



Newsletter for Friday, May 7, 2021

Parshas Behar-Bechukosai

Dates to Remember

- **Monday-Tuesday, May 17-18-** Shavuos, NO SCHOOL
- **Monday, May 31-** Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL

Announcements

- Happy 6th Birthday to Yehuda Esquivel. Mazal Tov!

Thank you to...

- The Ribak family, for donating some items to the school.
- The Nudell family, for donating snacks for our Lag B'omer picnic.
- Morah Julie, for buying interesting resource books and works for the classroom.
- Kayla Cohen, (Morah Julie's mother in law) for donating a huge box of markers to the school.
- Ellen Emerman, (Morah Shaina's mother), for donating signed copies of her books Is It Shabbos Yet?and Just Right, to the school.



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Primary- Daisy/Lilac

Dear Parents,

It has been a productive and joyful few weeks! We had a great time on our Lag B'omer walking trip to Rogers Park. The children from both classes were excited to be together at the park, and since nobody else was there, we got to utilize the full space, running back and forth between the two playgrounds.

Two weeks ago we welcomed some new friends in our classroom... cute little caterpillars! When they first arrived they were very small and still, and as the days went on they grew and became more active. The children loved watching them, and were given a lesson on how to observe; with hands behind our back, and being quiet and respectful. This week, we watched the transformation from caterpillar to chrysalis. We are now patiently awaiting their transformation to butterflies!

The works on our science shelf reflect this theme, with activities to learn the life cycle of a butterfly, the names of each stage, and all about various types of butterflies and insects. We have also been learning about different types of seashells, their names, and where they come from. Each new thing we discover in Science, expands our appreciation for Hashem's wonderful world. There is so much to learn! Often the science activities are just a starting point; they trigger questions, conversations, and research, as we continue to explore and understand the world around us.

In both primary classrooms, the children have really shown understanding and ownership of the job charts. Children have now been taught how to do each of the class jobs, and are excited to step up and take charge when it is expected of them. Some examples of jobs the children have been responsible for are collecting tzedakah pennies, carpet sweeping, dusting, filling the water pitcher, and putting away toy bins. These responsibilities, while seemingly minor, help the children remember that they are an invaluable member of our class community, who we are relying on! Even if a child does not want to do their job, or knows they won't be available during that time, they are asked to find someone else to do it for them. This builds a sense of personal responsibility as well.

At the beginning of this year, we observed somewhat of a "socialization deficit" in many children. Meaning, the children had been stuck at home for so many months, that they had such a



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strong need to “catch up” on socializing. In the spirit of Montessori’s principle to “follow the child,” we supported this need in whatever way we could, encouraging and guiding positive peer interactions. By now, B”H the children seem to be more settled and secure in their socialization, and we are observing a stronger ability to focus on work, complete tasks, and attend group lessons. Many of our older children are now strong enough in their own skills, that they are giving lessons and helping others with their work as well.

We look forward to next week, and the continued learning and fun it will bring. Good Shabbos!

Morahs Mushky, Julie, Naomi, Frieda, and Leah Chana.

Parshas Behar / Bechukosai Questions

1. How many Parshiyos do we have this week? (2)
2. What are the names? (Behar- Bechukosai)
3. These are the last Parshiyos in Vayikra! What do we say at the end? (Chazak Chazak Venischazek)
4. What do farmers have to do every seventh year? (Rest/ stop working the land)
5. Where do we have to keep this mitzvah? (Eretz Yisroel)
6. Who can eat the fruit that grows during Shmittah? (Everyone)
7. If you keep Shmittah, what does Hashem promise? (You will have extra food.)
8. After how many Shmittah years do we have a yovel year? (7)
9. The Torah tells us that we can’t hurt, even with our what? (Words)
10. If someone needs something that we have, what mitzvah can we do? (Let them borrow it.)
11. What will Hashem give us if we keep the Torah and Mitzvos? (rain, lots of food, many good things)
12. When we earn money, what should we do with 1/10 of it? (give to Hashem/ tzedakah)
13. If we give tzedakah, what does Hashem promise us? (He will pay us back many times more.)



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Elementary

We have been working very hard over the last few weeks! Although this is the time of year where children tend to become antsy, anticipating the coming of summer, our students have been diligently chugging along with their learning. In davening, most days the children are able to daven unaccompanied. We have found that the children take far more initiative with their davening when the teachers are not in the classroom, which is why I go into my office and watch through the window. The independence growing in our little Montessori elementary is beautiful to watch.

We have learned about Rabbi Akiva and his students and about Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (as we are sure you noticed in the questions sent home in previous weeks). We discussed treating others as we would like to be treated and Ahavas Yisrael. We continue as always to work diligently on treating everyone and everything with respect and kindness! We played a fun game when learning facts about the Omer. The use of more than one of our senses when learning something allows the brain to code the information in multiple ways, thus creating a stronger connection to the material.

Lag B'Omer was different than usual... Our tradition is going to Emily Oaks Nature Center every year, but this year, because of Covid-19, we were not able to keep to our norm. Although we had to make different plans, we very much enjoyed going to the park and playing for an extended period of time. Before going to the park we came up with a list of outdoor rules for our class. These rules are meant for our play yard at school as well as going to the park. We will be posting those rules as a reminder for our friends that may at times get overly excited and forget how to play with respect and kindness. While the weather was windy and a little on the chilly side, the children got some much needed fresh air and exercise, as well as time to just enjoy playing freely. Morah Naomi brought snacks for our class as well as the primary one, and all of our friends happily enjoyed their popcorn. We returned to school for lunch.

We welcomed a new friend to our class. Gedalya Sherman has joined us. He is a kindergarten student that we felt would benefit from being part of our group. So far all the children have greeted him beautifully and work to help him feel welcome and acclimate. He seems to be adjusting well and is enjoying the added responsibility and curriculum of the elementary classroom.



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This week we have been working on our mothers' day project. We hope that our moms enjoy their day and that they appreciate the hard work the children have put into their gift. Much excitement swirls around projects in our classroom and the children are taking great care and pride in their work.

Since it is spring, we are watching caterpillars become butterflies in our classroom. Morah Yasmeeen gave an engaging and interesting lesson on the lifecycle of the Butterfly and the children worked hard on their follow up. All the children wrote facts about the animal in their journal, and some friends created posters to depict the lifecycle and facts they learned. One of the butterflies has hatched from its chrysalis. We are waiting for the others to transform before we let them out into the world. The children enjoy watching animals and plants grow and develop and get much joy from observing and noting the many changes that occur.

Lap books have been an exciting thing these past few weeks (as I believe we mentioned in a previous newsletter). One of our friends is working on a Lion lapbook, another friend on a Geode lapbook and a third friend finished a very extensive lapbook about dinosaurs. Lap books are fun and interesting and a great way to help children that otherwise may not enjoy academic activities to do things they do not even realize they are doing (ie reading, decoding, writing, language arts, science and geography and art). As always, if you have questions about any part of our curriculum you are welcome to reach out and ask.

In parsha this week we learn about Shmita and Yovel. We got to do fun and interesting work related to this by using beads to show the different years. The children have become quite proficient in the details of these concepts. I would like to ask you to please give me feedback related to parsha. I send home questions every week, and am not sure if the children are going over them with you, if they are having discussions about the concepts, or if they remember what they have learned. It would be helpful to have feedback :)

We look forward to next week and all the exciting and interesting learning experiences it may bring. We hope everyone has a peaceful and restful Shabbos and a Mothers' Day filled with love, joy and nachas!

Good Shabbos,

Morah Daniella, Morah Ninveh and Morah Yasmeeen



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Elementary Parshas Behar-Bechukosai Questions

1. Remind me please...what is Peah?
2. Remind me please...what is Leket?
3. Remind me please...what is Shichecha?
4. What is the name of the 7th year when talking about farming?
5. What year is the Yovel year?
6. How is this year similar to Shabbos?
7. What does this have to do with trust?
8. What can the farmer not do during this year?
9. What must the farmer do with the gate of his field?
10. Who does the field belong to during the shmita year?
11. What is it called when something is left alone and does not belong to any person?
12. What are the 3 promises that Hashem made to Bnei Yisrael if they keep Shmita?
13. After the shmita year, what happens to the land?
14. How is this different from the Yovel year?
15. If a person has servants, what happens on the shmita year? What do they have to do?
16. How is this different from the Yovel year?
17. Do we still observe shmita and yovel now?
18. What is something that is important to remember when selling something?
19. When speaking with another person, what are two things that it is important to remember?
20. Hashem promised Bnei Yisrael that he would bless them if they learned and followed the Torah. What were these blessings?
21. What do we say at the end of these 2 parshas?



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Parshas Behar-Bechukosai

Elementary Parshas Behar-Bechukosai Answer Key

1. Remind me please...what is Peah? (the edges of the field that are left for the poor)
2. Remind me please...what is Leket? (when a field is harvested, if anything falls it is left for the poor)
3. Remind me please...what is Shichecha? (once the items are in bundles and are being loaded to take away, if we forget one we do not go back. We leave it for the poor)
4. What is the name of the 7th year when talking about farming? (shmita)
5. What year is the Yovel year? (50th)
6. How is this year similar to Shabbos? (the land rests)
7. What does this have to do with trust? (we trust that Hashem will provide for us during the time we are resting and not working)
8. What can the farmer not do during this year? (he may not work his land - plant, harvest, etc.)
9. What must the farmer do with the gate of his field? (leave it open for anyone that wants to come in and take food)
10. Who does the field belong to during the shmita year? (Hashem)
11. What is it called when something is left alone and does not belong to any person? (Hefker)
12. What are the 3 promises that Hashem made to Bnei Yisrael if they keep Shmita? (1. that he will make sure that enough grows on the 6th year to last 3 years. 2. People will feel satisfied with a smaller amount of food. 3. The Jewish people in Eretz Yisrael will be safe.)
13. After the shmita year, what happens to the land? (The farmer may start working his field again)
14. How is this different from the Yovel year? (in Yovel the land goes back to its original owner. The farmer does not own the land any more so he can not work the land)
15. If a person has servants, what happens on the shmita year? (They are let free) Do they have to? (no, they can say they want to stay and get a hole put in their ear)
16. How is this different from the Yovel year? (In the Yovel year the servants must be let free and may not stay even if they want to)



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17. Do we still observe shmita and yovel now? (We observe shmita, but no longer observe yovel)
18. What is something that is important to remember when selling something? (to be honest and not cheat someone)
19. When speaking with another person, what are two things that it is important to remember? (to be kind and respectful and to not hurt people on purpose with your words. It is also important not to embarrass anyone).
20. Hashem promised Bnei Yisrael that he would bless them if they learned and followed the Torah. What were these blessings? (rain, enough food, peace, large families, that he will rest among us).
21. What do we say at the end of these 2 parshas? (chazak chazak ve v'nitchazek)

