

HA'AZINU

September 17, 2021 - 11 Tishrei, 5782

Light Candles at 7:18pm

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The TASA Times



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

Yom Kippur Programming



This year our TASA Students prepared for Yom Kippur, by participating in the Kapparot ritual and a special Erev Yom Kippur breakfast that our TASA PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) was kind enough to sponsor and put together. Thank you to those that did the shopping, set up, served and cleaned up including; Loreleigh Glassburner, Mrs. Diric, Veronica Goldblum, and Katie & Ruben Sellem. Thank you as well to all the teachers that helped out, making this a meaningful EReve Yom Kippur breakfast.

Our annual Kapparot raised \$177.00 and will be given to Tzedaka. Thank you all for participating and teaching our children the importance of Chesed and giving to others.



Art Crafts for Chagim

Morah Keren, our amazing Art teacher, got creative and had students make different crafts during this year's High Holidays. For Rosh Hashanah, Kinder, 1st & 2nd grade decorated and colored an apple representing a sweet year. They also created flags for Simchat Torah.



The 3rd & 4th graders embellished cardboard cut shofars.

Last but not least, our middle schoolers have been working on garnishing a styrofoam sphere with sequins & beads, to add to their apple that they crafted last year.





FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה
The Art of Listening - Parshat Ha'azinu

We hear sounds, noises and words. Seems like one of the most basic human functions. But are we really listening?

This week's *Parsha Ha'azinu* is named after the special song of *Moshe Rabbeinu*. It is a song that recounts Jewish history from the beginning of time, foretells the future, and according to our sages, has everything contained in it.

The verse begins with the words (*Devarim 32:1*) " - *האזינו השמים ואדברה ותשמע הארץ אמני פי - Give ear, O heavens and I will speak, and may the earth hear the words of my mouth*".

Rashi (France 104-1105) explains that Moshe calls on the heavens and the earth to be his witnesses, as he begins to foretell both the good and bad that will befall the Jewish people throughout history. The heavens and the earth that have been around since the creation of the world, are the appropriate witnesses to this expansiveness of time.

But if we pay closer attention to the words, we find something remarkable. Moshe says "Give ear, O heavens... and may the earth hear the words of my mouth". Many years later the great prophet Isaiah utters a similar prophecy when he says (*Isaiah 1:2*) " - *האזיני ארץ - Give ear, O earth, and hear O heavens*". The *Midrash Tanchuma* explains that all the prophets were equal as we see the words of the prophecy reverberate throughout history (Moshe and Isaiah lived some 700+ years apart).

Rabbi Akiva explained that when Moses uttered the Torah, he was in the heavens, and that he speaks with the heavens like one who is speaking with his friend, since he said: GIVE EAR, O HEAVENS. But when he saw that the earth was far from him, he said: LET THE EARTH HEAR THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH. In the case of Isaiah, however, because he was on earth, he said: HEAR, O HEAVENS, [since they were] far from him. After that he said: AND GIVE EAR, O EARTH, because it was near to him.

The word *Ha'azinu* comes from the word "אָזן-Ear", hence the meaning, to listen or hear. In the Yiddish language the word to listen is "*Heren*" but to comprehend and really understand is "*Derheren*". In other

words, there is a fundamental difference between hearing and comprehending/understanding.

As parents and educators, we are always hearing words, sentences, complaints, kvetching and more. But, are we really comprehending and understanding what the child is saying or unable to say? So often, the real issue is not what a child is saying or doing but the deeper issue that is behind it.

Moshe Rabbeinu encourages us to really listen and comprehend our children and other people. Thus, not only do we listen to the blessings of *Ha'azinu* but we truly connect and comprehend to the depths of our souls.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Coming Soon!!

- * Monday, Sep. 20th - Erev Sukkot, Noon Dismissal.
- * Tuesday, Sep. 21st & Wednesday, Sep. 22nd - Sukkot, No School.
- * Monday, Sep. 27th - Hoshana Raba, No School.
- * Tuesday, Sep. 28th - Wednesday, Sep. 29th - Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah, No School.
- * Thursday, Sep. 30th, Isru Chag, late start @9am.



TASA Sukkot Kumzits

Parents and board members are invited to join the students and staff next Friday, September 24th (Chol Hamoed) for a musical Kumzitz at 2:45-3:30 p.m. This program will incorporate our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat as well. We are excited to get into the Sukkot Ruach (spirit) for the Chag.

