

KOL KADIMA

The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

Vol. 2 No. 23
Parsha: Ki Tisa

17 Adar 1, 5768
Candle Lighting 5:31pm

Feb 22, 2008
Havdalah 6:28pm

Schedule of Events

Sunday, March 2 GPAC Concert, “**L’Chaim! To Life!**” **With the Three Cantors**, @3:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for MJHS families and faculty to enjoy an afternoon of special music together. [We are negotiating to secure a special group rate and to get preferential seating.] Following the concert, MJHS will host a reception to meet-and-greet the Three Cantors. Mark your calendar! If anyone is willing to help plan the reception, please contact Ann Indingaro or Bonnie Belz.

Monday March 3 @ 7:30 **Parents’ meeting** at the School. A Team Trek representative will discuss the program that our students are going on, and answer questions.

March 9–12 **Team Trek** at Heber Springs, Arkansas. It will be awesome! Two student committees are planning the menu and night activities for these 4 days.

March 14 End of 3rd quarter and **parents conferences** starting at 10:45 at the School.

Parshat Ki-Tisa Highlight

by Logan Bierman

This week’s torah portion is Ki Tisa. It talks about the sin of the golden calf. When the Jewish people were waiting for Moses to return from atop of Mt. Sinai, they made a golden calf out of all their jewelry and trinkets. They used this calf as an idol for worship and committed one of the worst sins. The wisest of the people—the women and the Levis did not take part in the sin. Moses saw the others and was outraged and broke the Tablets. He then went back up the mountain and begged G-d for forgiveness for himself and the rest of the Jewish people. G-d then told him of a prayer for forgiveness. Today, we say this prayer at synagogue and on Yom Kippur.

Mazal Tov

- To Hallel Gellman on loosing his first tooth.
- To Rabbi Joe Friedman on the recent engagement of his son Tzvi.

Educational Corner

Dr. Scott Beebe, School Psychologist

The Adolescent Dilemma

Grades are important in high school. We tell our kids this all the time, feeling they need to be reminded repeatedly. The problem is that grades and our constant promptings are not sufficient to motivate many adolescents. The adolescents’ world is very focused on the here and now; my friends, my activities, my school, this week, etc....

Even when students do want to achieve good grades and focus on long-term goals, those goals aren’t sufficiently relevant to many teenagers to motivate them to do something unpleasant tonight. In the competition for our teens’ nightly attention, the immediate appeal of friends, computer, and TV will often win against the long-term desire to earn good grades three months from now and a college admission three years from now.

For this reason, we as parents and educators serve the struggling teenager best when we focus on behavior (such as completing assignments and studying). The best question to ask an adolescent is “what are you doing tonight?” A child who isn’t willing to study tonight to earn a grade several weeks from now may be motivated to study in order to earn social time Saturday night.

Some adolescents don’t see a clear relationship between the time spent studying and the grades they earn. For many students, studying consists of passively “looking over” their textbook. Because this passive approach to studying doesn’t lead to consistent results, the students don’t see the point in studying at all.

With these obstacles in mind, I am teaching MJHS students how to study and asking them to apply these skills on a nightly basis. My question to your children is, “What did you do last night?” It has been my experience that if the nightly behavior changes, the grades will eventually follow.