

V'ahavta...



"Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child"

Sept. 16, 2016 13 Elul, 5776

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Candle Lighting

Friday, Sept. 16
6:57 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17
Shabbat ends
7:58 p.m.



Monday, Sept. 19
ULR Program 3:40 - 4:45

Tuesday, Sept. 20
Chess Club 3:40 - 5:00

Wednesday, Sept. 21
Meat Order Pick up
4:00 - 6:00 at
Shaarei Torah of Richmond
4811 Patterson Avenue

Thursday, Sept. 22
Soccer 3:40 - 4:55

RTA After School Programs

This past week we launched our after school programs, and we're off to an exciting start with over 40 participants! Our fall schedule includes soccer for grades K-4, chess for grades 2 and up, and the Universal Language Room of Music for grades 1-5.

Keep an eye out for after-school program highlights (with the latest pictures) in future editions of the V'ahavta.



(more photos on page 3 . . .)

The First Five Days of Kindergarten

We are happily getting used to the kindergarten day and our new kindergarten routines. Just look at our happy faces. Everyone loves center time.



(more photos on page 4 . . .)

Rudlin Torah Academy August High Holiday Appeal

Thank you for giving to the 2016 Rudlin Torah Academy High Holiday Appeal.
Listing is for donations received through Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

Mr. Bruce Ackman & Ms. Rachel Sattler
Mrs. Elaine Ackman
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Adolf
Miss Shoshana Bart
Mrs. Francine Blum
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cohen
Rabbi Edward Davis
Ms. Marsha Feldstein
Mr. Russell Finer
Ms. Gaby Heller
Mr. & Mrs. William Hill
Mrs. Helen Horwitz
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Ipson
Mr. Ronny Ipson
Mrs. Willa Kalman

Dr. Michael Kiken
Mr. & Mrs. Timur Korshin
Mr. Robert Lichtenstein
Ms. Wendy Lusk
Rabbi & Mrs. Yossel Kranz
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Lehman
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Richard November
Dr. & Mrs. Ken Olshansky
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Poliakoff
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Poznanski
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Press
Richmond Orthodontics
Mrs. Davina Rife
Mr. & Mrs. Hershel Shanks

Mr. Scott Sheldon & Ms. Yael Levin
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Shor
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sisisky
Mr. Boris Solomonov & Ms. Alina Egudkina
Ms. Olga Solomonova
Dr. Neil Sonenklar & Ms. Anne Woods
Dr. & Mrs. Elliott Spanier
Mr. & Mrs. Russ Stein
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Watson
Mr. Todd Weinberg & Ms. Kate Moore
Mr. & Mrs. David Winston

Thank you...

to Mr. John Minor for sound setup
&
Mrs. Amy Beth Lehman for refreshments
at Wednesday's Parent Orientation!

Thank you...

to the Lowery family for donating art materials.

Teamwork Challenge

Our second and fifth grade students worked on a collaborative STEM challenge, organized by Mrs. Plotnick and Rabbi Menachem Sherman. The students were given string, cups and rubber bands. The challenge was to make a cup tower without using their hands to move the cups.

The other skill required was TEAMWORK. Four students at a time had to move the cup to build the tower. They had to listen to each other and come up with a plan as a group. It was our job to make sure every member of our team was involved in a positive way. Of course, cheering each other on, was the best part!! GO RTA!

(photos on page 6. . .)

RTA After School Programs

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The First Five Days of Kindergarten

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Kindergarten Ice Cream Party

Thank you Mrs. Meggie Hirsch for organizing an ice cream party for the kindergarten class and parents last week to celebrate the first week of Kindergarten and meet new families!



Nature Walking at RTA

Nature is always fun to observe and learn about and Mrs. Williams is always looking for ways to bring nature into the school environment.

The kindergartners enjoyed their "dose" of nature this week, when they planted radish seeds in the new garden in the backyard. Students in the other grades will also have the opportunity to plant vegetables in RTA's new raised garden bed. They will be planting spinach, lettuces, carrots, and arugula which ought to be ready to harvest before the really cold weather arrives.

The kindergartners are studying a very peculiar bug in their room. It is large, it is fuzzy, and it is white. Is it a caterpillar? We are not sure, but it is fascinating to watch it.

A true star of nature in the kindergarten classroom is our beautiful beta fish. It is red and blue, and we love looking at it and feeding it. Also in kindergarten is a collection of "cicadas", those interesting bugs that pop up from the ground every 17 years. The kindergartners have been finding giant cicada shells, and like looking at our glass jar to study them.



In the third grade, there are some caterpillars that will soon form into cocoons. The students love watching them as they eat fresh basil and weave what appears to be an unusual web-like chrysalis. Each spring, Mrs. Williams orders a bunch of caterpillars that entire school watches as they turn into butterflies. It is truly an exciting day when they are released outside, after they have finished their metamorphosis.

In the hallway, everyone stops to admire the hermit crabs. Our hermit crab is back from last year, and he brought a friend! Both our little crab and his HUGE friend are spending their days in the hallway "crabtat". This year we also set up a fish tank and we love watching the sparkly neon tetra whenever we head to the water fountain in the hallway. We hope to be adding tropical fish in the near future.



Thank you to Mr. David Williams for constructing our raised wooden garden bed. Thank you to Mrs. Jenny Williams, Mrs. Irena Korshin, and her friends for taking the time to fill the bed with a combination of rocks (for drainage), compost and soil. Thank you to Mrs. Arielle Sherman, who brought us the caterpillar, and the basil they love to eat.

We are very fortunate at RTA to have so many opportunities to learn about nature!

Teamwork Challenge

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Kindergarten and 7th/8th Grade Buddy Lunch

As a part of our warm RTA welcome, all new students are given an RTA student buddy from their class. Our kindergarteners are given a buddy, or even two, from our 7th and 8th grade classes. I'm not sure who is more excited about this program!

This past Wednesday, we had our very first 7th/8th grade and kindergarten lunch. We sat with our buddy, ate our lunches, chatted and shared our favorite things about RTA.

What a great way to spend our lunch at RTA!



Bubbe Keparahs

\$10 each
2 for \$15

Proceeds to benefit RTA!

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Parsha Points

Each week we feature an article on the weekly Torah portion.

Ki Tetzei

(Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)

Returning Lost Objects

"If you see another person's animal, you shall not hide from it; you must return it to the owner. If the owner is not known to you, then you should bring the object into your house, where it shall remain until the owner inquires after it, and you will return it to him. So shall you do for his donkey, his garment, or any lost article that you may find..." (Deut. 22:1-3)

"Returning lost objects" is one of the 613 mitzvot in the Torah. At the most basic level, this means that if we find a bundle of money lying in the street, we are required to seek out the owner and return it.

The Torah adds a deeper dimension: "You shall not hide yourself from it." This precludes the option of pretending not to see it and going along our merry way.

In practical terms, this means posting signs around the neighborhood, and asking around for who may have lost such a thing. As an example, we would publicize: "Briefcase found on July 1st on Brookville Drive. To claim it, call 785-9694."

The key is to divulge enough information about the object so that the owner will know it refers to him, but not too much that someone could unscrupulously come and falsely claim the object. Whoever calls to claim the briefcase would be required to provide a basic description (color, size) and perhaps identify some of the contents. In this way, we are certain that the object is properly returned.

"Finders keepers, losers weepers?" *Not* a Jewish concept!

Guarding the Goods

An extension of the Mitzvah to return lost objects is to guard the object carefully until it is returned. We don't have permission to use it; rather we are required to care for it.

The Talmud (Taanit 25a) tells the story of how chickens once strayed into the yard of Rabbi Chanina Ben Dosa. Rabbi Chanina thus became obligated to care for the chickens until their owner could be found. The chickens laid eggs which hatched into chicks — and soon Rabbi Chanina's property was overrun with a whole flock of chickens! In order to consolidate, he traded all the chickens for a few goats.

Through careful observance of the mitzvah, Rabbi Chanina had multiplied the wealth of the original owner of the chickens. By the time the man came to stake his claim, he was the proud owner of an entire herd of goats.

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Parsha Points

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Jewish Inheritance

With this idea in mind, let's consider the following illustration:

Sam the stockbroker calls up his friend Bill. "I've got a hot tip on a new stock," says Sam. "It's guaranteed to double overnight!"

"Oh, I've heard about these so-called 'hot tips' before," says Bill. "Thanks anyway, but I'll pass."

One week later Bill gets a phone call. "Hey, it's me, Sam. Remember that great new stock I told you about? Well I put down \$10,000 and it doubled overnight! I think it's going to keep on climbing, so I'm reinvesting my entire \$20,000. It's not too late for you to get in on the action. Are you interested?"

"No, thanks," says Bill. "What goes up, must come down. I'll pass."

One week later Bill gets a phone call. It's Sam the stockbroker. "Wow, this stock is amazing. It keeps doubling and now my investment is worth over \$100,000. C'mon, Bill, why don't you invest in this stock. It's great!"

Week after week, month after month, the phone calls continue. Sam's stock keeps rising. And Bill is left out in the cold.

One day Bill's phone rings. (He's hoping it's not Sam with more investment news.) "Hey, it's me, Sam. I want to tell you something. Do you remember months ago when I invested that first \$10,000? Well, at the same time I took another \$10,000 and invested it in your name. Now that portfolio is worth over a million dollars. We're good friends and I care about you a lot, Bill. So just give me the original \$10,000 and the million dollars is yours!"

Can you imagine such a deal?

Now apply this to Jewish history. From Moses to Maimonides, from the Holy Temple to the modern State of Israel, everyone and everything in between, our ancestors sweated and fought and sacrificed themselves to build a Jewish legacy. A legacy of wisdom, of idealism, of education, and of caring for each other and for the world.

This is not a Jewish guilt trip. This is about recognizing the outstanding legacy that we have. For 3,000 years, the Jewish people have been putting away an accumulated treasure. We can all now come and collect!

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Parsha Points

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Bringing it Home

The Mitzvah to return lost items applies not only to material objects that have been lost, but also to more intangibles. For instance, if someone is not talking to a friend because of an argument, we should try to help restore the relationship

Similarly, if someone has fallen away from Judaism and lost their connection to God and Torah, we must do what we can to help.

This year, as the High Holidays approach, think of someone you know who may be disconnected from the Jewish community, and invite him/her to share the holiday with you. Perhaps this is another aspect of what the verse in our parsha intended: "Then bring [the lost object] into your house" (Deut. 22:1).

Try it. Take responsibility. Your efforts may be worth millions.

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