



Israel Education Highlights Modern & Ancient Symbols

Our students had the honor of meeting and studying from Margalit Frydman and Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider who were visiting San Antonio with an OTS Amiel BaKehila delegation.



Students in grades K-5 learned about Ancient Paleo Hebrew symbols, and how they have transformed into modern Hebrew and other letter forms, such as English. They also had the opportunity

to write their names in ancient Hebrew to take home to share.

Grades 6-9 saw photographs of modern day Shiloh, and discussed the biblical archaeology of Tel Shiloh, with its layers upon layers of biblical history beneath. Here, archeologists have uncovered treasures from thousands of years ago, and think that they may have identified the sacred spot of the Mishkan.

This lesson was most poignant as it relates to the Haftarah of the first day of Rosh Hashanah, when we read the story of Chana and the birth of Shmuel Hanavi which took place in Shiloh.

We thank Congregation Rodfei Sholom for facilitating this program.



Changemaker Program

Continuing with our Changemakers Program, we had the privilege of hearing from Chaplain (COL) Jacob Z.



Goldstein. Rabbi Goldstein is the longest serving Jewish military chaplain, having served 38 years all over the world and as lead chaplain of Ground Zero following 9-11. Chaplain Goldstein spoke to the students about observing the Jewish Holidays and helping fellow Jewish servicemen and women

in so many interesting places and situations. We thank Rabbi Chaim Block and Chabad for making Chaplain Goldstein available to our students.

NITZAVIM

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TASA to launch S.T.E.P “Seniors Tutoring Education Project”

Just in time for the new year, TASA has launched a new program called **S.T.E.P.** This program involves our community's seniors and engages them in working one on one with students that need a bit of extra help. “Our seniors are a repository full of knowledge in so many subjects” said Rabbi Marrus, Dean of Students. “We are excited about making a “Shidduch” (match) between these wonderful seniors and some of our students that need some remedial support” he said. “The goal is to have seniors volunteer in the area of 1 hour weekly and work with specific students, boosting them in the skills they are lacking,” said Mrs. Jessica Diric, Dir. of General Studies. The topics offered in the pilot program will be Math, Reading, Basic Hebrew Letters, and Hebrew Vowels and Reading.

This program is being implemented in cooperation with the San Antonio Jewish Senior Services (SAJSS). To take part in this wonderful mitzvah, please email rabbi.m@torahacademysa.com

Shifting Shadows

First and Second grade started their science unit on *The Spinning Sky*: the sun, moon, and the stars. They will be able to identify how these celestial objects change positions in the sky. Their first lesson on Moving Shadows had lots of hands-on opportunities. They investigated what it takes to make a stationary object's shadow move. They experimented with flashlights and a flashlight pattern page. The lesson was taken outdoors to predict how a shadow would change from the morning until the afternoon. Hands-on learning means learning by doing!



What's New TASA Crew!

Book Talk

Our 4th and 5th grade students have recently completed their First Book Talk! We have spent the last two weeks learning how to navigate the Google classroom, and create a 10 slide book talk presentation. How cool is it that these kids know how to customize slides, add transitions and pictures, as well as present to their peers!



How does an apple grow?

In preparation for Rosh Hashanah, last week in Kindergarten we focused on the lifecycle of an apple. We are expanding our knowledge this week by learning about seeds and plants in general. The students were excited to plant their own seed. We will be watching them grow over the next couple of weeks.



Open House Night



On Thursday, September 19th we had our annual Open House Night for parents to come and be able to meet with their child(ren)'s teachers and get to hear first-hand about this year's curriculum and program. The evening began with a welcoming speech by Rabbi Yossi Marrus, Dean of Students welcoming parents as well as our new and returning staff. He spoke about the many successes and achievements TASA has to be proud of as we celebrate our 7th year of academics. Mr. Howard Feinberg, Board President spoke about the commitment of the board of trustees to help, support and make sure that TASA administration and faculty have everything they need to provide a stellar education for its students. Mrs. Jessica Diric, Dir. of General Studies highlighted some new programs and the importance on academic focus for this school year. Overall, it was a successful night with a great turn out from parents. If you have not received a syllabus from your child's teacher please check your email or reach out directly to them.

Coming



Soon!!

- ◆ **Monday, September 30th & Tuesday, October 1st** - Rosh Hashanah, there will be no school.
- ◆ **Wednesday, October 2nd** - Tzom Gedalya, regular schedule. Middle School students early dismissal with parental note.
- ◆ **Tuesday, October 8th** - Erev Yom Kippur, PTO will sponsor our Annual Pre-fast Breakfast here at school from 8:30—8:50am.

DVAR TORAH

Apples & Honey

“Dip the apple in the honey, make a bracha loud and clear, L'Shana Tova Umetuka...” goes the popular children's song. This custom is one of the most recognized Jewish holiday customs the world over. But let us look a bit closer at this interesting custom. Why in fact do we dip an apple in honey on Rosh Hashanah? One of the primary reasons we use an apple is because of its sweetness. Coupled with the added sweetness of the honey, it is symbolic of the ultra-sweet and the revealed sweetness which we hope G-d will grant us this coming year.



The apple also symbolizes Gan Eden (the Garden of Eden), which according to the Midrash has the scent of an apple orchard, and in the Kabbalah is called “the holy apple orchard.” When Yitzchak commented regarding his son Jacob, “Behold, the fragrance of my son is like the fragrance of a field, which the L-rd has blessed” (Genesis 27:27), Rashi explains that this refers to the scent of an apple orchard, the scent of Gan Eden. Furthermore, when Solomon depicts the love G-d harbors for His nation, he writes (Song of Songs 8:5): “Beneath the apple tree I aroused you[r love].” As such, eating an apple on Rosh Hashanah is an attempt to remind G-d of our age-old love.

With blessings for a Shana Tova U'metukah, may we be blessed with happy, healthy and very sweet New Year.

Rabbi Y. Marrus

Thank You!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the TASA Families who participated and volunteered at the “100 Days, One Community Goal Kick-Off”.



100 DAYS. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.