



Monday, March 8, will be **Day 2** of the rotation



Ki Sisa & Parshas Parah

Hadlokas Neros 5:46 P.M.



Family Fitness & (Mini) Health Fair Fun!!!



More LOST than found!
Please check the Lost and Found for your children's clothing!

Thank you for supporting Torah Academy!

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Dean's Message

I hope that you all enjoyed Purim and that you were proud of how well prepared your children were. It was so nice to have visited with so many of our families and please accept this as a personal thank you for your visits and for your kind words.

Work began in all the classes to prepare our students for Pesach. I am very pleased with the level of work being done in this area and I am sure that these efforts will result in your enjoyment at the Seder.

Several weeks ago I wrote an article that caused much debate and it resulted in the sharing and expression of many passionate comments on both sides of the argument. There was some confusion about the message so I then wrote a follow-up to the original article.

The original article was posted on the Jewish World Review this Wednesday and it caused an outcry with much more heated passion than the first time it was printed. Someone commented that since I feel the message is so important (evidenced by the repeat message) why don't I share it with our parent-body. I think that it is a good idea. Here is the article in its original form. I feel strongly about the direction and I hope that our parents will agree with the message.

Gut Shabbos, a Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi S. Binyomin Ginsberg

NEVER!!!

By Rabbi S. Binyomin Ginsberg

Many times when I have to address an audience, I prepare my remarks in the form of an acronym. I also use acronyms in lengthy lectures and in classes I teach. I find them to be very helpful in keeping on track and staying focused. It also helps the listener or learner stay focused and allows for easy review.

In a recent address to parents on the topic of parenting, I used the word PARENT as the acronym. I shared six pointers in successful parenting. As you can tell from this article's title, the N of the word parent stood for the word NEVER. I shared some behaviors that I feel parents should NEVER do in their career of being a parent. The two main behaviors were embarrassing and hitting. In this article, I would like to focus on the message of NEVER hitting children. Before you object to my message and call with your protest, please read on and at least listen to the other side of the argument. I believe that I have listened to every reason why people say that it is a good idea to hit children but I stand strong with my belief that a parent should NEVER hit a child.

I don't want the message to be confused and for there to be a lack of understanding. For all purposes, when I use the word HIT, I include all forms of physical hurt from the parent to the child, including the potch on the hand.

Before we go any further, I am more than familiar with the message of Shlomo HaMelach in Mishlei (13:24) that the one who spares the rod, hates his son. I think that there are many ways of reconciling that message with my suggestion to never hit a child.

Let us begin with my own observations. In the course of my work, I meet with and hear from many children and parents. I have yet to meet a child who claimed that he would have been better off if he had been hit more by his parents and I have never met a parent who regretted not hitting the children more. No one has convinced me that anything bad happens if we do not hit children. No one has shown me that children become less well behaved if we do not hit them.

However, on the flip side, I have heard from many children and parents about the horrors involved with hitting. While I hear your response to that of *well, I will be careful to hit my child the right way and my child will benefit from it*, I have been witness to way too many

Continued on next page

Search Committee Update

•Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet the visiting candidate on March 3-4. **Please contact Mr. Yonason Spar if you have any feedback to share confidentially with the Search Committee about him.**

The three things we would like to know are:

1. What do you see as Rabbi Tendler's key strengths in terms of Torah Academy?
2. Do you have any concerns about his ability to succeed as the dean of Torah Academy?
3. Please rate this candidate on a scale of 1-10 in terms of fit to the position. (10 is a perfect fit.)

•Parents will have a chance to meet the next candidate on **Wednesday evening, March 10, 7:30-8:15 p.m. in the Bais HaKenesses.** *Please mark your calendar and try to attend.*

Maariv will follow at 8:15 p.m. and then there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors at 8:30 p.m.

Continued from previous page

casualties from being hit by the parent, that I think the best answer is to not hit and to look for other and better means of accomplishing what we want to do.

When one hears of how someone who won a huge lottery jackpot lost all the money in a short period of time and how it destroyed the person, the response is *well, I will do it right and I will not let the newly found riches cause any harm*. Facts show us that it just doesn't work that way. I believe that the same risk applies with the potential damage from hitting children.

By now you are probably asking how I can say NEVER when we have all been raised with the understanding that even those who don't approve of hitting children agree that if the child runs into the street or does something else dangerous, then they should be hit. If you can explain the rationale for that senseless exception for hitting, please contact me immediately because for the life of me, I don't get it. I suspect that it is one of those things that we just pass along from one person to the next, assuming that it is sound, while it really has no sensible explanation.

You may ask if hitting a child is wrong, why doesn't a law make it illegal to hit one's child. You are so right and I wish that the lawmakers would do that. I have seen way too much harm resulting from parents hitting their children that I think it would be a great step if we would outlaw hitting.

There is a point that we need to consider as we look at the pros and cons of parents hitting their child. Have you ever wondered why young children use physical means to get their way when they don't like something as they are playing with a friend? Is it possible that the two-year old thinks that it is acceptable to hit because he sees that as something that his mother or father does? Please don't respond that the child understands the difference between the parent hitting and the child hitting as that is the furthest from the truth. Just for the goal of modeling how to deal with things that are wrong, it is a great idea to not model hitting. I think that just for this reason in itself, it makes sense to rule out hitting.

I recently shared this message with a group of parents and one parent said that she remembers the four times that she was hit by her father and how she knew and felt that it was with and from a point of love. While I truly doubt that she is being honest with her feelings, such exceptions should not be the cause or the green light for all parents to hit. I once heard in the name of Rav Moshe Shapiro shlit'a about a great Rebbetzin who told how her father hit her on two occasions and how she felt that she gained a great deal from it. She shared how she had full

confidence that her father was hitting her only for her benefit and not out of anger. However, Rav Shapiro said that in our day and age, hitting is not the proper approach. He explained that it takes a great person to take advantage of the hitting method of discipline.

The only real challenge to the position of NEVER hitting a child is the *posuk* in Mishlei as quoted above. The answer has already been addressed by many Gedolim who make the point that this is one of the rare exceptions in which we have to say that our changing times require a change in the way we raise children. I personally heard this response from Rav Shlomo Wolbe z'l and his position against parents hitting children is well documented. Rav Wolbe explained that the word ROD doesn't only mean the actual stick but it can also mean a stern look.

I heard the same direction from Rav Michal Yehudah Lefkowitz shlit'a and in the *Sefer Darchei HaChaim* he writes about what happened once when he heard a father hitting his son. He said that if he would have strength, he would go and stop the father. In a meeting of Menahelim with Rav Michal Yehuda shlit'a, he shared this idea of the change over the generations and therefore the change in approach. He spoke about the famous Gemorah in Mesichta Sotah (47a) that instructs us to draw a student to us with the right and push him away with the left – two steps that must be done at the same time. He explained that due to the times we live in, the main focus must be on drawing the student close with the right hand.

I once asked my Rebbi, the Nesivos Sholom z'l, what was the right age for a bochur to start looking for a shidduch. He responded that he has a klal (general rule) that a bochur shouldn't start looking for a shidduch until a certain age (not important for this discussion), but he added that he had another klal that there is always a *yotzei min haklal* (an exception to the rule).

While I don't have the chutzpah to go against my Rebbi, and I won't, I am not aware of an incident in which it would make sense to have an exception to the rule of NEVER hitting a child. I can comfortably state that hitting a child is wrong and a child never, ever, under any circumstances should be hit. Let us use our intelligence and discover more sensible approaches to discipline. You will be amazed at what methods you will find and how much more effective they are!

**Please contact Rabbi
Yehoshua Borenstein
for sponsorship opportunities.**

Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Yehoshua and Racheli Borenstein on the bar mitzvah of their son Shlomo. Mazel Tov to the grandparents, Rabbi Larry Borenstein and Mr. and Mrs. Yossi and Shoshana Berkowitz, and the entire mishpocha.



Mazel Tov to Mrs. Greenberg's 5th grade girls on making a siyum on Parshas Va'era. They connected the refreshments to the makkos!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Yechezkel and Tzipora Greenberg on their son Yosef beginning to put on tefillin on 21 Adar.

To share news with the Kolenu please call Dr. Bethaviva Cohen at 952-285-8603 or email kolenu@torahacademymn.org

Dear Friends and Families of Torah Academy,
The kind notes, words of wisdom, cards, and donations in memory of my father are gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.
Mrs. Marla Ramsay

Family Fitness and (Mini) Health Fair Fun Night

**Thank you to all the Fitness Fair
participants and volunteers:**

Mrs. Caryn Moffatt	Rabbi Da-vid Rosenthal
Mrs. Erica Goldberg	Mrs. JJ Brown
Mrs. Rachel Siegel	Ms. Polina Barshteyn
Mrs. Kim Wear	Channah Goldberger
Mrs. Jill Singer	Ahuva Simpser
Mrs. Bullivant	Gila Grad
Mrs. Halek	Chana Aizman
Leah Raizel Braunstein	Sara Aizman
Dr. Larry Biel	Mrs. Bella Smith
Dr. Valarie Kreps	Rabbi Ephraim Silverberg
Dr. Ross Paskoff	Mrs. Traci Cruikshank
Dr. Jennifer Bigelow	Mr. Dopp
Dr. Raisa Gringauz	Mrs. Gardner
Dr. Marty Klatzko	

Special thanks to Mrs. Vance, Dr. Bethaviva Cohen, Mr. Vance, Rabbi Ginsberg, Mrs. Bullivant, and Erica Goldberg for all their extra help and support.

Congratulations to all the prize winners!
Mrs. BJ Goldman

Two rooms for rent in home basement just
outside the eruv at 2620 Xenwood.
Call Mr. Zion Shalom at 612-578-1143.

Calendar of School Events

March 8-9

Torah Tots Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, March 10

7:30-8:15 p.m. Parent Meeting with next Candidate

8:15 p.m. Maariv

8:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting

•Last Day for AR Books (end of trimester)

Language Arts and Writers Workshop

In a perfect school or world, we would only be graded on the things we have perfected, but that is not our school or our world. Our students are graded on what they know and how they use or apply that knowledge. In our language arts program, we are attempting to increase the knowledge base of our students and their ability to apply this knowledge. This means that teachers need an accurate picture of the application of knowledge being taught in class. This picture comes in the form of a final paper.

Some parents have asked to have final papers edited and be submitted again by students. We do not edit final papers because they provide the information we need to assess the student's ability to apply their reading and writing knowledge. Please know that before the final paper is turned in the students have received feedback on two rough drafts with written comments and corrections. Unfortunately, students do not take that information and make the corrections to their final papers, which is unfortunately their choice.

As we move forward with increasing the rigor and abilities of the students, the writing difficulties we currently face with a few students will gradually subside and their final paper will reflect the desired improvements.

Mrs. Feser

Our condolences to Mr. Meir Chodos on the loss of his father, Mr. Herschel Chodos.

May the Omnipresent console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

~A Torah Umesorah "School of the Year"~

Partnering with the Principal Integration Work

This past week when the middle school students left early for the fast day, the teachers and I spent the afternoon working on subject integration for the middle school program. The teachers started some integration this year between language arts and social studies or language arts and science. As we began the process, our aim was to integrate all of the subject areas together as much as we could. One integration that we worked on dealt with the plague in Social Studies. As the students learn about the plague and the middle ages, the classes work on animal populations in science, so they will be completing work on the rat population during the plague as the rats were the way the plague was transported. As they work on the rat population and death count of the people, the students will be integrating math as they seek to find the percentages of people who died and reinforcing other math skills used in middle school. Finally, in language arts, they will be reading about a person of the middle ages and writing some eyewitness accounts of the time period.

This is just one example of one grade level for one topic area. However, we will continue to work over the next several months and throughout the summer to integrate as many of the topics and subject areas as possible to increase the depth of knowledge and understanding. We are very excited about this process and look forward to integrating more topic areas as the year progresses. It was very exciting to see the teachers think creatively to make connections between their subject specialties and increase the depth of learning for the students. If you have any questions on this activity, please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Ginger Vance, Ed. S.



NEW!

**St. Louis Park
Community
Clothing Gemach**



- **When:** Sunday mornings 11:00 - 12:00 or by appointment (952-922-2059)
- **Where:** Lower Level of Keneseth Israel
- **What:** Women's & Children's Shabbos & weekday clothes
- **How much:** 50¢ - \$1.00 per item
- **Contact:** Debra Vardley at 952-922-2059



Donations of clean, usable clothing accepted at drop box in Keneseth Israel rest room.



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• **Tuesday, 9:00-9:30 p.m.**

• **Thursday, 8:30-10:30 p.m.**

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Fourth grade had an amazing siyum on Shushan Purim! From relay race activities to a cute project, the fun was never ending!! We were even able to connect every activity to a posuk from the parsha!



What do you like to do after school? Some of our AMAZING older students stay after school twice a week to help 4th graders with homework. They give it their all and make a big difference!



Purim Poems from the 5th Grade Girls by Ilana Paskoff

The Purim party was so much fun.
We had a good dinner, but it had just begun.
The chicken was great, the meatballs were too.
It wasn't my 1st party but it was all brand new.
The mechanical bull was really scary,
But after a while it was extraordinary.
I was impatient standing in line.
I was last because there was a paper to sign.
Listing all the dangers so I was scared
While the bull's eyes lit up and nostrils flared.
Everyone was drunk. We had a good time.
Everyone was dressed up; there was even a mime.
A saloon, a policeman, a little duck too.
Even a cowgirl! What were you?

by Shira Cohen

Purim has just begun,
I am having so much fun.
I go to shul and the megillah I hear.
My Chinese costume I do wear.
Mishloach Manos I deliver.
It's not cold outside; I don't even shiver.
To the party at Gibber I do go.
To my friends, my costume I do show.
We go to shul and watch the men go crazy;
Some of them are very lazy.
Purim is over; it has not just begun.
I had tons of fun!!



Uniform Recycling Program

The uniform recycling has been fine-tuned to work even better...If you have items to donate, or a request for items, please read the instructions carefully.

DONORS:

- Items must be in good condition - no stains, no holes, etc.
- Items must be freshly washed and on hangers. Thank you!
- Items can be dropped off at Aarah Aizman's house anytime. You may leave items on door. 4225 West 25th Street (at Joppa).
- Your name will be kept anonymous.

RECIPIENTS:

- To request an item: please email or phone Aarah Aizman. Include item(s), quantities, and sizes.
- You will be notified by phone or email whether or not your request can be fulfilled.
- Your request will be entered into a data-base, and you will be notified when item(s) become available.
- Your name will be kept anonymous.

Aarah Aizman,
4225 West 25th Street, St. Louis Park 55416,
952-920-7209
or aarahaizman@hotmail.com

PESACH BREAK

Westwood Hills Nature Center has offered to run special programs for Torah Academy during this Pesach Break. Below is a list of the programs; you can sign up for 1 or 2 programs on each given day. We need a minimum of 5 registered children for each program to take place. Registration can be done either over the phone or email with Greg Feinberg at 952-924-2621 or gfeinberg@stlouispark.org, or in person at Westwood Hills Nature Center. Pre-registration payment is required for all of the programs. Financial aid might be available through the City of St. Louis Park. The parent contact from school is Ms. Polina Barshteyn at 952-591-2526 or barshteyn@hotmail.com.

Thursday, April 1st

Explore Nature, Grades K and up (drop off program)

Discover all of the amazing animals that call Westwood home and learn what animals need to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Go on a hike and look for these animals and the clues they left behind.

9 a.m. – noon, \$13.50 per child (resident) / \$15.00 (non-resident), Registration deadline is March 20.

Family Maple Syruping, All ages (children must be accompanied by a paid adult)

Discover how maple sap becomes syrup. Tap a tree, taste the sap, saw wood for the cooking fire and enjoy the tasty reward of Westwood's real maple syrup on a mini-pancake!

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., \$6.00 per person, Pre-registration required (online registration is available for this program). Registration deadline: when program is filled. This is a family program open to the general public. There will have to a minimum ratio of one adult to four children. Please contact Ms. Barshteyn if you can stay for the program with the children.

Friday, April 2nd

Fort Building, Grades 1 and up (drop off program)

Build and hang out in forts that you help build. Use materials found in the woods to construct your fort. We'll be outside for most of the day, so please dress for the weather. Please provide a snack and lunch.

9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m., \$27.00 per child (resident) / \$31.00 (non-resident), Reg. deadline is March 20..



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ASHIRA

A Torah Umesorah Project SEED Program

Same FABULOUS summer camp...
NOW 2 DIVISIONS!
Girls entering grades 5-6 & 7-9

1ST TRIP: June 28-July 23 2ND TRIP: July 26-Aug. 20 (tentative)
Monday-Thursday 10:00-4:00 Friday 10:00-2:45
At Torah Academy - 2800 Joppa Ave. S

\$120 per week plus Registration Fee: \$25
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Register by March 8...
...and pay only \$100 per week!

Deadline for Early Bird Special is THIS MONDAY!!

For more information or to register, contact:

ASHIRA DAY CAMP

Mrs. C.R. Friedlander at 952-922-9225

Mrs. Chaia Weinberg at 952-920-5381

ashiradaycamp@gmail.com