



Shmuel Bass

TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

KAPPAROT TZEDAKA

THE TASA TIMES

SUKKOT 5781

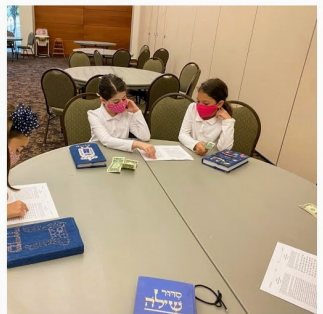
October 2, 2020

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As in past years, the students at TASA participated in the pre-Yom Kippur ritual of Kapparot. Kapprot is done by taking a chicken or money and saying special prayers and then "exchanging" the money (or chicken) to charity as an atonement prior to Yom Kippur. The students brought Tzedaka money and together raised \$135.34 to be sent to Od Yosef Chai, a wonderful organization that feeds poor families in Israel. We then added the monies of our Tzedaka boxes and were able to make a donation of \$249.00 on behalf of our TASA students. We are proud of their willingness to help others and do the Mitzvah of Chessed.

Lately they have been rolling dice to help them practice writing their sight words. In this activity you roll the dice, see what number it lands on, and then write the corresponding sight word in the space provided below! This is a quick and fun activity that really helps familiarize the students with the sight words. At this rate the kindergarten kids will be reading in no time.



Scientists at Work

2nd-3rd Grade and Middle School have had the opportunity to explore science through science labs. All of the labs are fun, hands on experiments, where students can understand the scientific method in action.

One of the 2nd-3rd graders favorite experiments was being able to explore chemical reactions. The students mixed a solid and a liquid element (vinegar and baking soda) and were able to observe how they react to make a gas.

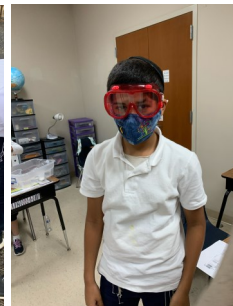
Middle School had the opportunity to determine if a substance was acidic or basic by adding cabbage juice. When the cabbage juice was added it changed the color of the substance. This process helped them discover if the substance was acidic, basic or neutral.

Just like 2nd and 3rd grade students, the middle schoolers were able to explore chemical reactions with a lab called elephant toothpaste and also with the vinegar and baking soda lab.

Kinder Kurrents

Our Kindergarteners has been hard at work learning new sight words: I, am, the, little, to and a! They know that these are words that you can instantly read just by looking at them (no need to sound them out).

They have created flashcards for their sight words and practice reading them everyday. There is so much you can do with sight words like making sentences, practicing spelling and of course reading stories!



What's New TASA Crew!

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Beautiful Expressions

Noy Sukkah—The Decorations of the Sukkah

Sukkot is the holiday of joy, Zman Simchateinu. After the soul searching and seriousness of the High Holidays, we transition into the festive mood of Sukkot. The sights and smells of this holiday, the Lulav, Etrog, Hadas and Aravah (palm frond, citrus, myrtle and willow), the smell of the Schach (covering of the sukkah) and of course the change in weather, that usually occurs this time of the year.



One of the customs of Sukkot is called "Noy Sukkah" which means the decorations of the Sukkah. This custom includes embellishing our Sukkahs with beautiful ornaments, endless chains of colored craft paper, pictures, and even the hanging of fruits on the inside of our Sukkahs. Some have the custom of focusing on filling the Sukkah with guests as the "decorations" of the holiday.

What is the meaning of this custom and why do we seem to be focused on the physical and material aspect of the Mitzvah, instead of the spiritual and essence of it?

The Talmud teaches (Shabbat 133) "This is my G-d and I will give Him Beauty," (Shemot 15:2) may be interpreted in this way ... "Make yourself beautiful before Him in your performance of the "Mitzvot," the Commandments: "... a beautiful "Sefer Torah," with beautiful ink, with a beautiful pen, by an expert scribe, and placed in a beautiful covering. The above principle, of performing the Commandments in a beautiful way applies to all the (248) Positive "Mitzvot," or Commandments of the Torah, but has special application to the "Mitzvot" of Sukkot, where "beauty" is not just a quality describing the Commandment, but is an essential part of the Commandment.

When the Torah describes an "Etrog," a Citron Fruit, as a "Pri Eitz Hadar," (Vayikra 23:40) a "fruit of a tree of beauty," it doesn't mean to say only that the fruit

should exhibit the quality of beauty, but that beauty should be part of the essential nature of the "etrog."

Thus, after so much structure of the prayers and customs related to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we give voice to our own expression of love and dedication to G-d. We offer our very best and use all of our abilities and talents to "beautify" the commandments of the Sukkot holiday. The Noy Sukkah, represents our contribution, in our small way to honor Hashem and do it in the most beautiful way possible.

Chag Sameach!
Rabbi Y. Marrus

New TASA Student & Family ברוכים הבאים

We would like to greet and say Beruchim Ha'Baim to Amir & Batel Shvartz and their daughter Ofir (Kindergarten).

Welcome to our TASA Community!



Coming Soon!!

- * **Thursday, October 5th** - Sukkot Carnival, Special Programming
- * **Friday, October 9th** - Hoshana Rabbah, No School
- * **Monday, October 12th** - Isru Chag, Late start @9am
- * **Friday, October 16th** - End of 1st Quarter Grading Period