



Shmuel Bass

# TORAH ACADEMY

of San Antonio

## Chanukah Festivities

Our awesome TASA PTO Moms put together a fantastic Chanukah Station Celebration! Students rotated through COVID-friendly stations while listening to Chanukah music. They played dreidel, frosted delicious Chanukah cookies, made marshmallow menorahs and sparkly Chanukah slime! What a fun event to help wrap up our last week of school, of the semester, of this very unusual 2020!

Thank you Mrs. Glassburner, Mrs. Lev, Mrs. Teldon, Mrs. Goldblum, Mrs. Radkay and Mrs. E for making this event a great success.

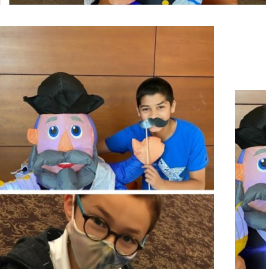
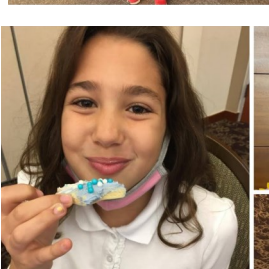
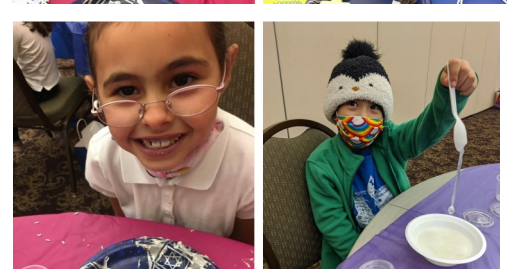
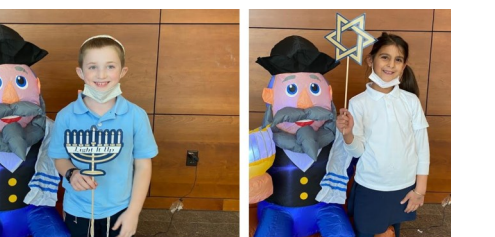
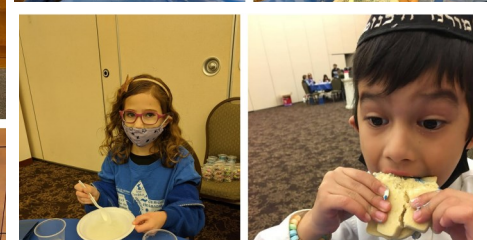
# THE TASA TIMES

MIKEITZ

December 18, 2020 - 3 Tevet, 5781

Light Candles at 5:21pm

Issue 7, 2020-21





## Art throughout the Holidays

All through the semester, our TASA Students have been completing an array of crafts and art projects, using a variety of materials and art techniques and guided by Morah Keren.

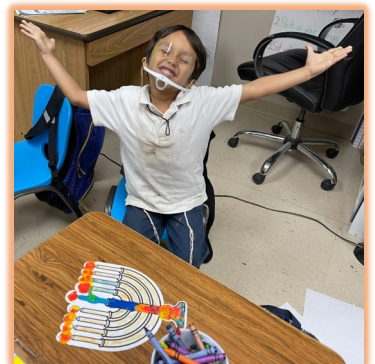


For Chanukah and to kick off the 8 days of lights, students in grades K-7 have been making different types of chanukiahs for their loved ones to admire at home.



## Chanukah Centers on Kinder

Our kindergarten class cycled through some fun educational centers focused on Chanukah. They practiced number writing with dry erase menorah boards, matched geometric shapes to form menorahs and dreidels, speed sorted the letters on the dreidel (nun, gimme, hey, and shin), and built Chanukah Hebrew words letter by letter. Mrs. E expressed: "I love going cross-curricular with our kids! Even though we're in Hebrew class, we're covering different math topics, hand eye coordination, and reinforcing Judaics content."



## P.E. Middle School

During the course of this first semester, each TASA Student has found their inner sporty-self, some with better abilities than others, but everyone with a great sense of sportsmanship and working on improving their athleticism. "It has been truly amazing watching each student enhance their athletic skills", commented Coach Keegan.

Soccer and volleyball have been the main two sports being practiced throughout the semester. "So excited to see everyone playing and doing sports in-person, and I hope that they all have a safe and healthy winter break!", expressed C. Keegan.



# What's New TASA Crew!



## Coming Soon!!

- \* **Winter Break** - Monday, December 21st - Friday, January 1st.
- \* **End of 2nd Quarter** - Friday, January 8th.

## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

### Effort vs Faith Parshat Miketz

This week's Torah portion opens with the words "*Vayehi Miketz Shnatayim Yamim-It was at the end of two years*". Exactly two years after Yosef interpreted the dreams of the butler and baker in the previous portion of *Vayeshev*, Pharaoh has a dream which Yosef will interpret and lead to his appointment as viceroy of Egypt.



The Midrash Tanchuma explains that since Yosef placed his hope in the butler saying "*Please remember me to Pharaoh*" (Bereishit 40:14), he was punished that his sentence would be extended by two years. Thus, the opening of our portion.

Many of the classic commentators struggle with this understanding. Was Yosef just supposed to sit back and wait for a miracle to happen? He saw an opportunity that was certainly sent by Hashem, and he acted on it. So why was he punished? Some answer this conundrum by suggesting that for a Tzadik as great as Yosef this was a sin, but for an ordinary person it would not be considered sinful. Other commentaries explain that it was Yosef's griping and complaining about his situation (Genesis 40:15) that was sinful, as he should have accepted, that Hashem had a reason for putting him where he was.

Parents are faced with a dilemma. Do we have to have faith in G-d that our children will turn out alright or is it dependent on our actions; education, upbringing and parenting. Secondly, even if we do everything right and give our kids the best possible, will they in fact always do what is proper and right? Are we a failure if our children don't follow the path we chart for them?

The answer in classic Jewish thought is "they are both right". We must have faith in Hashem and pray for our children that they turn out alright. In addition, we must engage in *Hishtadlut* (our efforts) doing our very best to give them the finest Jewish education, living environment, good friends, health and much more. Then we must have *Emunah* (faith) in

Hashem.

The lesson we learn from Yosef is not to *Kvetch* (complain). Too often, we succumb to complaining and *Kvetching* about our situation. The lesson we learn is that we must always remember that our children do not belong to us. Rather they belong to Hashem and every challenge and hurdle that they (and we) will face, is from Hashem. Instead of complaining we should continue with our *Emunah* (faith) and *Hishtadlut* to the best of our abilities. Furthermore, have *Bitachon* (trust) that everything will turn out the way its supposed to be.

*Shabbat Shalom!*  
Rabbi Y. Marrus

## Any given day at TASA





# Chanukah Poetry

## By Mrs. E's Writing Classes

### Chanukah by Shayna Schwartz & Channi Shaul

Chanukah spirit fills the air.  
 Everyone has to care,  
 because this festival of lights,  
 surely lights up the night.  
 The blue, plastic dreidel spins & spins,  
 you don't want it to land on shin.  
 After they light the menorah,  
 they all dance the Horah.  
 The sufganiyot and levivot are swept off the plate because  
 they are great.  
 Wrapping paper is teared apart  
 by the children with all their hearts.  
 The Chanukah vibes fill our lives.

### Chanukah by Chava Faiga Scheinberg

It's the night  
 Where all the light is bright  
 The candles are gleaming  
 And all the mothers are screaming  
 It's time to play dreidel  
 With my Aunt Meidel  
 Now that's the end  
 Please move over because it's time to mend

### The 8th Night of Chanukah by Baruch Teldon & Eliyahu Shaul

I look outside the window,  
 On the 8th night of Chanukah,  
 I see by the street below,  
 My favorite aunt, Veronica

She has two bags in her hands,  
 For my mom, dad, and sibling,  
 She pulls out a CD,  
 Of her favorite rock band,  
 She gives a little dance,  
 To the electric guitar playing,  
 After we all find ourselves praying  
 She gives us a bag,  
 Full of gifts,  
 We open them one by one,

And here comes my fifth  
 The total number of gifts is 101,  
 And there goes Chanukah,  
 Almost done  
 We wave goodbye,  
 As she hops into her car,  
 We see both lights fade away in the far  
 The last night of Chanukah,  
 Has gone to the past,  
 In Yerushalayim next year at last.

### Acrostic Poem by Nechama Endzweig & Yochana Hendler

Dozens of dreidels  
 Radiant colors  
 Everlasting spins  
 Interesting ways to rotate  
 Dazzling designs  
 Everyone's playing  
 Long games  
 Smiling faces when they win

### Acrostic Poem by Channi Shaul

Dance with it  
 Round & round it goes  
 Everyone spins & gets dizzy  
 It may never stop  
 Don't get nun you don't want to get dizzy  
 Each person has a dreidel  
 Love spreads around the world

### Chanukah by Chaya Altman

Chanukah is the very best  
 It's celebrated from north to south, to east to west.  
 Jelly donuts, yummy gelt  
 And presents all wrapped up in felt.  
 Being with my family at the menorah lighting  
 We are all with each other reuniting  
 Eating foods that are fried  
 Brings us together all tied.

### Acrostic Poem by Shayna Schwartz & Channi Shaul

Candles light up the night  
 Happy kids play by the light.  
 A pink dreidel spins and spins  
 No one is sad for there is so much joy.  
 Underneath the stars people sing and dance  
 Kings and queens join in the fun  
 Action fills the house  
 Holiday spirit for everyone

### Acrostic Poem by Nava Varghese

Presents can be big or small.  
 Remember y'all might get presents this year  
 Exciting, right?  
 See yall's moms or dads might give presents  
 Ending the presents is sad  
 Not going to be a bad Chanukah for y'all!  
 Terrific presents  
 So many prizes.

### Acrostic Poem by Chana Teldon

Dreidels are awesome!  
 Radios blasting while playing.  
 Even you get to play.  
 In my house, I play dreidel.  
 Do you like dreidels?  
 Everyone likes them in my family.  
 Lights are bright when we play.

### Acrostic Poem by Rus Scheinberg

Menorah  
 Every Jewish person lights one  
 No one is ever excluded  
 Our family has lots of them  
 Run as fast as you can to light one  
 Ask people if they want to light one  
 Hot yummy treats while the candles glow!

### Acrostic Poem by Jeremiah Glassburner

Gelt is sweet.  
 Everyone can have it.  
 Let's have a happy GELT Chanukah.  
 Take your kids to the River Walk for a dreidel battle for gelt

### Acrostic Poem by Sage Lev

Menorahs are cool  
 Everyone can light them  
 No menorah is bad as long as it's kosher  
 Or of you don't have oil, use candles  
 Relight it every night  
 And you say prayers  
 Have you ever lit a menorah?

### The Amazing Chanukah Party by Sage Lev

Chanukah parties are so much fun.  
 You heat up food in the oven then it's done.  
 They have so many kids.  
 You might even do some bids.  
 There might be a playground to see.  
 But first some gelt for me.  
 Jelly donuts are so yummy.  
 Walk around and they'll fill your tummy.

### Latkes by Shaina Altman

Latkes are so yummy  
 Some people eat them with honey  
 You should try them  
 Go and buy them.  
 When you fry them in a pan  
 They will never taste bland.  
 We cook them with oil,  
 If they're hot, carry them with foil.  
 You can heat them  
 Let's eat them.  
 As soon as you fry,  
 They're very good-that's no lie!

## COVID-19 Update Winter Break 2020-2021

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you and your families well. We have been blessed with 17 weeks of in-person school since August and we are most grateful for it. Students are doing well, enjoying school, progressing in their studies, and we are seeing the many educational gaps being closed, slowly but surely. What a blessing!

As we go on Winter Break, we will all enjoy some much needed time off. It is an opportunity to relax and recharge, and spend some quality time with our loved ones. The students and staff have worked diligently these last months and they certainly deserve this break.

With Covid-19 numbers on the rise nationwide as well as in Bexar County, we are closely monitoring the numbers as well as health directives from medical professionals, and city personnel. Also, as the vaccine becomes available we will monitor that as well. It is our absolute intention to keep TASA open for in-person instruction, unless, G-d forbid it becomes unsafe to do so. Our current protocols have worked for us, and our parent body and staff are overall very happy with how our school has functioned in this challenging time. While no protocols with little children can ever be 100% perfect, we have been able to operate safely all these months.

As we head into the break, it is critical for every parent and shareholder in our school to understand that keeping the school open is directly related to everyone taking the precautions seriously, and being extra careful during this time. All it takes is one infected person to start a school-wide outbreak, G-d forbid. We are all responsible for each other and our school - **Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh L'Zeh.**

As such, these are the recommendations and guidelines that we strongly urge each family and staff person to follow. We expect each family to be honest and follow the recommendations listed below:

- Avoid crowds and places with many people.
- Wear your mask when around other people.
- Wash/sanitize your hands often and avoid contact with your eyes, nose and mouth.
- If you don't feel well or display any symptoms, get tested and stay away from others. Do not send your child to school if they have a running nose, cough, fever, body aches, or loss of smell and taste. These symptoms can be covid-19. Get tested immediately!
- If you have any reason to feel that you have been in close contact with someone who is Covid-19 positive, please consult with your physician and get tested.
- If you plan on traveling or spending time around other people, make sure to give yourself a minimum of five days at home with no symptoms before you/your child returns to school.
- **Please report any sickness, positive tests etc. to our office at once.** Your information will be held in strict confidence.
- **If you/your child/or a family member tests positive for Covid-19, you/your child/siblings will not be allowed back in school without completing the mandatory quarantine, a written note from a doctor and negative test, clearing you for normal activity.**

With blessings for a relaxing and safe Winter Break, Chanukah Sameach!

TASA Administration