

TOLDOT

November 19, 2021 - 15 Kislev, 5782

Light Candles at 5:19pm

Issue 6, 2021-22

The TASA Times

שבועון של בית ספר היהודי



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

Veteran's Special Visit



In honor of Veterans Day, TASA welcomed a visit from an Airforce military working dog unit. Six airmen came to speak to the students about how important these animals are to our military while demonstrating the intelligence and obedience of their beautiful German Shepherd, Puma.

With one airman in a special padded suit, one exciting demonstration showed students how these trained animals can be used to help take down and arrest criminals.

TASA Administration, staff and students want to thank our parents and local community members for their past and present dedication and sacrifice to this wonderful country.

Hands-On learning about Community Service

Kindergarten students have been learning about community service and as a culmination of their study, Captain Dennis Kelley and Detective Stefani Wade from the City of Shavano Park Police, paid them a visit this week. Officer Kelley talked to our little ones about the importance of following the laws of our community and made sure they all knew how to dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency, while Detective Wade urged students to learn their home address in case they ever needed to make such a call. Both officers were extremely patient and thorough answering everyone's curious questions, allowing kids to tour the police car and put on their bulletproof vests for pictures. Officer Kelley & Detective Wade brought goodie bags for everyone.



It was a memorable visit Kinder will never forget!



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה
Putting Others First - Parshat Vayishlach

When our forefather Yaakov was told by G-d to head back to the holy land, it was finally time for him to come face to face with his brother, Esav. Yaakov was scared, as Esav had hated him since he had taken the blessings from Yitzchok. After earnest prayers, preparing a solid security plan and trying to appease Esav with many gifts, it was finally time to meet.

The Torah describes how Yaakov walked in front of everyone, with Bilha and Zilpa with their children following, Leah and her children, and finally Yosef and his mother, Rachel.

What stands out in this verse is the order of how they approached Esav and his men. Yaakov went first, to protect his family and deal with the crisis. Then came the mothers with their children behind them, the mothers protecting their children, also expected. But when it comes to Rachel, the Torah tells us that Yosef placed himself in front of his mother, to protect her "and afterwards, Joseph and Rachel drew near and prostrated themselves" [denoting that Joseph preceded Rachel] (Bereishit 33:7). The Midrash explains here that Yosef said, "This scoundrel has a haughty eye. Perhaps he will take a fancy to my mother." So he went ahead of her, stretching his height to conceal her.

Of all the twelve tribes, only one of them ascended to be a father to other tribes; and that was Yosef, who was a father to Menashe and Efrayim. Yosef was considered the bridge between the Avot and Am Yisrael, *the nation that would flourish in Egypt*.

Why was Yosef so meritorious? Among other things, this was because he placed the needs of others before his own. He had the quality of being a "parent", making sure that he was there for those that needed him. In this case, he was protecting his mother, just as Yaakov protected his children. Later, he protected all the peoples of Egypt and his own family as well. That's what born leaders do—they protect others.

A teacher is very much like a parent. Sometimes, teachers spend more time daily with their students, than students spend with their parents. Teachers must be at the forefront of the pack when it comes not only to educating children, but also in protecting them from the evils around them. A good teacher places the needs of each student before their own, even when it requires more prep time, planning and brainpower. Jewish education is not only about information, but it demonstrates an emphasis on creating *mentches*, children that will grow up to be good and caring people. The next time you interact with your child's teacher, pause for a moment, and thank them for putting our children first.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Coming Soon!!

- * **Thanksgiving Break** - Monday, Nov 22nd - Friday, Nov 26th
- * **Chanukah** - Sunday, November 28th - Monday, December 6th
- * **Winter Break** - Monday, December 20th - Friday, December 31st



Grateful, Thankful, Blessed!

Fruit and veggie turkeys, bagels and schmere, cakes, cookies and more, lined the tables for the annual TASA Family Thanksgiving Breakfast. Students K-4 sang beautifully to tunes in both English and Hebrew, which was then followed up with presentations from 3-7 about different Native American tribes. Parents, grandparents and children's smiles beamed with excitement as we finally had the opportunity to gather again in celebration of Thanksgiving. Thank you to Morah Sarah Cantu and Morah Keren for working with students on their songs, and to Mrs. Nelson for guiding students through the research and presentation process. Thank you also, to our parent volunteers and Mrs. E for putting together a beautiful and bountiful breakfast, and decorated tables. We are thankful for each and every one of you!



Chanukah 2021

Our amazing TASA PTO is planning a special Chanukah surprise for our students for December 3rd. Stay tuned!

There are many Chanukah events happening within our community, please check the synagogues' website and community calendar at the JFSA for more detailed information.

https://www.chabadsa.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/4969521/jewish/Chanukah-2021.htm

<https://www.jfsatx.org/hanukkah21>

<https://www.rodfeisholom.com/calendar>