



Schechter

School of Long Island

SSLI Lower School

Friday Letter – February 4, 2022

Parshat Terumah - Candle Lighting 4:58 pm

Dear Schechter Parents,

This week the students celebrated the beginning of this year's Read-a-Thon. The theme of our Read-a-Thon is kindness, which is one of our school's core values namely, *Gemilut Chasadim*. This core value focuses on "engaging our students in thoughtful acts of loving kindness, generosity, and world repair, *Tikkun Olam*." Remaining true to this theme, students have been engaged with reading books which emphasize the core value of kindness.

Throughout the week, we have had a variety of guests, including administrators and parents, who came and shared a book with the class. The first-grade class even had the opportunity to go to our nearby, local library and further enhance their love for reading. The students decorated a large kindness tree which is prominently displayed in our main hallway upon entering the building. Each of the children wrote their own inspirational messages on colorful sticky notes and placed them on the bulletin board for all to see and read.

To make this an additionally exciting time for the children, each day of our Read-a-Thon has a specific theme. We had superhero day, crazy hat, and sock day, SSLI spirit day and favorite sports team day. Our goal at SSLI is to foster a love for reading at school and at home and for children to become lifelong learners and readers.

This week during Kabbalat Shabbat the students began singing *Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha* - when the month of Adar enters, we increase our joy. Our happiness was indeed increased as the first-grade class led in joyous song and played the drums and xylophone. Our Darshan this week was Rabbi Fruithandler who introduced the theme of our Parsha, which discusses the materials donated to build the Mishkan - a temporary Temple, while the Jews had in the wilderness. Many contributed their time by fashioning the various coverings for the Mishkan. He then asked everyone to stand on their feet and to jump as high as they could. He chose one of the highest jumpers and had her come forward to jump once again. This time, however, the students were asked to cheer her on and she then jumped a little bit higher than before. This teaches us that we must celebrate and encourage others and cheer them on as they display their unique skills and talents. Like the workers of the construction of the Mishkan, we all



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have something special to contribute to the world. We must remember to cheer others on and express true joy for them when they succeed in their tasks.

Question of the Week (Please submit your answer to be featured in next week's email.)

Parshat Terumah primarily discusses the various donations given for the construction of the Mishkan. Why then does the Parsha open with the words "**Vayikchu Li Terumah**" which means to take? We are giving, not taking?

Last Week's Question And Answer

Q. The Torah instructs us that if someone steals, they are required to pay back double. In other words, if they stole \$100, they must pay back \$200. We usually find the punishment fit the crime so why does the Torah feel it is appropriate to make him pay back more than what he stole?

A. The punishment to the thief actually serves two purposes. Firstly, he needs to pay back that which he stole to the rightful owner. But we also want the thief to understand what it feels like to the other party who had suffered a loss of \$100. Now, by paying \$200, he will internalize the feeling of the other party who lost \$100. This will hopefully deter him from stealing again.

Shabbat Shalom!

Dr. Boaz Tomsy

Lower School Administrator