



Shmuel Bass

# TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

YITRO

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## Middle School Hands-On Building of the Klei Ha'Mishkan

Rabbi Marrus' 6th & 7th Chumash class got to test their architectural and creative skills lately. While studying Parshat Terumah which discusses the building of the Klei Ha'Mishkan (holy furniture and items of the sanctuary), the students were able to observe pictures and drawings of these special items.



After finishing the study of the Chumash text and Rashi commentary, the students were tasked with building the Aron Harbit & Kapporet (the Ark of the covenant), and Shulchan (table) out of silver foil. "Being able to design and replicate these special items of the Mishkan, is a great way to have the information that is on paper, become alive and relevant to our students" said Rabbi Marrus.



## TASA - Ragba Tu B'Shvat Seder

TASA 4th & 5th Graders along with our Israeli Partnership School, Ragba located in Akko, had a Tu B'Shvat Seder Monday morning. Here at TASA, we are so happy to have an ongoing relationship and friendship with students overseas!



Thank you Mrs. Endzweig and Ms. Denna Brand for preparing everything for this special occasion.

## Tessellations

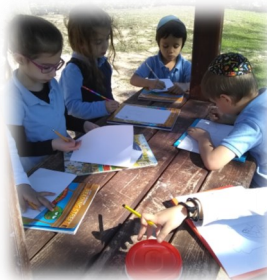
TASA 4th-5th Grades used their geometry skills and knowledge of 2D tessellations to create beautiful pieces of art.

Cross curricular lessons are an essential key to learning, and Mrs. Henderson helped bring the geometry to life!



## Living things!

Kindergarten has been learning the difference between living and nonliving things this past week. We went outside so the children could find examples of each.



## **DON'T FORGET!!** **2020 - 2021 Students Welcome!**

⇒ Enrollment for new & returning TASA students for 2020-2021 School Year is Now Open!!



### **Coming Soon!!**

- \* **February 17th** - Presidents' Day / NO School
- \* **February 18th** - Rodeo Day Field Trip for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade Students

## **D'VAR TORAH**

### **Achdut - Perfectly Different**

In this week's parshah, we read about the most important event in the history of the Jewish people — *Mattan Torah*. When the Jews reached Mount Sinai, the Torah tells us: "And Israel camped there, opposite the mountain." The Torah uses the word *vayichan* which means "and he camped." Shouldn't it have said *vayachanu*, "and they camped," as it says many times when describing the Jewish people's journeys in the desert?



But camping at Mount Sinai was different, because there the Jewish people would receive the Torah. The Torah teaches us how the world was created by the one and only Creator, and that everything in it exists for one purpose: to reveal *HaShem's* holiness. The Torah shows us how to fulfill this purpose, and when we do so, we bring *Achdut*, unity, into our world.

Since the Torah brings *Achdut* in the world, before they could receive the Torah, the Jewish people had to feel *Achdut* among themselves. This is why the Torah says "vayichan" — "and he camped." Our Sages teach that the entire people camped "as one person, with one heart." Every one of us has a *neshamah* which is "a part of *HaShem*," and this makes us one nation. At Mount Sinai, the Jews felt this *Achdut* more powerfully. When *HaShem* saw that our people felt this *Achdut*, He knew the time had come to give the Torah.

But wait; let's take a closer look. The Torah tells us that at Mount Sinai, Moshe climbed high on the mountain, Aharon and his sons were stationed lower, and the *zekainim*-elders stood further away, while the rest of the people stood even farther off. Is this *Achdut*? Yes, it is. *Achdut* does not mean that we are all the same, but rather that we all feel close and are joining our efforts to do the same thing. We are all part of one united nation with a single purpose: to follow the Torah's guidelines and reveal *HaShem's* holiness in the world.

We can see how this works in our own bodies. We all have one body, but it is made up of many parts. Each part is different and has a job of its own. But they are all part of one body, and when all these parts work together, our bodies are healthy and strong.

So, though there may be different levels, positions and roles among our people, we are each part of one whole. And living according to the Torah will help us realize that the entire world is really one. Shabbat Shalom!

*Shabbat Shalom*

*Rabbi L. Grossbaum, Judaic Studies Grades 1-4*

## **100th Day of School**

TASA commemorated its "7th Annual 100th Day of School Celebration" on Wednesday, February 12th, 2020. The students came to school dressed as their future 100 year-old selves, and enjoyed a day of themed lessons and activities.

Mrs. Belka's Kindergarteners brought in student-designed projects displaying 100 items, and Mrs. Endzweig's 1st and 2nd Grade students came to school with their completed STEM 100 Popsicle Stick Projects and attached writing samples. Our children showed us their creativity and mathematical sense in unique ways!

