

שליט"א Rabbi Wilson's message

ז אדר א' תשפ"ב—פרשת תצוה

Here are two quiz questions for you:

1. Whose name is not mentioned in this week's פרשה because he asked 'ה' to "wipe out my name from Your ספר?"
2. Who does everybody spend lots of time talking about this week, at every דרשה and דבר תורה on the פרשה?

I am assuming that you got the answers to the above questions and that you get the point that I am making.

The irony is that, while משה רבנו is not mentioned in פרשת תצוה, he is literally conspicuous by his absence and is therefore talked about the whole week. This is the paradox of פרשת תצוה—the more משה רבנו tries to hide, the more conspicuous he becomes.

There is a clear message here: כל הבורח מן הכבוד הכבוד רודף אחריו. When you run away from כבוד, you do what is right, rather than what you think will stand out or bring you compliments or 'help you get a good shidduch' (!), you start to get noticed in a positive way.

You might not get noticed by everyone – the people who look for noise and externals, will notice the people who shout the loudest or wear the loudest clothes. But you will instead get noticed by the people who value humility, honesty and integrity. You will get noticed by people who value people who are real.

In school we are blessed with so many wonderful staff and pupils who do not make a fuss, but day-in-day-out quietly do the right thing. I thank those members of staff who work behind the scenes and never seek credit or fame and I thank all the wonderful girls who every day are respectful, humble, honest and kind. I hope they all know how much others respect them for their quiet dignity and outstanding מדות.

So many great programmes and events have taken place this half-term, as you will see in this newsletter. Rehearsals for the show and the מצוה בת מצוה are in full swing and the girls look forward to welcoming you to these big events next month.

With best wishes for a relaxing break and looking forward to seeing everyone back safe and well בעזה"י.

ברכה והצלחה

Rabbi Wilson

ראש חודש Outings

In high spirits, our girls piled into five coaches and left school on ראש חודש morning, headed towards Ambleside. Each year group had been given a different colour to wear, and the girls were festooned with ribbons, hair accessories and shoe laces in their prescribed colour. When they arrived, they waited patiently in the specially cordoned off carpark, until the huge Swift arrived for years 7 to 10, and a smaller boat for Year 11. On board, the girls sang and relaxed with their friends, and enjoyed the sun that was miraculously peeking through the clouds. Upon arrival at Bowness, the girls disembarked and walked round the corner to The Glebe—a rather muddy area of grass, where each year group had a different activity. Year 7s played the balloon game and danced, Year 8 played the stepping stone game, Year 9 girls learned a dance from a few of their classmates, Year 10 were put into teams to make songs about the months they were born in, and Year 11 relaxed with their classmates.

After a quick stop by the lakeside to rinse off muddy shoes, the girls filed back onto the boats, and amid more singing and dancing, sailed back to Ambleside where the coaches were waiting to bring them back to school.

All the staff on the boat and the coaches commented (as always) about the politeness and manners of the girls, and we are so proud of the קידוש ה' they made. Many thanks to Mrs Richman and Mrs Levy for the many hours spent planning the trip, to the Mechanchos who organised the activities, and to the teachers who accompanied the girls.

Mishmeres

After enthusiastically revising הלכות שמירת הלשון and הלכות רכילות over the Winter holidays, it was with much anticipation that the grand raffle was drawn. Brocha Royde from year 9 was the lucky winner of the adorable canary, which has settled well into its new home. The bird may have moved on but its message remains clear—we need to remember not to mindlessly parrot the words we hear, and keep constant watch on what we say.

In the Mishmeres program this term, we learnt from the ArtScroll book: Master your words, Master your life. A worldwide learning programme was created with nearly a thousand people learning from this book שרית רחל בת יצחק (ע"ה Mrs Sarit Fulda לעלוי נשמת (דוד) who excelled in שמירת הלשון. She learnt from this gem of a book with a learning partner and was very inspired by it. This book has greatly benefited our girls, and the many hundreds who are also learning. Stay tuned for new exciting developments in our Mishmeres program as we learn to guard our speech together!

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 8th February is International Safer Internet Day. Rabbi Wilson introduced the topic in assembly, where he explained that although it is safest to avoid the internet, when the girls will be adults they will need to know how to use it, and how to use it safely. This needs to be ingrained in their memories now so that it will be instinctive when they are adults. Mrs Royde has begun going to the classes to discuss some of the various dangers of the internet; such as viruses, scams, hackers, fraud, false or misleading information, addiction, unwanted images etc. This will be followed up with further sessions in ICT and with the mechanchos about how best to protect ourselves from the issues. A wall display will reinforce these important messages.

Year 11 Gateshead Trip

Around 45 girls from Year 11 spent a lovely שבת in Gateshead, where they were able to experience a taste of both Sems. On Friday the girls listened to Rabbi Sipper and Rabbi Leiberman deliver incredibly interesting שיעורים in BCR on Hashkofo and Dinim. They attended קבלת שבת at Gateshead Old Sem, followed by the Friday night meal and panel with T1 girls who answered all their questions about sem. On שבת morning they ate the meal with their hosts, and listened to a שיעור by Rabbi Katz on the פרשה. On שבת they heard Rabbi Miller's famed שיעור שבת, followed by מלוה מלכה and a panel in BCR. On Sunday morning they were able to meet Rabbi Kohn to discuss Gateshead Old Sem. Girls really enjoyed the weekend and gained clarity on their upcoming sem decisions.

The girls who remained in school were not left out! They had a session with Mrs Rechnitzer about emotional and physical wellbeing, Miss G Grant spoke to them about growth mindset with tools and skills for exams and for their future life. and Mrs Rebenwurzle echoed a similar theme in a shiur about the פרשה, including the famous story of Thomas Edison and the lightbulb.

Thank you to Mrs Levy for organising the trip and the programme.

תפלה Team

Under the inspiration of Sara Hadassa Scherer, and ably assisted by Tzivia Yodaiken and Hadassa Bar Ilan, a new initiative is going to be launched, whereby our school will be matched up with a similar size school in America. Each of our girls will submit something she is davening for with a name, and she will be given a name of someone davening for the same thing. Following the כל המתפלל בעד חברו והוא צריך לאותו דבר הוא נענה תחלה: חז"ל they will daven for each other and אי"ה we should all see ישועות.

צדקה and תסד Teams

The צדקה team sold a variety of fruity snacks for ט"ו בשבט and showed a film on מוצאי שבת פרשת משפטים, which together raised an amazing £1000 for needy children in Odessa. An extra £250 which was raised above their target was given to Rabbi Levenberg's fund for needy people in Prestwich, and £200 was given to Lev Chaim, an amazing צדקה run by Mrs S Neuman.

The team are working on collecting prizes for our אדר raffle. If you would like to donate a prize, please be in touch with Mrs Sasson via the school office.

The תסד team treated Year 8 to candy floss as they managed to bring in the most clothes for Orphans of Odessa. A card is being made this week by girls to send over with the money raised.

Chaya Frankel, our חופה organiser in year 11, has managed to arrange girls to clear up approximately 12 חופות, and the girls who have been going to help will be getting a treat to recognise their efforts.

Groups of girls from Year 9 have been continuing to help GIFT with sorting food at the depot. They have been arranging this themselves with Mrs Woolfstein, and we are so proud of them.

Unfortunately, our Year 10 lunchtime visits to Aim Habonim have had to be postponed due to further Covid regulations, we hope to have this up and running next term.

Some girls have been doing volunteer work on שבת morning, helping out families who need an extra pair of hands, and during the week girls have been helping out with non-verbal children who need extra speech practice. Any girls wanting to help out with this huge תסד should speak to Mrs Sasson.

Programme Team

The girls were enthusiastically welcomed back to school this term with another fun 'Programme on wheels'. Amidst much singing, they all took part in a fun Bingo game with clues to guess the names of various girls in the school. After that, each girl got the chance to pick a name of another girl in the school to write a short note and give a 'candy-gram' to. The message was that each of us are unique and special, and we must remember that when we interact with others.

The team pulled out all the stops for the fun ט"ו בשבט programme. Each girl received a lolly telling her which room to go to—this determined what team they would be in. Each team had a specific fruit and had to make a song, poster and dress up a girl as that fruit. They also had to complete a ט"ו בשבט general knowledge quiz. Each team received points for their presentations and quiz results. The girls learnt some important הלכות about ט"ו בשבט, and also had the opportunity to practice their teamwork, organisational and time management skills.

School Show

As you will know, rehearsals for our show are well on its way. Show Heads Yocheved Saberski, Adina Emanuel, Miriam Arnold, Shalvi Lampert, Shevi Katz and Rifka Chissick are doing a fantastic job organising, arranging and supporting, guided by Mrs Stefansky, Miss Elkouby, Miss Posen and Miss Bolel.

Year 7 are not feeling left out as they are busy preparing for their upcoming בת מצוה evening, which we are sure will be memorable for girls and mothers alike.

Iced Coffee

We are proud to announce the worthy recipients of the iced coffees this month, for those girls who are positive role models amongst their peers.

Year 7

Odeli Burland
Rachel Clayhills
Chana Leitner

Year 8

Chani Enchine
Yiskah Rudich
Sheva Stern

Year 9

Aviva Fulda
Adina Villegas
Ayala Dansky

Year 10

Chana Braceiner
Rina Treblow
Noa Ukeles

Year 11

Shani Haffner
Rikki Halpern
Rikki Myers
Gitty Olsberg

Free candy floss was distributed to all the girls in honour of 'ראש חודש אדר א', arranged by school council members Sara Stern and Sara Benamor.

פרשה points are hung up each week, along with a thought provoking questions, by our Head Girls; Gila Abenson, Perele Roitenbarg, Adina Royde and Shani Haffner.

Head Girls and School Council Heads are supporting the clean up after lunch, which has made a huge difference in ensuring the cleanliness of the Hall ready for afternoon lessons.

Newsletter Heads; Rivky Levenberg, Devorah Hanson, Naomi Cohen and Aviva Davis produce biweekly, high class school magazines that are enjoyed by all.

Girls from Bnos Chayil have been joining us for lunch every other week, organised by Henny Rose and Rifka Schauder, and our girls go to Bnos Chayil on the other weeks.

Mrs Thumim came to speak to the Year 11 girls about courses in graphic design that she runs.

A message from the SLT

Dear parents/guardians

Spring has sprung! The days are getting longer, the sun is shining (occasionally) and ASDA are selling daffodils. But though the weather is changeable, one thing is always the same: the incredible dedication of staff and students at BYJHS. So although we always start our letter with gratitude, we are going to do the same again: thank you to all the fantastic staff who have given up time and energy teaching, planning and organising to make sure our students have a positive learning experience. The many events highlighted in this newsletter are just a taster of how much has been going on.

In **פרשת תצוה** we learn how **משה רבנו** struggled to understand how to make a **מנורה**. **חז"ל** tell us that he understood when **ה'** showed him on **הר סיני** but by the time he went down the mountain, he found he didn't understand it at all. **ה'** showed him an image in fire but, again, when he went back to the **מחנה**, **משה רבנו** couldn't work out how to do it. Eventually, say **חז"ל**, he threw the block of gold in the furnace and **ה'** made the **מנורה** come out the way He wanted.

The light of the **מנורה** can be seen as a **משל** for spiritual growth and inspiration; and this **מדרש** teaches many things. One of them is about the lessons we learn and how we apply them. Things can seem so clear and obvious one minute but then, when the inspiration wears off, we don't even know where to start. The gold of the **מנורה** parallels the pure **נשמה** that all of us have. We might have a plan for growth and not know where to start, but once we have the right intentions, **ה'** Himself will make it happen.

We are sure your daughters have told you about the many visitors we have had in school. They have all commented on the dedication and commitment of the staff and girls. It is clear to them – and us – that Beis Yaakov is a school with a commitment to growth and inspiration. We are privileged to work with you supporting your daughters as they make the pure gold of their **נשמות** into vessels of light and become the **נשים צדקניות** of the next generation.

Have a wonderful half term,

Mrs Levy, Mrs Lopian, Mrs Patel & Mrs Treblow