

B'SHALACH

January 14, 2022 - 12 Shevat, 5782

Light Candles at 5:39pm

Issue 8, 2021-22

The TASA Times

שבועון של בית ספר היהודי



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

Mitzvah Minute



Do you know how many counties the San Antonio Food Bank feeds each week? The food bank provides food to 29 counties, feeding over 90,000 people!

This week, TASA students and staff helped offset some of the burden by volunteering at the food bank. For over two hours, they enthusiastically sorted through bins of food and organized them into categories. They packed boxes, checked expiration dates, and schlepped, all with a smile on their faces. They even cleaned up and swept the room. A small group of volunteers were so impressed by our amazing TASA students! They couldn't believe how well behaved, well mannered, and respectful the children were.

The mitzvah field trip proved to be a true Kiddush Hashem and was planned around the holiday of Tu B'shvat. Tu B'shvat is known as the new year of the trees or an ecological awareness day. What a way to show appreciation for all we have by helping those who are less fortunate!



Falling into Art

During our 1st semester of the school year, Morah Keren chose a theme for each month and tried to do something related with the holidays and Torah, appropriating each project to fit each grade level.

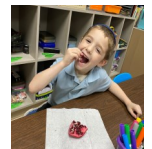


It has been lots of fun for our TASA students to work with different techniques and use of materials, such as water colors, playdough, clay and even beads.

Some of their very artistic and wonderful creations were: greeting cards for Rosh Hashana, flags for Simchat Torah, book marks and coloring Jonah in the whale.

We're anxious to see what this new semester will bring for all our young artists!

Singing, Tasting & Fun Learning



The Kindergarteners have spent the last two weeks learning about Tu B'Shvat - singing songs in Hebrew with Mrs. E and tasting the 7 species with Morah Sarah!

So...here's the verdict: Figs - meh! Olives - a favorite with some students and with Morah Sarah as well! Pomegranates - WOW!!! Grapes - delicious! Dates - ooey gooey goodness! Barley - well, we tried it! And wheat - yummy with powdered sugar and cinnamon!





FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה

Spiritual Armaments

Parshat Beshalach-Shirah

In this week's Torah portion we read about the journey of the Exodus. The verse begins (*Shemot 13:17*) "And it was when Pharaoh sent out the nation.... V'chamushim Yatzeu Bnei Yisrael M'Eretz Mitrayim -The children of Israel were Chamushim when they left Egypt".

Rashi (1040-1105 France) explains the word **V'Chamushim** in two ways; (1) weapons or armed i.e., the Jewish people were armed when they left Egypt (2) One fifth - only one fifth came out of Egypt. Many Jewish people were wicked and died in the plague of darkness.

Perhaps, we wonder, why would a nation under G-d's protection (just having experienced the ten plagues) have to arm themselves? *Rabbeinu Bachya Ben Asher (1255-1340 Spain)* explains that G-d wanted them to prepare themselves in a natural manner for the challenges that may arise. *Rabbi Sampson Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888 Germany)* explains that although the Jewish people were armed, nonetheless they lacked the confidence to fight back if they were attacked. As such, G-d took on a circuitous route to avoid any confrontation.

Let us examine for a moment the purpose of being armed. In a perfect world, we wouldn't need weapons as *Yeshe-yahu Ha'Navi - (Isaiah 2:4)* writes "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore".

Weapons serve as a deterrent and as a means of defending oneself. Sometimes, we are faced with a situation that requires a specific response or plan of action. If this need arises, we must have the appropriate tools to deal with the challenge.

In our times, the Jewish community is faced with another dangerous situation-the lack of Jewish education and knowledge. Lack of understanding and knowledge, leads to lack of interest and engagement. In the age of unprecedented information and high speed instantaneous downloads, if we don't give our children the WHY of Judaism, then they simply will not see the relevance and reason to follow our traditions. Perhaps we can see the word **V'chamushim** (and they were armed) as being armed with knowledge, for there is no more powerful antidote to indifference and disinterest than being inspired and knowledgeable of our own heritage and faith. Upon the Exodus our ancestors realized that in order to keep their youth engaged they would have to arm them with a solid Jewish education.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

Coming Soon!!

- * **MLK** - Monday, January 17th **REGULAR SCHOOL DAY!**
- * **Vision & Hearing Screening** - Wednesday, January 19th
- * **22-23 Kinder Round Up** - Thursday, February 10th. Stay tuned for more details!



Mazal Tov



We've had quite a few additions to our TASA Family:

David & Shira Steiner & Family in welcoming Lavie,

Jason & Veronica Goldblum & Family in welcoming Laya Bracha

Rabbi Levi & Rochel Teldon & Family in welcoming Chava Risa

The 2027 TASA Class is looking strong!!

Welcome New Staff Member

We would also like to welcome and congratulate Mrs. Maria Karp as our new Office Administrator here at TASA. We wish her a starling and outstanding time ahead!

