

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **Monday-Friday:** School begins regular time at 8:00 AM
- **Monday, December 2:** No Practice
- **Monday, December 2:** 8th Grade Parents Evening, 7:30 PM
- **Tuesday, December 3:** Practice 5-7:30 PM
- **Tuesday, December 3:** Parent Teacher Conferences 5-9 PM, Classes end at 4 PM
- **Wednesday, December 4:** Practice 4-8 PM - School sponsored Pizza Dinner in celebration of the SAIS accreditation!
- **Thursday December 5:** Practice 4-8 PM

MAZAL TOVS:

- Mazal Tov to Temima Spotts, 11th Grade, and family on the engagement of her brother Yosef to Esti Schottenstein.
- Mazal Tov to Yaakov and Shevi (Gartner, '11) Friedman on the birth of a son.

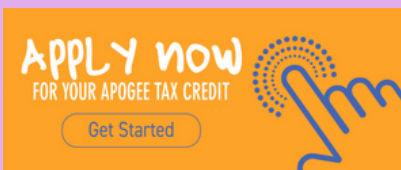
ALL THE HOSTAGES

418

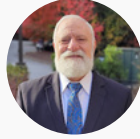
ARE IN OUR HEARTS & TEFILOS.

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

APOGEE:



WWW.APOGEE123.ORG



From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

We all know the Midrash that teaches us when Rivka Imainu was pregnant, if she passed by a Beis Midrash, Yaakov wanted to escape from the womb and go learn Torah and when she passed a place of idolatry, Esav desired to worship the idol.

This Midrash appears to be conveying the idea that Yaakov Avinu had a prenatal inclination to be a G-d-fearing Jew and Esav did not.

That may be the case, but Rashi points out that it was not until Yaakov and Esav became adults that the differences that existed in utero became apparent to other people. Only after they were thirteen years old did Yaakov and Esav show their true colors. At that time, Yaakov began to immerse himself in Torah and Esav became an idol worshiper.

Rav Shimshon Raphael Hirsch explains while it may have been true that Yaakov and Esav had certain inclinations, nevertheless, their parents Yitzchak and Rivka had the ability to prevent Esav from going off the Derech.

Rav Hirsch further explains that the job of a parent is to be acutely aware of his or her child's subtle character traits and then utilize that understanding and make sure that each child receives the unique education that he or she needs. Providing that kind of guidance is the way to ensure that a child will live a full and productive life as an Eved HaShem.

Ultimately, the process of paying attention to the subtle differences between people is a lifelong process and the foundation of being a successful parent, teacher, or friend. The Mussar Haskel that Rav Hirsch is teaching is not just applicable to parents of young children. It is a guideline for anyone who wants to connect to and impact the lives of others.

If we can train ourselves to have a heightened awareness of those things that make each of us different and special, then that will enable us to value each individual as a unique reflection of the image of HaShem (צלם אלוקים). Not only will it give us the opportunity to bring out the best in others but it will also remind us of how special each one of us is.

Good Shabbos to All,

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Vacation!