



Eleanor Kolitz Academy

Ram Recorder



May 23, 2008

210-302-6900 - www.eka-sa.org

Iyar 18, 5768

Parashat: Bechukotai

Candle Lighting 8:07 pm

May 2008		
26	M	Memorial Day No School
27-30	T-F	Middle School Exams
27	T	3:40 – Tryouts for Talent Showcase
28	W	EKA Annual Meeting – All Encouraged to Attend. 7 pm in Fisher Boardroom
June 2008		
2	M	Yom Yerushalayim
3	T	Kindergarten End of Year Program
4	W	Last Day of School 12:00 Dismissal 8 th Grade Graduation EKA Talent Show

Buy Your Yearbook Now!

The 2007-08 yearbooks have arrived and they look great!
Yearbooks cost \$40 each.

End-Of-Year Talent Showcase

The EKA's End-of-Year Talent Showcase will be held **Wednesday, June 4 at 10:45 am**. All parents are invited to join us in the Holzman Auditorium. Students in 2nd – 8th Grades are *encouraged* to participate and acts are limited to two minutes. Acts with two or more students may request additional time. **All interested students must audition.** The acts auditioned and the music used must be the same as those performed at the talent show. **Music from a source that carries a Parental Advisory-Explicit Content Label may not be used.** Auditions will be held on **Tuesday, May 27th at 3:40 pm** in the Holzman Auditorium. For info, call Nancy Gold at 302-6906.

Thank You for Your Support!

The SMART CAR FOR SMART KIDS Fundraiser Committee would like to extend a warm thank you and a big Yishar Koach for the following families who hustled and sold SMART CAR raffle tickets:

Albert	Gofman-Klein	Shapiro
Bar-Yadin	Kaplan	Sharoni
Blumenthal	Kavy	Shiver
Brody	Khoury	Silberman
Carvajal	Kustoff	Sonsino
Davis	Lasky	Stolow
Friedberg	Marcushamer	Weingart
Harris	Meishar	Weiss
		Yancelson



These 25 families represent only about one third of total EKA families. Our goal is not only to sell many tickets but we would also like to have more participation. Each dollar that is fundraised will help ALL OF US to defray some of the increasing costs of tuition. If for some reason you sold tickets and turned them in but your name does not appear on the list please accept our apologies. We will update the list WITH YOUR NAME next Shabbat.

ANNUAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 7:00 PM

FISHER BOARD ROOM OF THE JEWISH CAMPUS

ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS/STATE OF SCHOOL ADDRESS

2008-09 Slate of Officers

President:

Monica Lizka-Miller

First Vice President:

Reuben Bar-Yadin

Second Vice President:

Margaret Gofman-Klein

Treasurer: Doug Contie

Secretary: Amy Sugarman

Nominated Board Members:

Scot Barenblat

Steve Butler

Julie Harris

Dr. Nola Marx

Dr. Mike Ozer

Dr. John Kennedy

Dr. Allen Noorily

Suzanne Wyker

Returning Board Members:

Mike Beldon

Esther Glahn

Mauricio Marcushamer

Nim Meishar

Eric Shapiro

Nomi Solomon

Bobi Stern

Thank you to our Outgoing Board Members:

Stewart Alexander

Susan Blumenthal

Kevin Epstein

Dave Fisher

Teresa Parker

Robert Strauss

We appreciate your service and commitment to the EKA!!!

D'var Torah – Parashat Bechukotai

The parsha we read this week is called Bechukotai. The first פסוק/verse says, תִּלְכוּ אִם-בְּחֻקֵי תִי, "If you walk with My laws..." Why does this פסוק use the word תִּלְכוּ, from the word לָלַךְ/to walk? Shouldn't it say אִם-בְּחֻקֵי תִי תִשְׁקְרוּ "If you will follow My laws"?

I would like to suggest two related interpretations for the word תִּלְכוּ. The first interpretation tells us that Jewish traditions can impact our lives as we move forward, along the path of life. This is hinted at by the word for Jewish law, הִלְכָה. The word הִלְכָה really means "the way." Following G-d's מצוות/mitzvot is the best way that we can conduct our lives. The Shema prayer also hints at this way of living our lives when it says וְשַׁנַּנְתֶּם לְבָנֵיךָ, וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם, בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלֶכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ (Teach them to your children and speak of them, when you rest in your home, and when you are going on the way.) אִם-בְּחֻקֵי תִי, תִּלְכוּ is teaching us to keep a Jewish lifestyle both inside our homes and outside our homes.

The other interpretation for the word תִּלְכוּ is that we should always be trying to do more in our Jewish lives. Just like on a path, you want to make it further and further, so too with our Jewish observance, we can never be satisfied where we are. We should always try to excel and do more. For example, if now we do not celebrate Shabbat at all, maybe we should try to light candles, or say the Kiddush. Every little bit helps.

I hope we can take the lessons of Parashat Bechukotai and use them in our lives. Our Judaism should impact our entire lives and we should always try to do the most we can. This way, our Jewish lives will be richer and more fulfilling.

Shabbat Shalom

Maya Russo, Seventh Grade

The School Year is Almost Over, But We're Still Learning!



Here are a few of the fabulous "Can Do" projects completed by our very talented and skilled 2nd graders.



4th Graders discussed their Texas Cities Projects with EKA Kindergartners.

Greetings from the music room

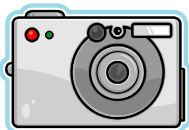


This past week we have been listening to Bedrich Smetana's, "The Moldau" from My Vlast (My Homeland in Czech). Samuel Cohen arranged the melodic theme of "The Moldau" into the opening melody for "Hatikvah." The music classes enjoyed making this "discovery" and watching an orchestra perform the beautiful piece on youtube. To hear for yourself, go to <http://tinyurl.com/2fjgk9>.

Tech Tips – Downloading Video from YouTube, TeacherTube, Google Video etc.

There are several different methods for downloading from a video sharing website. Two easy ways to do it are:

- 1) **KeepVid.com** (this will allow you to save to several different formats and has no software to download)
- 2) Download the current version of RealPlayer from: **realplayer.com** (free version) and it will add a button in your browser to download video).



Thank You to: Vicki Silberman for her very generous donation to the EKA Technology Fund. She enjoyed the photos put on our Google private website and made the donation after downloading some of the photos.

Counselor's Corner

Part III Sibling Rivalry

Although it may be common for siblings to disagree and argue, it's certainly not pleasant for anyone living in the house. One can only tolerate a certain amount of tension. So what do you do when the fighting starts?

The conventional approach is that parents should not get involved. Step in only if there is a concern of physical harm. If you intervene, others problems are created. The children may come to expect your help and will wait for you to come to the rescue rather than learning to work out the issues on their own. There is also the risk that you may "protect" one child in their relationship with the other which could lead to more resentment between the siblings. Additionally, the rescued child may feel that they can get away with more because they are being "saved" by the parent.

If your concern is with the language or name-calling, it is appropriate to "coach" kids through what they are feeling by helping them use appropriate words. This is viewed as different from stepping in and separating the kids.

Encourage the children to resolve the crisis themselves. If you have to step in, try to resolve the problem with your kids, not for them. Here are some steps to consider if you must step in:

- Separate kids until they have calmed down. Give them some space before you help them resolve the conflict. Otherwise you run the risk of escalating the conflict all over again. For learning to take place, you have to let the emotions die down.
- Don't try to figure out which child is to blame. It takes two to fight so they are both partly responsible.
- Try to set up a "win-win" situation so each child gains something. For example, if they both want the same toy, try to get them involved in playing a game together instead.

Remember, children learn important skills as they learn to cope with disputes. They learn how to value another person's perspective. They learn how to compromise and negotiate. They learn how to control their aggression. They learn to use words to get their feelings across. These skills will serve them well in life.

Next time: Helping Kids Get Along

Flora Garb, L.C.S.W., A.C.S.W.

HEB Cards

Help the EKA by purchasing HEB cards for **all** your shopping needs.
The school earns 5% of each card.



A Piece of the PIE

WE ARE WRAPPING UP ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT THE EKA, BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET. WE STILL HAVE THE FACULTY **END OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON. VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!!!!** ARE YOU GREAT AT ORGANIZING???? PIE HAS A PROJECT FOR YOU. CONTACT DEBORAH AT baryadin@idworld.net