



# Bais Rivkah PULSE

VOL. 3, ISSUE 1, כסלו תשפ"ג

THE RHYTHM OF GROWTH AND ACTIVITY IN BAIS RIVKAH



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ה"ו

# DEAR PARENTS,

Our students are thriving, learning, and enjoying the wonderful environment that Bais Rivkah is renowned for.

This issue of Pulse shines the spotlight on our staff, the hidden heroes behind every achievement you'll see in this magazine.

We find ourselves in Chodesh Kislev, the month of light. This time highlights the beauty of Torah, the light of Chassidus, and the spark inside of every Neshama.

In the times of the חשמונאים, the Yidden fortified themselves with great Mesiras Nefesh to overcome the challenges of the times, the spiritual and physical attack on Torah and Mitzvos.

Women played an integral role in the resistance and the astounding victories that took place, culminating in Nes Chanukah.

The nature of light is to brighten, warm, and illuminate. Fire is one of the elements of creation, and when channeled correctly, it is foundational to sustaining life.

The root of the word Chanukah is Chinuch, demonstrating the significance of the victory specifically in regard to maintaining the rights over our children's education. The future of Torah and Chassidus is reliant on our children and students commitment to maintaining the glowing light it brings to the world.

Let us build on the achievements of those who came before us to recognize the value of each Neshama, and encourage their sparks to grow.

May we merit to see the ultimate Hakhel of Menorah in the Bris Hamikdash Hashlishi,

Warmly,

*Rabbi Sholom Goldstein,*  
Executive Director



## CREDITS

*Special thanks to the dedicated staff members who made Bais Rivkah Pulse a reality*

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. A. Raskin    | Mrs. C. Shapiro |
| Ms. M. Schmerling | Mrs. M. Edelman |
| Mrs. G. Itkin     | Mrs. Sternberg  |
| Mrs. D.L. Schwei  | Morah Avichzer  |

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Rabbi S. Goldstein | Mrs. G. Rosenfeld |
| Morah E. Nemanov   | Mrs. L. Jacobson  |
| Morah S. S. Avtzon | Mrs. S. Tiechtel  |
| Mrs. D. Brawer     | Mrs. M. Heber     |

DESIGN: Peninah Baumgarten





# Pre-1A

## יומא דפרא

Pre-1A classes gathered together for a ח"י אלול and Pre-1A ראש השנה פארבריינגען. They said the פסוקים, and played a fun true and false game about the upcoming יום טוב. They also learned about how the upcoming year is a שנת הקהל.

On Friday before שבת ו' תשרי, Pre-1A מיידלעך learned about ר' לויק, and her רעבעצין נפש to make ink for her husband, in exile. They learned about the special מצות we learn from the letters of רעבעצין חנה's name. Then, the whole Pre-1A gathered in the lunchroom to shape their own חלה!



## קריאה

Pre-1A begins the year reviewing the א' ב' to ensure a strong foundation before moving on to Nekudos. They go through letter by letter, reviewing with consistent practice and fun activities. The classes play א' ב' games, draw the letters in sand, shape them with pretzel sticks, and other interactive activities.



## א' ב' סיום

Before starting to learn the נקודות, the Prela מיידלעך had a beautiful סיום א' ב'! They played an א' ב' Bingo game, and shaped א' ב' cookies. Every girl got her own game of א' ב' Spot

It to play at home. We are so proud of them, and so excited to move on to learning how to read with נקודות!



## פרשה

The Prela מיידעלאך learn the פרשה each week in fun interactive ways. In honor of פרשת נח, the petting zoo came to visit. The מיידלעך had so much fun with the cow, goats, sheep, and

chickens. Some girls were even brave enough to hold or feed them! We also do fun food crafts and act out the stories to make Parsha come alive.





## SCIENCE AND MATH

In Pre1a, the girls are taught the fundamental foundations of math and science. In math, we learn the basics of counting and addition, along with concepts like comparing (bigger and smaller) and counting by 5's and 10's. In Science, the girls cover many interesting topics with experiments and projects. The girls also discuss the different seasons as they come and go, and compare and contrast them.



## ששת ימי בראשית

The Pre1a classes learned a unit about the **ששת ימי בראשית**. They went through each day of creation, learning what ה created on that day with fun crafts and activities. For **יום ראשון**, the girls made their own yummy black and white cookies. Some classes planted seeds in their classrooms when they learned about **יום שלישי**. We can't wait to watch them grow!

Also, each of our seven Pre1a classes decorated a beautiful poster for one of the seven days of the week for our **ששת ימי בראשית** bulletin board!





## מידות

In Prela, we focus on **מידות טובות** and Social Skills. We learn how to behave with **חיינות** and listen right away. We also learn how to deal with disagreements and how to react when things don't go the way we want them to.



## TRANSITION

In our transition department, the girls enjoy learning through play. We also installed a new sensory wall in the hallway this year!





# Primary GRADES 1-3

## כתה א ו ב קריאה

A brand new קריאה book, designed for our first grade students' specific needs, is being used in all the classes this year. In small

groups, the girls reinforce the skills they've learned with original קריאה funbooks, stories and games.



## JOINING TOGETHER FOR הקהל

A king in full costume and blasting trumpets welcomed each student at our first הקהל of the year. To keep the הקהל momentum going, each class was paired with another class to become Hakhel partners. הקהל partners will continue to get together on special days and pictures of these gatherings will be posted on our הקהל bulletin board.





## שבת מברכים תהילים

The excitement is felt in the air as שבת מברכים approaches. Students are eager to say their quota of תהילים and return their completed cards to receive a special prize. Special thank you to our Tzivos Hashem base commander Morah Baylie Vail for making Tzivos Hashem such an exciting part of being a Bais Rivkah student!



## ארוך דרך CONTEST

Every day during lunch, the girls hear the daily ספר המצות. We announce our Tzivos Hashem winners and share updates with the girls. Our ארוך דרך contest allows classes to earn points for listening quietly and earn a tasty dessert.





## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

We celebrated the start of the new school year with a dramatic countdown. What could be more exciting than the 1st day of 1st grade, 2nd day of 2nd Grade, and 3rd day of 3rd Grade? A successful year starts here!

Students will continue the count, learning place value as we continue on to day 10, 20..., anticipating the 100th day, a milestone celebrating progress, growth, and achievement!



## CELEBRATING OUR NEW חומשים:

In preparation for receiving their **חומשים**, the 2nd grade students enjoyed an engaging and entertaining hands-on show with the esteemed **רפ"ס**, Rabbi Clapman. The girls were shown the process of making a **תורה ספר**. They saw what the skin looks like throughout the different stages and the process of making the ink. The girls were very excited to receive their **חומשים** and to begin using them every day.





# IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Cross-Curricular Learning during אלו/תשרי

## • FIRST GRADE:

Our 1st graders painted colorful ראש השנה themed apples in ten frames to develop number sense. Using these important visual manipulatives builds familiarity with 10 and helps increase fluency in addition and subtraction.

Students love food-based activities and this was the perfect time of year for baking apple cookies, קרעפלאך, and חלה. There was also lots of apple cutting, tasting, graphing and categorizing.

## SIGHT WORDS:

To give our new readers access to reading and writing their first sentences, we learn high frequency "sight words" as we begin the first stages of English literacy. Sight words were featured in שנה טובה cards and סוכות projects.

## • SECOND GRADE:

Science is introduced in 2nd grade celebrating ה'ה Wonderful World and nature. This month, students explored apples, bees making honey, and the parts of a fish in units built around the ימים טובים. Poems and writing pieces also centered on these themes.

## • THIRD GRADE:

To practice reading with expression and fluency, 3rd graders have "Readers Production," with each girl practicing her part and then presenting the play to the class. The girls brought to life two stories based on the קריאת התורה of ראש השנה, the story of שרה אימנו and the birth of יצחק, and יצחק.



1<sup>ST</sup>



2<sup>ND</sup>



3<sup>RD</sup>

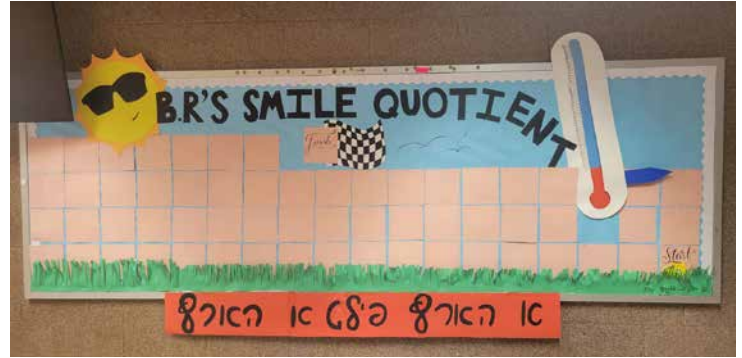


# Elementary

## GRADES 4-8

### SMILE QUOTIENT

Great behavior and beautiful מידות are individually recognized through the many "Positive Office Referrals" that have been submitted to the principals. With a treat and a personalized smiley note on our **שער הכבוד** bulletin board, our students' actions have spread simcha and raised the smile quotient of teachers, principals and students alike. When the board fills up with names, the school's smile quotient rises. Grades 4-8 were rewarded with delicious smile cookies when the quotient meter reached the top for the first time!



### SALUTE THE GENERAL

Bais Rivkah proudly salutes our newest five star general, Esther Engel. Bais Rivkah treated Esther's class to a beautiful cake and in-school celebration in recognition of this tremendous milestone. We look forward to many more students joining the rank of general!





## B.A.M. - BE A MENTCH

The רבי teaches us that “The main idea of education is to nurture the character of the pupil until he becomes a true mensch in all aspects of his day to day conduct...” With this in mind, our schoolwide “Be A Mentch” program is off to a great start! This initiative focuses on five specific areas.

- M**anners
- E**idelkeit
- N**ikayon
- T**houghtfulness
- C**haracter
- H**onesty

Each class received a pushka globe with their room number and the words קער א וועלט. Coins are distributed for targeted acts of menschlichkeit. Classes weigh their globe and when their goal is met, the class receives a reward!

As classes receive ongoing prizes, sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please contact [elementary@bethrivkah.edu](mailto:elementary@bethrivkah.edu)



## אלול/תשרי

In the busy days of אלול and תשרי, students maximized every day of learning. יומא דפגרא and ימים טובים were brought to life with exciting learning methods and various hands-on activities. This month's issue highlights pictures from our 5th grade תשרי activities. Keep an eye out as we feature more grades, activities and pictures in upcoming issues of PULSE.

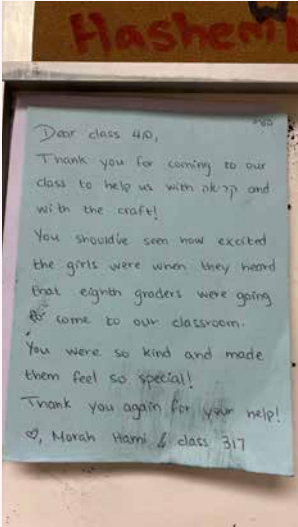




## TEACHER'S ASSISTANTS

In connection with תולדות חב"ד, Ms. Ashkenazi's 8th grade students became assistant teachers for a day. Emulating the טוב בעל שם טוב who had patience and care for the young children learning תורה, the 8th graders entered 4th and 5th grade

classrooms and did activities with the younger girls. Some of them became קריאה helpers, others created projects and all of them excelled in care and patience.





# HISTORY AND SCIENCE

An integral part of our history and science curriculum is cooperative work and project based learning. The skills learned during these sessions are skills that they will use across their educational and life

experience. Students work in groups to collaborate, hypothesize, create and present their work.





# High School

## GRADES 9-12

### TIME TO UNITE

In honor of **שנת הקהל**, every month each grade will have a grand grade **קהל**, as well as individual class **קהל**'s. This helps the girls live with **קהל** and understand the background and history of it.

At the first grade **קהל** event, the students went back in time to experience **קהל** in the **בית הנקדש**. The girls took turns participating in an energetic drum circle and an experiential carnival. There was a photobooth station where the girls had fun dressing up in robes and holding props that took them back in time. There was a pita station where girls rolled out dough and baked pitas to perfection on a makeshift grill. An array of dips including hummus, za'atar, and others were ready

for the girls to top their delicious pitas with. There was even a sand table where the girls could get a feel for the desert of yesteryear!

A video presentation and an engaging game encouraged the girls to be like the **כהנים** and let everyone know about **קהל**. Brochures and magnets were distributed and the book *Healthy in Mind Body and Spirit* was raffled off to all the girls who pledged to find a way to spread the word about **קהל** that week. The evening ended with spontaneous dancing. The **אחדות** that prevailed in the room was palpable! Everyone is looking forward to the next **קהל** event.





## תשרי

The month of תשרי was filled with many wonderful and inspirational events. In preparation for סליחות, the entire high school gathered in Bais Rivkah for a פארבריינגען. Rabbi Glick addressed the crowd about the power of תשובה. The girls were then treated to a delicious pastry bar while Ms. Chaya Sara Marasow farbrenge. Afterwards, the girls then walked to 770 for סליחות, inspired to make a change. On חול המועד סוכות, the students who were in town gathered in Lubavitcher Yeshiva for a קהל שמחת בית השואבה. Together with other High School girls around Crown Heights, they danced with Chaiky Carbelach. The evening ended with a grand big kumzitz. In true קהל spirit, other local girls schools were invited to join. This event brought lots of joy during זמן שמחתינו.



## נוסעים לרבי

It is easy to take for granted the treasure in our own backyard. To bring home the privilege of spending תשרי with the רבי, students voluntarily participated in a נוסעים לרבי program.

The program included classes and a learning booklet distributed throughout the month. At the end of the program, participants attended a nice dinner and a החלטה auction. Each החלטה earned

them a raffle ticket for great prizes. After the banquet, the girls took a bus to the אוהל, where Rabbi Wolowik spoke to them about using everything they gained during the תשרי for the entire year. They wrote a פ"נ to the רבי about everything they undertook. The evening ended with Launch Trampoline Park. This was truly a special event to acknowledge the efforts of those who participated in the Nosim program.





## SENIORS NIGHT OUT

The highly anticipated annual Senior Retreat was held at JCM. It began with a delicious dinner while Ms. Devorah Ita Lewis spoke to the girls on the topic of חלק אלוך ממעל ממש, our inner נשמה gives us the strength to overcome our challenges. After dinner, two workshops were held. Mrs. Goldie Plotkin showed how Hashem only gives us what we can handle. He gives us the challenge, but He also gives us the strength to overcome it. Rabbi Aaron Herman explained that in every moment of our lives we have a different task to accomplish and we must be aware of what is required of us in every second. Intensity gave way to fun with kangaroo shoe dancing and kumzitz. The girls had an opportunity for a question and answer session with Rabbi Herman.



## SUPPORTED TO SUCCEED

Bais Rivkah is pleased to announce a brand new academic support department. Under the direction of Mrs. F. Goldshmid, this department focuses on Hebrew reading and strengthening textual skills. This program is designed to build students' self-esteem and confidence by setting them up for success in the classroom. Mrs. D. Piekarski supervises the 9th and 10th grade students. If you believe your daughter may need further academic support, contact Mrs. Goldshmid at [goldshmid@bethrivkah.edu](mailto:goldshmid@bethrivkah.edu).





## הקהל HEAR ME OUT

More than 1,000 students from the U.S. and Canada came to Bais Rivkah for a high school **הקהל**. Students traveled from Montreal, Toronto, Delaware, Kingston, PA, New York and other locations to participate in this lively event. The girls enjoyed an incredible performance by our very own talented students. A live concert with

Yaffush Barkhan and Mrs. Leah Rosenfeld, Shlucha from Florida, was all about listening to our inner king, our **נשמה** voice. Chabad High Schools took advantage of this momentous opportunity to meet every 7 years. There are not sufficient words to describe the feeling of **אחדות** in the room at the event.



It's not just **הדרכה** and **השפעה** through extracurricular and programs. Our high school students participate in a comprehensive curriculum that is further developed each year. **Here are some of the academic highlights so far:**

- In preparation for **יום כיפור**, each grade **studied the עבודה** **in depth** in the **מחזור**. Students studied the history and **נסים** in the **מקדש**, **בתי כהונה** and **בגדי כהונה** and understood where each piece happened. They used the Mishpacha article- "To Purify a Nation", as a resource. In addition, some classes learned **ברכת כהנים** inside the **חומש** and some learned the **קרבנות** of **יום כיפור** during **חומש** class.
- A **brand new, once-a-week course, taught to 12 grade by Ms. C. Levertov, explores the history of ארץ ישראל**. The course aims to provide a deep understanding of the Jewish claim to the land, the roots of the conflict with the Arabs, the timeline of major events, and the **חב"ד** view of **ארץ ישראל**. Through asking questions, exploring sources, and focusing

on **חסידי**, history, and values, this engaging class greatly enriches the curriculum.

- **This year's theme - הקהל**. Each **חסידי** teacher is studying with their class a beautiful booklet that Derher has created detailing the **רבי**'s talks and suggestions for **שנת הקהל**. The **מחנכות** also discuss these topics with the girls. Our students are emerging with a clear goal for this **שנת הקהל**.
- Before the **first אהול trip of the year**, each class prepared with their **מחנכות** using a CTeen booklet about the **אהול**. The girls took time to talk about the significance of a **רבי**, our relationship today, the protocol for visiting the **אהול**, and selected parts of the **מענה לישון**. This changed the tone of the trip and helped the girls feel more inspired and focused.





# Behind the Scenes AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at the people who take care of the little details that make for a successful school day.

## COORDINATED BY: AIDELA RABISKI, GRANTS COORDINATOR

"I coordinate the After School program and other grants for Bais Rivkah."



## WHAT IS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM?

After School Program is a program after school where students do homework, eat a hearty supper and enjoy a fun activity.

The program for 1st through 5th grade focuses on building social and emotional skills and allows them to experience professional instruction in dance, art, culinary arts, and drama.

BR Teen Club offers an incredible education where 6th-8th graders can develop real skills in courses like photography, voice lessons, graphic design, and drama.



## FAVORITE QUESTION:

When I told someone I direct the After School Program, she asked me, "So, what do you do the rest of the day?"



## WHAT IMPACT DO YOU THINK THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HAS ON STUDENTS' LIVES?



The younger grade instructors are trained to incorporate social and emotional lessons into their activities. The girls are tracking their feelings and becoming more confident.

At BR Teen Club, we focus on helping girls develop leadership skills. The seventh and eighth graders help the first graders with their homework. They also participate in shaping their program by, for example, serving on an advisory board, participating in surveys, and creating flyers and handouts.

We put a lot of effort into making sure the girls develop professional hobbies and skills that they can use in their future lives. Many of our students have continued on in high school and beyond using their skill set from After School Program.

## BEST MOMENT:

Seeing former students of the After School Program who are now so excited to come back as staff.



## SO, WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CREATE AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM?

The After School Program is really a school within a school. It's a huge program with staff, students, and a large variety of activities.

Currently, there are two full-time directors under me, Chanie Rapp and Mushky Ezagui. Together, we start planning months in advance. Even before we open, we have to figure out funding, hire staff, enroll students, organize activities, buy supplies, create a structured homework system, arrange transportation, create a kid-friendly filling, nutritious menu and many other details.

Being a director is not only a desk job. It is a hands-on, running-around, getting-it-done job. The directors deal with every nitty-gritty detail at all hours.



## HOW TO JOIN:

- For 1st-5th grade, you can sign up through the Advenium program.
- You can also be eligible for vouchers, which covers the After School Program. Please contact [aftercare@bethrivah.edu](mailto:aftercare@bethrivah.edu)
- For BR Teen Club, 6th-8th grade, reach out to [mezagui@bethrivkah.edu](mailto:mezagui@bethrivkah.edu)

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# Staff Survey

So what is it like to stand in front of a Bais Rivkah classroom? Some popular teachers tell us about the good, the fun, and the quirky.

## TELL US...

### ...WHY YOU LOOK FORWARD TO COMING TO SCHOOL:

- I look forward to connecting with my students and seeing how they live the **חומש** story with such **חיות**.  
-3rd grade teacher
- I love my students! And I enjoy working with the other staff and teachers in my department  
-5th grade teacher
- To learn more about the names and personalities of the students.  
-9th grade teacher
- Seeing the smiling faces of my students and watching them grow.  
-Pre1A teacher

### ... YOUR FAVORITE BAIS RIVKAH MEMORY:

- In my first year as a teacher, I had a student who was in her first year at Bais Rivkah. After a beautiful **י"ט כסלו** day, she came to me and said, "Morah, I have something to tell you. I am so happy to be in Bais Rivkah! Now I know why I changed schools!"  
-5th grade teacher
- Definitely one of the **נחת** moments, like when a mother wrote to me a year after her daughter left my class that she knew the correct **ברכה** for applesauce because I taught it to her.  
-Pre1A grade teacher
- So many! It's hard to choose one. I'll take the one that comes to mind - jokes with my students  
-3rd grade teacher

### ... A FUNNY BAIS RIVKAH MOMENT:

- When I guessed the amount of paper Bais Rivkah goes through and then found out the real number...I was off, very off.  
-1st grade teacher
- Well, a cow from **פרשת נח**'s petting zoo found its way into the lunchroom today.  
-5th grade teacher
- In the production of **באתי לגני**, we put a real horse on stage, and no one believed it was real. We had to smack it to make it move its tail to prove that it is real.  
-7th grade teacher
- When the staff dresses up as students in **אדר**.  
-3rd grade teacher

### ... A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF:

- I always wanted to be a teacher! I sat with my younger siblings, played school with them and taught my sister to read when she was 5 years old.  
-5th grade teacher
- I pretend like I'm too old to like candy, but sometimes I'm really tempted to ask my students to share some of their nosh.  
-Pre1A teacher
- I have a seashell collection.  
-9th grade teacher
- I love learning new languages.  
-1st grade teacher



Continued from page 19

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS THIS YEAR:

17



The amount of staff it takes to run After School Program

13



The amount of staff it takes to run BR Teen Club

120



Number of students enjoying After School Program, with more on the waitlist

100

Number of students enjoying BR Teen Club



11 YEARS

Amount of time Aidela Rabiski has been involved in bringing this incredible program to Bais Rivkah





# Kids Corner

## I SPY

A Yom Tov item and some Ziploc bags,  
Four pens, two water bottles, learning from ipads,  
Seven pencil cases, a mega game board,

Talking pencils and a colorful word.  
A חומש במדבר, four windows with a blind,  
How many Bais Rivkah logos can you find?



Solved this I Spy? Ask your parents to email your answer to [communications@bethrivkah.edu](mailto:communications@bethrivkah.edu).

**BAIS RIVKAH WOULD LIKE TO**  
**ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SUPPORTERS:**

gruss life monument funds



Children's Scholarship Fund







# PARNES HAYOM

*SPONSOR A DAY OF 2,225 STUDENTS LEARNING*

- IN HONOR OF A BIRTHDAY
- AS A ZECHUS FOR A REFUAH SHLEIMA
- IN THE MERIT OF A YAHRTZEIT
- IN HONOR OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A WEDDING

---

## **HOW IT WORKS:**

- 1) CHOOSE A DAY
- 2) EMAIL [CBRONSTEIN@BETHRIVKAH.EDU](mailto:CBRONSTEIN@BETHRIVKAH.EDU)
- 3) SEE YOUR DEDICATION ON THE SCREENS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

*\*ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER SPONSORSHIPS DURING DAYCAMP*



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**DID YOU KNOW  
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FURTHER SUPPORT?**

**Our new parent advocate,  
Ms. Sarie Korf, is available to assist  
parents and facilitate communication.  
You can reach the parent advocate  
at [skorf@bethrivkah.edu](mailto:skorf@bethrivkah.edu) or at  
718-735-0770 ext 1600.**