

VAYIGASH

December 10, 2021 - 6 Tevet, 5782

Light Candles at 5:18pm

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# The TASA Times

## שבועון של בית ספר היהודי



Shmuel Bass

**TORAH ACADEMY**  
of San Antonio

### Chanukah 2021 was LIT!



Chanukah was celebrated at TASA in a fun, educational, and exciting manner! In addition to learning units, where Judaic Studies teachers focused on the story, Halachot (laws) and customs of the holiday, each day was marked with the lighting of our school Chanukiya, treats and singing. There were also two special contests, with grades 1-2 participating in a Menorah building contest,

while grades 3-7 participated in a Dreidel (Sevimon) making contest.

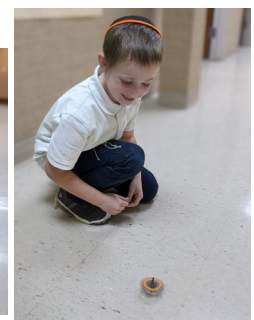
While all the project were beautiful and very creative, the winners were 1st place - Zeev Sellem, 2nd place - Ezra Goldblum, and 3rd place - Rachel Monk for the Menorah contest.

For the Dreidel contest, the winners were: 1st place - Mendel Teldon, 2nd place - Matti Weingarten, and 3rd place - Hadassah Monk.

Chanukah finished off with an epic surprise Foam Party and hot dog lunch, organized and sponsored by our TASA PTO - Parent Teacher Organization. We thank all the parents and PTO's leadership for making our Chanukah culmination so much fun.

### Celebrating our students!

This week, 2nd grader, Ari Griver, and 3rd grader, Amaia Diric tested for higher karate belts at their Kung Jung Mu Sol dojo. With each belt, students must master 18 skills, which are marked with individual black stripes. Several martial arts masters watched and graded techniques to ensure mastery. Both Ari and Amaia came ready to impress, and passed their hour-long rigorous test! Ari is now a Senior Yellow Belt, and Amaia a Yellow Belt. Both students are part of the Dragon Team at KJMS-Rodger Ranch, and have been practicing and dedicating themselves to the martial art three days a week. Kung Jun Mu Sol is the Korean Royal Court martial arts style karate which focuses on leadership and character development, while also developing coordination and physical fitness. We are excited and proud of Ari and Amaia and their accomplishments, and look forward to watching them progress further in their martial arts journey.





## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה

Face to Face Relationships  
Parshat Vayigash

## Coming Soon!!

- \* **Fast of Tevet** - Tuesday, December 14
- \* **Winter Break** - Monday, December 20th - Friday, December 31st
- \* **End of 2nd Quarter** - Friday, January 7th



In this week's Parshah of *Vayigash*, the Torah recounts the standoff between *Yehudah* and *Yosef*. *Yosef*, the viceroy of Egypt, had accused *Binyamin* of being a thief after the royal goblet was found in his bag. As such, he was subject to a life of imprisonment and hardship. *Yehudah*, the guardian, and one responsible for *Binyamin*, had promised his father *Yackov* that he would protect him at all costs.

The Torah portion opens with the words

"ויגש אליו יהודה.. כי כמוך כפרעה"

- And *Yehudah* approached him... for you are like Pharaoh".

The *Midrash* teaches us that *Yehudah* chose his words very carefully as he approached *Yosef* for this final "conflict resolution discussion". This was a face-to-face, frank discussion that had huge ramifications for all parties involved. He begins with polite introductions, platitudes, and then continues with a heartfelt plea for *Binyamin* who was the youngest son of an elderly father in *Canaan*. Then *Yehudah* gets down to brass-knuckle tactics. He threatens *Yosef* and Pharaoh, and is ready to fight and wage war, and if need be, have himself killed in the process of defending his brother.

This is the moment when *Yehuda* and his brothers are ready to risk their lives to protect *Binyamin*, and also to complete their *Teshuvah* (repentance) for having sold *Yosef* into slavery and not protecting him at all. Indeed, they pass this test with flying colors and the twelve brothers, the tribes of Israel, are finally reunited.

The question still remains however, what went wrong? Why did the brothers not appreciate or value *Yosef* and his dreams? Why was *Yosef* not able to communicate or show his brothers that he was not threatening the family hierarchy or trying to destroy the family?

In today's flurry of distant interactions through Facebooking, Instagram, emailing and texting, we are lacking in our face to face relationships and friendships. The recent pandemic underscored this even more. Perhaps, *Yehuda's* face to face plea and discussion with *Yosef* is a lesson of how we can better our relationships by focusing on interpersonal and face to face relationships. While we may sometimes have differences of opinion, view points and more, the ability to discuss, share and even disagree in a friendly manner is an art our society has clearly lost.

So too, with our children and family members, nothing can replace the face to face smiles, conversations and sometimes difficult discussions that we must have. The key is keep it close. Keep it personal. Keep it face to face.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Y. Marrus

## Military Grant

The Jewish War Veterans - JWV Post 753, have generously awarded our TASA Military Families with a grant towards their children's Jewish education. It is so thoughtful of the JWV Post 753 to recognize and support Jewish children of military families and contributing to our school. Thank you!

## Mazal Tov

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Yossi & Malkie Marrus and family on the engagement of Rabbi Mendel Marrus to Menucha Fox of South Africa. May they build an everlasting home in Israel.

