



Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child

U'ahavta... ואהבת

Jan. 31, 2020 5 Shevat, 5780

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First Grade PEP

Morah Joan's first graders and their parents gathered Monday night for their long-awaited PEP program. After a summary of part of this week's parsha - which discusses the mitzvah of establishing a calendar- there was a brief lesson on the cycles of the moon and how to identify whether it is waxing or waning. Parents and children then got to work creating and labelling their own miniature moons showing the various phases.



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Candle Lighting

Friday, Jan. 31
5:14 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1
Shabbat ends
6:18 p.m.



Parent-Teacher Conferences are Monday, February 17th.

Reservations for Parent-Teacher Conferences, on Monday, February 17th, will now be taken. Please call Mrs. Klosenberg at 353-1110 or email mrsklosenberg@rudlin.com with your requests. Parents are encouraged to sign-up early to be able to schedule desired times. The deadline to sign-up is Thursday, February 13th.

When you sign up for conferences, please let Mrs. Klosenberg know if you would like babysitting for your children.

The 8th Grade will be available, upon request, for babysitting services during the times of your appointments.



Saturday, Feb. 1
No PCL Program

Monday, Feb. 3
Second Grade PEP
6:30 - 7:45 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Computer Coding
3:40 - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 4
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Soccer
3:40 - 5:00 pm

Seven Hills vs. RTA
7:00 pm @ Waldorf School

Kindergarten Open House
7:30 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Spanish (gr. K-3)
3:40 - 5:00 pm

Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 6

Spanish (gr. 4-8)
3:40 - 5:00 pm

First Grade PEP

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Before heading to the media center for the signature PEP M&M's and other goodies, the parents observed their children playing one of their favorite Hebrew word review games called "Yesh Ba'Milah?" ("What's in the Word?")

Thank you to the parents who helped clean up after PEP, and to Dr. Bob Weisberger for the wonderful pictures of our event!

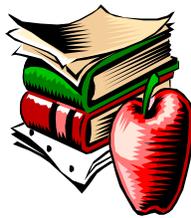


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First Grade PEP

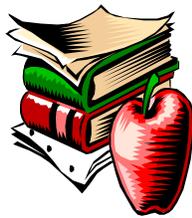
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The PEP Program

For Grades
K-3!!



WHAT IS IT?

The PEP (Parallel Education for Parents) Program is a nationally acclaimed program piloted by RTA in 1993. PEP is designed for parents to come together with their children and their Jewish studies teachers for an exciting evening of learning and fun!

The evening will be followed by tasty refreshments (including our traditional PEP M&M's).

WHY IS IT?

There is little that we as parents value more than our children's education, growth, and happiness. You know how excited children are when they come and share with you something they learned at school. Now you have a unique opportunity to have your children actually share their school, their classroom, and their learning experiences with you as they happen.

WHEN IS IT?

This year we are beginning a two year rotation: The current year will feature PEP for grades K-3, and next school year we will have PEP for grades 4-8. This year's schedule is as follows:

Mondays

February 3, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Second Grade - Morah Aronowitz

February 10, 6:30-7:45 p.m.: Third Grade - Rabbi Sherman

Come with your child and experience an unforgettable evening of learning and fun—together!!

RTA launches lunch program!

Beginning next week, we will have school lunch available for purchase twice a week - on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Every second Tuesday will be HOT LUNCH.
(The menu for the coming month is below.)

The other lunches will be a choice of sandwiches (tuna, egg salad, cheese, cream cheese) with fruit, salad, dessert & drink.

Hot lunches are \$5 in advance, \$6 on day of lunch. Cold lunches are \$5.

Mrs. Ilana Gimpelevich will be catering the lunches. Please feel free to email her at noscreennames@yahoo.com or call the school office with any questions.

Hot lunch Menu

Tuesday, February 11

- personal pizza*
- salad bar*
- dessert*

Tuesday, February 25

- grilled cheese*
- tomato vegetable soup*
- carrots with dip*
- dessert*



Better Together Tu B'Shevat Program

We had an action packed Better Together Tu B'Shevat Celebration! The RTA seventh and eighth grade students were excited to greet old friends and welcome new friends.

We started the afternoon with a meaningful Dvar Torah given by our very own Chaviva David. Chaviva spoke about how people are often compared to trees in the Torah. Just like a tree should be planted in the best possible environment, we should try to surround ourselves with the best people for our growth.

Chaviva's talk was a great intro for our own Chavrusa learning. Students and seniors learned together, partner style, all about the history, different customs, meaning and significance of the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. It sounded like a real Bais Midrash; the students loved leading the learning and discussion and the seniors were enthusiastic Talmidim (students).

After a much clearer understanding of what the holiday of Tu B'Shevat is all about, we were ready for our big Tu B'Shevat themed highlight. We had our very own "plant night" where we created terrariums. We loved working together to design beautiful succulent gardens and cannot wait to see the "fruits of our labor".



Afterwards, we all enjoyed a delicious salad bar lunch complete with tuna, bagels, cream cheese and, of course, fresh fruit. During lunch students and seniors worked together on their Better Together interviews. We discussed our favorite places to travel, best vacation memories, goals for the 2020 year, lessons we learned in 2019 and, of course, our favorite plants and types of gardens.

Thank you to our drivers Mrs. Ilana Gimpelevich, Mrs. Emi Legano and Morah Arielle Sherman. Thank you to everyone who helped and assisted during the event. Thank you to Mrs. Susan Press for the beautiful photos that truly capture the magic of the program. Until next time, remember that we are "Growing Better Together".



(more photos on next page . . .)

Better Together Tu B'Shevat Program

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Better Together Tu B'Shevat Program

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Parsha Points

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

Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16) The Big Minute

When G-d informs Moses of the tenth and final plague, he tells him that it will happen "about" midnight. The language is a little striking, and Rashi, the great commentator, asks why G-d was not more precise with the time. (Doesn't G-d have a cellphone?!)

Rashi answers that timekeeping was an inexact science in those days. Were G-d to have said "exactly" midnight, people might have confused their timings and thought that it was G-d, and not them, who had made a mistake. To avoid potential confusion, G-d says "approximately."

At first glance, this answer is bizarre. Let's put it in context for a moment: G-d has brought ten miraculous plagues upon Egypt - blood, locust with iron teeth, hail with fire inside, darkness that is palpable... These miracles are about to climax with the slaying of every firstborn Egyptian in a single moment. And G-d is worried that because someone might not have an atomic clock, he will think that G-d's not as omnipotent as he says He is?!

The answer, quite simply, is yes. We, as fallible human beings, are always looking for reasons to doubt G-d. We are constantly on the lookout for excuses. People often say that they don't believe in G-d. But if G-d were to perform an instant miracle and talk directly to them, then they certainly would!

There is no answer to such an argument, of course. G-d is not a performing dog, trying desperately to convince skeptics that He really exists.

But the truth is that even WERE such a miracle to happen, a person could, and probably would, still find a reason why it wasn't G-d! Maybe it was a dream, maybe he was hallucinating, maybe the Rabbi pulled a good trick because he wants to convince me that G-d exists...or perhaps it was just "a phenomenon!"

When a person does not wish for something to be true, for subjective reasons, all the evidence in the world will not convince him.

There is no lack of evidence for G-d's existence, for one who wishes to look. But for many, the thought of discovering G-d to be an objective reality has too many painful, even horrific ramifications: absolute morality, eternal consequences to decisions, and nowhere to run. Who would want all of that? People would so much rather that G-d not exist. And it is so easy to subconsciously ignore all the evidence, when one has already decided what one wishes to conclude.

For the person who does not wish to discover that which stares him in the face, then if the tenth plague begins a minute late, that will be excuse enough. It need not be rational. It need not be convincing. It need only be something to grasp onto. And a minute is enough to grasp onto, when the consequences are great....and the mind is already made up.

Adapted with permission from the award winning website, www.aish.com.