



# THURSDAY NOTES

October 23, 2008

24 Tishri 5769

Bereshit

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 6:10 p.m.



## From Bini's Desk

### Simchat Torah

What a delight it was on Monday morning to celebrate Simchat Torah at our school. We began by doing our normal Shacharit service, and then our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students ably read from the ending verses of the Torah, Deuteronomy, and also the beginning verses from Bereshit. What was most touching to me, however, was when we had all 150 of our Elementary and Early Childhood students seated on the floor of the multi-purpose room and we unrolled the entire Torah scroll around the children. What a sight it was while the teachers and parents stood in a circle around the students and held the Torah while we all sang festive Simchat Torah songs. We talked about the fact that our Torah has been handed down from one generation to the next for over 3,200 years, and that the Torah contains our history as a Jewish people. We also shared some of the stories and values that the Torah teaches us.

Here are some of the Torah trivia that we learned that morning and during the Simchat Torah week:

- There are 304,805 letters in the Torah.
- There are 245 columns in the Torah.
- There are 42 lines per page.
- The Torah is made up of 62 klafs (pages).
- It takes a sopher (scribe) about a year to write a new Torah.
- A Torah is usually written on the skin of a cow, but it can also be written on goat skin, sheep skin or deer skin.
- A sopher usually uses a turkey quill to write a Torah.
- Our school has 2 sifrei Torah.
- The letter used most often in the Torah is a 'Yud'.
- There are 54 parshiot (chapters) to the Torah, and 5 Books.

The Torah is sometimes called: the Bible, a Chumash, a Tanach, the 5 Books of Moses, the Old Testament, or the Holy Scriptures.

Our sages teach us, "Turn the Torah over and over, for it contains everything. Keep your eyes riveted to it. Spend yourself in its study. Never budge from it, for there is no better way of life than that."

May the Torah always be an inspiration to each of us as we teach our children the ways of goodness and righteousness.

## Calendar

### October

28 Picture Day

### November

1 Havdalah Sleepover

4 Election Debates

17 Parent/Teacher Conferences– No School

20 Make-up Picture Day

26 Thanksgiving– Noon Dismissal

27-28 Thanksgiving– School Closed



## *Who will Plant the Wheat?*

The Investigators and the Explorers planted wheat under the direction of Smadar Aviad. The wheat was planted in the Early Childhood playground which will soon be the new Kindergarten home. They hope to have giant wheat stalks by Shavuot, which is a harvest holiday. If you look in the hallway across from the Kindergarten classrooms, you can see a time line with periodic pictorial documentation of the wheat growth.

## **Mazel Tov to the Rosenberg and Asbell families!**

Caryn Rosenberg gave birth to Joshua Ryan on Sunday, October 19th he weighed 5 lbs, 12 oz. Mom and baby are doing well!



Jennifer Asbell welcomed Madeline Grace into the world October 16th, 2008. She weighed 6 lbs 7 oz and was 19.7 inches long. Mom is recovering beautifully.



Fly on the Wall

### If you were a fly on the wall you would be listening to....

- the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students talking about affordable housing and the difference between wants and needs.
- the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> grade students discussing whether healthcare is a commodity or a right.
- the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students researching the issue of drilling for oil on wildlife refuges.

Please be sure to come and listen to our election debates on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 9:30 in the multipurpose room!

Mary

## Havdalah Sleepover November 1<sup>st</sup>!

### Register this Week!

We're all excited to share the evening under the stars with our Lerner School friends for the Annual Lerner Havdalah Sleepover. Come out to sing, drum, eat dessert. You are welcome to come camp out or bring the kids in their pajamas, for story time and dessert and stay as long as you like.

Registration is due this coming Monday, 27 October. (Extra forms are available from Foley at the front desk.)

If you have any questions contact:

Elyza at [elyzahalev@mac.com](mailto:elyzahalev@mac.com) or Rachel at [rbearman@mebtel.net](mailto:rbearman@mebtel.net)



A special thank you to Alison Hilton and Elyza Halev for helping with lunch in the Sukkah; Rabbi Fischer for another year of donating the Lulav and Etrog, and Rabbis Fischer, Sager, Friedman, Berkowitz, Solomon, and Goldman for being our ushpizin.

## Parshat Hashavuah: Bereshit



# בראשית

### Bereshit: In the Beginning

Prepared by Rabbi Joyce Newmark

The Torah begins with God's creation of the world. Light, heaven and earth, the oceans and dry land, the heavenly bodies, plants, animals, and finally the first human beings – all are created in six days. God then blesses the seventh day, Shabbat, the day of rest. The human beings are placed in the Garden of Eden "to till it and tend it," but when Adam and Eve disobey God's commandment and eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil they are expelled. Eve gives birth to two sons. When they are grown Cain, the elder, kills his brother, Abel, and is punished by God. Adam and Eve have a third son, Seth, and the Torah relates the 10 generations from Adam to Noah. The parasha concludes with God's sorrow over human wickedness.

### From Torah Sparks

[www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org)

Each week we will choose our d'var (explanation ) from one of the following websites:

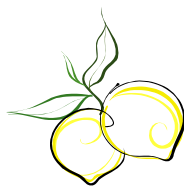
Torah Hayim	( Reform )	<a href="http://www.urj.org">www.urj.org</a>
Divrei Torah	(Reconstructionist)	<a href="http://www.jrf.org">www.jrf.org</a>
Torah Sparks	(Conservative)	<a href="http://www.uscj.org">www.uscj.org</a>
Orthodox Union	(Orthodox)	<a href="http://www.ou.org">www.ou.org</a>

## Question of the Week

**Kindergarten-5th Grade:** How many words are there in the entire Torah?

**Answer:** 79,847

## **Alex's Lemonade Stand a Success**



Last week The Lerner School had their fourth annual Alex's Lemonade Stand. Lemonade was made by Early Childhood, Kindergarten, first and second grade students. All the classes donated lemons. The school collected \$180 that will be sent to the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

We would like to thank all the parents, teachers and students who contributed time and effort to make this annual fundraiser a great success.

We would also like to thank Elyza Halev, Iris Grossman, Anne Marie Schneider, Rebecca Hull, Diana Hersh, and Hagit Ayalon who helped with the lemonade preparation.

## **Lerner's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction is coming up – Save the Date!!** **Saturday, February 21, 2009 ~ 7:00 p.m.**



Here are just a few of the items rolling in...

### **Weekend in the Big Apple!!!**

Thanks to the generosity of the Springer family and their parents, one lucky family will stay in a fabulous New York studio apartment for a glorious weekend of their choice. Enjoy Gotham City AND help Lerner at the same time!

### **Evening in Paradise...**

The Umstead Hotel and Spa, located just 20 minutes southeast of Durham in the Triangle, offers a night's stay at its new five-star flagship...the perfect spring getaway for the overworked, overcommitted Mom and Dad who bid and win this item!

### **Take the Family to the North Carolina Zoo!**

This year's membership, like last year's, is for the whole family. The great thing about belonging to the NC Zoo – unlike many major metropolitan zoos – is that our zoo has reciprocal agreements with scores of important museums, zoos and parks across the country...and many of these have a much higher entry fee than our own gorgeous zoological park!

### **Weekend with the Rapps in Franklin, NC!**

Treat your family to a fabulous bed and breakfast getaway weekend – courtesy of the Rapp family!! Schedule a Friday night through Sunday afternoon and join the Rapps at their family's timber frame house in the mountains of Franklin, NC - all meals included! The property adjoins national forest land with miles of hiking trails and scenic overlooks. Spend time with the Rapp's or do your own thing with options of gem mining, boating down the Little Tennessee River, tubing, biking the greenway, fishing or exploring the quaint towns of the Nantahala National Forest. The house is about a 4 1/2 hour drive from Chapel Hill and has 5 bedrooms. Scheduling is flexible and extending to a three day weekend may be possible! The other side of the family – the Bearmans – has offered a second weekend at this family home to another lucky bidder!!!

### **Best Personal Training in the Triangle!!**

Triangle Personal Training, located just 5 minutes from the Lerner School on Old Chapel Hill Road, offers three weeks of twice-weekly personal training to a lucky bidder this year. Use this item as a way to jump start your fitness program or get you back on track!!