

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **Wednesday - Thursday, March 19-20:** Simcha Retreat
- **Monday, April 7:** End of Third Quarter, Critical Day
- **Tuesday, April 8 - Monday, April 21:** Pesach Break - No School
- **Tuesday, April 22:** School Resumes, 9 am Class Starts

MAZAL TOVS:

- Mazal Tov to Sarah (12th Grade) and Miriam (9th Grade) Estreicher on the engagement of their brother, Yechezkel to Chaya Shalva Boiangiu!
- Mazal Tov and thank you to the winners of the Annual Campaign Ambassadors raffle:
 - Mrs. Gitty Golding and family: a \$50 gift card to Spicy Peach or Kosher Gourmet.
 - Shira Frank, 10th grade student, and family: a \$100 gift card to either Toco Grill, Chai Peking, EB Catering, Sababa or Formaggio Mio.
 - Elisheva Rabin, 12th grade student, and family: a \$180 gift card to Fuego Mundo.
- Mazal Tov and thank you to the students for reaching top levels of the Campaign Grade challenge and heading soon to Activate Gaming Experience along with sushi, pizza, and QT parties.

ALL THE HOSTAGES

524

ARE IN OUR HEARTS & TEFILOS.

PLEASE CONSIDER SAYING PEREK
140 OF TEHILLIM AS A ZECHUS
FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS.

2025 - 2026 Enrollment Timeline:
Parents, please see the Monday communication from Mrs. Simons or on our website (Parents > Information tab) for more details.

SUPPORT TEMIMA: DAY OF LEARNING

Sponsoring a Temima Day of Learning gives you the opportunity to support Temima and honor or commemorate your loved ones.

See our website for more details.

From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro



Simcha is a very important part of life for every observant Jew. Rebbe Nachman taught, "מצווה גדולה להיות בשמחה תמיד" - "It a great quality to always strive to be happy."

There is a separate Mitzvah of Simchas YomTov on each of the major holidays: Pesach, Shavuos, and Sukkos. We are enjoined to wear special clothing and prepare delicious food to eat so that we will enjoy each holiday. According to Rav Chaim Zimmerman the Mitzvah of Simchas Yom Tov also includes making sure that we give Tzedakah to those less fortunate than ourselves. This is to make sure that all of our brothers and sisters are able to enjoy the Yom Tov as well. In this way we emulate HaShem who is always giving and sustaining life.

Yet on Purim, according to the Brisker Rav, the Mitzvah of Simcha on Purim is very different. Yes, we take care of the less fortunate on Purim through the Mitzvah of Matanos L'Evyonim, gifts to the poor, but according to the Brisker Rav that is a separate Mitzvah. Unlike Pesach, Shavuos and Sukkos the Mitzvah of Simcha on Purim is focused on our personal joy.

Chazal define this Simcha as "חייב אדם לבסומי עד דלא ידע בין ברוך מרדכי וארור המן". One is obligated to become inebriated to the point of being unable to distinguish between blessed is Mordechai and cursed is Haman. To be clear, the major Halachic authorities explain that nowadays the way to fulfill this Mitzvah is to drink a little until one gets drowsy and falls asleep. When we are sleeping we do not know the difference between blessed is Mordechai and cursed is Haman.

This does not change the fact that Simcha on Purim is different from all other holidays. The joy of Purim, at least according to the Brisker Rav, seems to focus on personal Simcha.

The question is why is the Simcha we are supposed to feel on Purim different from the other holidays? Unfortunately, the Brisker Rav does not give a reason why Simcha on Purim is different.

I heard an explanation that goes as follows: On Chanukah, the goal of the Greeks was not the physical annihilation of the Jews, it was our spiritual destruction that they desired. Haman, on the other hand, wanted to physically destroy Am Yisrael-to wipe us off the map! So on Purim, we celebrate the fact that we are alive. Each and every one of us needs to know and feel how important his or her life is. So we drink as a sign of our profound happiness that we are living, breathing Jews who can live and fulfill the will of HaShem.

We scoff in the face of our enemies who seek to destroy us and we are full of joy that we are alive.

Over the last two years we have experienced albeit from afar, the attempt of our enemies to destroy us. Baruch HaShem Am Yisrael is alive! עם ישראל חי ועוד אבינו חי. We have suffered the tragic loss of many of our brethren in Israel and there has been and continues to be much antisemitism around the world, but we continue to be faithful and resilient.

We hope for the day when just as the Jews of Shushan realized with clarity that HaShem was orchestrating all that happened in the time of Mordechai and Esther, that we too will see how all the events that have transpired over the past two years are, indeed, Divinely ordained and with a meaningful purpose.

Until then, we will continue to fulfill the Mitzvah of Simchas Purim with great personal conviction and thanks to HaShem that we are alive and well- dancing and singing with joy to be part of the events of HaShem's nation!

Happy Purim and Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

This Week at a Glance:

PURIM AUCTION



A beautiful event organized by our 11th graders. The money that is raised goes to Od Yosef Chai and Yad L'yad. Thank you to all the teachers and students that contributed prizes. Thank you to the ActivaTeam for all your support!

CAMPAIGN PRIZES



Thanks to you, our annual campaign "Invest today. Inspire eternally" was very successful. We reached our goal of \$150,000, surpassed it and the donations are still coming in. We are now at \$156,000 + with the tremendous support of 37 Matchers, 87 Ambassadors, 1022 donations! THANK YOU!

This week, together with Mrs. Julie Silverman, Temima Advancement Director, and all the Temima students, we ran the raffles Live for the different challenges we had set.

ADAR DRESS UP



In preparation for Purim we had dress up days this week including Twin Day, Megillah Day, and others. Now we are really ready for Purim!

11TH GRADE POST SECONDARY INFO NIGHT



We invited 11th grade students and parents for an evening of information regarding post secondary options. We wish them much Hatzlacha in whichever path they choose.

GOOD SHABBOS!