

KI TAVO

August 27, 2021 - 19 Elul, 5781

Light Candles at 7:43pm

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The TASA Times



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

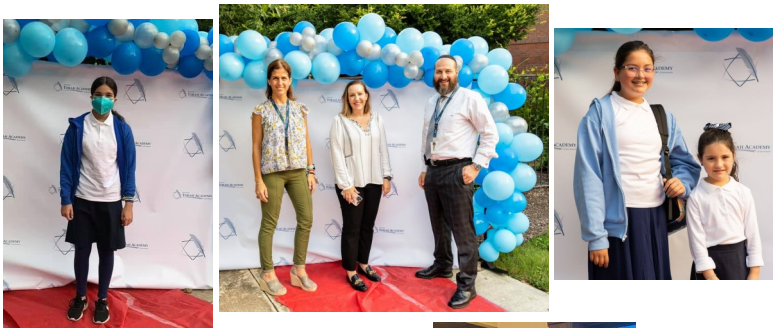
New School Year Kicks Off with Great Vibes



TASA kicked off another year last Thursday, August 19th, marking its 9th year of academics. Students were welcomed back with fanfare as A-List stars, as they took photos on the red carpet with their family and friends.

Prior to the student's start date, teachers and administration spent approximately two weeks setting up, participating in a host of in-service and training seminars and preparing for school. Staff listened to a variety of presenters including; Yair Griver, Board President, who gave a State of TASA report, Mrs. Sarah Endzweig, Lead Teacher who gave a workshop on "Reaching Every Child", Howie Nestel, CEO of Sharkmatic and Business Coach who spoke about "Growth-Mindset" and Mrs. Diric and Rabbi Marrus who led the multi-day training and in-service.

"We are excited about another school year, with new families, students and staff, and can't wait to really get into the TASA groove," said Mrs. Diric, Director of General Studies. "Although we are still dealing with Covid-19 realities and challenges, I am confident that together, we will overcome these obstacles and have an amazing year ahead" said Rabbi Marrus, Dean of TASA.



Kenseido Team Building

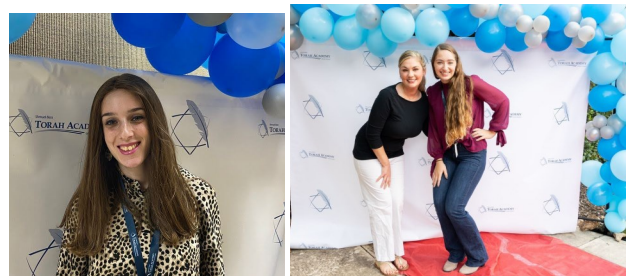
On the first day of school, TASA students and staff participated in a Team-Building exercise with Sensei Winslow Swart. Sensei spoke about teamwork, overcoming challenges, and having the inner strength to do the right thing. He also blew the Shofar, getting us into the pre-Rosh Hashanah Elul spirit. The program concluded with everyone participating in some balance exercises leaving us all sweaty and ready to go back into our classrooms!



Welcome New Staff Members

We would like to extend a hearty welcome and *Beruchim Habaim* to some new staff at school. We wish them an amazing and successful year ahead.

- Ms. Dina Wood - General Studies
- Ms. Kelley Higgins - Kinder General Studies
- Coach Bill Horewitch - P.E.
- Morah Tzivya Block - 3rd & 4th grade Judaic Studies





FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Parshat Ki Tavo Blessings Galore

This week's Torah portion of *Ki Tavo* is most well known for the *Tochecha* - the verses of admonition. These frightful verses of admonition or curses, are read twice yearly, prior to *Rosh Hashanah* and prior to *Shavuot*. The theme of this reading is, what will happen if we do not listen to Hashem's commandments and turn our backs on His holy Torah. Unfortunately, history has shown that we have endured these many negative challenges throughout our history (see *Ramban's explanation of the Tochecha*).

Just prior to the *Tochecha* however, there are a number of moving and beautiful verses describing the amazing blessings we will receive if we do follow Hashem's word and commandments. The Torah states (*Devarim 28:2*) - *וּבָאוּ עִלַיִךְ כָּל הַבְּרָכוֹת הָאֵלֶּה וְהִשִּׁיגְךָ - All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you*".

The simple meaning of this verse is, that the blessings will be so great that they will overwhelm us. According to the *Seforno (Italy 1470-1550)*, even when we make no effort to receive these blessings or it defies logic, these amazing blessings will continue to be showered upon us. The *Ohr HaChaim Hakadosh (Morocco/Israel 1696-1743)* explains that even if the Heavenly Court may protest these extravagant blessings as the Jewish people may not be entirely worthy, nonetheless, nothing will prevent these blessings from coming to fruition.

Perhaps, there is an added message in these words " - *וְהִשִּׁיגְךָ will come over you and overtake you*".

Often, we are so busy with life and all its stresses that we simply are not able to focus on all the blessings we already have. We are so focused on what we don't have that we don't take the time to be grateful and celebrate all that G-d has graced us with. The lesson here is, that Hashem will not only bless us, but give us the clarity and spiritual maturity to be grateful and celebrate all the incredible blessings already in our lives.

A story is told of *Rabbi Dovber Schneuri of Lubavitch (Russia 1773-1827)* in his youth. On one occasion, he fainted when he heard the verse of the *Tochecha* (in this week's parshah) and remained ill for weeks. The harsh words were too much for his delicate and sensitive soul. When asked why he had not reacted so strongly to the *Tochecha* in the past, he replied: "In the past I heard the reading from my father. And when my father reads them, I hear only blessings..."

According to the *Kabbalah* the greatest blessing are hidden within these verses of the *Tochecha*. If there are great blessings in what outwardly seems so negative, how

Coming Soon!!

- * Friday, September 3rd - Special Rosh Hashana Program
- * **Monday, September 6th** - Labor Day & Erev Rosh Hashanah, **No School.**
- * **Tuesday, September 7th & Wednesday, September 8th** - Rosh Hashanah, **No School.**
- * **Thursday, September 9th** - Fast of Gedalia, **late start @9am**



much more so there are incredible blessings in every aspect of our lives. We just need to discern and celebrate them.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Welcome New Families

ברוכים הבאים

We are excited to say Shalom and welcome to our new students and their families into our TASA Community:

Kindergarten: Dovber & Mendel Grossbaum, Leah Hender, Rachel Karp, Malachi Monk, Dovi Rosenwasser, Channah Scheinberg, Zeev Sellem, Eliya Shparaga and Yaakov Teldon.

1st Grade: Racheal Monk,

2nd Grade: Elijah Monk

3rd Grade: Noam Basurto, Savanna Monk

6th Grade: Eliezer Sellem

7th Grade: Sarah Pearsall



Please don't forget to pay your \$50 per family PTO's due directly to Mrs. Loreleigha Glassburner and sign up for volunteering.

