



Shulamith
school for girls
Brooklyn



פרשת במדבר-הדלקת נרות 7:45pm

From the Desk of Rabbi Monczyk:

פרשת במדבר

Many Meforshim ask why the Torah was given in the desert. Wouldn't it have been more appropriate to give it to us after we entered Eretz Yisroel? Additionally, this Parsha is usually read on the Shabbat right before Shavuot when we celebrate the giving of the Torah. The link between the desert, and the giving of the Torah is reinforced with the timing of the Chag.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains that the desert is considered a place that is empty and ownerless; it is a symbol of humility.

When a person lives in a civilization, they must evaluate their actions in accordance with the social norms, but in the desert, a person is free to act independently, without having to worry about any social pressures.

When we perform a mitzvah, we should not evaluate it according to the social values of the community. We cannot have preconceived ethics and morals by which we judge the Torah. The Torah is independent of any "man made" or socially prescribed norms.

We know that after 120 years in this world we are going to be asked the question of, "kavata itim laTorah, did you set aside time to study Torah"? There's also another interpretation which translates to mean "did you adjust the times – the norms and influences of the day to what the Torah demands to adjust the Torah to fit with the times?"

The influence should be from within the Torah environment to the outside world and not the opposite. Some people try to adapt the Torah to modern times and want us to be open minded about what's considered normal and which values are appropriate. We say that, on the contrary, we need to open our minds to accept the Torah and adapt our lives to it.

The second reason the Torah was given a desert, is to teach us that sharing the Torah with those who currently find themselves in a spiritual desert, is fundamental to each and every one of us. Who hasn't been affected or touched by Lubavitch, especially when you are far away from home and want to connect to our precious mesorah?

Torah is accessible to all and we should do what we can to facilitate and share it with others at any opportunity that presents itself.

Have a great Shabbat!
Rabbi Moshe Monczyk
Judaic Studies Principal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Renee Schinazi– May 20

Tziviah Nahari - May 29

Bailee Herskowitz - May 30

Nitzevet Soble - May 31

Dates to Remember!!

Grade 6-End of Year Field Trip to Rise NY	May 24
Shavuot Break	May 25– 29
Grade 7-Philadelphia Trip	June 1



<u>22nd</u>	<u>23rd</u>	<u>24th</u>	<u>25th</u>	<u>26th</u>
Baked Ziti Plain Pasta Salad Tuna Fruit	Taco Tuesday Yellow Rice Diced Veggies Egg Salad Fresh Fruit	Pizza Garlic Knots Cottage Cheese Sliced Veggies Fruit	No School	No School

Preschool News

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday, we invited Mr. Maish Goldish, a well-known author of children's books to speak to our students. He read us a few of his stories and then he was kind enough to answer our questions. It was very interesting to learn about how he thinks of ideas for his books and how he edits and publishes his writings.

Each day after lunch we read a different book to the girls, and each month we have been studying a different author of children's books. We have discussed the different parts of each book, i.e. the author, illustrator, the copyright, the introduction, middle and end of the story, and the publisher. We have done this because we know that to become a fluent reader one has to be exposed to the written word. Over the year the girls have become familiar with sound – letter recognition and they have been sounding out words and writing their words down on paper. As the girls became more confident and at ease with this process they progressed from writing words to forming sentences using inventive spelling. The girls are now ready to write and publish their own books and so this week we began writing books for our end of the year Author's Party.

This Shabbat, we will be reading the first Parsha of ספר במדבר, and Morah taught us that another name for ספר במדבר is חומש הפקודים – The Book of Numbers. In the פרשה Hashem tells Moshe to count בני ישראל. In fact, the task is so time consuming that Hashem tells Moshe that Aharon should also help him. One of the reasons that Hashem wants to count בני ישראל is to show us that in His eyes every individual Jew is important to Hashem. After all, we are all part of Hashem's army and as such we should follow in his ways.

On Sunday we will celebrate Rosh Chodesh Sivan and we are looking forward to celebrating חג שבועות next week. We have been counting the days until מתן תורה and have been trying to improve our middot and do many mitzvot. We have learned the story of how Hashem decided to give בני ישראל the Torah. הר סיני was small Hashem picked it to teach us the importance of acting with modesty and humility.

We learned that another name for Shavuot is חג הביכורים. We realized that ירושלים must have looked really beautiful with כלל ישראל bringing their new fruit offerings to the בית המקדש.

We learned that it is a minhag to eat dairy on Shavuot and so we decided to make our own butter from heavy cream. As we didn't have a churn we took turns to shake the cream. It was very interesting to witness the change in the cream. Morah taught us that the Torah is compared to milk and honey. Just like a baby needs milk so do we need the Torah. Without the Torah our lives would have neither direction nor meaning.

This Friday is יום ירושלים which is a very important day in the Jewish calendar. We read a story which explained why Hashem chose the exact spot He did to build the בית המקדש in ירושלים. We also learned why we should face מזרח when we daven. We celebrated יום ירושלים in class on Thursday as we didn't want our festivities to interfere with our weekly erev Shabbat program.

We learned that from 1948, when the State of Israel was established, until 1967, ירושלים was a divided city and the Jewish people were not allowed to visit the Kotel. In fact, Morah Caroline told us that on her first visit to Israel in 1966, she was only able to look out of a window on the top floor of a building and see from afar where the Kotel was located. Now, we are able to visit the Kotel and we hope that, with Hashem's help, ירושלים will forever remain a united city where each and every Jew can live or visit בשלום.

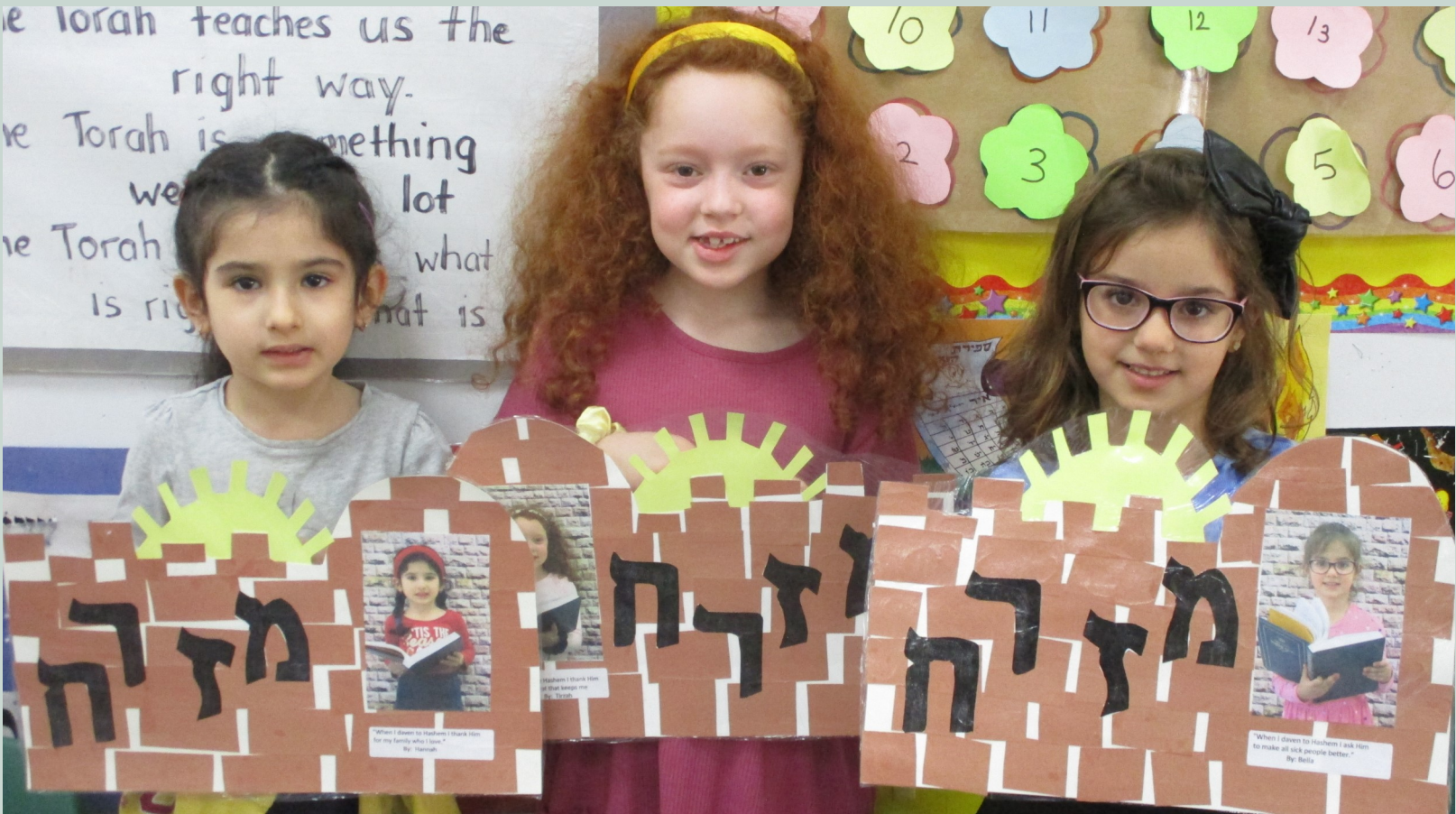
Finally, our butterflies emerged and grew strong enough for us to release them from captivity. It was so much fun to see them fly off to explore the world!

With best wishes for a שבת שלום!

Morah Caroline
Morah Ahuva



Shulamith Snapshots



6th & 7th Grade Field Trip to Eldridge Street Synagogue



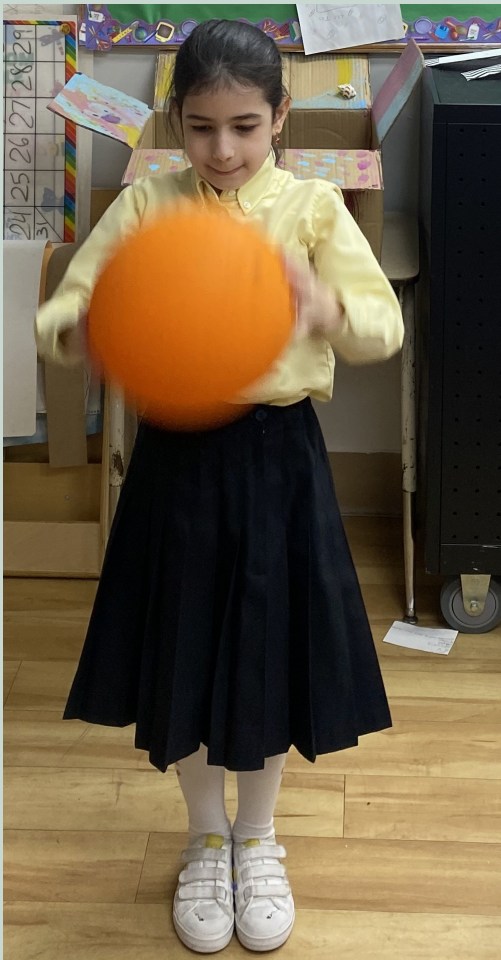
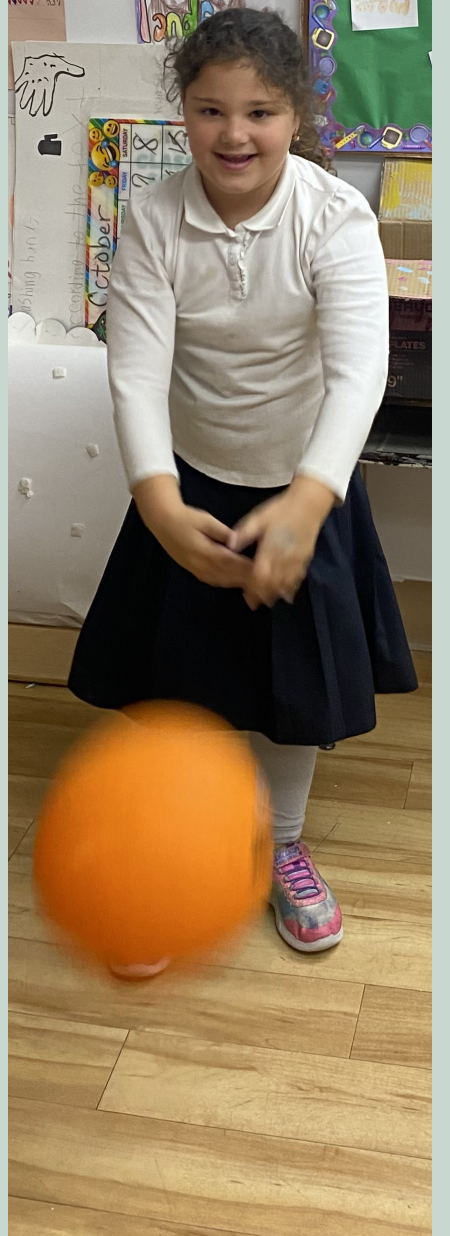
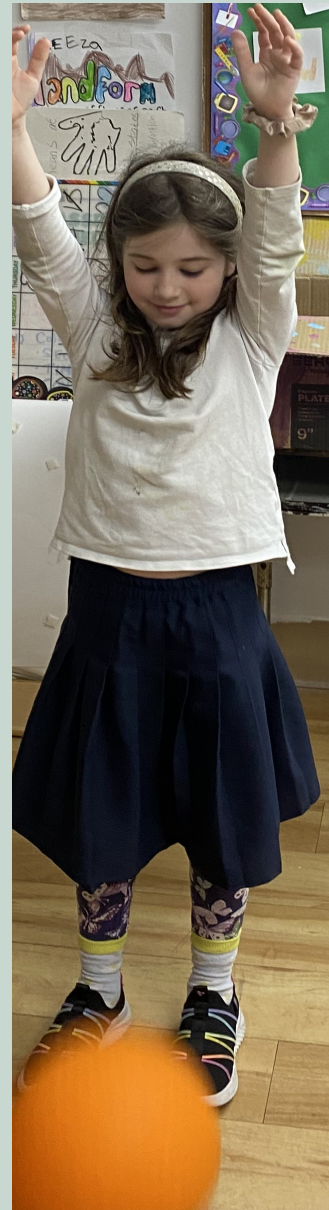
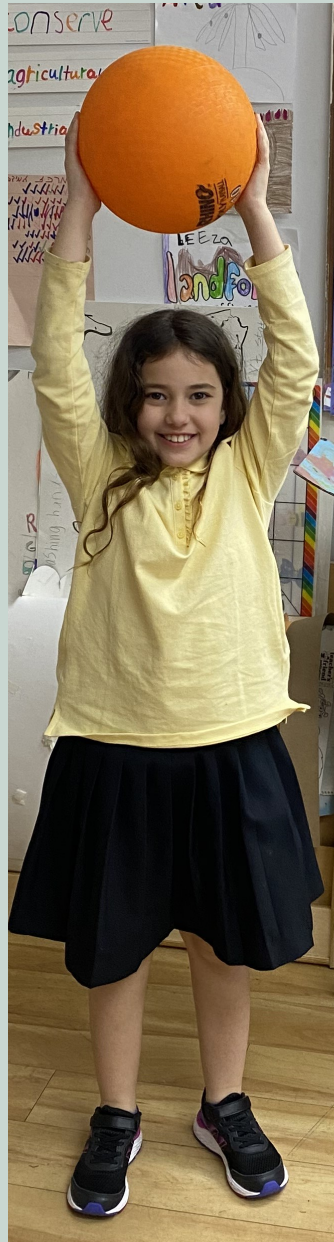
Morah Deutsch's Third Grade finished their third parsha & the fourth grade wished them Mazal tov.



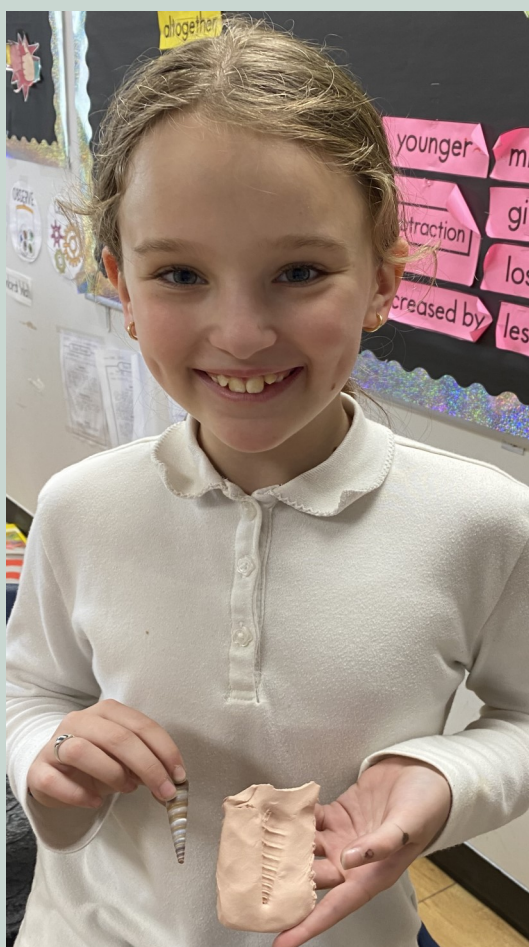
Ruth came to visit the Third Grade to introduce Shavuot!



3rd Grade Learning about Potential and Kinetic Energy Energy with Morah Amy



5th Grade Making Fossils with Morah Amy



Shavuot project with Mrs.Biderman!



Shulamith 8th grade 2023 graduation trip!





8th Grade ל"ט מלכות Projects

