



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

Bees & Honey Workshop

In preparation of Rosh Hashanah, TASA students were treated to a special workshop with Rabbi Avraham Laber of Rensselaer County, NY. Rabbi Laber is an apiarist (a person who takes care and manages bees) and produces his own honey. In a special workshop held via Zoom, Rabbi Laber shared with our students all about honey bees, their bee-hive, and how honey is made. He also shared with us different lessons for the New Year that can be learned from Bees and honey.



שנה טובה ומתוקה 5781

On behalf of the Administration, Faculty and Board of Directors, we wish you a Happy & healthy New Year!



Ninja Warrior Masters

Time for QUICK FACT NINJAS in 2nd and 3rd

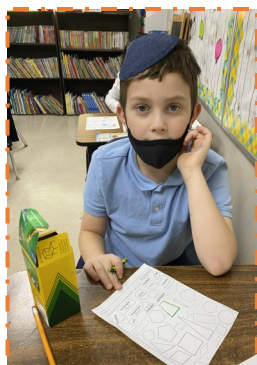
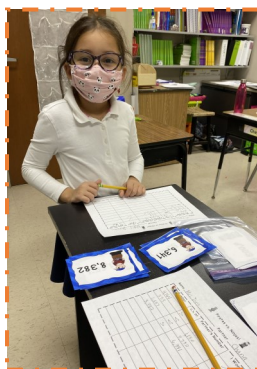
grade! Our 2nd and 3rd TASA students got their Fact Ninjas prepared for Math. Students must know their addition and subtraction, multiplication and division facts, and FAST!



Twice a week, the class will have a 1 minute speed test on their facts. When they pass tests at each skill level, they get a new Ninja Belt to add to their ninja.

How quick can each student obtain new belts? Only the toughest and quickest Ninjas will zoom through belts.

Good luck to all our Ninja Fighters — it takes nightly practice to become a NINJA WARRIOR MASTER!



Mitzvahs for our Seniors

TASA 2nd-7th grade students designed Rosh Hashanah pictures that were transformed into 300+ beautiful signed and folded holiday cards. The cards were handed over to the San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS). These cards will be placed in holiday bundles which will be delivered to over 300 of our local seniors. Thank you SAJSS for asking TASA to contribute to this meaningful Mitzvah!

MAZAL TOVS! - GOOD NEWS!

מזל טוב

To Rabbi Ari & Chaya Weingarten and Matti (G1) on the Upsheerin (Haircutting ceremony) of their son/brother Zalman.

To Yochana Hendler (G6) on her Bat Mitzvah. Special wishes to the proud parents David & Martha Hendler.

What's New TASA Crew!

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Eyes Closed

Rosh Hashanah 5781



Another year has gone by and we stand in the final hours of 5780 as we prepare for yet another Rosh Hashanah. This year has been a challenging year in many respects, and our High Holidays look different than in past years. But we are hopeful for a new year and a new spiritual energy that will usher in the year 5781.

Throughout the 48 hours of Rosh Hashanah, we pray a great deal, listen to inspiring sermons and melodies, hear the sounds of the Shofar, and of course, eat delicious foods. Sometimes, amid the bustle and jam-packed hours of the holiday, it is easy to feel, let us say, lost. What is it exactly that we are supposed to feel? Am I a bad Jew if I am not moved by Rosh Hashanah? What is the takeaway from this holy day beyond a stomach filled with brisket and delicious Challah?

Of course, every human being is a unique being, and each one of us is moved in a different manner. Over my many years leading services as a Chazan/rabbi, I am always fascinated by the comments that I get from congregants. Some people are moved by a Niggun, while others just enjoy the silent meditation. Some folks enjoy the English readings, while others enjoy a heart-stirring story. Still, some just like to sit and take it all in or enjoy the melodies and chanting in Hebrew. The point being, each one of us has to find what works for us and what will inspire us to come closer to Hashem.

Perhaps, the most well known prayer and liturgy of the High Holiday season is the Avinu Malkeinu. This beautiful and moving prayer was composed by the great sage Rabbi Akiva (Mishnaic Sage, Israel 1st Century). The words Avinu Malkeinu mean, "Our Father Our King". Rabbi Akiva wished to convey that G-d listens to our prayers both a merciful King and ruler and as a loving and devoted Father.

I would like to share with you a story. One evening in New York at a wedding, a young man approached a rabbi sitting at the reception. "Shalom Aleichem Rabbi! Do you remember me?" he asked. The rabbi looked up at him and said slowly, "You were one of my students many years ago?" The younger man introduced himself by name and a friendly chat ensued. "What do you do for a living" asked the rabbi. "Well, I am a school teacher just like you" the younger man responded. "You in



Coming Soon!!

- * **Monday, September 28th** - Yom Kippur, No School
- * **Wednesday, September 23rd** - Zoom Open House 2nd & 3rd Grade
- * **Wednesday, September 30th** - Zoom Open House Middle School

spired me to become a teacher!" the young man exclaimed. "Really? Me?" The rabbi looked confused. The younger man explained. "Many years ago, when I was in the third grade, you were my teacher. One day, one of the boys in the class came to school with a beautiful new watch. He was the envy of every student. When recess came, I couldn't contain myself and took the watch and put it in my pocket. But after everyone returned from recess, it was discovered that someone had stolen the watch. You announced to the class "Whoever took the watch should please return it immediately." No one moved. I was too embarrassed to do anything. "Well, if no one will admit to taking the watch, I am going to have to ask the entire class to stand up along the wall. I am going to ask each of you to empty their pockets, until the watch is found." We all lined up and I was petrified of getting caught and embarrassed. As you walked up to the first student in the line you said "Now everyone closed your eyes until this ordeal is over." The watch was found, but you never said a word to me about it. I learned my lesson, and I was so touched that you didn't embarrass me in public" said the younger man, "You inspired me to want to be a teacher like you". "Aha, very interesting indeed" said the rabbi. "You know, I didn't know who it was that took the watch until now, because I too, closed my eyes."

When we pray before G-d on Rosh Hashanah we come from a place of humility. We say, Almighty Father in heaven, Avinu Malkeinu, have compassion and give us everything we need like a compassionate and loving father. And as for our faults and misdeeds this past year, please G-d, close your eyes. The High Holidays are about how we can be the best version of ourselves. We are given these days on introspection as a gift from above, so we can turn a new leaf and start anew. Follow your soul and your inner voice. Find that which speaks to your heart, and embrace it. You won't regret it.

May we all be blessed with a Ktiva V'Chatima Tova-may we all be inscribed and sealed into the Book of Life for a wonderful, blessed and healthy year ahead.

Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi Y. Marrus