

KOL KADIMA

The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

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Parsha: Metzarah

6 Nisan, 5768
Candle Lighting 7:11 p.m.

Apr 11, 2008
Havdalah 8:13 p.m.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday April 15: Several of our students will be attending the 52nd Annual State Wide High School Math Contest at Rhodes College.

Wednesday April 16: 7:30pm-8:30pm we will have the parents-students learning evening to prepare for Passover Seder. A light dinner will be served.

Friday April 18: School will be closed for Erev Pesach. Class resumes Monday April 28 @ 7:30am.

Past week's events

Thursday April 10: The Movie and Falafel night at the Bierman's home was a great success. This was part of the Keshar-Konnections teen board campaign to collect a sum of \$600 for a Yom-Ha'atzmaut BBQ party. The income from this event was \$303!!!

More details by Hannah Chanin

Have you heard of the town S'derot? Many people have not the faintest idea of what horrors occur there on a daily basis. S'derot is the city closest to the Gaza strip, and they have rockets fired at them multiple times a day. The Keshar-Konnections team board has made it our mission to raise money for the teens of S'derot in order to put on a Yom Ha'atzamut BBQ for them. We hope to bring a smile to these children's faces, and you can be a part of it! Up to this date they raised \$530!!! Our goal is to raise **\$600** dollars. We need your support in achieving this goal. If you would like to donate money, please contact the school.

Spirit week by Parker Mantel

This week at school, we had our 2nd annual spirit week. Like last year, every day of the week was assigned a fun and exciting theme, for all of the students to dress up according to the theme. Monday was College day, which was a big success

in preparation for the Tiger's game that night (sorry, but the better team won). Tuesday was icon day, where we saw an original outfit by Seth Harrison, as he humorously created his own shirt, showing he was everybody's icon. Wednesday was an interesting day, tacky day. People didn't hesitate to go all out for this day, and wear some crazy outfits. Thursday was green day, in affiliation with Kadima's green club, which was among the most popular day. Today was dress down/ retro day, and since I'm writing this on Thursday, I unfortunately don't have these details. Each day cost \$2.00, which benefited a fantastic cause, the children in S'derot, who constantly are getting attacked. (Update from editor: The students raised \$99 during Spirit Week).

Have a SPIRITual Shabbat

Parshat Metzarah by Hannah Chanin

This week the portion is Metzarah. In this portion, the focus is still on *Tzora'at*, a disease sent out to warn a person about speaking badly about other people. The disease continued to get worse until the person corrected their ways.

There are two types of speech transgressions. The first is Lashon-Harah. Lashon-Harah is when a person says something mean or derogatory about another person. The other type of speech transgression is Rechilut. Rechilut is telling someone something bad that some one else said about them. What if you are walking down the hallway and you hear someone talking about your best friend's new shoes. They are saying how ugly they are, etc. What should you, as a good and loyal friend, do? Is the right thing to tell your friend? This is an issue that many people face. Well, if it is not essential information, meaning that your friend will not die if you don't tell him/her about their new shoes, and you think it could hurt their feelings, you should not mention it. By mentioning something like this you are "stirring the pot" and doing Rechilut.

Next time you are tempted to say something that you know could make others upset, think about how it will really make them feel. Even though they may act like they do not care, it really does hurt.

Educational corner– Mr. Ireland, Technology

Technology – a Pandora’s Box?

Our extensive use of technology today has its good points and its bad points. In the classroom it can be a very useful tool and at the same time be a very frustrating distraction to the education process. We can use technology very effectively as a research tool. As we all know, the vast amount of information you can find about a subject with a Google search would constitute an example of a good point. On the opposite side, students sitting in class with earbuds in their ears listening to “rap music” from iTunes while they are supposed to be listening to the teacher and participating in the class is definitely an example of a bad point. (Please note the quotation marks around the term “rap music” because it is well known that I do not consider “rap” to be music).

We have been told that computers in the classroom are a necessity in today’s world. In the technology classes that I teach, they are certainly integral to the class. In other classes they help with research and mathematical computations. They provide a tool for producing readable compositions in subjects such as English and history. All of those activities are examples of using the computer as a tool or aid in furtherance of the education objective. Those examples aside, computers and technology do not provide some very important things that a student should learn as a part of the education experience.

Computers offer fast and efficient two-way communication in the form of email, but email is a very impersonal form of communication and generally leads to cryptic and grammatically poor writing. Computers and calculators can do mathematical computations at blinding speeds, but they do not teach the underlying concepts of arithmetic and mathematics. They instead become a crutch. The disk drives on some desktop computers are large enough to contain all of the works housed in book form in a small library, but

reading a book in PDF format from a computer is difficult at best. Computers can be equipped with very good drawing programs and graphics tablets, but they cannot produce an oil painting with its textures, which are so much a part of the work. Computers can be connected to piano-like keyboards and be used to produce music, but that music may not have the “feel” that is so much a part of a music played by live musicians.

Some of my grandchildren have the Guitar Hero game rigs with the simulated guitar controller and have become very adept at following the colored dots on the computer screen as required by the Guitar Hero software. The problem is this game does not teach them the first thing about playing music on a guitar.

We need to be cognizant of the potential for misuse as well as the benefits of computer technology. Students should be especially cautious about the inherent dangers in the Web 2.0 type applications such as MySpace and FaceBook. Don’t put information on the World Wide Web that you do not want to be distributed world wide. Technology and computers are good things, but they also have great potential for misuse and abuse.

Mazal-Tov

To Courtney for getting her braces removed after 3 years.

Toda Raba

- To Faryn and Logan Bierman and the Bierman family for hosting the Movie night.
- To Mr. Wender, Mr. Rubin and Ms. Nahon for driving the students to the JCC on Wednesday.
- To the parents who volunteered to help with the dinner for Wednesday night’s event.