



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday-Monday  
December 19-22, 2025  
Chanuka Vacation  
No Session

Tuesday  
December 23, 2025  
No Clarkstown, North Rockland  
& Suffern Central Transportation

Wednesday  
December 24, 2025  
No Transportation  
Dismissal, N-K @3:00  
P-8 @4:00

Thursday  
December 25, 2025  
No Transportation  
Dismissal N-K @3:00  
P-8 @4:00

Friday  
December 26, 2025  
No Clarkstown, North Rockland  
& Suffern Central Transportation  
Dismissal N-8 @12:30

## IMPORTANT NOTES

### WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSING INFO:

In case of inclement weather, the Yeshiva tries to send out a text or email. You can also call the Yeshiva Ketana's message line at 845.362.8362, x 199.

# REUVEN REVIEW

YOUR WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Vol. 14 Issue 12

December 19, 2025

4:12 PM

פרשת מקץ



Rabbi Eisen's 5th grade showing off their hard earned prizes from the Yom Hashuk!!



Mishnayos Chaburah Siyum on Seder Nashim



Rabbi Kohn's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Challah demonstration relating to the Gemara in מציאות אלו



Rabbi Biller's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade displaying their creative Menorahs



Yisroel Shulman's Bar Mitzvah Aliya





Learning about inflation with Mrs. Radzik at our ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



1st Grade writing their name in braille with MRS. Radzik after reading a story about Louis Braille.



Rabbi Lowy's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade receiving a prize for their Sukkos hasmada learning chart.

Our condolences to Mrs. Risi Brodie on the passing of her beloved father, R' Aron Avner Ben Menachem Mendel Halevi A"H

## MAZEL TOV!

Mordy Gold on his Bar Mitzvah!  
Akiva Gold on his brothers Bar Mitzvah!

Ari Weinblatt on his new baby sister!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Shaya Brody 8<sup>th</sup>  
Akiva Deutsch 8<sup>th</sup>  
Eitan Vilinsky 6<sup>th</sup>  
Nosson Shulman 5<sup>th</sup>  
Nachy Robinson 1<sup>st</sup>  
Naftali Chait Pre-1A  
Kovi Neumann K2



Netanel Klein assisting R' Rawicki giving out Mincha rewards



Morah Bracha's & Morah Hadassa's 2nd grade made donuts for art



Rabbi Gonter's Siyum on Maseches Kiddushin

**Thank You to Neshei for  
sponsoring the RJ Lewis show  
and donuts in honor of  
Chanuka**







Morah Shira and Peninas class enjoying zayin cookies for show and tell!



Morah Jenny's K1 making olive oil



Morah Jenny's K1 giving Yosef Hatzadik a haircut



Morah Jenny's K1 showing Paroahs dreams



Morah Shira and Morah Penina's K2 adding a candle to the menorah!



Preschool mommy and me event



Morah Shira's & morah Penina's K2 boys finding the letters on the dreidel!



Morah Bracha's Pre1A plays a dreidel kria game



YKOR enjoying a magic show in honor of Chanukah



## מקץ Overprotection

וְאֶת־בְּנֵי־מִינְ אָחִי יוֹסֵף לֹא־שָׁלַח יַעֲקֹב אֶת־אֶחָיו כִּי אָמַר פֶּן־יִקְרָאנוּ אִסּוֹן:

for Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, since he feared that he might meet with disaster.

ואת בנימין אחי יוסף, שהיה אחיו מאבי ואם. ובעבור מה שקרה ליוסף ירא יעקב מלשלחו בדרך פן יקראנו אסון.  
Yaakov's fear was based on a mishap having befallen Joseph at the time

- Radak

"I promise; I will never let anything happen to you...Nemo."

- Marlin

There is a now classic, animated children's film whose plot holds an important lesson for parenting, and whose moral may provide insight into understanding the strange behavior of Yosef in this week's parsha.

Pixar's Finding Nemo tells the story of a clownfish who sees his wife and entire brood of hatchlings wiped out by a larger, predator fish, save for one tiny hatchling who survives. The theme of the film is how the father fish, in reaction to the loss of the remainder of his family, is zealously overprotective of his surviving offspring, little Nemo. Only through an unfortunate mishap that separates father and son and sends the son halfway across the ocean on his own is the child given the space to develop and the father taught to let go.

Overprotective parenting in response to loss, tragedy, or trauma is not a phenomenon limited to clownfish. Parents are people, and people are products of their experience. Parents who have personally experienced loss are often prone to over sheltering their children from the risk of that form of loss. A parent who may have witnessed a relative or friend suffer severe injury in a bicycle accident might not let their child ride a bike. One who experienced a near-tragedy while swimming might keep their kids from the

pool, and someone who was involved in a boating accident might keep their children from boats.

That is not a logical, reasoned response to risk, but an emotional one, as are so many of our decisions. From a purely statistical perspective, the fact that a parent had personal exposure to one type of risk does not increase the odds that their child will suffer harm from that type of risk. Usually, the greater harm to the child comes not from the risk of injury but from the phobia the child develops around the parent's fear.

The child who grows up overprotected and over sheltered will, in the very least, be deprived of some of life's great experiences and, at worse, will grow up reticent, tentative and scared, too afraid to be bold and take risks. While it is a parent's job to protect their child from physical harm, that responsibility must to be balanced against the need to avoid the harm of instilling fear and hesitancy in the child.

Perhaps the harm of overprotection can explain to us the otherwise seemingly inexplicable actions of Yosef in this week's parsha. His brothers come down to Egypt, sent by their father to retrieve food to sustain the family through the famine. Conspicuously, one brother



is absent, the baby of the family and Yosef's only full sibling. Their father has held back Binyamin, afraid of losing him as he had lost his beloved Yosef. Yosef's response? He chooses, it seems, to torment his father, forcing him to separate from Binyamin and send him into potential harm. What would drive Yosef to act with such apparent cruelty to his father?

Yosef had personally experienced his father's overprotection after the death of their mother, Rachel. Yaakov had kept him close by his side, afraid of losing him as he had lost Yosef's mother. The one time Yaakov allowed Yosef to leave his side, tragedy struck and Yosef was gone. Yosef could only imagine how sheltered and overprotected his little brother Binyamin was, and now, he no longer had to imagine.

The Egyptian policy to deter a secondary market for food, as the Sforno explained, was to sell each head of household enough nourishment to sustain his home. That is why all ten brothers had to travel to Egypt rather than sending a representative delegation to purchase on their behalf. That means that Binyamin's absence was not just an emotional concern for Yosef. It meant that Yaakov had chosen to keep Binyamin home, unable to purchase food for his large and growing family, because Yaakov was afraid Binyamin would be harmed. Yaakov's fear due to his prior experience had reached the point that it was harmful to Binyamin.

Yosef, now wise beyond his years, recognized that he would need to tear Binyamin away from their father and force him to branch out on his own in order for Binyamin to develop and for

Yaakov to learn to let go. Simply revealing himself and having Binyamin travel down under the wing and protection of Yaakov would just perpetuate the harm of Yaakov's keeping Binyamin too close.

Yosef not only ensured that Binyamin would come out from under his father's wing, but he also understood that if the brothers acted as proxy for their father in sheltering and protecting Binyamin, he would remain stifled and stymied by that protection. What episode in Yosef's life contributed most to his personal growth and advancement? Likely it was when he was falsely accused of a crime and unfairly jailed. It was there that he was forced to grow up, to advocate for himself, and to surmount the very challenges and risks his father had been sheltering him from. How would Yosef accomplish the same for his baby brother? He would, under carefully controlled circumstances, have Binyamin falsely accused of a crime, separated from his brothers, and forced to advocate for himself as he overcomes the very harms his father had been protecting him from all the years.

Yosef's wisdom, if our thesis is correct, brought both Yaakov and Binyamin out of the paralyzing fear that had stymied them all these years and made his family capable of being whole once again. It is a powerful lesson for us as parents to consider well when we are reacting to our own fears and stifling our children as a result, for our job to protect our children from harm includes protecting them from the harm we might cause when overprotecting them from harm.

*Good Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb  
Principal*



# פרשת מקץ



*This week's program* שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום *is not yet sponsored*

*In honor of the YKOR Rabbeim,  
who bring the light of Torah  
into our children.*

**MOST of the פרשיות of this year  
are still available for sponsorship!**

Please help support this wonderful program.

**Monthly (4 weeks) sponsorship: \$220**

**One week full sponsorship: \$60**

**One week partial sponsorship: \$35**

To sponsor a פרשה  
please contact Rabbi Plotzker.  
[bplotzker@ohrreuven.com](mailto:bplotzker@ohrreuven.com)

First

Last

Name of תלמיד (Please Print Clearly)

## !!WEEKLY PRIZES!!

Class: (Please Check One)

- ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 10 פסוקים
- ☐ 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 15 פסוקים
- ☐ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 20 פסוקים
- ☐ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 25 פסוקים
- ☐ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 30 פסוקים
- ☐ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 40 פסוקים
- ☐ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 50 פסוקים

My son completed שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום for  
this פרשה in the amount specified for his class.

☐ **Bonus: Did double the grade required amount!**

Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_

בס"ד



# LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

**Chanukah is a time when we rejoice with the Torah  
and our victory over the forces of יָוֹן.**



**2 ways** (do either or both) **to celebrate this victory!**

- 1) Learning Torah a least 5 minutes in front of the lights of the menorah. (We don't use the menorah for light.)**
- 2) Being technology free for the first half hour after hadloko.**



**1 Chinese Auction ticket for each check box!  
Double tickets if you do all 8 nights!**

My Maccabee, \_\_\_\_\_ (name) in \_\_\_\_\_ grade,  
continued the fight against the יוֹנִים

Night Of חנוכה	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Learned Torah								
Technology Free								
Parent's Sig.								

**To sponsor this or any of our other programs, please email: [bplotzker@ohrreuven.com](mailto:bplotzker@ohrreuven.com)**

בס"ד

# כדי להודות ולהלל

SO.....



# SMILE



Please email to: [pictures@ohrreuven.com](mailto:pictures@ohrreuven.com)

1 picture (only)

of your son/s lighting or next to the menorah

We are looking forward to decorating our  
bulletin board or screen with them after Chanukkah.



OHREUVEN אור ראובן  
YESHIVA KETANA

## חנוכה שמח!



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