

NOACH

October 22, 2021 - 16 Cheshvan, 5782

Light Candles at 6:38pm

Issue 4, 2021-22

# The TASA Times

שבועון של בית ספר היהודי

## TASA's Changemakers are back!!



TASA's Changemaker program is BACK! We "Blasted Off" with our first Changemaker, Mr. Chris Maier, Rocket Geek, who dabbles in the high-power rocketry hobby! This amazing hobby began when Chris was young. He loved remote control cars, and happened upon a hobby magazine about rockets in the local library. From that point on, he was hooked. By 12 years old, he was working with small rockets that were air powered. After high school, Chris worked as a detail mechanic, went into the Marines, and now works in

computer science. All of these skills helped him take his rocket loving to a new level!

Chris is part of a group of people around the country who fly rockets for fun. Tripoli is a rocket club for enthusiasts, and with its annual membership, Tripoli has insurance that covers any incidentals, but most importantly, to be a rocket flyer, you must pass different certification tests for safety. These tests include building your own rocket, taking the exam, and then successfully flying that rocket to a safe landing. With each level of certification the rockets get larger and include electronics, and solid rocket booster fuel for the motors. Chris, with his skills and knowledge of machinery and computers, has the ability to machine his own parts, and mix his own chemicals to mold his individual rocket boosters.

During our Changemaker program, Chris showed students a variety of types and sizes of rockets, and contents of their insides (electronics and parachutes). He then showed us his largest rocket, a 9-foot rocket that he painted like a pencil. Kids and teachers were in awe as he put this rocket together from several large pieces and discussed how this model needs two separate parachutes to slow its 20,000 foot fall at 100 ft./sec. WOW!

This was a Changemaker session for the books! What an exciting STEM filled information session! Thanks to the Grossbaum family for making this possible, as they are neighbors to this amazing "Rocket Geek"!!  
<http://rocketgeek.org>



## Reading Time



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY  
of San Antonio

During our afternoon reading time, we have been working very hard on our weekly story, focusing on various spelling and comprehension components!

Students have been loving the opportunity to get up and find a "comfy" spot in the classroom to work on different activities with a partner of their choice.

Through our "Hunks & Chunks" time, students rotate from group to group working on various reading strategies - Mrs. Nelson works with them on phonics (Hunks & Chunks), while Ms. Wood works in groups on guided reading skills, and they also have an opportunity to work independently (high frequency word coloring, writing, independent reading, etc). This helps to keep students engaged and ensures they are receiving different types of reading instruction daily! Here at TASA we love reading!



## Keeping active & healthy



In P.E., we have been working on jump rope arm and leg coordination for at least 10 minutes each day. This week's goal was to have the kids be able to jump fluidly 10 continuous jumps, and practice the crisscross technique.

We also went over good sportsmanship and can-do attitudes to improve students' confidence in the learning process.

In bocce, we have learned how to point the pallina target, and we will continue with these drills to build muscle memory and hand-eye coordination in strategic use of the grassy terrain. This week we focused specifically on shooting drills; knocking the opponents balls away from the pallina, making the game more exciting, and building finessed hand-eye coordination with applied strength.



For our Pacer Test Training, we will open and close with yoga and/or qigong style warm ups, stretches, and light breathing exercises.



## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה

Don't Give Up - Parshat Vayera

Our Torah portion opens with *Avraham Avinu* recovering from the *Brit Milah* (circumcisions) as he sits outside his tent. The Torah describes how three angels in the form of men came to visit him. *Avraham* runs towards them, bustling about welcoming his guests, treating them like royalty and prepares for them a true feast. *Avraham* asks *Sarah* to prepare and knead cakes. Then the Torah says "ואל הבקר רץ אברהם, ויקח בן בקר רך וטוב ויתן אל הנער וימהר לעשות - *Then Avraham ran to the cattle, took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the youth who hurried to prepare it*".

Rashi (France 1040-1105) brings a clarification (*Midrash Rabbah* 13) that the "youth" was *Yishmael* who *Avraham* wanted to educate in the proper path of *Mitzvot*. As such, *Yishmael* was given the task of helping to prepare for the guests.

As this portion of *Vayera* is the fourth portion in the Torah, I believe that this is the first mention of *Chinuch* (Education) in the Torah. We see how *Avraham*, the first Jew, is making a conscious and direct effort to educate his thirteen year old son.

However, when we look closer at the previous *Parshah*, *Lech Lecha*, and later on in our *Parshah*, something additional stands out. *Yishmael* was not exactly a model citizen or an easy child. The Torah describes him (*Berishit* 16:12) as "And he shall be a wild-ass of a man, his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and over all his brothers shall he dwell". Henceforth in our *Parshah*, *Yishmael* is banished by *Sarah* for his wicked behavior. Surely, it was challenging and difficult for *Avraham* to parent this child, especially as he entered his teen years. And yet, we see something beautiful and insightful. *Avraham* continued to believe in his son and provide *Chinuch* (education) for him. He looked for ways to involve his son and make him feel invested and connected to *Hachnasat Orchim* (inviting guests) and *Mitzvot*. He refused to give up on him.

What a beautiful lesson of never giving up hope on a child, no matter how challenging or difficult it may be. If *Avraham* refused to give up hope on *Yishmael*, we can certainly make an extra effort to give love, education and a feeling of positivity toward each and every one of our precious children.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Y. Marrus

## Coming Soon!!

- \* **Monday, November 1st** - No School / Professional Development
- \* **MATCH-A-THON** - Wednesday, November 3 & Thursday, November 4
- \* **Tuesday, November 9th** - Picture Day!
- \* **Thursday, November 11th** - Veterans Day, special programming
- \* **Thanksgiving Break** - Monday, Nov 22 - Friday, Nov 26



## ANNUAL TASA MATCH-A-THON November 3rd & 4th

**TASA Family, please mark your calendars for our 8th Annual TASA Match-A-Thon coming up Wednesday and Thursday, November 3 & 4.**

### Spaghetti Dinner Night

**KOSHER DINNER NIGHT** - TASA's PTO is excited to host its 1st PTO Dinner for the 21-22 school year on Thursday, November 4th from 5pm - 7pm at Chabad Center. This dinner will coincide with the tail end of our Annual Matchathon which please G-d will be a huge success.



### Get your kids a tasty & fresh lunch homemade by Mrs. E



**Tentative**  
Thursday 10/28 Egg  
Salad Lunch

**TASA Parents Zoom Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 2nd at 8:00pm