



Eleanor Kolitz Academy

Ram Recorder



March 13, 2009

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

Adar 17 5769

Parasha: Ki Tisa

Candle Lighting 7:23 pm

MARCH 2009		
16-20	M-F	Parent/Teacher Conferences sign up
16	M	Tuition Assistance Forms Due
16-20	M-F	Spring Book Fair Standardized Testing/OLSAT (Grades 3-8)
18	W	Parent Lunches K (11 a.m.) 1 st & 2 nd (11:15 a.m.) 3 rd & 5 th (11:45 a.m.) Dress Like a Character Day has been cancelled due to standardized testing week. Wear your Spirit Shirt.
19	Th	Parent Lunches 4 th (11:45 a.m.) Middle School (12:30)
23	M	Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:00 Dismissal Swap Shop Spring Sale
26	Th	Siddur Dedication Grade 1 (8:15) Join us!
27	F	Hot Lunch Orders April/May/June Due
30	W	Scoliosis Screening Grades 5-8
31	T	Grade 5 Outdoor Education Program- Marble Falls



Will the real Mr. Scott please stand up?

D'var Torah – Parashat Ki Tisa

When we hear about a tragedy, many of us think, “Why did G-d allow this to happen?” We want answers to questions like this. This week’s פרשה פרשת כי תשא, tells us that this question was even asked by Moshe thousands of years ago,

After the golden calf incident, Moshe thinks it is the right time to ask G-d a very deep question. Moshe wants to understand G-d’s ways and why He does what He does. Moshe asks G-d, “הֲרְאֵנִי נָא אֶת כְּבוֹדְךָ / Let me see Your glory.” In other words, why do You do what You do? G-d answers Moshe, “כִּי לֹא יִרְאֵנִי הָאָדָם חַיִּי / You may not see My face. No person can see My face and live.” What does this mean? It means that humans cannot understand G-d’s ways. If we understood everything like G-d, we wouldn’t be human. *We would be G-d.*

Our Sages teach us that while it is perfectly fine to question G-d’s ways, we may not get an answer to the question. Or if we are lucky enough to get an answer, we may not like it. Part of being a loyal Jew is accepting that there may be events in our lives, and in our friends’ and family’s lives, that we cannot explain. It is not our job to explain to ourselves, or to our loved ones, why something bad happened. We just do not know.

While many people ask the question, “Why me?” when something bad happens, they rarely ask the same question when something good happens. For example, if you are taking a test, and the teacher asked questions on topics you were not so confident about, you might say, “Why me?” But if the teacher asked questions on topics you knew very well, it is unlikely you will say, “Why me? What did I do to deserve this good thing happening to me?”

תשא פרשת כי תשא teaches us two very important lessons. First, it is not in our power to understand G-d’s ways. Second, we must never take for granted the good that G-d does to us. If we ask, “Why me?” for the *good* things in life, at least as many times as we ask the same question for the *bad* things in life, we will be able to appreciate G-d’s blessings much more.

Shabbat Shalom

Edan Coben, 7th Grade

Oratory Contest

The 5th Annual EKA Oratory contest was held on March 12, 2009. Ten 8th graders and one 6th grader participated. This year the students researched and wrote a position paper on the following topics:



1. Is achieving the “American Dream” more difficult for today’s young people than for previous generations?
2. Can government and industry prevent significant impacts of climate change?
3. Do the potential dangers of social networking outweigh the potential benefits?
4. Is it possible to reach a fair and equitable resolution to the debate over illegal immigration in the US?
5. Does the news media diminish the quality of political dialogue in the US?

And the winners are:

1st Place – Moriah Sonsino (8th grade) Do the potential dangers of social networking outweigh the potential benefits?

2nd place - Ariana Sonsino (6th grade) Is it possible to reach a fair and equitable resolution to the debate over illegal immigration in the U.S.?

3rd place - Kate Blumenthal (8th grade) Is achieving the “American Dream” more difficult for today’s young people than for previous generations?

A big congratulation goes out to the winners and all the participants who prepared and who were brave enough to stand before their peers, teachers and parents! All of their hard work and preparation is appreciated.

Mrs. Suzette Castilleja, MS Coordinator

Message from the Head of School

The theme of an article entitled, “Tips for Christians Dealing with Jews” by Bill Gralnick, the Southeast Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee, was proselytizing efforts to convert Jews to Christianity.

In 1999 the Southern Baptist Convention announced that its goal for the new millennium was to convert all Jews to Christianity. A Baptist minister told the American Jewish Committee, “Jewish education is the best defense against Christians.” He’s absolutely correct! The Jewish community must create “secure, knowledgeable and theologically rooted adherents” so it can respond appropriately and directly to such efforts. “Jews must have more people affiliate, more people study, more people be Jewish as our answer...”

For thirty-six years the Eleanor Kolitz Academy has built a community filled with knowledgeable and proud Jewish students. They have left the EKA secure with themselves and capable of maintaining their faith, even growing in it, as they continued their studies in high school and as adults. Because of the EKA, they have been able to live in the secular, non-Jewish world and resist its many negative temptations.

This past week we observed the holiday of Purim, a time when we celebrate the Jewish people maintaining *their* identity in the face of hatred, and the pressure that followed to abandon their faith. Let us remember the important values of this holiday and rededicate our lives to Jewish practice and Jewish education so that we, too, can continue to be proud and strong Jews.

If you have not yet reenrolled your child for next year or have questions why you should, the article mentioned above by Bill Gralnick should help make that decision easier. The future of the Jewish people is guaranteed through Jewish education and the EKA will always be part of that future.

Shabbat Shalom

Robert A. Scott, Head of School



Rabbi Leifert and his Middle School Megillah Readers



Purim Dress-up



Rabbi Marrus and the K-4 Megillah Reading



Middle School Carnival Workers



6th and 7th Graders participated in a "Trip to Mars" at the Challenger Center.



Mission Control

By Tuesday, more photos will be online in the photo-gallery of the eka-sa.org. Take a look.

Spirit Day Calendar

March 18 – Character Day Cancelled

April 1 – Wacky Wednesday (mismatch day)

April 22 – Fiesta Day

May 6 – Pajama Day

May 27 – Other Countries Day

Middle School Block Party

As part of our extensive Israel curriculum, nearly 20 Middle School students went up to the University of Texas-Austin Hillel's 11th annual Israel Block Party. Aside from enjoying the delicious Israeli food, they were able to learn about different aspects of Israeli society, including the IDF, the government, Israel's contributions to technology in the world, and various academic programs available to them (in another 4-6 years, of course). To top it all off, there was a live concert by Israeli music sensation Berry Sakharof, also known as Israel's Bob Dylan. All the attendees are looking forward to the 12th annual Block Party next year, and hope their friends come, as well!

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance applications are now available from Mrs. Gold. **Enrolling families who are also applying for Tuition Assistance must submit their application form by the March 16, 2009 deadline.** All Enrollment Fees are required to be paid and all financial obligations associated with the 2008-09 tuition contracts are to be current in order to receive your Tuition Assistance determination.

Tuition Assistance determinations will be made by May 1, 2008.

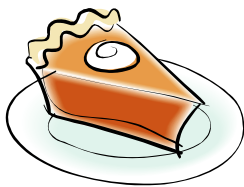
If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact a member of the PSAS support team at 1-800-722-2577 or Mrs. Gold at 302-6906.

Alamo Regional Science and Engineering



Mazal Tov to Sammi Harris, who represented the EKA at the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering (ARASE) Fair on March 11th with her award-winning project, "Making Ice Cream from Splenda". Sammi was awarded 4th place in the Junior "Physics" Category, continuing the success of EKA students over the past several years. Overall, the ARASE Fair attracted almost 500 students in the Junior and Senior Divisions.

Many thanks to Middle School Science Teacher, Dr. Fred Previc, for all of his hard work and effort at our Science Fair and arranging for Sammi to participate.



PIE

Take a Little Piece of the Pie!!

Scholastic Book Fair - A Page Away!

From March 16th through the 20th, our school is hosting its annual Spring Book Fair. This year's exciting theme will be: LIGHTS! CAMERA! BOOK FAIR!

In addition to our large selection of Scholastic Books we will have a wide assortment of Jewish children's books from the publisher KarBen. Please be sure to stop and browse some titles that you may not have seen before.

On Tuesday the 17th, the Book Fair will stay open until 8:00 p.m. for Family Night. Parents will also have an opportunity to shop with their children during Parent Lunches which will be on Wednesday, the 18th for elementary school and Thursday, the 19th for middle school. The book fair provides the students with the opportunity to look at, read, and discuss books together with their friends and teachers.

Our fair benefits the school with hundreds of dollars in books and materials for the classrooms and library and is a major fundraiser for PIE. None of this would be possible without the support of our parents who volunteer their time to work at the book fair. If you have not yet signed up to volunteer, please contact Angela Behn at 404-9262 or Karen Kantor-Furman at 764-0045. Your children will love to see you there. We will be setting up the fair on Sunday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. If you are not available during the week, come and help us set up on Sunday.

Passover Candy Sale

The Passover Candy is in!!! Thank you to all who participated to make this fundraiser successful.