



## CARPOOL CURRICULUM BY MICHAEL RAILEANU

### Five minutes of Torah study every week.

*Parashat Va-yetzei*, Genesis 28:10 - 32:3, features the trials and tribulations of Jacob. He goes from being a single and unsure young man to being the leader of a great family, destined to be a great nation. As this *parasha* opens Jacob has his famous dream about a ladder than the angels that are going up and down. In the end he's got a ton of stuff and he gets it in a really cool way. Why are the angels going up and down (starting on earth and going into heaven) and not the other way around? What does that mean to you?

Jacob wakes up from this dream and makes an alter and vow to God (28:16 - 22). He seems to be saying that he will only remain loyal to God if God stays with him in his journey and provides for him. Why would Jacob speak that way? What else has happened in his own life that might make him doubt God?

Jacob marries Leah and Rachel in this *parasha*, too. Which does he really want to marry? What happens instead? How is that "change" a lesson for him?

How is it different from what has happened in his family?

Can you name the 13 children born to Jacob, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah and Zilpah? Do you know which child goes with which mom? (Hint: Chapters 29 & 30)

In Chapters 30 & 31 Jacob does some pretty cool tricks to make sure that he gets only streaked, speckled, and spotted goats and the dark-colored sheep. It's all pretty cool. Do you believe in magic? Do you think that what happens in this chapter is magic or is God pulling off something to help Jacob? Could it be both? If so, what would that mean? Does God do magic or miracles? What do you think would be the difference between the two?

## SHAVUAH TOV!!!

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/30 HS (3-7)
- 12/4 HS (3-7)/ Kitah Hay Parent Study Session w/Rabbi Carter
- 12/6 HS (K-2)
- 12/7 HS (3-7)
- 12/9 Kitah Bet (2nd grade) Shabbat Dinner
- 12/11 HS (3-7)/ Kitah Zayin Parent Study Session w/Rabbi Carter
- 12/13 HS (K-2)
- 12/14 HS (3-7)
- 12/18 HS (3-7)/Keshet Day/ In School Chanukah Celebration
- 12/20 HS (K-2)/Shorashim/ In School Chanukah celebration (parents invited to candle lighting at 5:45 PM)
- 12/21 HS (3-7) (parents invited to candle lighting at 5:45 PM)
- 12/22-1/3 WINTER BREAK

### Happy Birthday

The PSJC Hebrew School wishes the following birthdays this week a "Yom Huledet Sameach!"

- Jacob S. (Kitah Bet) 11/27
- Benjamin S. (Kitah Bet) 11/27
- Katie P. (Kitah Zayin) 11/27

## PSJC COOKBOOK SALE — 2 WEEKS ONLY

Just in time for Chanukah...buy 1 PSJC Cookbook (\$20) and get 1 at 50% off (\$10)! We'll even do the math for you...2 copies of PSJC Cooks! for just \$30! Are you looking for a great Chanukah gift that also gives back to your community and has original student art work? Then look no further! We have a limited number of cookbooks so get your copies now!

**The sale takes place from 12/1/11-12/15/11**

See Elisabeth in the Education office or call 718-832-5863 to get your copies today!





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## Tzedakah Fair

Save the date (and your Tzedakah!) for **Sunday, January 29th** from 9:30AM-12:30 PM (normal Hebrew School time). The entire community (friends and family) will be invited to join us at PSJC to hear from our oldest students about various charitable organizations they are passionate about. PLUS there will be hands on Mitzvah projects to participate in (great for all ages!) There will be many opportunities to donate Tzedakah on this day, so bring your Tzedakah boxes and search the couch cushions for spare change and get ready to do a mitzvah!

## Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah!

Come join us as the following Hebrew School students lead the congregation in Torah and prayer, celebrating becoming a Bar/Bat-Mitzvah.

**Michael Bashner** (Kitah Zayin) Shabbat morning 12/5

**Josh Birnbaum** (Kitah Zayin) Shabbat morning 12/10

**Katie Pearlman** (Kitah Zayin) Shabbat morning 12/17

## THE 613 CHALLENGE

You already know about the food drive, but do you know about the new 613 Challenge extended by Rabbi Carter?? If the school as a whole, can bring in 613 cans/boxes of food to donate to the food drive between now and winter break (12/21/11), Rabbi Carter will through the school a pizza party!!! (That works out to about 4-5 items per student).

### **Challenge Extended. Challenge Accepted???**

*Suggested items to donate:*

**CANNED FRUIT, CANNED VEGETABLES, PEANUT BUTTER IN A PLASTIC JAR, CANNED TUNA/SALMON, MAC & CHEESE, HOT AND COLD CEREAL-FAMILY SIZED.**

## Upcoming Parent-Student Study Sessions with Rabbi Carter

Parent-Student Study Sessions are a fun, interesting way of learning more about what your children do in Hebrew School. 1) Parents are encouraged to join us at the beginning of the day for Havdallah or T'fillah. 2) Parents join Rabbi Carter for an adult-level lesson on a subject the students have been working on. All parents are welcome regardless of their Jewish educational experiences...there is no homework or pre-requisites. 3) After the lesson with the Rabbi, parents join their children and the teacher for a special Parent-Student lesson/activity. We hope to see you at your class study session soon!

### Upcoming Study Sessions

**December 4: Kitah Hay (4th grade)**

**December 11: Kitah Zayin (7th grade)**

## DO YOU HAVE A FLIPCAM?

Do you own a FlipCam? Would you be willing to loan it to us on Sunday, December 18th during the school day? We need to gather 9 more FlipCams for our special Chanukah celebration/Kesher Day activity! We also need parent volunteers to record (so if you are interested/more comfortable using the camera yourself, speak to Elisabeth and we'll get you all of the details). It is essential that we have a number of recording devices in order to successfully execute this awesome program!

## chanukah CONCERT with Shira Kline!

Join us for an amazing Chanukah Concert with Shira Kline on Sunday, December 11th at 2:00PM. Sing and dance along with the wonderful, dynamic ShirLaLa! Plus crafts and snacks before the concert. Visit [www.psjc.org](http://www.psjc.org) or contact Elisabeth for full details!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Though the school won't be going as an official group on this day, if anyone is interested in volunteering as a family, this is a great chance to do so!

If you are interested/available to volunteer at the Brooklyn Friends Community Meal on Sunday, December 25th (from about 1:00-4:00 PM), you can email Andres (the coordinator) directly to RSVP. [andrescolapinto@gmail.com](mailto:andrescolapinto@gmail.com)