

TETZAVEH

February 11, 2022 - 10 Adar, 5782

Light Candles at 6:02pm

Issue 9, 2021-22

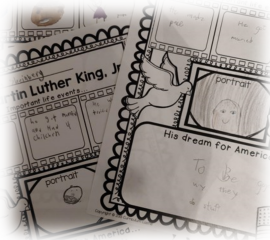
The TASA Times

שבועון של בית ספר היהודי

Martin Luther King Mrs. Nelson— Social Studies

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr's legacy, first grade through middle school participated in some special presentations and activities. First and second grade students learned about MLK's life and the importance of treating everyone with respect and dignity. They reflected

on why Martin Luther King Jr is so important and wrote about what his "dream" for our country was. Third and fourth grade also explored his life, and got the opportunity to listen to a portion of his "I have a dream speech." We discussed the historical impact and they reflected on MLK's legacy. Middle school participated in a two-day MLK "museum" in which they explored six "exhibits" that covered topics about segregation, the civil rights movement, and dove deeper into MLK's life and accomplishments. My greatest hope is that students walked away with a deeper understanding and appreciation for MLK, while also feeling empowered to make positive changes in our world today. While this part of our American history is difficult to reflect on, it is so important to learn about and learn from.



Literacy Groups Ms. Wood— Reading

Third and fourth graders started something new this quarter! Students began Literacy Groups while working on their new novel, Pax. A Literature Group is a structured and collaborative group work setting with the ultimate goal of promoting meaningful discussion. Ultimately, the goal is for groups to read, communicate and collaborate with one another about various discussion topics, vocabulary and comprehension questions focusing on the text. Each student in the group has a specific job they are in charge of such as time watcher, group presenter, turn manager, task patrol and peace keeper. I am so proud of how well they are working and helping one another during our time together in reading!



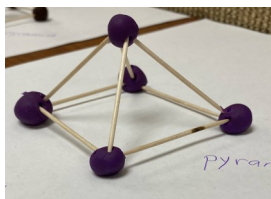
Shapes, Shapes, Shapes



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY
of San Antonio

TASA Kindergarten are learning about shapes. We created abstract art using two-dimensional shapes, displaying the amazing creativity of the young mind. Then, we used playdough and toothpicks to build three-dimensional shapes such as spheres, cylinders, cubes, rectangular prisms, pyramids, and cones. Wow! The perseverance of this class delights one and all every day!



2022 Kindergarten Roundup

Some of TASA's future kindergarten students and their parents joined Morah Sarah, Mrs. E. and the current kindergarten class to get a fun sample of what next year will have in store for them. Mrs. E. gave a micro lesson in loshon hara and the future students learned a super catchy song as well. Morah Sarah read the book "A Sack of Feathers". Every child participated in one of the 4 activities set out by Morah Sarah and Mrs. E. The kindergarten students were very helpful and shared some great tips on how to raise their hand when they have something to say. Everyone got a special treat and participated in reciting two different Brachas. TASA is super excited to welcome all these smiling faces next school year!





FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

דבר תורה

In- Vestments - Parshat Tetzaveh

This week's Parshah of Tetzaveh discusses at great length the many vestments of both the Kohen Gadol (high priest) as well as the Kohen Hediot (regular priest). The four garments of every Kohen included (1) Ketones (tunic), (2) Michnisayaim (pants), (3) Avnet (sash), and (4) Mitznefes (hat). The Kohen Gadol had four additional vestments, (5) Ephod (apron), (6) Mei'il (Robe), (7) Choshen (breastplate) and finally (8) Tzitz (forehead plate). These special vestments were worn by the Kohanim when they performed the service in the Mishkan, and later on in the Bet Hamikdash.

Throughout the narrative of the design and manufacturing of these vestments, there seems to be a repetitive theme related to the words "the sons of Aharon". There seems to be an infatuation with the word, "בניו - the children", to the extent that this word is mentioned no less than twenty-three different times! While we can certainly understand the need for *Aharon Hakohen's* sons to treasure and safeguard these special Mitzvot and Kohanic traditions, there must be a deeper message as well.

This past week my family and I returned from South Africa, where we celebrated our son's marriage, thank G-d. It was a wonderful trip with much family time, good food, festivities and, of course, a safari to see the Big Five. I also had the pleasure of seeing Jewish Johannesburg, i.e., the beautiful shuls, the Beth Din of South Africa, and the many delicious kosher restaurants, as well as the Pretoria Jewish community, where we stayed with our *mechutanim* (new in-laws) who serve as the Rav and Rebbitzin there. But what was most impressive to me was the multitude of large Jewish schools, ranging in *Hashkafah* (religious perspective) from Chabad, Chassidish, Litvish, and Modern Orthodox, all the way to the secular Jewish school. Each one was a massive successful system of its own, with hundreds and hundreds of students!

My amazement was compounded when I was told that Johannesburg only has about 50,000 Jews! I was completely flabbergasted! How can a relatively small Jewish community sustain so many shuls, schools, restaurants and Jewish organizations? I wondered.

But as I learned more about the community, something became evident. That is the investment in the children and the education of the community. While I am not sure with who and where it all began, it is clear to me, that fifty plus years ago, the visionaries and leadership of the city focused on "the children", making sure that there would be good Jewish schools to educate the youth. Decades later, the results are most impressive—a strong, vibrant, traditional Jewish community with many schools, shuls and dynamic Jewish life.

Perhaps this is the lesson in our Parshah as well. The Torah mentions the words, "the children - בניו" so many times, because it is emphasizing how a society makes sure to engrain in its youth the

Coming Soon!!

- * **San Antonio Rodeo Field Trip** - Monday, February 14th - **Kinder - 2nd Grade**
- * **100th Day of School**- Friday, February 18th, dress up like you're 100 years old.
- * **Presidents Day** -Monday, February 21st **NO SCHOOL**



values and traditions of its culture and people. Amazingly, till this very day, the Kohanim (priests) continue to cherish their sacred role in Birchat Kohanim, (blessing the community) in addition to safeguarding the special customs that are unique to their clan. Similarly, when a community invests in its youth and children, the future is bright and exciting.

As we headed home across the world, the inspiration of this vibrant community filled my head as I munched on my *glatt kosher* biltong. Truly an inspiring and beautiful thing to see.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Y. Marrus

TASA's Art Gallery

Students have been working with 3-D art and watercolors.



Mazal Tov

Rabbi Moshe & Sara Rosenwasser and Family welcomed their baby boy, Simcha Binyamin.

Giancarlo & Maryssa Basurto & Family welcomed their baby boy, Yosef.

Rabbi Yossi & Malkie Marrus & Family on the wedding of Mendel and Menucha Marrus in South Africa.

May we share many Simchas together in good health!

