

Volume 4 Issue 1
 September 12, 2014

17 Elul 5774
 Parshat Ki Tavo

From the Principal's Desk



What an amazing start to this school year! OCA stands for Excellence, Individuality, and Community. The first morning of school was a beautiful reflection of this. Our board members came out to greet each family, Rabbi Motzen came out to wish us all a year of Bracha, our staff was there welcoming each child into our new space, and the building was prepared for every child to walk down through an archway of color, from balloons to the red carpet, accompanied by live music into school.

Thank you to the parents of Ami Huff, Mr. and Mrs. Huff for putting so much time and effort into making a beautiful balloon archway. Thank you to the parents of Chewi, Daniel, Pori, and Bassi Gunzburg, Mr. and Mrs. Gunzburg for donating the fancy red carpet the kids walked on.

Walking through the halls and into the classrooms puts a smile on my face. The teachers are excited to be with the students. The message of working hard and learning is in all the rooms. Students are engaged in their learning, creating the classroom rules, helping out their peers, collaborating with each other to solve problems, reviewing all the classroom procedures, and learning about their new space.

The students dipped their hands into paint and left their print at OCA, along the stairwell wall . You could see the students feeling a sense of belonging, feeling proud being in their new building and knowing that they will always be a part of OCA.

You have already received communication from your child's teachers. Please make sure to put in the effort to respond and to build a relationship with your child's teacher. The teachers spend many hours of their time preparing in order to maximize the learning time. They are getting to know your children. When we work together, respect each other, and show appreciation for each other, the child will be the one to benefit the most. (continued on page 2).

Important OCA Dates

Sunday, September 14, 4 PM: OCA Back to School Picnic

Wednesday, September 17: 8-9:30 PM: Life Long Learning Program (see article page 8)

Wednesday, September 24-Friday, September 26: Rosh Hashanah break—No School

From the Principal

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After many hours of hard work and community collaboration, we were able to open our doors for the preschool on Monday. This is a big Simcha for Ohr Chadash! Within these walls you can see the joy of life. You can see the potential. You can see the cutest things imaginable!

Thank you for all your flexibility and understanding while we battled through the process.

As we continue to move closer to Rosh Hashana we are pulled into a state of growth and reflection. Ohr Chadash has grown in many ways: Moving to a new campus, opening our preschool, strengthening our educational and administrative team, having a dedicated science teacher for every grade, designing a brand new differentiated curriculum, and so much more.

We are always examining how we do things and try to improve on how we do them. We are open for your feedback and ideas in how we can make OCA the best for our children.

Thank you for partnering with Ohr Chadash. Together we will help create a strong foundation for the Jewish people.

Have a great Shabbat and a happy and healthy new year.

Rabbi Moshe Margolese





OCA Welcomes Mrs. Randi Orshan

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Randi Orshan has joined our staff as the Director of Teaching and Learning. In this position, she will focus on the curriculum and continue to create scope and sequence to ensure that the curriculum is preparing our students for any future higher education. She will also work with the teachers to integrate the Judaic and general studies curricula in the classroom, an educational technique that truly makes Ohr Chadash unique in Baltimore.

Mrs. Orshan dreamed about being a teacher ever since she was 2 years old. After graduating from West Chester University with a BA in education, that dream became a reality. Mrs. Orshan taught her first class in Oahu, Hawaii. She partnered with DOLE to create nutrition units for various grades. She then moved back to Pennsylvania where she taught and wrote curricula at Torah Academy for five years.

Mrs. Orshan has a passion for making education fun and creative by organizing school-wide events such as Career Day and Multi-cultural Day. She also attracted media attention by organizing community-wide events to raise money for local and national charities. Mrs. Orshan saw a need for extra curricular activities within the school, so she created a student government, a school newspaper, and a reading program, displaying her ability to be creative and hands-on.

After moving to Baltimore, she taught at Talmudical Academy for the past three years. Mrs. Orshan became a mentor teacher for incoming and existing teachers, using her strengths and areas of expertise in differentiated instruction, center work, enrichment and classroom modifications to guide them. Her professional development programs include Handwriting Without Tears, a BRAVES program, and reading/writing workshops.

Mrs. Orshan lives in the Pikesville area with her husband and three children. In addition to her passion for education, Mr. Orshan is a nutrition counselor, and has created cooking classes for kids, where she teaches them how to make delicious foods in a healthy way.

We are very excited to welcome Mrs. Orshan to our Ohr Chadash family. She looks forward to meeting all of you.

From the Desk of Mrs. Randi Orshan

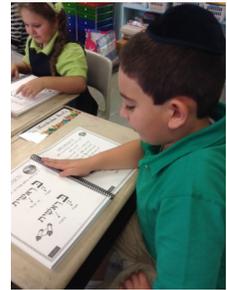
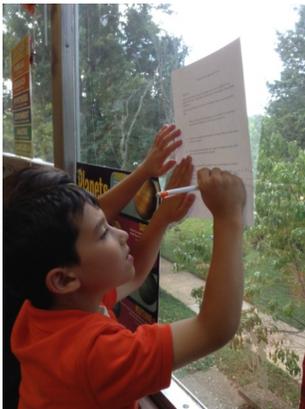
I am so excited to be a part of the OCA family! As Director of Teaching & Learning, I am responsible for making sure our curriculum is being implemented within the classroom, mentoring teachers, planning activities, and much more. I am happy to announce the launch of our new Wonders Curriculum in grades K-2. It is based off of Common Core Standards and has an amazing online component where students can review skills at home and in school. Check it out at McGrawHill.com.

Starting soon, OCA will have a Student Government. Classes will be voting on two representatives per class and then vote on a school president and vice president. The Student Government will be planning "Crazy Calendar Days," fundraisers, and more. Look out for details regarding Student Government coming home very soon!

The First Day of School: We Welcomed our STARS!



Around the Halls of OCA



STAR Program

OCA's new S.T.A.R incentive program stands for:

Stay Safe

Treasure Torah

Aim High

Respect yourself and others.



Students are given stars every time they are seen being an OCA S.T.A.R. At the end of the month, stars are counted and students with a certain amount get to choose a coupon from the STAR jars. Class stars are given as well when whole classes are seen acting like an OCA S.T.A.R.. Once a class reaches 25 stars, they will earn a class party or activity. The midda of the month and S.T.A.R program are intertwined so the children see that we live a Torah life throughout.

Snowball Fight ... in September

Mrs. Aliza Mann

For homework last week, the 3rd and 4th-5th grade students were asked to fill out an anonymous 10-question sheet. These humorous questions asked for information like, "If you could change your name to anything, what would it be?" "What's the best part of waking up?" (Folgers in your cup....) and "Where's Waldo?" The students were really able to let their personality shine through in the way they responded to the questions. Coming into class Friday, every single student thought we were going to play a standard guessing game. It wasn't until I told them to take the paper they were holding and crumple it into a ball, that they realized something else was brewing. The students were directed to follow my instruction on the count of three. "One...two...three... SNOWBALL FIGHT!" Without missing a beat, the students immediately began lobbing paper at each other, flying all over the room in an effort to grab as many 'snowballs' as they could. Once the game settled down, the students read the answers aloud and guessed which set of answers belonged to which student. It is a testament to how well the students have welcomed each other that only one guess took two tries! What an unbelievable way to kick off the first Friday of the year.

4th and 5th Grade Judaics

Morah Ellie Shulman

The fourth and fifth grade girls have been learning and studying so much, we barely have time to breathe! Every day starts with a handshake, - החזקת ידים and a Tefilah journal. We have been enjoying really inspiring tefilot in Room 208, singing out loud, whispering silently, and talking together about what makes tefilah special and important.

I am THRILLED that we have already finished Perek Aleph in Sefer Shemot! We have been working on our chavruta skills, Rashi skills, and text comprehension. And also Origami skills. Way to go, Ayala and Hadassah who built the Egyptian cities פיתום ורעמסס , Pitom and Ramses all by themselves!!!! Phew! We have also finished our introduction for Navi and we can't wait to begin learning Sefer Shoftim together next week.

Every day, every child speaks in Hebrew, but especially we speak in Hebrew during greetings and during Ivrit, which is also taught by Morah Avigail and Rabbi Bennett. Welcome to our classroom, you guys!

Everyone looks forward to the times when we learn halacha, because we are training ourselves to think in new ways. We are learning to hunt in the pasuk and in chazal, the rabbis who wrote the Mishna and Gemara, while looking for specific information: What is the mitzvah that I have to do? There is also a super-secret script in our Dinim, Jewish Law section in our binders, but you will have to wait until September 19 (Mrs. Shulman's birthday) to find out what it is.

Attention Parents! Ohr Chadash is going viral

Check for the latest updates of all that happens in OCA.
Pictures, Videos, and News.



Like Ohr Chadash Academy
on Facebook

Follow us on Instagram
@ohrchadashacademy

Follow us on Twitter
@OhrChadashBalt

Login to Renweb to have
access to student grades,
homework and,
school announcements.



Life Long Learning

We are proud that one of the values of OCA is to instill in our children a love of learning. This love of learning is to help mold us into Life Long Learners. This year we have created a program for parents, called Life Long Learning. You will see this written on your OCA calendars. These dates are set aside for us to come together as adults, as parents, to model this love of learning. We have 3 classes set for this year. The first one will be on September 17th from 8-9:30 in the Multi-Purpose room in our school building. This week's topic and discussion will be "Anxiety". We are very fortunate to have Ms. Donna Kane, M.A. present this topic.

Ms. Kane is a Community Liaison with JCS Access Services, leads the Community Bereavement Groups offered by Sol Levinson & Bros., Inc., and Jewish Community Services. She also counsels individuals and families dealing with bereavement issues.

Ms. Kane is also an Intake clinician with Access Services. Ms. Kane directs clients with a wide range of needs to appropriate JCS services. In addition, Ms. Kane provides consultation about parenting, child development and adolescent issues to families and children in local congregations and schools. She also facilitates workshops and support groups for parents and teens, and contributes to the "Parent Talk" blog on the JCS and Jewish Times websites.

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

Mazal tov to Mrs. Mary Sue Rubenstein and husband, Arthur, on the engagement of their granddaughter Tali Portal to David Clements

Mazal tov to Mrs. Milka Baila Massre and husband Eddie on birth of son Yehudah.

Mazal tov to Jeff and Rachel Teles on the bat mitzvah of Levy's (grade 4) sister Lilly.

Yasher Koach to third grader Tzipora Einbinder on donating her hair to Zichron Menachem.

Mazal tov to OCA president Ari Taragin and his wife Esti on the bar mitzvah of their son Eli, brother of Yoni (Pre-K4) Kobi (grade 2).

Mazal tov to Chana Dena Pollack and Hananya Cohen and big sister Ava (grade 3) on the birth of a daughter, Mariam Rachel.

Thank you to Tova and Alan Taragin for sponsoring a day of learning on 21 Elul in memory of Tova's mother, Shendel Yocheved bat Harav Yitzchak, Mrs. Shendel Fishman, of blessed memory on her 25th yearzeit.



Thank you to:

Ken Davidson, Executive Director at Temple Oheb Shalom, and his crew for working with us throughout the summer, making sure the facility was set up and helping us with anything we needed.

Ron Peretz for installing our beautiful sign in the front.

All the volunteers who helped with the move and organizing our stuff to get the school building in order in time for school to open.

Saul Passe who built our wonderful, engaging, fun preschool playground

Mr. and Mrs. Huff for putting so much time and effort into making a beautiful balloon archway.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunzburg for donating the fancy red carpet the kids walked on for the first day of school.

Mr. Sam Wach for overseeing the tech installations in the new building (and for all the tech schlepping he and his sons did in June.)

We would like to wish a huge thank you to the following individuals who jumped in to help until the preschool received its licensing:

Josh Friedman who came early last Wednesday morning, working 14 hours (and then returning the next morning as well) to work on each item on the list of repairs from the State Licensing Department. He also led other volunteers in the work effort to ensure each item was completed as quickly as possible.

Rabbi Margolese, working to remedy this issue nonstop, He personally went to the paint store, called contractors, and rustled up everything we needed to get this job done. Also, despite wearing a suit with tuxedo clothing, he was out in the heat cleaning up the debris from the construction area.

Shaina Margolese, who graciously allowed over 15 pre-schoolers to spend the day playing at her home for a few days.

Chaim Margolese, who spent hours painting the preschool with our crew, and risked his life by literally climbing onto the roof of the preschool, in order to scrape off and paint hard-to-reach areas. He returned the next morning to finish up the work.

Owen Levine, a young man who is new to Baltimore, and who was planning to earn money at a different job instead came and worked pro bono at OCA for 10+ hours today, as he believed it was his pleasure to do a mitzvah for OCA.

Ami Rozmaryn, who provided his valuable time and assistance in getting this job done. He dropped what he

OCA-PTA News

Lanie Carter and Rena Einbinder, Presidium

It has been wonderful meeting so many new OCA families and seeing a lot of familiar friendly faces over the past few weeks.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday at our Back to School Picnic!

For those of you who are new to OCA just a few words about the PTA and why it is so important to our school. The PTA picks up where Ohr Chadash Academy's operating budget leaves off and helps support our students and teachers both inside and outside of the classroom. The PTA is responsible for special events, Hot Lunch, Teacher Appreciation, Rosh Chodesh Treats, School Pictures, Yom Haazmaut and much more. If you can, please consider becoming a member of the PTA. Membership is \$36 for a supporting member (comes with 1 free OCA t-shirt!) or \$18 for a regular member. Sign up for membership here: https://ohrchadashbaltimore.org/ocapta/membership_and_tshirt.php.

We also are always in need of volunteers. Please send us an e-mail at ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org and let us know what you are interested in doing to help. There are lots of opportunities throughout the year.

T-Shirts and Kippahs - We have brand new OCA T-shirts!! . If you would like to order one you may do so here: https://ohrchadashbaltimore.org/ocapta/membership_and_tshirt.php.

We also have a supply of OCA Kippot available for purchase for \$12. Or, stop by the registration table at the Back to School Picnic to pick one up!

Help Support the OCA PTA

There are a number of ways you can help support the PTA doing your regular shopping and errands!

Target

Sign up your card for their Take Charge of Education Program: <http://www.target.com/tcoe> (our school ID is 153097)

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!

BJs Membership

Now through September 23rd purchase a BJs membership for \$40 (Regular Price is \$50) and get 3 months free added to your subscription. That's a 15 month membership for \$40! Contact ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org for a BJs application.

(continued on next page)

PTA—continued from previous page

Hershey Park Sukkot Tickets

OCA PTA will be selling discounted tickets to Hershey Park this Sukkot. Look for more information next week on how to purchase your e-tickets to this great event and support OCA at the same time

It is going to be a great year at OCA! Please feel free to contact us at ocapta@ohrchadashbaltimore.org with any questions or to take part in any of the great programming we have in store.

All the best,
Lanie and Rena

Happy Birthday September



Yoni Taragin Pre- K4

Ashira Stone 2

Aron Frager K

Tzipora Einbinder 3

Layla Rosenblatt K

Basya Gunzburg 4

Ziva Prince 1

Daniel Gunzburg 4

Eliyahu Levi 2

Yakov Weinreb 4



Please remember that Ohr Chadash Academy is a nut free environment. Please be very careful when packing your child's lunches and snacks.

Yom Hakdasha - a Day of Dedication

Ohr Chadash Academy proudly announces the continuation of our Yom Hakdasha, a Day of Dedication.

We believe in being our students' home away from home because we 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 last year 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 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.

Support our OCA Family Advertisers

Email ohrchadashot@ohrchadashbaltimore.org if you are interested in advertising in our Family Advertisers pages.

Computer Calligraphy and Invitations by Tova

**Commercial invitations and party
supplies available**

**Custom Hebrew/English invitations,
laminated benchers and tefillot also avail-
able.**

**Computer Calligraphy on envelopes,
place cards, table cards.**

**Laminated Rosh Hashanah Simanim
cards and Sukkot benchers for sale now.**

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

Call Tova Taragin at 410-371-9194

Car Pool Needed

Looking to make a morning/
afternoon carpool with another
family: I can drive afternoons if
you can drive mornings. Near
Strathmore Ave. and Cross
Country. Gail Feinstein (410)
456-430

Thanks 21st Century Storage
for taking care of OCA's storage needs.

Located on Park Heights Avenue, about 3 blocks from
OCA, 21st Century Storage will donate \$20 to OCA for
every family that mentions our name when renting a
storage unit.

For more information, e-mail
ocapta@ocabaltimore.org.



**21st Century
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5301 Park Heights Ave. Baltimore MD 21215
(410)466-5252 www.21css.com

**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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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/)



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 (we 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.