



MAZEL TOV TO:

- ◆ Rabbi and Mrs. Simcha Perlowitz (5th Grade Rebbe) on the birth of a granddaughter.
- ◆ Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchok Krasne (3rd Grade Rebbe) on the engagement of their daughter.
- ◆ Rabbi and Mrs. Yisroel Hamburger (Kriah) on the engagement of their son.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Donny Kanowitz on the birth of a grandson.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Jeremie Lederer on the birth of a son.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Marcus on the birth of a son.
- ◆ Moshe Kleiner on his Bar Mitzvah



- **Monday December 31**
No NYC Bus Service
Regular Sessions
- **Tuesday January 1**
Legal Holiday
4:30 Dismissal for All classes
No Bus Service
- **Friday January 18-**
Tuesday January 22
Mid-Winter Vacation
No Sessions
- **Wednesday January 23**
Regular Sessions Resume

Message from our Menahel

In the beginning of this week's parsha, פרשת שמות, the תורה tells us about the rewards the midwives, שפרה and פועה, received:

"וייטב אלקים למילדות וירב העם..."

"...he dealt well with the midwives and the nation increased in numbers..."

"כי יראו המילדת... ויעש להם בתים"

"...because the midwives feared 'ה that He made for them houses."

(פרק א', כ"א)

בתי 'ה explains that "וייטב אלקים" was that 'ה caused the בתי 'ה and כהונה to come from the midwives.

Rav Moshe Feinstein, זצ"ל, comments "If this were the only goodness 'ה showed the midwives, then it should have been stated in the previous פסוק, without being separated by the statement "וירב העם" it would appear that this too was part of their reward."

Rav Moshe, זצ"ל, explains the following: The first פסוק specifies the midwives' reward: בני ישראל increased in numbers. The midwives were concerned about the welfare of each child. Even though they were working under very difficult conditions, trying to circumvent פרעה's decree of killing every Jewish male baby, they still tried their best to help each child survive. As a reward, 'ה fulfilled their aspiration that each child should survive and that is why בני ישראל increased in population.

It is still puzzling as to why the תורה gives such praise and reward to מרים and יוכבד for not following פרעה's decree to murder every Jewish, male baby. Murder is one of three עבירות the תורה tells us we have to give our lives rather than transgress, יהרג ואל יעבור. Therefore, it would seem to be an easy decision for יוכבד and מרים not to follow פרעה's decree. What else could they have done and why does the תורה insist on giving them such praise?

Rav Moshe, זצ"ל, answers that normally when it is difficult for a person to fulfill a מצוה, they do it but not with a complete heart. If they are unable to fulfill the מצוה perfectly, they do not feel any remorse because after all, it was not their fault. What was unique about יוכבד and מרים was they did their utmost בשמחה, to make sure every Jewish child survived even under these very difficult circumstances. In recognition of their efforts, 'ה repaid them by allowing every Jewish child to survive. We can now understand why the two פסוקים belong together. The first פסוק is telling us part of יוכבד and מרים' reward while the second פסוק tells us their overall reward for doing their best to fulfill the 'ה בשמחה, רצון.

This message is very important for our children. We must stress that our mission in life is to always do the 'ה רצון with שמחה. We might find ourselves in difficult situations but the message we have to convey to our children is to always be בשמחה 'ה עובד את 'ה. May we continue to transmit this beautiful message to our families until the arrival of משיח צדקינו במהרה בימינו אמן

גוט שבת Have a

Benji Kersh

Zayde-Father-Son Melave Malka

On Motzei Shabbos, December 15th, the Yeshiva held its Annual Zayde-Father-Son Melave Malka. Talmidim from grades 1 to 5 joined together at Shaarei Tova in Kew Gardens. As the guests entered there was an array of raffle prize boxes for the talmidim to submit tickets into. As everyone filed into the main hall, a beautiful fleishig Melave Malka was served courtesy of Simcha's Gourmet. The program began with divrei bracha from the Menahel, **Rabbi Binyomin Kessler**. Rabbi Kessler spoke about the importance of recognizing the immense chessed Hash-m continuously does for us, specifically, that we could all join together, three or even four generations, at this melave malka.

This was followed by a beautiful kumzits led by **Michael Pruzansky**. One could feel the emotion in the room as he led the boys in the singing of "V'zakeini". After dessert and benching, there was a leibedig rikud with music. Each rebbe formed a circle with his class and their fathers and zaydes. The evening finished off with the raffle drawings. The boys were all excited to see their friends win such amazing prizes; a drone, a hoverboard, an air hockey table, and the always popular "no homework for your class". As everyone went to their cars, they received a special door prize sponsored by the Yeshiva's Parent Association. The evening was a memorable one that left the zaydes, fathers and talmidim looking forward to next year's Melava Malka in Yerushalayim. A special thank you to the Parents Association and all the mothers who helped make the evening as successful and enjoyable as it was.



Nature Company visits Yeshiva

Mr. Anthony's Nature Company paid a visit to 100 of the most appreciative children. Our students had been prepared for the excitement of the Nature Company when their teachers led them in speculation on what animals would actually arrive. Though he could not attend himself, Mr. Anthony sent a wonderful substitute. Ellie arrived carrying three unusual valises. When the valises were set down in middle of each Pre1A and first grade classroom, the children were treated to a delightful surprise as a snake, long and slithery, popped out and politely allowed every child to feel its scaly skin. Among other fascinating factoids was the fact that the snake eats three mice once a week. A soft furry mammal that lives in cold mountainous areas was the next animal that was introduced. The long whiskered chinchilla, covered in luxurious fur, had to be awakened because she is a nocturnal animal and not terribly happy to be alert at 2 PM. The last animal was a dragon, but, luckily, it was a lizard—actually, a bearded lizard—dragon, able to puff out its face to protect itself from predators. We learned that they live in the sandy desert, which is the perfect place for it to blend in and camouflage itself. What was also fun to observe was the wealth of knowledge of animals that so many of our students had; even more interesting was to watch the boys' curious questions. Quite an educational and entertaining afternoon, indeed. Now the boys will just have to practice their thank you letter skills.

