

Volume 4 Issue 15  
 June 12, 2015

Sivan 25 5775  
 Parashat Shlach

## From the Principal's Desk



What an amazing year at OCA! From the first step into Ohr Chadash, you feel a sense of warmth and happiness. What makes us so happy? Why are our teachers so motivated to teach their students? What makes the kids excited to come to school and create this atmosphere?

The answer is growth.

It is so energizing to be in a place where everyone and everything is growing. The students are putting in hours and hours every day and night to foster and water their growth. The teachers are networking, researching, creating, collaborating, and learning from their students to foster their growth. The parents are partnering, participating, and investing their time and resources to grow our school. The school has been a well spring for the community, helping shape a vision of a unique balance between a valued education and authentic knowledge and care for each student.

Together, we have spent this year being guided by striving for excellence, focusing on individuality, and creating our community. As I reflect back on this year, I share a deep sense of pride to be together with you in this process of growth.

**(continued on page 2)**

## Important OCA Dates



**Monday, June 15:**

Great Adventure Trip, Grades 3,4,5

**Tuesday, June 16:**

Pre-K 4's Showcase 10:00 AM

Kindergarten Showcase 2:00 PM

**Wednesday, June 17:**

Last day of School 11:30 Dismissal

10:00 Award Ceremony

## Have a great summer vacation!

## From the Desk of Mrs. Randi Orshan



What a wonderful year it has been! The students, faculty, and staff have enjoyed their year at OCA and that is evident by the smiles you see in the halls and the excitement you feel when you walk through the door. Aside from the tremendous amount of learning that took place this year, there were many opportunities for each child to express him/herself in creative ways thanks to the Student Government. The students all enjoyed the crazy calendar days, tzedakah drives, and the overall sense of "having a say." As one student so eloquently stated, "it was nice to feel a part of something and know that you are being listened to."

This past week was OCA Spirit Week, and boy did the students and faculty of OCA bring their spirit! It all started with a new OCA cheer that everyone learned then sang. Next came time to design the first ever OCA mascot. Each class worked hard to come up with a unique representation of OCA. The votes are in and the mascot will be announced shortly. Please keep an eye out for the winner! Another activity that took place during Spirit Week was "I Love OCA" day. Each child had to write a few sentences as to why he/she loves OCA. Answers varied from "OCA is fun" to "the teachers are great!" But I think my favorite one was from a Pre-K 4's student. She wrote, "I love OCA. To me, OCA is my home." I think that one statement encompasses the overall feel of what we try to accomplish; OCA is like home. Each and every student feels comfortable, safe, and ready to tackle a new challenge. We are one big family, and I thank you for being apart of it and allowing us to the honor of raising your children along with you.

Have a great summer, and I can't wait to see you next year!

Sincerely,

Randi Orshan

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## From the Principal's Desk

(continued from page 1)

Earlier this year, one of our students handed me a note. I have had this note hanging in front of me at my desk all year long. It expresses her neshama in a beautiful way, and it is something that I think we can all relate to as we work on our own continued growth.

*"I love Hashem and Hashem loves me. I will daven to Hashem and Hashem will listen to me and I will do tzedakkah. I wish that I could hear Hashem and feel Hashem so that I could hug and kiss Him because I love him so much and Hashem loves me the same exact amount"*

Thank you for creating the happiest place, a place where everyone grows.

Looking forward to many more years of growth together

Respectfully,

Moshe Margolese

Shabbat Shalom

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# Around the Halls of OCA



In **Morah Yael's Pre-K 3** class, they have been counting down the last 10 days of school with surprise activities! From making play-doh to mystery guest readers to water balloons, they have had a blast finding and popping numbered balloons corresponding to each day!



In **Morah Anne's Pre-K 4** class, they have been celebrating the last 26(!) days of school by participating in special days corresponding to each letter of the alphabet! From Art day to Zoo day and everything in between, they have had a blast reviewing the ABCs!



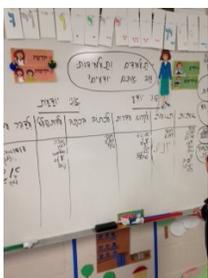
Thank you to the following parents who chaperoned the ECC trip to the zoo: Jill Fishbein, Rabbi Bennett Abby Barnoy, Rabbi Margolese and Mrs. Orshan.



**Mrs. A's Kindergarten** class thanks Mr. Shua Bier, Eitan's father, for visiting their class and teaching them what it means to be a lawyer. They also enjoyed a presentation by representatives of Hatzalah this week.



**Mrs. Golfeyz's** first graders enjoyed their trip to the American Visionary Arts Museum! First, they participated in a Mr. Imagination workshop and learned about making crafts out of ordinary objects. Each student was given a paintbrush, clay, and lots of other materials to make a person or animal creation. Following the activity, the students enjoyed seeing the fascinating displays throughout the museum. Thank you to parent volunteers, Mrs. Peretz and Mrs. Bakaev, for driving and chaperoning the trip. They could not have gone without your help!



**Morah Ziffer's Kita Alef** is so proud! "Anachnu yodim Ivrit." The students marked their completion of their final Ariote workbook. They read the board and identified three areas of knowledge of which they were particularly proud. Then, they were honored by both Rabbi Margolese and Mrs. Orshan's presence as they took parts and read the entire last story. Both Rabbi Margolese and Mrs. Orshan congratulated the children on their accomplishments. The students celebrated with cookies and watermelon! Later in the morning, while learning about Birkat Kohanim, they were challenged to read the three parts of the bracha. They discovered a kaf sofit at the end of the word "vi'chuneka." Todah rabah "Nkudot!" This is a letter the children have learned in their "Anachnu Korim" text.



The children in **Mrs. Rubenstein's second grade** took a very special trip on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They visited the Star Spangled Banner Flag House. Enjoy these pictures of their trip. Thank you to the parents who chaperoned: Mrs. Peretz, Mrs. Reich, Mrs. Birnbaum Dr. and Mrs. Gonsher, and grandma, Mrs. Warschawski. Mrs. Warschawski was very impressed at the beautiful behavior of the students on the trip. What a Kiddush Hashem!!



The children in second grade were very excited to release the butterflies which hatched. The children watched the development from larvae to chrysalides. Although some of the 5 butterflies were eager to fly away, one butterfly loved his garden environment and didn't want to go. The children were able to coax him and away he flew.

**Morah Yaffa Wygoda's Kitah Bet** has been really enjoying their last few weeks of school. They recently finished Parshat Lech Lecha and began learning Parshat Vvayera. They have been working hard in ivrit, writing many paragraphs and enjoying centers to review the many skills we learned this year!



At the OCA Lot Sale, Kitah Bet raised over \$300 to buy books, balls, games and more for their classroom. Thank you to all of the families that donated items for us to sell and the students that helped run the table. Kol HaKavod!



**Mrs. Mann's Third Grade** had an unbelievable journey through time as they visited the Kids' Cannery at



the Baltimore Museum of Industry! Working at an 1883 oyster cannery is no small feat, and the students can surely tell you how tiring it is to stand on your feet for 10 hours a day shucking oysters, printing labels, or making cans. This field trip was a wonderful tie-in to many of the social studies concepts they have discussed this year. In addition, since the students were able to experience the value of a day's work, this also



brought up themes that were discussed during the Lemonade War.



**Mazal tov to Morah Avigail's Kitah Gimel** on completing Parshat Vayetze in Chumash. For their siyum, the students created games and shared them with their friends. Everyone really enjoyed. It was incredible how much they learned in Vayetze!



**Mrs. Mann's Fourth and Fifth grade class** had an absolutely phenomenal time in Washington, D.C. last week. From early morning until late in the evening, they were busy bees. They started their day at the Capitol Building, where they were ushered into the office of Congressman Sarbanes. On the way to his office, the students were so excited to point out all of the plaques identifying the states that the congressmen were representing. They even noticed Guam, which the kids learned is a territory of the United States. Unfortunately, the students were unable to meet with Congressman Sarbanes, because he was stuck running between two very important hearings on an issue that took top priority. As the students learned, that's life as an important government official! Instead, they met with his Deputy Chief of Staff who took them through a day in the life of a congressman, the election process, and issues a repre-



sentative would be helpful in solving. They took a tour of the Capitol and then visited three museums in quick succession. They visited the National Museum of American History. They also visited the children's exhibit "Daniel's Story" in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Their last museum of the day was the Newseum, a museum completely devoted to the evolution and influence of media and news culture. Everyone had a wonderful time on this trip, and it was a real bonding experience for the Senior class.



In **Science class with Ms. McCown**, The fourth and fifth graders put their engineering skills to the test this past week as they participated in OCA's third annual Egg Drop Build. Each student was given materials and asked to design a structure that would keep a raw egg from breaking after being dropped off a ladder. Each contraption was dropped off of an eight foot ladder, and we were pleased to find that we had more successes this year than any other year! Way to go, Fourth and Fifth Grade!



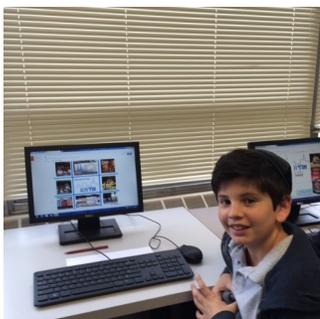
In other science news, Kindergarten and First grade made octopi and learned how these undersea creatures are masters of camouflage. Second and Third grade had a special guest who showed the students how to lift their fingerprints off of objects, and what it might be like to



work in Forensics. We have had a busy few months in the Science Lab, and we can't wait to use the science skills we acquired this year to keep exploring all summer long!

In **Mrs. Taragin's technology classes**, all the classes, 1-5, progressed nicely through "Keyboarding Without Tears." The Kindergarten was very proud of their Torahs which they made on Google Drawing. They were able to make interesting Torahs, using the shapes tool, which they then colored. The first grade classes made 3D shapes, and graphs, and fathers' day cards, using Google Drawing. The 3rd grade used their knowledge of Google drawing to make advertisements for their recent Lemonade War. They also made slide presentations, "All About Me."

**The fourth and fifth grade classes** had a special opportunity in **Mrs. Taragin's technology class** last week. They held a "Google Hangout" with members of an amazing organization, ACHI. Achi stands for "American Communities Helping Israel." The students heard an easy way of helping "achi" (my brother) in Israel, by buying Israeli products for Shabbat, mishloach manot, snacks etc. This is an excellent way of countering the BDS movement, which is trying to stifle the Israeli economy by boycotting Israeli made products. As a culminating activity, the children made advertisements on the computer, advertising ACHI and their tag line: "Think Israel, buy Israeli." The week after, they each received a laminated placemat made out of their ad, to help remind them of the ACHI message. Please read the thank you



## Thank you from ACHI

letter we received from them.

### An Exciting Morning for the ACHI Team at Ohr Chadash Academy

Thank you Mrs. Tova Taragin for inviting the ACHI Team into your computer class on Wednesday, June 3. We appreciate your creative thinking that allowed us to present ACHI (American Communities Helping Israel) and its goals **virtually** to your fourth and fifth grade students.

Your students were responsive to our presentation and we are looking forward to using the ads they created in your class that promote ACHI and Think Israel Buy Israel.

ACHI is counting on your students to become ambassadors for ACHI and as they said “spread the word” to their families, neighbors and friends – *Keep Israel in your Hearts and Minds – Think Israel Buy Israeli.* As we say - “Don’t leave the supermarket without an Israeli product in your shopping cart!”

We look forward to our continued relationship with OCA next year.

With much appreciation,  
The ACHI Team  
[www.achi613.org](http://www.achi613.org)



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

- ◆ Mazal tov to Mrs. Mary Sue Rubenstein and her husband Arthur on the upcoming marriage of their granddaughter Tali Portal to David Clements.
- ◆ Mazal tov to Morah Gila Fixler on the marriage of her brother Zevie Levine to Esther Rivka Vashovsky.
- ◆ Mazal tov to Aaron and DeeDee Shiller and Meital (grade 3) on the bar mitzvah last Shabbat of Matan, former OCA student. Mazal tov also to Emuna, former OCA student.
- ◆ Mazal tov to Mr. Jonathan Polirer (father of Lexi, grade 3) on his forthcoming marriage to Ms. CG Fordonski.
- ◆ Mazal tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid Meyer on the birth of a daughter.
- ◆ Mazal tov to the family of Ken Gelula on the graduation of 2 grandchildren, from High School.
- ◆ Mazal tov to all our former OCA students who graduated from 8th grade.
- Refuah shlaimah and speedy recovery wishes to board member Janet Forsythe on her upcoming knee surgery.
- Thank you to Saba and Safta Oppenheimer who are dedicating a day of learning in honor of Ella Birnbaum's birthday.
- Hatzlacha to the Juni and Perry families who are making Aliyah this summer. You will be missed.

# Happy June Birthdays

Aviya Barnoy — PreK3

Ella Birnbaum—2

Hadar Efron — PreK4

Ephraim Mordechai Gonsher — 2

Eytan Erez — K

Ella Tehillah Gonsher — 2

Yonatan Bakaev — 1

Binyamin Jankowitz—2

Naava Goodman—1

Kobi Taragin — 2

Abbi Breitowitz—1

Noam Pasch — 2

Elan Bashyrov—1



# Happy Summer Birthdays

Caleb VanderWalde — Pre-k 3

Navah Jakobi — 2

Rina Bier — Pre-k 4

Avigail Perry — 2

Asher Pasch — Pre-k 4

Nava Sitrin — 2

Ami Huff — K

Aminadav Adler — 3

Kfir Jedwab — K

Elimelech Feinstein — 3

Shoshana Mako — K

Rachelli Khoshayev — 3

Kfir Kelemer — 1

Chaya Sternbach — 4



# 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](mailto:office@ohrchadashbaltimore.org).

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# OCA-PTA News

It's hard to believe that we are in the home stretch of the 2014-15 school year. As we end the year PTA would like to thank the many volunteers who have helped make all of our programming a success this year.

Thank you to our dedicated hot lunch volunteers: Riva Abrams, Carolyn Bakaev, Moe Breitowitz and Yaakov Sitrin. Thank you also to Morah Beth and Morah Becky for standing in as well. This program would not have worked without your assistance. Thank you!

Thank you to our class parents who most notably facilitated an extremely successful teacher appreciation week but also helped us tremendously during the course of the year:

Pre K3 - Jen Erez  
Pre K4 - Jill Fishbein, Shaina Margolese  
K - Goldie Millner  
1 - Carolyn Bakaev  
2 - Erica Birnbaum  
3 - Pearl Dwek  
4 - Aviva Kidorf, Chavi Goffin  
5 - Lori Larsen

Thank you to Rabbi Bennett for running Motzei Shabbat Family Learning over the winter months. Motzei Shabbat Learning had record-breaking attendance this year under Rabbi Bennett's leadership. His enthusiasm and great Divrei Torah made for a wonderful program!

Thank you to Janet Forsythe for spearheading all teacher appreciation activities this year. Her creative mind and thoughtful personality truly took teacher appreciation to a new level.

Thank you to all of our parents and students who have volunteered to help at events and have made our jobs as PTA Presidents very enjoyable over the past 2 years.

There are still plenty of OCA t-shirts, water bottles, and sweatshirts available for purchase in the office and we will be restocking kippot, ordering toddler size shirts, and creating OCA headbands over the summer!

There are still plenty of OCA t-shirts and sweatshirts available for purchase in the office and we will be restocking kippot, ordering toddler size shirts and creating OCA headbands over the summer!

We are excited to introduce the incoming Presidents, Yael Schwarzenberger and Kayla Berger. They bring a great energy to the school and are full of wonderful plans and ideas for the coming year. We have enjoyed getting to know you, your families and the entire OCA family during our tenure as presidents. We look forward to remaining involved as OCA continues to grow to new heights.

Shabbat Shalom

Lanie and Rena

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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](mailto: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](http://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 [tтарagin@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:tтарagin@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.