

VAYAKHEL

February 25, 2022 - 24 Adar I, 5782

Light Candles at 6:12pm

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The TASA Times

שבועון של בית ספר היהודי



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

STEM Time with Ms. Wood

In first and second grade, students worked on a fun STEM activity! STEM emphasizes collaboration, communication, research, problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity. These are all very important skills students need to be successful in today's world regardless of specific interests or career goals. First and second graders were put into teams to build a paper chain with only three pieces of construction paper, twelve inches of masking tape and scissors. Whoever constructed the longest paper chain without it breaking, won the STEM challenge! Nice job!



TODAH RABAH!

TASA would like to extend a very big thank you to the parent volunteers that assisted during our rodeo field trip and Mrs. E for organizing the trip!

Mr. Jason Goldblum
Mrs. Martha Hendler
Mrs. Katie Sellem
Mr. Rueben Sellem



Rodeo Time

Our kindergarten, first and second grade classes got a chance to attend the Rodeo this year. Students got a mini presentation on where milk comes from and the process on how it goes from the cows to the shelves at grocery stores. The pig races were intense, unfortunately, our section pig, did not win. Petting the animals was a ton of fun, but the highlight was watching a chick hatch right in front of the students. Witnessing the miracle of life.



100 Days of School

TASA celebrated 100 Days of School, despite the many days we've had to close for various reasons. Students and staff dressed up as if they were 100 years old with canes, fake beards and even fake scowls. It was a grand OLD time!





FROM THE DEAN'S DESK דבר תורה

Clasps & Hooks— Parshat Vayakhel

This week's Torah portion of Vayakhel is a review of the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle in the wilderness). Due to its great importance, the Torah repeats the directives of how to construct the Mishkan and then we are told how the work actually progressed.

Let us focus on one area in particular, the cover/roof of the Mishkan. As the Mishkan was a collapsible and movable structure, the cover was made out of beautiful tapestries. These layers of tapestries called Yeri'ot - יריעות, were woven together to cover the expanse of the entire tabernacle. More specifically, we are told that there were five curtains/strips of tapestries that were woven together, and then another five curtains/strips of tapestries that were woven together. These two larger tapestries were then connected by means of loops and clasps. It then was spread out over the entire Mishkan, forming a beautiful roof.

For some reason, I have been thinking about the קרסים - Kerasim (Hebrew for clasps) the last couple of days. Why were clasps necessary? Why were there clasps and not hooks? Is there perhaps a deeper lesson connected to this?

After a quick online search, I found the following explanation in defining the difference between a hook and a clasp. "As nouns, the difference between clasp and hook is that clasp is a fastener or, particularly one that clasps while hook is a rod bent into a curved shape, typically with one end free and the other end secured to a rope or other attachment."

In other words, a clasp is a firm and secure fastener, while a hook is less secure.

One of the greatest challenges and responsibilities we have in life is educating our children/students to become confident and functional human beings. When children are young we provide for them a home, a safe environment where they can grow and develop. Every child needs that security, a literal and preverbal "roof over their heads". Only when we are safe, secure, and loved, can we then spread our wings and grow in a healthy way.

Perhaps, in this lies a deeper message of the importance of the "roof" of the Mishkan. The roof of the Mishkan was fastened with firm clasps and not hooks, because the message is "this is a solid roof over our head". The Mishkan, that is symbolic of our spiritual home, was our safe and nurturing place, and Hashem was telling us "you are safe here".

Just like children need that stability and knowledge that their

home is secure, so too, Hashem provided security and stability in our spiritual home.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Coming Soon!!

Kindergarten Shavano Park Fire Dept. Trip
Monday, February 28th

Middle School Shabbaton
Friday, March 4th - 5th

TASA PTO Purim Carnival, Noon Dismissal
Wednesday, March 16th

Purim and Shushan Purim— No School
March 17th -18th

Morah Keren's Art Class

This week 3rd and 4th grade students got to work with different textures and materials to create an ocean piece. Kindergarten students created

