



Shulamith Newsletter

Parshat Vayechi Constructive Criticism

In Parshat Vayech, Yaakov is on his deathbed and summons his sons to him so he can bless them. Yaakov is surrounded by his sons, and they are ready to receive their brachot. Imagine their surprise when Yaakov starts revealing both their negative and positive traits! Reuven is described as **פָּחוּז כַּמַּיִם אֶל־תּוֹתֵר** (Unstable as water, you shall not be superior) while Shimon and Levi were described as **אֶחָיִם כְּלִי חֶמֶס מְכַרְתֵּיהֶם** (Brothers, their weapons are tools of violence). Yaakov took this time as an opportunity to point out their major failures. What kind of brachot were these? Well, it depends on how you look at things.

We live in an age where, unfortunately, people are quick to anger and blame. Hearing someone utter the phrase, "I was wrong" is extremely rare. Being responsible for one's actions is a long-lost concept today... it is always somebody else's fault. If I did poorly on a test, it's not because I didn't pay attention in class or do my homework, it's because the teacher made the test too hard.

There was once a businessman who was looking to create a cheaper and more innovative way of transporting things. His first business built 3 prototypes of his product that, literally, crashed and burned. His second company was looking for an alternative fuel source for powering cars. This too endured many failures. There was, however, a big difference between this businessman and many others...he looked for criticism. People called his ideas impossible and impractical, but he was not deterred. He realized that the criticism he was receiving was priceless. He used that criticism to better his products and ultimately become successful. That businessman is Elon Musk and his businesses are Space-X and Tesla. Imagine where we would be today if the "Elon Musks" of the world couldn't accept criticism and utilize it positively.

Yaakov knew this as well. The criticism was the bracha! By showing where improvement was needed, and corrective action taken, there was no limit to their potential.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Talia Hananiyaev- December 29

DATES TO REMEMBER

**January 4-Bentching Prize Trip! Grades 5 & 6 to Dave
and Busters**

January 18-28 -Mid-Winter Vacation - NO SCHOOL

Please make sure to send back signed report cards!

**What's for
lunch?**



<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
Mac n Cheese Plain Pasta Sliced Veggies Tuna Fruit	Taco Tuesday Yellow Rice Diced Veggies Egg Salad Fresh Fruit	Bagels Scrambled Eggs Cream Cheese Tuna Butter Veggie Slices Fruit	Cheese Pretzels Marinara Sauce Garlic Green Beans Sliced Veggies Tuna Fruit



K-8 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



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Brooklyn

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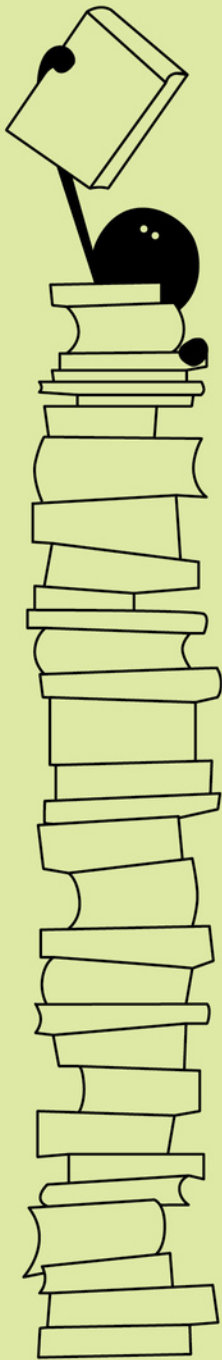
STEM-E2K-Hands On Science-State of the Art Science Lab-Student Lounge-Field Trips-Library-Bat Mitzvah Program-In House Chef-Jewelry Design-Puppetry



www.shulamithofbrooklyn.org

60 West End Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11235

(718)338-4000



Yay! It's back!

Scholastic Book Fair at Shulamith

In memory of Marilyn Cohen, z'l

**Monday, January 15
& Tuesday, January 16**

Scholastic is sending an awesome selection of children's books to Shulamith for a book fair, and each class will have a chance to come shop. Isn't browsing for books the best?

Prices range from \$5 to \$20 per book.

All proceeds go to Shulamith.

Buy great books and raise money for our school!

Please volunteer!

It's a lot of fun, and we could really use your help!

If you can pitch in at the book fair, even just for an hour or two, please let us know!

Text **Tova Schneider** at **347.210.0004** on Whatsapp.

Thanks!



Preschool News

Dear Parents,

This week we were so excited to complete חומש בראשית and we truly enjoyed our סיום on Thursday marking this milestone. At the סיום each girl was presented with her very own סידור. We have chosen the סיום as an opportune time for this presentation for a very specific reason. The girls understand the meaning of תפילה at this point. When we reflected on all the פרשיות in ספר בראשית, we were able to see how תפילה was repeatedly used in the חומש as a way to communicate with Hashem.

In ספר בראשית we learned about all the things that Hashem created in the world. We reviewed the days of creation. Thank you Hashem for making us just the way we are, שעשני כרצוני ברוך אתה ה'. Thank you Hashem for the lovely clothes that we wear - מלביש ערומים ברוך אתה ה'. We also thank Hashem for giving us שבת. In fact, we owe our thanks to Hashem for our very existence.

In פרשת וירא we saw how אברהם and שרה used תפילה when they asked Hashem for a baby. We learned that Hashem doesn't always give us what we ask for, even though He always listens to us. We never know how, when, or if Hashem will answer our davening, but we do know that Hashem always knows what is best for us. In פרשת חיי שרה Eliezar used תפילה when he asked for guidance when he looked for a wife for יצחק. Hashem sent Eliezar a sign to help him with his task, and Hashem answered his תפילה.

In פרשת וישלח Yaakov davened to Hashem when he needed to know how to deal with his brother Esav. We remembered how Esav wanted to harm him.

In פרשת ויגש we learned that Yaakov said שמע and davened to Hashem to thank Hashem for taking care of Yosef and returning Yosef to him.

In this week's Parsha, פרשת ויחי, we learn that apart from davening for ourselves it is also important to daven for other people. We are now adding תפילות to our daily תהילים. That way each day we will also be davening for

כלל ישראל. Morah mentioned that the תפילות of children go straight up to

Hashem and we hope that all your daughters' prayers will be answered

We also learned in פרשת ויחי that Yaakov's children did the mitzvah

of ביקור חולים. That reinforced our resolve to call friends when they are sick and it reminded us of the importance of helping our parents should they ever not feel well. We also saw that Yaakov gave each of his sons and his grandchildren, Ephraim and Menashe, a bracha before he died. The bracha was different for each person because each individual has different characteristics, just like we are all special and unique in

our own way. "המלאך הגואל..." at night. Incidentally, she says she sewed pillows to use when is just a part of what we learn from the Torah. The Torah is our guide to תפילה. Finally, we realized that helps us to communicate with Hashem in a very special and meaningful way.

We now are eagerly looking forward to the start of ספר שמות.

Over the next few weeks we will be reviewing the various Brachot we make on different foods. This week

We decided to concentrate on the foods for which we say בורא פרי האדמה. We enjoyed snacks such as

carrots, popcorn, corn and potato chips. What a delicious way to learn our ברכות.

With best wishes for a שבת שלום,

Morah Caroline

Morah Ahuva

Preschool Pictures



Preschool Pictures



Preschool Pictures



Hat Day



Shulamith Snapshots

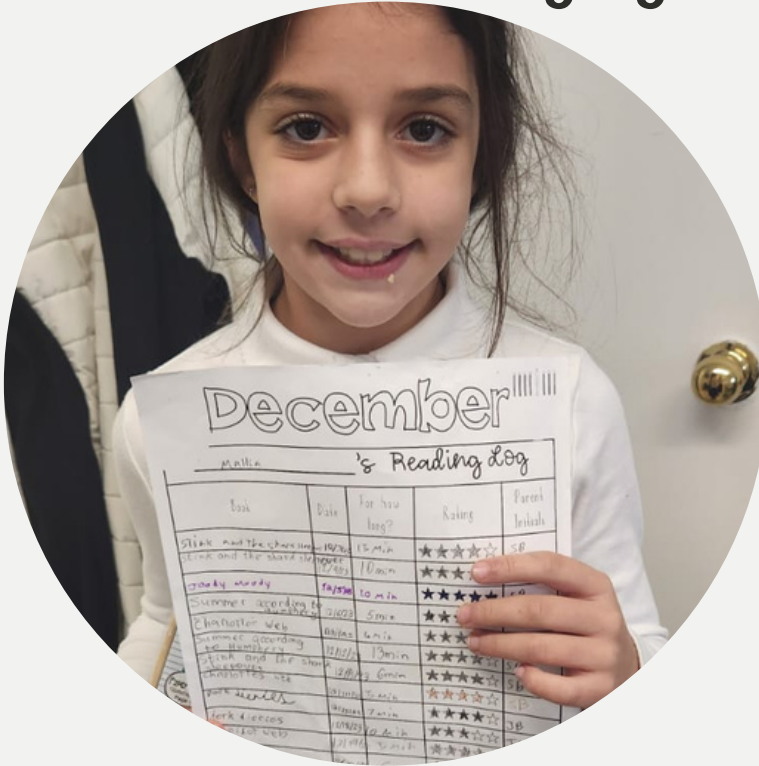
Grade 5 "Colonial Games Day" with Ms. Jaeger!



Shulamith Snapshots

**Malka in Grade 3 completed
her entire reading log!**

**Kita alef group project
"hamotzie man"**



Kita Alef Ketiva Centers



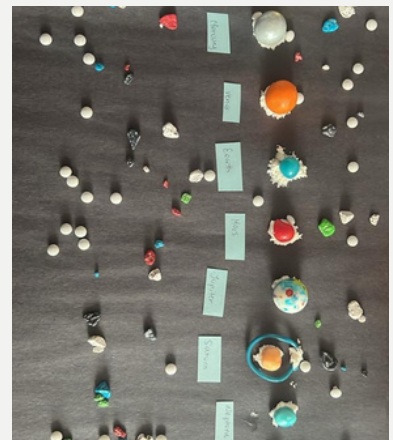
Shulamith Snapshots

Art with Morah Sigal



Shulamith Snapshots

Edible Solar Systems in 5th Grade!



Shulamith Snapshots

Grade 8 "wowed" the audience at the annual inter-Yeshiva dance event!



Shulamith Snapshots

**Kita Gimmel began learning
shmone esrei!**



**Spelling Bee Winners
in grade 2!**



Siyum Sefer Bereshit in Grade 3!

