



OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA

REUVEN REVIEW

YOUR WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Vol. 10 Issue #13

December 30, 2022

ii 4:18 PM

י רב תשפ"ג

פרשת ויגש

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday

January 1, 2023

Sessions begin 10:00 am
Rebbeim In-Service

Monday

January 2, 2023

Dismissal K: 3:00, P-8: 4:00
No Transportation

Tuesday

January 3, 2023

עשרה בטבת
Dismissal K: 12:00 P-8: 12:30

Motzei Shabbos

January 21, 2023

N'shei Tea



Rabbi Kohn's 6th grade learning from an inspirational video of Rav Ahron Leib Shteinman in honor of his yartzeit



8th grade Chinese Auction



Rabbi Myski's first graders making their own candles



Rabbi Lowy's 4th graders at their siyum on Chanuka!



Mishnayos Chabura Siyum on Kesuvos

IMPORTANT NOTES

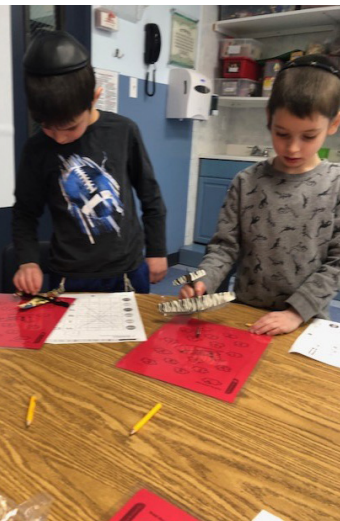
Save The Date:
N'shei Tea
Motzei Shabbos
Jan 21



Rabbi Robinson's 5th grade competing in the annual Dredel Olympics!



Rabbi Kohn's 6th graders at their Chanukah party



Pre-1a doing an airplane Kriah game



Moshe Schneid with the Kinor he made for this week's parsha



7th grade enjoying their Chanukah party at Rabbi Prupas' house

PLEASE SHARE WITH US! Please email any Mazel Tov information to reuvenreview@ohrreuven.com!

MAZEL TOV!

Yehuda Smolen on his brother Elchonon Smolen's engagement to Aviva Koegel!

Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef & Esther Fishman upon the birth of a baby boy! Mazal Tov Yaakov Fishman on his baby brother!

Rabbi and Mrs. Ari Medetsky, Mesivta Menahel, upon the birth of a grandson!

Eliyahu and Meir Rothman on the birth of their baby brother!



The Nussi Show!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dun Elhyani, 4th

Shmuel Meir Yablonsky, Pre-1A

ויגש

Headspace

וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת־אֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אַל־תִּרְגְּזוּ בַדֶּרֶךְ:

As he sent his brothers off on their way, he told them, “Do not be quarrelsome on the way.”

אל תרגזו בדרך. אל תתעסקו בדבר הלכה שלא תרגזו עליכם הדרך

Do not busy yourselves with Halachic discussions lest the road become unsteady for you (i.e. lest you lose your way)

- Rashi

When a child’s life is falling apart, he doesn’t care what two plus two equals

- Anonymous

Yosef has now revealed himself to his brothers. They have, at least for the moment, reconciled, and he sends them back to retrieve their families and their aged father. But, before he sends them off, Yosef offers his brothers some advice, “Do not engage in *halachic* discussion along the way, for you may lose your way.” It is sound advice for his family traveling along an unfamiliar route, but the advice begs the question: Why did Yaakov not give this very wise advice to his sons before? Why did Yosef not offer this warning earlier?

Rav Tzvi Hirsch Orenstein offers an eloquently simple but profound perspective to explain. When Yaakov sent his sons down to Egypt, they traveled in the midst of a famine crisis. They did not, at that time, have the headspace for serious, involved Torah study. There was no need for Yaakov to warn them not to engage. The crisis they were dealing with took care of that. But, after reconciling with Yosef and now journeying back to Canaan carrying the choicest of Egypt’s crops, the brothers were feeling confident and content. For the moment, the crisis was resolved, and they had the luxury of being able

to focus on in-depth study, necessitating Yosef’s warning to not do so along the way.

Rav Orenstein’s insight does more than explain the behaviors of Yaakov and Yosef. It also offers incredible insight into parenting, education, and the world of our children.

Children will spend the bulk of their formative years in school, so much so, that their self-image will (unfairly) become a product of their in-school performance. When a child struggles in school, that struggle carries over to all of life. There are many reasons that a child may struggle in school, but one that is often overlooked by parents who are themselves overwhelmed, is when children fall apart in school because their lives are falling apart at home.

There are many legitimate reasons why life at home may become unstable. Not always is it even for something bad. *Simchos*, married siblings moving in after having babies of their own, moving, construction, and myriad other adventures can all conspire to destabilize home life. And, of course, issues of *shalom bayis*, divorce, remarriage, or illness can derail a child’s otherwise stable home life. When that life is

upended, it is incredibly difficult for a child to focus on or care about the things he is studying in school. He has bigger things to worry about than the material his *rebbe* or teacher is instructing him. All too frequently, when home life becomes unstable, a child's school life will fall apart soon after.

One cannot blame parents who are often overwhelmed, themselves, by whatever circumstances have upended their home life. Those parents also have only so much headspace and it is difficult to impossible for them to focus on the issues they are dealing with as well as their child who seems okay at home. But, if parents fail to address the needs of that child, it will likely not be long before he is not doing okay.

What, then, is an overwhelmed parent to do?

The first thing is to recall that you are part of a broader community built on our being there to support one another both in good times and in better. Your child's school is a good place to start. Inform the people who need to know that something is going on in your home life that may affect your child's performance in school. That way, the people there can keep an extra eye on your child and offer him added support and encouragement.

Second, do not be afraid to enlist a qualified therapist for your child to speak to. Today, most of our schools have on-staff therapists who either work for the school or for a qualified, reputable mental-health clinic. That means that you won't even need to drive your child after school hours to see someone. Taking advantage of available therapy services is wise and prudent, and can really help a child struggling with making sense of a life that has become disordered.

Some parents are loath to have their children miss class time for time with a therapist for fear that the child will fall behind academically. What those parents often fail to realize is that children who are struggling with a difficult at-home situation will usually be missing class while they are sitting in the classroom, too distracted by the thoughts in their minds to be able to pay attention.

Much like the children of Yaakov, when their minds are occupied with the crisis of the moment, children will not have the headspace to be capable of learning. Our job as parents is to get them the help they need to be able to succeed even when the odds are stacked against them.