

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **THIS Motzai Shabbos (8:30-10) & Sunday (1-6):** Twirl and Zip Practice
- **Sunday, November 17:** 11th Grade Acai Bowl Treat with ActivaTEAM, 8:30-10 PM.
- **Monday, November 18 & Wednesday, November 20:** Twirl and Zip Practice, 7-8:30 PM
- **Motzei Shabbos November 23:** 12th Grade Winter Melave Malka with Mrs. Birnbaum
- **Wednesday, November 27:** Half Day, 12:30 Dismissal
- **Thursday, November 28-Friday, November 29:** Thanksgiving Break, No School
- **Monday, December 2:** 8th Grade Parents Evening, 7:30 PM
- **Tuesday, December 3:** Parent Teacher Conferences, 5-9 PM, Classes Ends 4 PM

MAZAL TOVS:

- Mazal Tov to Natan and Adina (Esral, '19) Serman on the birth of a daughter, Golda Miriam.

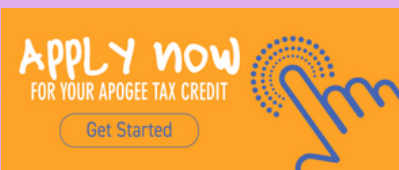
ALL THE HOSTAGES

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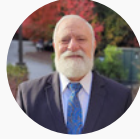
ARE IN OUR HEARTS & TEFILOS.

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

APOGEE:



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From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

The Akeda begins with the Torah informing us that HaShem tested Avraham Avinu by asking him to sacrifice his son Yitzchak. Consequently, Avraham and Yitzchak embarked on the journey to Mount Moriah accompanied by two youths.

When it came time to ascend the mountain and be tested, the two youths remained at the foothills and Avraham and Yitzchak climbed the mountain.

At the conclusion of this ordeal (which we know Avraham and Yitzchak successfully completed) we are told that Avraham reunited with the youths who were waiting for him and they all returned home together.

The Kesav HaKabala explains that, obviously HaShem knew Avraham Avinu would rise to the occasion and pass this ordeal with flying colors. HaShem's purpose in testing Avraham was to help Avraham grow in his self-understanding and realize how profound his devotion to HaShem was. This new understanding would give Avraham more power to fulfill HaShem's will.

The GRI"Z further explains that at the completion of the test, Avraham realized that in the merit of the Akeda, he would personally receive great blessings and rewards, and moreover, his offspring would reap the benefits of the Akeda for all future generations to come.

Says the GRI"Z, this achievement could have resulted in Avraham feeling a great sense of entitlement. He could have been filled with haughty pride that he had successfully completed all ten tests that HaShem gave him, culminating with this most difficult one.

This is the reason that the Torah goes out of its way and tells us a seemingly mundane fact that Avraham reunited with the youths and they walked home together.

We are not being informed about a detail of Avraham's physical journey, but rather it is describing Avraham Avinu's mental state after completing this arduous task.

Avraham understood when he set out to sacrifice his son, he was doing so because he was commanded by HaShem and the reason he was put on earth was to fulfill the will of HaShem. Upon completion of his mission, Avraham Avinu understood that he had simply done what he was created to do.

The Akeda, according to the Kesav HaKabalah, did indeed result in Avraham Avinu attaining a new and acute understanding of his spiritual strengths. He could have begun a major PR campaign announcing to the world his amazing feat of ultimate Emunah. He had the perfect opportunity to boast about his accomplishments when he rejoined the two youths who were waiting for him.

Rather, we are told that Avraham made no mention of what had just transpired. He simply rejoined them and walked home with them.

Avraham Avinu understood that his mission in life was to fulfill the will of HaShem and on the most significant level that is something between him and his Creator.

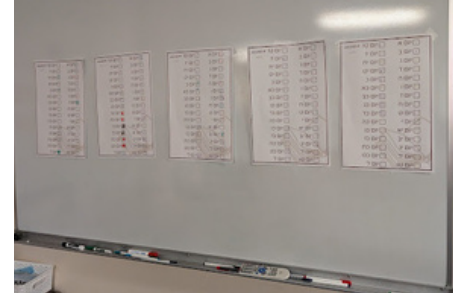
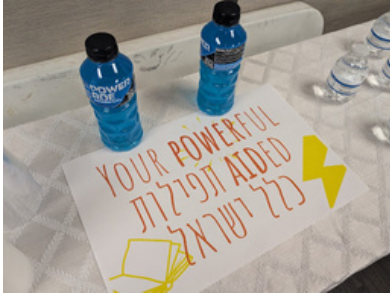
Like Avraham Avinu and all the Avos and Imahos, we strive to connect to HaShem and fulfill the mission He has for us in this world. We believe this is our purpose in life and that it has a positive impact on the world. We also understand that our journey is a deeply personal one as we grow and strive to become servants of Hashem.

Good Shabbos To All!

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

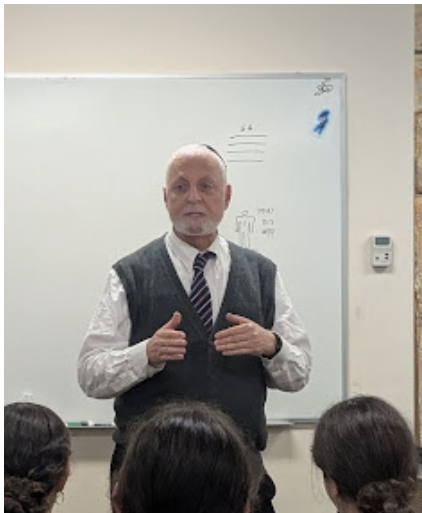
This Week at a Glance:

TEHILLIM A THON



What a beautiful undertaking! The girls gave of themselves, a Middah we learn from Rachel Imeinu, to collect money and say Tehillim for their brothers & sisters. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important endeavor. And thank you to the women in our community, with family members in the army, who joined us as we said Tehillim. 100 % of the funds collected at the Tehillim-A-Thon will be divided equally to benefit an IDF Special Unit, the Kollal at Kever Rachel and the Yad Eliezer organization, an Israeli charity that helps over 100,000 families in need.

RABBI MARCUS



The 11th and 12th grades were privileged to hear from Rabbi Yaakov Marcus, a world-renowned speaker from Eretz Yisrael, this week on the topic of "Why Bad Things Happen To Good People."

RABBI NISSEL



We were all privileged to hear from Rabbi Menachem Nissel on Tefilla, and its various components. What important reminders and chizuk on how Hashem wants to hear about everything that's on our minds. Students had the opportunity to ask questions afterwards. Pictured above is Rabbi Nissel with his famous Sefer about Women and Tefilla, Rigshei Lev.

GOOD SHABBOS!