



SCHOOL SHMOOZE

לקראת שבת פ' ויחי-שבת חזק

Vol 21 #14

Dear parents of the BCM family,

This Shabbos is שבת חזק! We conclude the entire חומש בראשית. Talmidos, try to be in Shul for this occasion and let's strengthen ourselves in our לימוד התורה, especially as we are in the days between טבת ה' and שבט י' and this is what the Rebbe's instructed us to do after נצח דידן.



New Pushkas:

This week, we received brand new beautiful Tzedaka Pushkas for our classrooms. The Pushkas were donated to us by Reb Dovid Faynberg and his family. Thank you! We are so excited to use them daily to collect Tzedaka before we Daven.

Upcoming special events:

We are getting ready for טבת כ' and כ"ד טבת, 'י שבט! Planning is in full swing and we will follow our BCM tradition in making sure that each day is remembered appropriately. We will be learning באתי לגני and we will have a special Mivtza to strengthen our התקשרות to the Rebbe in honour of 'י שבט. We already have our first sponsor. Thank you to an anonymous sponsor who reached out and already donated generously. If you'd like to partner with us and be part of something grand, please reach out to rabbi-vidal@bcmschool.ca. Any amount is appreciated.

Chidon test:

Grades 4-8: You have 10 days until the 2nd Chidon test. The test will take place IYH on Monday כ"ז טבת/January 8th. Utilize this time to study and do Chazzara on the units that your grade will be tested on. Wishing you much Hatzlacha!

Reminder:

Now that construction on Chesswood is over, please utilize the appropriate driveway to enter and exit our parking lot. This increases your safety and the safety of our Talmidos. Thank you!

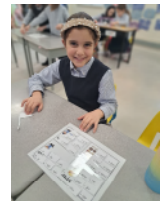
No words in the תורה are chosen arbitrarily, least of all the names of the weekly פרשיות. The name of a particular פרשה expresses the essence of that פרשה and tells us something about its content. This being the case, why is this פרשה entitled ויחי and יעקב lived, when it deals exclusively with the events which led up to his passing? The answer to this question lies in understanding the true meaning of life. Is life our temporal existence in this world, where we are constantly faced with extinction from numerous forces threatening us at every turn? Or is true life something even greater? Only 'ה, the source of all life, can rightly be termed "alive," for He is never changing and exists forever. In this sense, only 'ה truly lives, for His existence does not depend on outside forces. But human beings may also attain eternal life, by cleaving to that which is Eternal. 'ה is the only entity which lives forever; attaching oneself to Him enables mere mortals to do the same. "ואתם הדבקים בה' אלקיכם חיים כלכם היום" This is the reason that the אידן are called "alive" by our חכמים, for they cleave unto 'ה who lives Eternally. This is demonstrated most clearly when a איד encounters difficulties and obstacles lying in his path, which serve to make his passage through life all the more challenging. Leading a carefree existence unencumbered by problems is no test of our attachment to 'ה; successfully overcoming life's hurdles is what reveals our true devotion and commitment to serving 'ה. It is only then that we may be considered "alive." This illustrates why this week's פרשה is named ויחי. It was precisely just prior to יעקב's passing in Egypt that the meaning and purpose of his life was fully revealed. The years יעקב had spent in ארץ ישראל, although fraught with various trials and tribulations, were insufficient to adequately demonstrate his true devotion to 'ה. It was only on his deathbed, in the lowest and most abominable land on earth at the time, that יעקב's true "life" could be recognized by all. The גמרא states that "מה זרעו בחיים אף הוא בחיים". The continued existence of the תורה and their adherence to 'ה and His אידן follows in the footsteps of their forefather and ensures his eternal perpetuation.

Furthermore, it is precisely now, at the very end of our long and bitter golus, that our adherence to תורה and our בטחון in the imminent coming of Moshiach demonstrates the attainment of true and eternal life.

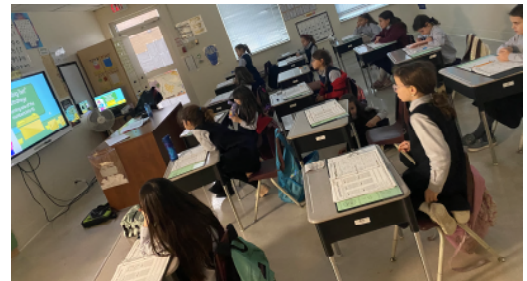
Grade 2

We are so excited to share that we started our Rashi book this week! In Chumash, Perek tes vov, posuk bais, we learned how to pronounce the name of Hashem when the nekudos are segol, cholom, chirik. Thank you, Mrs. Rosenfeld

What a packed week in 2B! From Ivris sorting mats, to Rashi Letter centres, Yiddish practice, Parsha pictures and our Shemone Esrei booklets - we were very busy this week! The girls listened to the story behind Rashi's birth, and are so excited to master Rashi letters and to be able to read Rashi from inside their own Chumash! Mazal Tov, we have completed Perek Yud Daled in Chumash! We got hands on and we counted pennies and calculated Maaser - just like Avraham Avinu gave Malki Tzedek! Parsha came alive, and the girls drew beautiful pictures for every Shevet as we learnt about their Bracha. Shemone Esrei is a real highlight of our Davening, the girls understand that they have a few minutes where they are like the Kohen Gadol inside the Kodosh Hakodoshim! Keep up the beautiful Davening! Mazal Tov to Nessia, Esther, Chaya, Goldie and Leah'le for passing a level in Tefillah Champs! Have a good Shabbos. Thank you, Miss Landa



Grade 2A enjoyed watching a math video about making 10's. Grade 2B enjoyed writing and reading their very creative rhyming poems! Thank you, Mrs. Perl



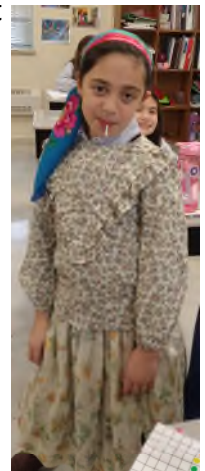
Grade 3

Our third Chumash test is approaching! The girls have been practicing Al Mi Neamar and Mi Amar Lmi questions, analyzing the לשון הפסוק effectively. The girls competed in fast paced Chumash review games that highlight their excellent prefix and suffix skills. They've become fluent in family members' words in Hebrew, mastering them using great word exercises. It's exciting to use the words we've learned previously to build sentences! Mazel tov Sara Bardwigdor on passing a Tfilloto level! Thank you, Miss Goldberg (pictures next page)



Grade 4

It's been an action- and learning- packed week! We enthusiastically welcomed Doda Dikduk into our classroom- with a song all in Hebrew, adorable costumes, and creative games to practice the skills we are working on! What a milestone- this week we completed learning Parshas Vayeshev!!! (Though we know we'll be back, learning more Torah with ever-increasing depth.) Chazak chazak v'nischazek!! Of course, we excitedly fulfilled the BCM tradition of sharing our amazing news in person with each class in the school!! This week we started a new program in zechus of Atara: the 18-day Ahavas Yisroel Challenge. Each day, every girl in the class has a chance to do the daily challenge to another girl in the class. When the challenge is complete, we will celebrate with a Razzle party! May the extra Ahavas Yisroel this brings truly be a zechus for Atara... and bring Moshiach, so that we can celebrate with Atara in person!! Mrs. Zaltzman



Grade 4 have become masters of multiplication up to the five times tables! We're going to master them all soon iyh. We're almost finished with persuasive writing and habitats :) Mazel tov to star off the week, Celina Fishman. Thank you, Mrs. Doron

Tzivos Hashem

Mazal Tov to all the Tzivos Hashem winners!



Eighth grade enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch! Thank you Rabbi and Mrs. Cohen



M'chayil El Chayil

Tip of the Week

Slow and Steady Wins the Race!

It seems counterintuitive to most students, but rushing through work just to get it done often creates more work and takes more time than doing it slowly and carefully the first time. When we rush, we're prone to making mistakes, misinterpreting directions (or ignoring them altogether), and producing subpar work, all of which leads to extra time correcting errors and redoing work.

To help your daughter see the value of a more deliberate approach and prioritizing quality over speed, start by identifying moments when rushing has been detrimental. For example, a chaotic morning rush to get up and out the door can lead to forgetting essential items, missing breakfast, and a stressful start to the day. Then, start small and celebrate successes. Encourage your daughter to experiment with a single task or routine, emphasizing the minimal time increase and celebrating positive outcomes.

Success is a powerful intrinsic motivator!

I am constantly encouraging my students to keep their eye on the goal; to understand the material and to complete quality work. Often students are listening with half an ear to the lesson because they are eager to complete all the blanks on a worksheet whether the answers are correct or not. Let's remind our girls of the lengthy process it takes to re-learn a lesson properly and the needless time it takes to correct all their mistakes!

Hatzlacha Raba!

Thank you,

Mrs. Gabay

I'd like to wish the BCM family a Gut Shabbos!

Rabbi Vidal