially Anxious Child

Tana Hope, Ph.D. and Kristi Phillips, Psy.D. - Child and Family Therapy Clinic at the Kennedy Krieger Institute

II. Boys Will Be Boys: Fostering Healthy Social Development

Rabbi David Hochberg - Maryland Counseling Network

III. Building Classroom Community: Where Every Child Belongs

Rona Novick, Ph.D. - Yeshiva University

IV. The Ins and Outs of Social Skills Groups

Elie Sollins, LGSW - Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at the Kennedy Krieger Institute

**Register online at shemeshbaltimore.org/events
for more information ghaor@shemeshbaltimore.org 410-843-7588**



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MAY 31ST
9:30AM - 12PM

7310 PARK HEIGHTS AVE
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AND SELL YOUR STUFF

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MRS. RANDI ORSHAN VIA E-MAIL
RORSHAN@OHRCHADASHBALTIMORE.ORG OR CALL (410)999-2200

Picture Perfect
Photography by Yaffa

Ohr Chadash School Pictures



We are excited to offer school portraits through Picture Perfect: Photography by Yaffa.

Portraits can be ordered directly from the Picture Perfect site (www.photographybyyaffa.com). Please refer to your e-mail for your access code. All portraits will be delivered in school. If you would like to have your portraits prior to Shavuot, your order must be placed by Monday, May 4th.

If your order is for more than \$25, use coupon code "10off" to get a 10% discount. This discount does not apply to the packages, as they are already discounted.

The OCA-PTA will receive a percentage of all portraits ordered.

If you have any questions, please email Yaffa at ywygoda@ohrchadashbaltimore.org with "School Pictures" as the subject.





Ohr Chadash Academy School Pictures Order Form:

Package A

4 - 4 x 6
8 - Wallets
Class Picture
Total: \$15

Package B

2 - 5x7
4 - 4x6
8 - Wallets
Class Picture
Total: \$30

Class Picture

1 - 8 x 10
Total: \$10

Package C

1 - 8 x 10
2 - 5x7
4 - 4x6
Class Picture
Total: \$25

Package D

2 - 8x10
2 - 5x7
4 - 4x8
Class Picture
Total: \$30

Additional Prints: (other sizes available upon request)

4 x 6 \$3
5 x 7 \$5
8 x 10 \$12
24 x 36 \$70
Wallets \$4 (multiples of 4)

Pictures on Canvas, mugs, pillows, key chains and more are available. E-mail for prices.

For any order over \$25 (not a package) you will receive a 10% discount

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Which picture would you like printed? _____

Please specify if it is Black and White or color? _____

Would you like your picture printed in Black and white or color? _____

Package: _____

Additional Prints: _____

Total: _____

Checks should be payable to Yaffa Wygoda. Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover cards are accepted.
Order forms can be mailed to Yaffa Wygoda 3117 Bonnie Road Baltimore, MD 21208.
Orders are also accepted over the phone by calling 443-453-6814.