

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- Thursday-Friday, November 23-24: Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL
- Monday, November 27: 8th Grade Information Evening for Parents, 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, November 28
Parent Teacher Conferences 5-9 pm; Classes End at 4:00 pm
- Friday, December 8: Shabbos Chanukah, NO SCHOOL
- Monday December 25 – Monday, January 1: Winter Break, NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, January 2: School Resumes, 8 am

MAZAL TOVS:

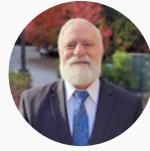
- Mazal Tov to Luna Maman ('07) on her engagement to Yosef Hartstein.

ARE YOU AN ALUMNA AND WANT TO SHARE A MAZAL TOV OR MILESTONE? STAFF, BOARD, AND STUDENT MAZAL TOVS TO SHARE?

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From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

"ויצא יעקב מבאר שבע וילך חרנה"

"Yaakov went out from Beer-Sheva and he headed toward Charan."

Wouldn't it have been simpler to say, "Yaakov headed toward Charan?"

Since we know Yaakov lived in Beer-Sheva when we are told that he headed toward Charan, obviously, we understand that he left Beer-Sheva.

Netziv explains that Yaakov's "going out" had a different destination and purpose than his "heading in the direction" of Charan.

Yaakov followed the request of Yitzchak Avinu and Rivka Imanyu to leave Beer-Sheva in order to save himself from the murderous intentions of Esav and also to find himself a wife so he could begin doing his part to continue the mission begun by his father and grandfather.

However, the Netziv reminds us that before Yaakov went to "continue his mission" and find a wife he spent fourteen years studying in the Yeshiva of Shem and Ever. Yaakov understood that in order for him to be successful in bringing the word of HaShem to his family and to the world, he must first be steeped in Torah.

Yaakov went out from Beer-Sheva to immerse himself in Torah study at the Yeshiva of Shem and Ever.

After he had spent fourteen years learning and internalizing Toras HaShem, he was ready to "head toward Charan" to begin his quest to manifest Jewish Destiny.

Yaakov succeeded and unlike Avraham and Yitzchak, all of Yaakov's children remained part of Am Yisrael.

In today's reality, this lesson is all the more essential. Strengthening our knowledge, understanding, and commitment to Torah and Mitzvos will ensure that we will be capable of facing all the challenges of living in the twenty-first century. Moreover, internalizing Torah will enable us to bring its message to our Jewish brothers and sisters and the world at large.

This is also relevant to the physical battle being waged in Israel on behalf of the Jewish People and the entire world. Clearly, we need an army and soldiers to fight and defend the Land of Israel and everything that we believe in and stand for. However, that is not sufficient.

As we say in Tehillim, "אלה ברכב ואלה בסוסים ואנחנו בשם השם אלוקינו זכיר" - "Some trust in their chariots and some trust in horses, but we trust in HaShem, our G-d."

Just as Yaakov could not have succeeded without immersing himself in Torah, we will only have military success in Israel if there are Talmidai Chachamin learning Torah. We must also do our hishtadlus and learn and daven for the welfare of our soldiers, our brethren in Israel and ourselves. Only then will we attain true victory.

Good Shabbos To All!

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro

This Week at a Glance:

MISHMERES INITIATIVE

This Monday, the Mishmeres heads launched a challenge. Each girl was given a letter that they could not say throughout the day. What a powerful lesson in what it really means for every word that we say to be done intentionally and carefully!



8TH GRADE VISITING DAY



How exciting to have the current 8th grade girls visit this week! We gave them a taste of Temima and we got a taste of what they, as an enthusiastic and delightful class, can bring to the "Temima Table." Thank you to our rising seniors for the adorable and tasty cupcakes and the beautiful welcome signs!