
KOL KADIMA

The Voice of the Memphis Jewish High School

Vol.2 No.3
Ki Tavo

17 Elul, 5767
Candlelighting 7:11p.m.

August 31, 2007
Havdalah 8:06 p.m.

Schedule of Events

September 3 Labor Day no school

September 5 Derby Day

September 10 Parent Teacher Night 7:00 P.M.

Special Guests

Luky Guigui

Cantor Julian

Dr. David Patterson

Elliot Churdoff

Reminders

You can purchase honorials or memorials on the web site or by calling the school at 767-4818
We have Kroger and Schnuck's cards in the office

Head of School

Our tenth graders are enjoying the new chemistry lab. Equipped with their goggles they are tuned into their lab experiments. Students are busy observing and making notes of their findings.

I hope our students and families have accessed our parent-student portal in Power School. Grades and assignments can be viewed at the site. If a student needs extra help they can contact their teacher and they will be glad to assist.

The student council is sponsoring Derby Day that will be held next Wednesday at the home of Logan Belz. This event will take place during the school day; we will need carpooling assistance from our parents. Lunch and fun activities have been planned by the MJHS student body.

Wednesday, the tenth graders gave their ninth grade little brothers and little sisters a gift basket. The ninth graders were surprised and happy to be recognized by their tenth grade friends.

As a parent and educator I was pondering the

Following questions that perhaps you have asked yourself. Does the act of praying three times a day, studying Torah, and observing all the rituals guarantee that our children will be ethical and kind human beings? Does sending our children to a school that emphasizes academic excellence guarantee these outcomes? The answer unfortunately is, no. A person can be well educated and ritually observant and yet, can be unethical. If there are no guarantees, why bother?

We all want our children to grow up to be "good" people. This goal is one that comes with work and effort. We must work on cultivating goodness. Parents often praise their children for the accomplishment of making a good grade, but how many times do we reward our children for an act of kindness. How much time do we devote to our children's ethics rather than focusing on sports and academics? It is often difficult to raise a child who is a good student and it is even harder to raise a child to be a "good" person. As we approach Rosh Hashanah I challenge each of us to reflect on how we can insure that our children's ethics are a top priority. May I suggest we consider changing priorities? The traits we seem to emphasize are, well educated, athletic, and talented, as but a few examples of what we want our children to be. I suggest these are very important and worthwhile traits, but we ought to move ethics and morals to the top of the list. This should not be taken for granted and merely going through the motions will not achieve the goal.

In this week's Torah reading, Ki Tavo, we are reminded that Judaism, as presented in the Torah and in the scholarly writings insists on the fusion of the ritual and the ethical. The requirement to go "mishurat lifnim ha-din, beyond the limits of the law, represents what is legal and sets forth a moral minimum. That is why we must move towards more than just rituals and reach higher so that we can achieve ethical and moral standards that exceed the

minimum requirements that will enable us to hear and understand Hashem's voice. At this point, we will have a fuller understanding of ourselves and our obligations with respect to relations with other human beings and to the world in which we reside. Shabbat Shalom

Adrian Weissman

Safe Blogging Tips for Teens

Be as anonymous as possible. Avoid postings that could enable a stranger to locate you. That includes your last name, the name of your school, sports teams, the town you live in, and where you hang out.

Protect your info. Check to see if your service has a "friends" list that allows you to control who can visit your profile or blog. If so, allow only people you know and trust. If you don't use privacy features, anyone can see your info, including people with bad intentions.

Avoid in-person meetings. Don't get together with someone you "meet" in a profile or blog unless you are certain of their actual identity. Although it's still not risk-free, if you do meet the person, arrange the meeting in a public place and *bring some friends along*.

Photos: Think before posting. What's uploaded to the Net can be downloaded by anyone and passed around or posted online pretty much forever. Avoid posting photos that allow people to identify you (for example, when they're searching for your high school), especially sexually suggestive images. Before uploading a photo, think about how you'd feel if it were seen by a parent/grandparent, college admissions counselor, or future employer.

Check comments regularly. If you allow them on your profile or blog, check them often. Don't respond to mean or embarrassing comments. Delete them and, if possible, block offensive people from commenting further.

Be honest about your age. Membership rules are there to protect people. If you are too young to sign up, do not attempt to lie about your age. Talk with

your parents about alternative sites that may be appropriate for you.

Dean of General Studies

Steady as she goes! Thus the guiding hand of the captain urges the ship on into unknown waters. We here at MJHS are moving well into our second year and the new crop of kids in our 9th grade—and one brave newcomer in our 10th grade—are turning out

to be a lively, inquisitive crew. We need a steady hand as we move into the future, and we are fortunate to have Captain Adrian on the bridge and devoted teachers and staff manning all stations. Well, maritime metaphors will take us only so far this deep into the American continent, but the point I am trying to make is that our little school is made of many parts, with many personalities, many duties and expectations, and it all has to work in reasonable harmony and head for a single destination. Always allowing, of course, for the guy in the crow's nest who is supposed to sing out if the boat is heading for an uncharted shoal. We're well on our way, calm sea, prosperous journey.

Of course! Now I know why I was waxing nautical—and that is not a Groucho-Marxian expression, but an old reference to the waxing and waning moon which has been keeping me up of late, so please stay with me here. I am going to make a point.

My 9th grade English class is gearing up to watch an ancient movie called "The Most Dangerous Game." We've read the short story, but will these children of the 1990s be patient with this old black & white film? (Fay Wray the year before—before, mind you—she met that Big Ape, King Kong.) Will they see that the realities of film-making mandate a very different style of story-telling than the short story they have already read and enjoyed. Will they be able to sit still for as long as this 1930's chestnut takes to unfold its characters and its plot? Well, we'll see. But the reason I even take the risk and trot out this museum piece, is that I am very keen to have the students learn an important lesson. It is imperative in these fast-moving times that the students not isolate themselves from what has come before. Technology, teen self-absorption, the enticements of advertising, the constant whispers of educators and self-image gurus: "You are all winners. You are unique. Anything you really want

you can be or have, just want it enough.” The culture in which we live entices them with these sweet thoughts. They don’t have to become anything: they already are. They can dismiss age and the past and the things they find “boring” and “pointless”: these things hold nothing for them.

But they cut themselves off from the past at their peril. I want them to know that 20 years ago, 75 years ago, 200 years ago, 1000 years ago people

lived and loved, breathed deeply the fresh air of a beautiful day, were moved to tears and poetry by flowers and babies and life and death. I want to see that art and literature—the whole panorama of culture—link us forever to what has come before, and allow us, through the universality of human experience, to leave our mark for future generations. And those future generations will understand our students because they are, we are, fundamentally, like everyone who has ever lived and ever will live. Too easy to turn the servants of this world, the “less fortunate,” into inanimate objects bereft of feeling and soul. Use them, discard them, ignore them. Too easy to dismiss feelings couched in antique language just because of the effort of reading those words to bridge the gap of years.

We are all out on this immense sea of experience, riding at first with those who know how to teach us, who know the warning signs of foul or fair weather, who can set us on an even keel. And as we gather more and more of this kind of experience—from parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and, yes, literature, history, art—at last we set out on our own.

And what a splendid voyage our students have ahead of them!

Congratulations to all of our elected officials and to all the students for volunteering to serve on the many different committees

Student Council

President	Monte Eiseman
Secretary	Kevin Wender
Treasurer	Ethan Trotz

Honors Council

President	Alex Nahon
10 th Grade Representative	Jessica Rubin
9 th Grade representative	David Lipson

Newspaper

Editor Parker Mantell

Yearbook

Editor Courtney Thomas
Associate Editor Alex Nahon

Suggestion Committee

Logan Belz & Ethan Trotz co-chairs

Service Committee

Hannah Chanin & Morgan Wank co-chairs

Literary Magazine

Editor Jessica Rubin

Parsha

Provided By Elana Malkin

This week’s Parasha, “Ki Tavo” started out with the Mitzvah (commandment) of Bikurum:

And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and dost possess it, and dwell therein;

You shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which thou shalt bring in from thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee; and thou shalt put it in a basket and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to cause His name to dwell there.... And thou shalt rejoice in all the good which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thy house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is in the midst of thee.

In other words, when the Jewish people finally come into Eretz Yisroel they will have to follow some law regarding agriculture. Bikurum is a law concerning the first harvest. G-d commanded that the people should take the very first fruits of their harvest and take it to Jerusalem where they can eat it with holiness. Later that would become the temple mount in Jerusalem.

What could be the idea behind this Mitzvah and what should we learn from this mitzah? By performing this mitzvah of taking the first harvest we are reminded of G-d’s generosity and that even though we worked very hard to plant and water and help it grow we have to remember that it wasn’t just us that made it happen., it was with the help of G-d.

We see this concept in a few other Mitzvot First-born son belongs to G-D until you ‘buy it back’ at the age of 30 days, first-born in your cattle goes to G-D as a sacrifice’ making a blessing before eating. We should always remember these things come to us from Hashem. Especially in the first fruits when you think it is your own product.