

בס"ד

Mesorah Magazine

The Weekly Magazine of Mesorah High School for Girls

Volume 1, Issue 6

י"ח שבט תשס"ח

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Color War

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From the Editors

Dear Reader,

What a great two weeks of fun: color war, our early morning field trip, Tu B'Shvat brachos party and activities in class, and more! Since a big part of color war is always delegating and making sure everyone does their jobs, we decided to include a d'var torah this week about Moshe delegating his job to other Jewish leaders. We hope you enjoy all our articles about color war, our field trip, and Tu B'Shvat. Everyone has been working so well together— whether in color war, production committees, selling tickets, or working together in drama, dance, choir, stomp, and songdance practices. All your hard work has really paid off so far— keep up the achdus and all the effort you put into making our production the best ever...

Your Editors,

Natali Elfenbein Aliza Schick

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Rabbi Kosowsky, Mrs. Rich

Mark Your Calendar:

Shabbos, February 2- Shabbaton

February 6-7- Rosh Chodesh Adar Aleph

Sunday, February 10, 6:30 p.m., Greenhill Theater- Production 2008!!!

February 13— Ricka and Boruch Leib's Wedding

Parshas Yisro



Delegate and Soar

When Yisro, the father-in-law of Moshe, came to see Moshe after he had heard all of the miracles that Hashem had performed for the Jewish people, he saw a countless number of Jews standing in line to ask Moshe their questions. So Yisro asked Moshe: *"Why do you sit alone with all the people standing by you from morning to evening?... You will surely become worn out ... as well as this people that is with you..."* (Shemos 18:14-17) Yisro couldn't believe that Moshe was the only person who was able to give advice and answers to the Jewish people. Because Yisro knew that this lack of hierarchy was destined for failure, he advised Moshe to establish a system where the Jews would first go to other knowledgeable people and only seek out Moshe for the most complicated and difficult questions and cases. Nowadays, this method of delegation is in place in virtually every company, army, and government around the world. In fact, it's vital for any large entity to ever run effectively. Even though the power of delegation can be just as effective in our own lives, many of us have a difficult time delegating certain important tasks to others. The reason for this is that the moment we ask someone else to do something for us we immediately lose a sense of control. Even though we all have very capable people around us, many of us live with a belief that the best outcome can only occur when we do something ourselves. But ironically, the exact opposite is true. This is because the only way ever to achieve greatness is to be able to go "outside yourself" and be humble enough to realize that others are extremely capable and many times can actually do a better job than you can. Also, allowing others to assist you will immediately increase your self-esteem because it will cause you to demonstrate that you have the ability to trust others to get a job done. And all of this will then free you up to do the things that only you can do. So fight the urge, and delegate important tasks by asking someone to do something that you ordinarily would only do yourself. This will prevent you from *"surely becoming worn out"* and allow you to focus your energies only on the things that have the potential to make you great.

By Aliza Schick, adapted from aish.com

Color War 2008!!!

Ima vs. Abba

By almost all the students of Mesorah

All Thursday we were very busy cleaning the school: cleaning our really dirty locker rooms, taking staples out of the walls, scrubbing the floors (thank you, Tova!), cleaning the lunchroom, etc. because “the owner of our building was coming”- or he was supposedly coming. School was so clean that even Rabbi Kosowsky said that it was the cleanest school has been since we moved in!!! No one suspected COLOR WAR was coming... Rabbi Kosowsky took us out of last period early to sit in the lunch room with parents and friends of the school to “meet the owner.” So Rabbi Kosowsky came in and told us that the owner would be late. In the mean time, Rabbi Katz gave us a short devar torah. Then our building manage came in and said he has only one thing to say: it’s color war!!! Our parents and friends and Rabbis had party poppers and then Hila and Hila explained the teams: Ima (pink) vs. Abba (blue). We all slept (or, well...stayed up...) in school and worked very hard on our teams’ songs, banner, cheers, badge, room, everlasting gift, dance, gifts for the judges, sports, devar torahs, and more! Here are some of the highlights of color war: All the Imas walking around with tichels and aprons, the beer cheer (DON’T ASK), the booboo cheer, Mrs. Abrams’s cupcakes for breakfast, shopping, stealing and painting Rabbi Kosowsky’s tie rack, eating cookies and chips all night, practicing dance for hours and then the cd broke..., our lovely voices in choir in the morning after cheering all night, the Abbas’ beards, blocking the hallways, playing gaga, relay races...AND SO MUCH MORE!!! Thank you to Rachel, Hila Hoffman and Hila Moyal- our awesome student council heads, Ariel Vanfossen and Miriam Baum- team Abba captains, Menucha Rodin and Hadassah Reynolds- team Ima captains, Mrs. Abrams- for a yummy breakfast, Mrs. Rosenblatt, Chani Rosenberg, Mrs. Abrams and Rachel- our amazingly PATIENT judges, and Rabbi Kosowsky and Mrs. Rich for so generously letting us destroy school (but we cleaned it up, didn’t we?...) Just ask any of the students or teachers: THIS WAS THE BEST COLOR WAR EVER!!!

Photos of the Week





Tu B'Shevat: Man is a Tree

"Torah is a tree of life for all who grasp it." (Proverbs 3:18)

Here is one explanation of the deeper meaning behind the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. In various places, the Torah compares a person to a tree:

- *"A person is like the tree of a field..." (Deut. 20:19)*
- *"For as the days of a tree shall be the days of my people." (Yeshaya 65:22)*
- *"He will be like a tree planted near water..." (Yirmiyahu 17:8)*

Why the comparison? A tree needs the four basic elements in order to survive -- soil, water, air, and fire (sun). Human beings also require the same basic elements. Let's examine these, one at a time.

SOIL: A tree must be firmly planted in the earth. The soil is not only the source through which nourishment is absorbed, but also provides room for the roots to grow. This is true of a person as well. The Talmud explains that a person whose wisdom exceeds his good deeds is likened to a tree whose branches are numerous, but whose roots are few. The wind comes and uproots it and turns it upside down. But a person whose good deeds exceed his wisdom is likened to a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are numerous. Even if all the winds of the world were to come and blow against it, they could not budge it from its place. (Avot 3:22) A person can appear successful on the outside, with full branches and a fancy car. But if the roots are few -if there is little connection to one's community and heritage- then life can send challenges that are impossible to withstand. Humans require a strong home base, where values and morals are absorbed, and which provides a supportive growth environment. **WATER:** Without the rainwater absorbed into the ground through a tree's roots to the trunk, branches and leaves of the tree, that tree would die. The Torah is compared to water and both rain and Torah descend from the heavens and provide relief to the thirsty and parched. The Torah flows down from God and has been absorbed by Jews in every generation. Deprived of water, a person will become dehydrated and eventually disoriented to the point where he can not recognize his own father. So too, without Torah, a person becomes disoriented to the extent they may not even recognize their father Hashem. **AIR:** A tree needs air to survive. The air contains the perfect balance of oxygen that a tree needs for respiration, and carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. The Torah (Bereishis 2:7) states that Hashem breathed life into the form of Man. The Hebrew word for breath, *nesheema*, is the same as the word for soul, *neshama*. Our spiritual life force comes, metaphorically, by way of air and respiration. Smelling is the most spiritual of senses, since the least physical matter is involved. As the Talmud says (Brachot 43b): Smell is that which the soul benefits from, and the does body not. **FIRE:** A tree also needs fire, sunlight, to survive. (*facing page*)

The absorption of energy from the light activates photosynthesis, a chemical reaction essential for the growth and health of a tree. We also need fire, warmth, to survive and we get this through the warmth of friendship and community. People absorb the energy of peers, friends, family, neighbors and associates and channel that into identity and actions. This is why all the essential observances of Judaism are based on family and community. Tu B'Shevat is a time to grow. Let's all take Tu B'Shevat's lessons and apply them in our lives to help us grow to great levels.

Mesorah Moments



- Orange water...yum!
- Calling people in the bathroom cuz that's the only place where we get service
- Cleaning up from color war
- If you want your food to be treif...DON'T put it on the counter
- "Fifty feet...cubits...sons..."
- Practicing dance during study hall...and gym...and davening...
- Trissues (ask Ariel)...BI-bles (ask Chavi)

Guest Speaker



By Yael Glazer

Early last Thursday morning, the 11th and 12th graders had the privilege to go on a trip to visit Dr. Rachel Theiberg's orthodontist practice in Wylie, Texas. When we arrived, we observed her work on one of her patients. Then, she spoke to us about what it means to be an orthodontist. She explained how she balances her business and family life, and went on by telling us the differences between dentists, orthodontists, oral surgeons, and dental hygienists. When she finished talking we were given the opportunity to ask questions. Then we took a really interesting and educational tour of her practice. Our trip to Dr. Theiberg's orthodontics office was very informative and gave us a better understanding of all of the career opportunities in oral care.



Mesorah Message Board

On Tuesday, January 29 at 8 pm at the Abrams, 16818 Thomas Chapel, Rebetzin Judy Abrams will be giving a shiur, "The Anatomy of a Blessing," for women in the merit of the complete recovery of Rochel Leah Abraham. Everyone is encouraged to come- \$10 donation suggested; students are free.

Thank you so much to everyone who sold all their ads and to everyone who came to the phone-a-thon- we've sold over 180 tickets! Keep up the great selling!

-Avigail and Aliza

To purchase tickets for Mesorah's production *Coronation: The Story of Queen Esther*, please call (214) 220-1990.

Thank you to our guest speaker, Dr. Theiberg for teaching us all about orthodontics.

16 DAYS TIL PRODUCTION!



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