



Chabad Hebrew School News & Views

Purim Preps

Welcome back, Morah Dvora! We are happy you are back just in time for our Purim preparations. Please make sure to read to the end of this newsletter for important changes to this week's schedule.

KITAH ALEPH (Kindergarten & 1st Grade)

We used our beautiful, newly bound *siddurim* (prayer books) this week.

The children know the aleph bet story well, and two new puppets joined the Aleph Bet Bayit family, the letters **NUN** and **FINAL NUN**. Some words we came up with that begin with the nun sound are nut, nothing, no, night, name, new, nickel, nasty, nanny, nose, and nonsense. We made a nun *nachash* (snake), a moveable nun/final nun snake!

Using our *Purim* story hand puppets and seeing a real *megillah* made out of parchment enlivened our discussion of the *Purim* miracle. The children enjoyed seeing the inside of a *megillah* and finding in it the aleph bet letters they already know. We finished learning the dramatic story of *Purim* and we are very excited about the upcoming holiday. The 14th of Adar was going to be a sad day of destruction, but because of the great miracle, we now celebrate *Purim* with much happiness and joy! This coming week, we will bring home the *Purim* projects we've been working on.

The **homework** for this week is Aleph Bet Kingdom pages 42-45. We are very proud of all the students in Kitah Aleph who are doing their homework every week. Keep up the good work!

KITAH BET (2nd & 3rd Grade)

Purim Baskets

Chabad of Westboro is offering you the opportunity to fulfill the Mitzva of Mishloach Manot*! We are preparing baskets of treats with a Purim message. The cost is \$10.00 and will be available for pick up at Chabad on Thurs., March 20. To order go to our website: www.chabadhebrewschool.us and scroll down to the end of the home page.

* *The mitzvah of Mishloach Manot was instituted by Mordechai & Esther over twenty-three hundred years ago, as recorded in the Megillah: "...To take upon themselves to celebrate the fourteenth day of Adar every year... to make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the needy."*

For more info, call (508) 366-0499 or dvora@chabadwestboro.org
Order by Sun, Mar 16

Lessons we can learn from the Purim story:

Joy:

The entire month of Adar is a month of joy, and as every day goes on we are supposed to increase in our joy.

Hiding:

Nothing is as it seems and

Mazal Tov to **Max Shaw** on passing white Alef! This week in Alef Champ we also got to play a fun Alef Bet Bingo.

Avital, Max, and Jamie all brought back their *hachnasat orchim* (inviting guests) worksheets that showed that they all did this special *mitzvah*-keep up the good work! We continued our discussion about *Yitzchak* (Isaac) and *Rivkah* (Rebecca) and how she gave birth to the very different twins *Yaacov* (Jacob) and *Eisav* (Esau). *Eisav* was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; *Yaakov* loves to study *Torah*. We talked about *Eisav* selling his birthright to *Yaakov* and *Yaakov* receiving *Yitzchak's* holy blessings for himself and the Jewish people. *Yaakov* left home for *Charan* to flee *Eisav's* wrath after receiving the blessings. Kitah Bet is very excited to see what happens next with *Yaacov* and *Eisav*!

We learned about the four *mitzvot* of *Purim*--*mishloach manot*--sending two foods to a friend, *matanot la'evyonim*--giving charity to the poor, *megillah*, hearing the *megillah* being read twice and having a festive meal. We saw a real *megillah* and shook graggers when *Haman's* name was mentioned. We learned several lessons from the story of *Purim* (see side bar). We did a fun wordsearch on the lessons of *Purim* and sang a *Purim* song. Kitah Bet is very excited to make their own graggers next week!

KITAH GIMEL (4th & 5th Grade)

Kitah Gimel has really been covering ground in every part of their curriculum. Aleph Champ work has been going at a record speed. Keep up the great work!

Students learned the interesting and important story of the spies in their *Bamidbar* (in the desert) story. The Jews sent out spies to scout out the land of Israel before they actually settled there. We have been using the actual *Torah* to look up certain verses and find answers to questions on our worksheets. This has worked nicely. We are eager to hear what happens with the spies and what kind of report they give next week.

We continued filling in our calendars and some of the students have actually caught up to today's date!

We continued to study about *Purim* and the four special *mitzvot* we do on that day (see last paragraph of Kitah Bet's report for the *mitzvot* in detail). We also learned some special lessons

nothing happens by chance. Hashem is running every detail of our lives even though we don't always notice it. The *Purim* story seemed like a natural occurring event, but it was really a very big miracle where everything turned upside down for the Jews' favor. The word *megillah* actually means to reveal (what is hidden). The name *Esther* means hidden. *Hashem's* name is hidden in the story of *Purim* and is not mentioned in the *megillah*. The jelly in the *hamentashen* that we eat is hidden inside. The whole idea of masks/costumes shows that we cover ourselves up to be hidden.

Unity:

An important theme of *Purim* is unity. All the Jews united together in prayer and fasting and this brought about their salvation. When we have unity, Hashem protects us. The four *mitzvot* of *Purim* show the unity of the Jewish people.

from the story of *Purim* which you can read on the sidebar. Kitah Gimel is excited about the fun day planned for this coming week.

KITAH DALED (6th & 7th Grade)

Kitah Daled is working hard on their Hebrew reading in anticipation of their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Keep up the good work.

They are moving on in Jewish history to the story of the Jews enslaved in Egypt. *Moshe* (Moses), who later became the leader of the Jewish people, was found on the Nile river by the daughter of Pharaoh. She found him and adopted him. Pharaoh's star gazers told him that this boy would one day be a leader and take over Pharaoh's leadership. As a test, they put hot coals by one hand and the king's crown on the other to see which he would reach for. As he reached for the crown, an angel pushed his hand towards the coals to save his life. He put his hands in his mouth to cool them and stammered from that day on.

The students continued learning the story of *Purim* and did their worksheets.

Purim Party

Thursday, March 20 & Friday March 21

Here's your chance to incorporate all that the students are learning and have a lot of fun! Chabad of Westboro is sponsoring two great Purim parties this coming Thursday and Friday! Please look out for the flyer in the mail and email (see below for schedule). We look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday, March 20:

Purim with the Stars--Starring You!

7:00 PM: Costume Contest

7:30 PM: Multi-media megillah reading followed by refreshments

at Chabad of Westboro, 54 South St., Westborough

Friday, March 21:

Purim Carnival

3:00-5:00 PM

at the Westboro Area JCC 45 Oak St. , Westboro

Admission: \$5, Sponsorship \$36

RSVP appreciated

Celebrate Purim with a festive celebration

including:

- Incredible yo-yo show
- Multi Media Megillah Reading
- Purim treats
- Arts & Crafts
- Come in costume

Purim Fun in Hebrew School

Family Day Changed to Purim Fun for Students

Dear Parents,

Please note that the *Purim* family fun day has been changed to a *Purim* fun day for students. We are having lots of fun activities including *hamantashen* making, *gragger* making and mask making. This will take place at the last hour of Hebrew School. We will save some of the *Purim* fun for the actual day of *Purim* on Friday, March 21st.

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