

DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

In this week's Parsha, at the very beginning, the Torah recounts the final episode from last week's Parsha, and the heroic efforts of Pinchas in stopping a terrible plague. We are familiar with the story; because of immoral behavior, many members of Bnei Yisroel were dying, until Pinchas executed two of the perpetrators, and that ended the problem. But the Torah, in recalling the story, mentions the full lineage of Pinchas... "Pinchas Ben Elazar Ben Ahron HaKohein." Why, at this particular moment, was it necessary to mention the father and grandfather of Pinchas?

Explains the Kli Yakar, the Torah is highlighting a level of self-sacrifice that was required of Pinchas to carry through with this heroic act. The father of Pichas, as the Torah states, was Elazar. His grandfather was Ahron. What was unique about these two individuals? Elazar married the daughter of Yisro, who was known for his idolatrous practices before coming to believe in Hashem. And although he had the best intentions, Ahron did in some way facilitate the performance of one of our most greivous sins, the Golden Calf. So when Pichas took aggressive action against Kazbi and Zimri, there were some naysayers who were doubting his behavior. Some deemed it inappropriate that one who descended from such "flawed" stock should be the one to exact vengeance for the same sin. So the Torah identifies his lineage to tell us that Pinchas did not care what was being said behind closed doors. He knew what had to be done, and he took decisive action.

Of course these accusations were utterly preposterous! Yisro was a hero, a man who stood up to Pharaoh, father in law of Moshe Rabbeinu! And to accuse Ahron of idolatry was ridiculous! Furthermore, Pinchas knew very clearly what was at stake, he was saving thousands of Jewish lives with this act! Who would think he would even consider hesitating?

But the Torah reveals a fundamental tenet in human nature. We are highly sensitive to what others are saying about us, and it often shapes the way we think and act. The fact that Pinchas was able to banish these thoughts and go through with his plan is noteworthy, and deserves to be illuminated. A lesser man may have faltered, even given the severity of the situation.

In camp, so often this idea comes to the forefront. There is constant interaction in high leverage situations, and we strive constantly to make sure the kids are communicating properly. A negative word could have painful repercussions. But it is so gratifying to see that for the most part, our Eeshay campers pass this test with flying colors! Our sports and other competitions are fun, but positive. Great job on the sportsmanship, Eeshay! Keep it up!
Have a great Shabbos!

Rabbi Glatt

THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

What an awesome week here at Eeshay! Monday started our second session, but it did not take long to get right back into the swing of things. Davening, learning, sports, swimming, crafts, etc., we really hit the ground running!

Tuesday was a fast day, so the campers ran around having a good time while the entire staff dozed off in the shade. We had a hilarious late activity courtesy of Rabbi Kaye called smell and tell. I know what you're thinking! That it's just show and tell with farm animals. But no, campers were blindfolded, and had to identify an object using their other senses. It got a bit sticky when one kid used his tongue to identify an old sneaker... to be honest, the whole think was a little tough to swallow.

Wednesday was an AMAZING trip to Hot Wheelz, where the better skaters amongst us spent their time on the rink being told to slow down. But everyone had a great time, especially when you factored in the climbing area for the younger group, and the arcades, soda, and snacks. Big shout out to Efraim Glatt, for challenging another counselor from Camp Forever Young to a basketball arcade game, and winning!

Thursday saw more sports, swimming, and a fun trivia late activity. The big highlight was when Rabbi Kramer joined forces with the senior staff to take on the campers in a game of Newcomb/volleyball. (Staff played volleyball, campers played newcomb.) The campers completely took the competition, final score 21-15. I suppose it looked more like senior division against senior citizens.

Thank you Rabbi Friedler for filling in while Rabbi Kaye was away for a few days. Rabbi Kaye's shoes are impossible to fill, but we managed to tread water until his return on Monday.

We want to welcome another AWESOME counselor to Senior Division, BZ Sokolic! What an amazing addition to our camp.

A special, heartfelt goodbye to counselors Avraham Mordechai Kramer and Efraim Glatt! You guys were incredible, Camp Eeshay will not be the same without you!

Have a great Shabbos!

Rabbi Kaye





PICTURES OF THE WEEK



LEAGUE STANDINGS

Senior	Intermediate
Team 1 0-1	Team 1 2-1
Team 2 2-0	Team 2 1-2
Team 3 0-2	Team 3 2-1
Team 4 1-0	Team 4 1-2

