

Volume 4 Issue 10  
 March 13, 2015

22 Adar, 5775  
 Parashat Vayakhel-Pekuday

## From the Principal's Desk



There are many areas in our life that are filled with inherent Kedusha. One of those days is Shabbat. The beginning of this week's Parsha says very clearly, "On six days work may be done, but the seventh day shall be holy for you, a day of complete rest for Hashem." There are other areas of our life that are not inherently Kadosh, but depending on how we view something or how we act in that situation, we can make it holy. Eating is a prime example of this, where we have an opportunity to bring holiness to the basic act of eating by making a bracha on it.

I would like to share with you something that I learned that gave me a fresh perspective on something mundane. At the end of every day, we wind down and get into our beds. We sleep for a certain number of hours and then start our day by thanking Hashem for a new day. In reality, this picture is not really true. We, as Jewish people, know that our day starts at night. So why would Hashem make it that we start our day having hours of doing nothing? If we shift our thinking we can see a very powerful idea - that Hashem wants us to appreciate and live. We start our day by resting, by

**Continued on page 2**

## Important OCA Dates

<b>Sunday, March 15:</b>	<b>Sifriyat Pajama 4:00 PM</b>
<b>Friday, March 20:</b>	<b>Preschool Midda Assembly: 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Monday, March 23-Friday March 27:</b>	<b>Chametz Drive</b>
<b>Monday, March 30:</b>	<b>Matza Factory Trip: PK4-2nd Grade</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 31:</b>	<b>Dismissal: 11:30 AM</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 1—Sunday, April 12</b>	<b>Pesach Vacation</b>

## From the Desk of Mrs. Randi Orshan



In just a few short weeks, we celebrate the holiday of Pesach. As this Yom Tov approaches, we begin to “clean” our homes, cars, and anywhere else that is needed. At Ohr Chadash, we are “cleaning” every day. We clean our minds so they are ready to learn, we clean our desks so we can focus on the task at hand, we clean our lockers so we can find our materials, and we clean the school so we have a beautiful place to educate ourselves. The students are taught that the act of cleaning is a mitzvah, which is why the midda of the month is לסדר ומסודר - to organize and be organized.

Students are taught how to not only organize their belongings, but how to organize their thoughts to form a well-reasoned answer. In both Judaics and General Studies, teachers teach the students many techniques to accomplish this. We are preparing our students for the future where being organized and having a clean mind, body, and soul will help them accomplish their dreams. So as you busily prepare and begin the process of cleaning and organizing, remember your child has already begun that process, and is available to help!

### From the Principal's desk (continued from page 1)

dreaming, by having a vision. After we have spent hours being in a place without limitations, where we are open to letting the impossible become possible, we then wake up and thank Hashem for letting us have the opportunity to live out that which we dream. This is how every Jewish person starts their day! We dream, we explore, we have vision, and we reframe to look at our “rest time” as an integral part of having the most productive waking hours.

While this reframing was a fresh perspective for me, it is not new for OCA. We have established a school led by vision. A school filled with people that are excited to know that the (im)possible is really possible. We are creating a place that is focused on the students, a place that is not tied down by doing just what has been done in the past, a place that is willing to learn and grow. I hope you have a very inspiring and restful Shabbat.

Rabbi Moshe Margolese

## Happy March Birthdays

*Ella Rosen — PreK4*

*Moshe Sitrin — 4*

*Leora Juni — K*

*Isaac Reitberger—5*

*Yehoshua Gunzburg — 1*

*Tziporah Gunzburg—5*



# Around the Halls of OCA



In **Morah Yael's PreK3** and **Morah Anne's PreK4** classes, as a way to celebrate Chodesh Adar, during the week before Purim, they welcomed Ms. Kim as Daisy the Clown. She taught all about the different types of clowns and showed the students how she transforms herself into a clown. The classes were then treated to a special magic show where they got to pet a real rabbit! Everyone had so much fun!



**Morah Anne's PreK4** celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday together with Mrs. Rubenstein's second grade.



**Mrs. A's kindergarten class** was so surprised when Morah Luna and Mrs. A walked in dressed as 100 year old ladies, complete with walkers, canes, and knee-highs rolled down. They were celebrating the 100th day of school. Dr. Julie, a local dentist also visited the kindergarten class and taught them how to take care of their teeth.

**Mrs. Golfeyz's first grade** went on a field trip to the Pikesville Library last week! First, they listened to a story read by one of the librarians, Mrs. Karen Hauffman. They were then given a "behind the scenes" tour of the library and taught about the Dewey Decimal system. They had a scavenger hunt to locate books using the system. They each chose two books (one fiction and one non-fiction) to take back to read in school. Thank you to Mrs. Brandriss, Mrs. Kelemer, and Mrs. Goodman for driving the students back and forth.



**Morah Ziffer's kita alef** students enjoyed a wonderful snowy Purim. They now look forward to Chag Ha'aviv - Chag HaPesach. They began learning about this important holiday by brainstorming what they already know. They then began asking questions. Why do we drink four cups of wine? Why do we celebrate Pesach? As they prepare for this very special holiday, they will discover answers to what they have asked and undoubtedly ask even more questions! In preparation for Parent- Teacher Conferences, kita alef students reviewed their own portfolios. In comparing recent work to earlier work, they appreciated how much they have learned and grown. They also had the opportunity to reflect on what they are proud about like being a good friend, doing chesed, davening, learning Torah, reading and writing Hebrew!

**Mrs. Rubenstein's class (second grade general studies)** is learning all about money in math. They are really excelling at this new skill. On March 2, the second graders visited **Morah Anne's PreK4** class in honor of the birthday of "Dr. Seuss" and the celebration of "READ ACROSS AMERICA."



**Morah Yaffa's kitah bet** learned all about Purim in a very interesting way. They received TWO different chovrot (workbooks) – one about the dinim, mitzvot, halachot, and minhagim of Purim and one all about Megillat Esther (it even has a REAL megillah in the back that they took when they heard the megillah being read on Purim!) For Rosh Chodesh Adar, the PTA gave out masks, and Kitah Bet really enjoyed creating mask masterpieces for their “Mi Ani” bulletin board. They also really enjoyed dancing in the Halls for Adar.

In **Mrs. Mann's third grade**, the students thoroughly enjoyed a quick read-aloud from a book entitled, “World's Greatest Inventions.” They learned how the bicycle changed over time, what made the world's first elevator really scary, and how the modern-day toilet came to be. The students also enjoyed pictures of the first vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, and washing machine. Kol Hakavod to each and every 3rd grade superstar on turning in amazing autobiography book reports. It was clear how much effort and diligence went into creating each essay and time capsule.



**Morah Avigail's kitah gimel** were so excited to receive the names of their Israeli counterparts from Ashkelon. They are participating in the CJE Shevet achim program with students from Israel. They have been exchanging mail, pictures, and videos of their classes, both here at OCA and in Ashkelon.

**Mrs. Mann's fourth and fifth grade class** introduced us to many United States Presidents at their Presidents' Day Fair! They had a whirlwind couple of days preparing for their presidential debuts. The students really got into character, and it was obvious that they had become accustomed to answering to the name of their president. At the fair, the school learned the origins of the name “teddy bear,” about the one important coconut that helped turn John F. Kennedy into a war hero, and so much more about our presidents. Great job grades 4-5.



Kudos to **Rabbi Bennett's and Mrs. Shulman's fourth and fifth grade classes** for running the annual Post-Purim Carnival (it was even post Shusan Purim, due to the snow and ice)



## 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/>



In **Ms. McCown's science lab**, everyone is working hard on their environmental issues projects. Kindergarten is working on posters for each classroom to remind us to recycle. First grade is making bird feeders and shelters for all the animals who live in our courtyard, and the second grader's garden plants are growing strong under our heat lamps! Third grade is in the middle of designing a water filtration system in the classroom that we can use to keep Lazer's drinking water healthy, and the fourth and fifth graders are having a great time learning how to keep our worms happy and healthy, too. We look forward to teaching the rest of the school about them, and we can't wait to harvest all the dirt they are making for our garden.

As a special cross-curricular activity, melding the tech class and science, Mrs. Taragin was kind enough to arrange a Skype session with Mr. Harvey Gershman, a leading figure in the recycling and waste management field. We were able to learn valuable information about just what happens when you put your trash out on the curb and just how much of it we can actually recycle. Then, we brainstormed how we could make OCA a greener community. It is our hope that when we leave the lab, that we inspire everyone at OCA to think about how their actions affect our environment. With all the knowledge we have gained this month, we are well on our way to being first class environmental scientists!



## Our OCA Pesach Customs

We have survived the galut intact because of our ability to transmit our family mesorah (traditions) to our children. Many families have very unique customs, especially in regards to the Seder.

We are compiling a list of OCA family minhagim to be featured in the next Ohr Chadashot, which comes out right before Pesach. This way your children will have an appreciation of your family minhagim and will see how others celebrate. You might find some good ideas to incorporate into your family seder. Just keep in mind, none of these are halacha. Whatever you do is correct. When your children grow and are ready to make their own seder, this list will hopefully help keep alive the family traditions.



Please complete the questionnaire on page 6, answering as many questions as you can, and return to the office, or email to [ttaragin@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:ttaragin@ohrchadashbaltimore.org), or fax to 410-484-6537 by Friday, March 20. Thank you in advance.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

What ingredients goes into your charoset?

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What do you use for the zeroa (roasted bone)?

---

Does your family do anything interesting to keep all the children awake and interested in the seder all night?

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What does your family use for Karpas? Why? What do you dip it into?

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How is Mah Nishtanah said in your family? Only youngest? All children? Everyone? Something different? In what languages do you say it?

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Does the person leading the Seder walk around the table with matzah on his shoulder or any other ceremony which you do which symbolizes leaving Egypt?

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Describe some of the things you do which are interesting and exciting while the story of leaving Egypt is being said?

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Do you have a special tune (or special tunes) for the Hagaddah? Are there any that are generations old? Do you sing any songs in different languages?

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What food(s) do you use for Maror, and/or for korech? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any interesting food customs...foods you only eat at the seder? Why?

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What are some of your family's customs about the afikoman? Does your family "hide it"? who hides? who finds? etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Any other interesting tidbits you want to share with us about your seder?

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Please have your child/children answer this: From all of the sederim you have gone to, what is your favorite memory so far?

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# Maccabeats Concert - Huge Success

What a great time everyone had on Sunday at the Maccabeats concert. About 950 tickets were sold! The event would not have been successful without the wonderful volunteers who gave so much of their time, many of them missing most of the concert to tend to concert needs. We would like to thank the following people for volunteering either at the concert, planning the concert, and/or making sponsor calls. Please excuse any inadvertent omissions. The concert committee - Terri Rosen, Esti Taragin, Yael Schwarzenberger, Julia Bashyrov, Risa Levi, Andy Goldfuss and Jen Erez. Other volunteers include: Shua Bier, Elliott Schwarzenberger, Tobey Finkelstein, Avraham Finkelstein, Leah Malka Pasch, Josh Pasch, Esther Huff, Lori Laresen, Ari Taragin, Josh Gonsher, Mike Lowenstein, Ken Gelula, Tova Taragin, Yossi Ziffer, Yoseph Orshan, Rena Einbinder, Lanie Carter, Barry Levi, Rosemary Warschawski, Baruch Jankowitz, Zack Pomerantz, Holly VanderWalde, Mary Sue Rubenstein, Hadassah Bennett, Mel Pachino, Hananya Cohen, Susie Schoenfeld, Rachel Rosenblatt, Shayna Kestenbaum, Ellie Kagan and her gang of ushers, and Avraham Klugman.

Thank you to the Administration and staff for all your work from the inside.

And of course to Yossi and Amian Kelemer for all that you do for the school continuously.



# OCA-PTA News

Dear Parents,

We have wrapped up the 2014-15 session of Motzei Shabbat Family Learning. Thank you to all participants, and a special thank you to Rabbi Bennett for spearheading the program this year. We enjoyed your Divrei Torah and your leadership. Frequent participators will be receiving their prize soon in school.

April and May Hot Lunch order will open in the next week. We'll send an e-mail when the system is open. We will make up the hot lunch missed the Friday after Purim due to the snow at the end of the year.

Remember we still have plenty of OCA T-shirts and sweatshirts available for purchase in the office. Stop in and pick one up for your child. T-shirts are \$10 and sweatshirts \$18.

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/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=wsww&>

## 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!

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns at [ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org](mailto:ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org)

Shabbat Shalom, Lanie and Rena

## Re-enrollment for Next Year

Re-enrollment for **current** students is now open. You will be receiving a large white envelope in the mail that contains the re-enrollment contract for your child. This package also contains instructions on how to complete the re-enrollment process on-line. This is a two-step process. Please note that the signed enrollment contract must be returned to the office along with your deposit AND the on-line process completed before your child has been re-enrolled for next year. There is no fee for re-enrollment of current students.

Applications for **new students/siblings** is on-going. There is a lot of interest in our early childhood learning center for next year so the spots are going quickly. Applications for new students/siblings is done through our website. If you have any questions about either process, please call Pat Scullen at the school office.

# 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 yahrzeits, 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).

## Thank You

3/11 — Mr. John Hannon, sponsoring for a refuah shlaimah for his daughter, Lauren Hannon

3/12 — Mr. John Hannon, sponsoring for a refuah shlaimah for his granddaughter, Emma Hancoch

3/23 --- Mr. and Mrs. Alan Taragin , sponsoring in honor of the 22nd yartzeit of Rabbi Jerome Fishman, father of Mrs. Tova Taragin

### *Computer Calligraphy and Invitations by Tova*



- ◆ Commercial invitations and party supplies
- ◆ Custom Hebrew/English invitations, laminated benchers and tefillot
- ◆ Computer Calligraphy on envelopes, place cards, table cards

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

*Call now for personalized, custom laminated Pesach benchers and Tefillah cards*

410-371-9194 or [tovtar@gmail.com](mailto:tovtar@gmail.com)





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



**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/)

**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](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 (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.



BEDTIME STORIES in HEBREW

ספריית  
ב'AMERICA



Hebrew Story Time

Pajama Party

Chalav Yisroel  
Milk and Cookies

Hear ye, Here ye!  
Calling all children, ages 3-7

OCA Library  
March 15th  
4:00 PM

Fun  
Craft

Friends

Please join Ohr Chadash Academy  
for a Sifriyat Pajama party,  
featuring Hebrew storytime,  
a fun craft, & a yummy snack!



OCA

# STAY & PLAY

Spring Session 2015



For more details about the activities and their fees, pick up a brochure from the school office or e-mail Gassi Afanador at [GAssiAfanador@OhrChadashAcademy.org](mailto:GAssiAfanador@OhrChadashAcademy.org)

Sign up NOW!  
It's not too late!  
The Spring Session  
begins Tuesday  
March 2nd

Looking for a fun extra-curricular activity for your child? Check out our after-school program, with awesome activities like gymnastics and CSA karate. You can sign up for 1 day or up to 4 days a week - to give your child a fun experience beyond the classroom.

*abode*

### ECC ACTIVITIES

120 HOUR, 12:00-4:00

25K HOURS	ACTIVITY
10K OF THE 2700K	10:00-11:00
1000K HOUR	10:00-11:00
1000K HOUR	10:00-11:00
200 HOUR, 12:00-3:00	
FREE HOUR IN CLASSROOM	ACTIVITY

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

120 HOUR, 12:00-4:00

1000K HOUR	10:00-11:00

**OHR CHADASH ACADEMY**  
 7111 Park Forest Avenue | Baltimore, MD 21206  
 P: 410.794.3200 F: 410.794.4021  
 E: [GAssiAfanador@OhrChadashAcademy.org](mailto:GAssiAfanador@OhrChadashAcademy.org) W: [www.OhrChadashAcademy.org](http://www.OhrChadashAcademy.org)

# WANTED

**We want your crumbs!  
Chametz Drive sponsored by the OCA Student  
Government.**

**When: March 23-27**

**Where: OCA Hall by Main Office**

**Why: To help YOU clean your house & help others in  
need**

**\*Student Government reps will be collecting and sort-  
ing chametz to be delivered before Pesach\***

