

Dear parents,

Firstly, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our students and a special welcome to the new families who joined the BCM family from far and near for the upcoming year 5776-5777:

Adler Family

Didi Family

Goldberg Family

Gurewitch Family

Loewenthal Family

Schtroks Family

Shimonov Family

Wolosow Family

We are delighted to have you all and look forward to sharing much Nachas with you this year.

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Much has transpired during this short week in BCM. On Monday we had preschool and Grade 1 orientation. It was so delightful to welcome our new and returning students and their mommies. A big Yasher Koach goes to all our teachers and staff members for spending many hours in setting up their classrooms so beautifully. From the fresh looking bulletin boards to the incentive systems, the warm welcome packages to the well prepared orientation packets, the overall warm feeling that our students felt when they walked in on the first day is truly owed to our dedicated staff. Thank you!

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In an effort to enhance the safety and security of our students, we installed a new security system on the back door as well as the side front door of the building. There is an Audio/Video and bell system from which the secretary can see the person at the door, communicate with them and allow/not allow them in.

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Talking about security please adhere to the following carpool safety rules:

When dropping off and picking up at **9:00** and at **4:00**;

- Enter from the driveway closest to Sheppard (2nd driveway when you are coming from Thornhill)
- **Drive around the building**
- No dropping off or picking up in front of the building during those times as this will create the need to reverse and can be very dangerous.

## שופטים

This week's Parsha, שופטים, speaks about the ערי מקלט a person would flee to if he accidentally killed someone. There, the unintentional killer would dwell, protected from the wrath of the victim's relatives, until the כהן גדול who served in the בית המקדש passed away.

But not only unintentional killers sought refuge in these cities; even someone who committed murder intentionally was expected to flee there as well. The court would then convene and issue its ruling on the death. The ערי מקלט offered protection, if only temporarily in some cases, to anyone who had caused a loss of life.

After the destruction of the בית המקדש and the dispersion of the אידן, the ערי מקלט ceased to exist in the physical sense. Yet the תורה is eternal, and its lessons apply in every generation. In our times, therefore, the concept of "ערי מקלט" finds expression in the spiritual dimension.

Our חכמים taught that "the words of תורה absorb." In other words, the תורה itself is the refuge in which all may seek asylum. In the spiritual sense, "killing" symbolizes the act of committing a sin, causing a spiritual death to the נשמה, for the תורה's 613 commandments are the "ropes" that bind the נשמה to ה'. Transgressing the תורה's commandments damages those ties and threatens to cut the נשמה off from ה'.

We learn from this week's פרשה that it is never too late to do תשובה, no matter how grave a transgression has been committed. Even the person who deliberately sinned can do תשובה and seek protection in the refuge of תורה.

In one sense, nowadays we have a distinct advantage over our forefathers who lived during the times of the בית המקדש. In those days, תשובה alone was not enough to atone for a sin. The unintentional killer had to remain exiled in the עיר מקלט until the passing of the כהן גדול, and the intentional murderer (as defined by the תורה) received capital punishment. Yet after the destruction of the בית המקדש, תשובה alone can atone for even the gravest sin.

Years ago, when בית דין had ultimate authority, a judge could only rule on what he himself had seen. ה', however, can look into the heart of man and judge whether or not his תשובה is sincere.

In the same way, the month of אלול, during which we take account of our actions of the previous year, is a "city of refuge" in time, offering us the same opportunity to clear the slate and merit a good and sweet year to come.

גוט שבת!

- If you are doing 2:30 carpool, you may park in front of the building and pick up your child.

Additionally, you will receive a carpool form in the electronic version of the School Shmooze. Please fill it out accurately so we can make sure your child goes home in the safest manner possible.

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I'd like to introduce you to our team of dedicated teachers and staff members. In this section you will also have the school email address to your child's teacher which you can use to communicate with them directly.

| Gr. | Teacher | Email address |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JK | Morah Nechama Oster | mrsoster@bcmschool.ca |
| JK | Morah Chana Leah Bekerman | mrsbekerman@bcmschool.ca |
| Pre1a | Morah Miri Kamman | mrskamman@bcmschool.ca |
| Pre1a | Morah Chanie Zaltzman | mrszaltzman@bcmschool.ca |
| After care | Mrs Liman | mrsliman@bcmschool.ca |
| 1 LK | Morah Shur | mrsshur@bcmschool.ca |
| 1 GS | Mrs Rosenberg | mrsrosenberg@bcmschool.ca |
| 2 LK | Mrs Rosenfeld | mrsrosenfeld@bcmschool.ca |
| 2 GS | Miss Neumann | missneumann@bcmschool.ca |
| 3A LK | Mrs Rabiski | mrsrabiski@bcmschool.ca |
| 3A GS | Miss Korf | misskorf@bcmschool.ca |
| 3B LK | Mrs Goldstein | mrsgoldstein@bcmschool.ca |
| 3B GS | Miss Nadoff | missnadoff@bcmschool.ca |
| 4 LK | Mrs Altein | mrsaltein@bcmschool.ca |
| 4 GS | Miss Indaig | missindaig@bcmschool.ca |
| 5 LK | Mrs Zaiontz | mrszaiontz@bcmschool.ca |
| 5 GS | Miss Shur | missshur@bcmschool.ca |
| 6 LK | Mrs Karpilovsky | mrskarpilovsky@bcmschool.ca |
| 6 LK | Miss Rosenfeld | missrosenfeld@bcmschool.ca |
| 6A & B Math6A ELA | Mrs Lipszyc | mrslipszyc@bcmschool.ca |

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|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6A Social Studies | Mrs Bekerman | mrsbekerman@bcmschool.ca |
| 6 B Social Studies | Mrs Lavner | mrslavner@bcmschool.ca |
| ELA: 6B, 7&8 | Mrs Danzinger | mrsdanzinger@bcmschool.ca |
| Math 7&8 | Mrs Pugen | mrspugen@bcmschool.ca |
| Shlucha | Miss Feigelstock | shlucha@bcmschool.ca |
| Secretary | Sara Raizel | sararaizel@bcmschool.ca |

I'd also like to introduce you to our assistants: Miss Etty Weiser (JK), Miss Leah Bensalmon (JK&Aftercare), Miss Henny Lauer (Pre1a & Aftercare), Mrs Tzipri Friedman (Pre1a), Mrs Sarina Sussman (grade 1&2) and Miss Esty Sussman who assists in various positions.

Chidon Mitzvos 5777!

This year the annual Tzivos Hashem International Chidon will be taking place in Crown Heights, NY. This year we will open up the possibility for your daughter to qualify and attend. The competition will be open to students in Grades 4 to 8 who qualify by passing a series of three tests over the next few months. Qualifying students will fly to New York together with school chaperones for the Shabbaton and compete in the Chidon against students from all over America and the world! To enter the competition, students will need to purchase the Yahadus book (available in Hebrew and English with accompanying explanation) according to their grade level and begin studying the Mitzvos on which they will be tested. Three tests will be given over the next few months. Students who receive qualifying scores will earn the chance to participate in the Shabbaton in New York and possibly represent our school on stage at the live event.

Last year our school sent a delegation of over 20 students to the Chidon, an event they will always remember. It is our hope this year to have many more qualifying students who will bring much nachas to our community and parents.

Please talk it over with your daughters and decide if this is something she would like to pursue.

Details on purchasing the seforim, the test dates, trip dates, and costs will be given in future communications. If you are indeed interested please reach out to me and let me know if you will need the Yahadus book for your daughter.

I'd like to wish the entire BCM family a גוט שבת!
Rabbi Vidal