

DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

This week's Parsha has the bizarre incident in which בלעם tries to curse בני ישראל. Thankfully, our Father in heaven intercedes on our behalf, and not only are we spared, but much to בלעם's dismay, we cash in on many ברכות as well.

This episode starts out with a miraculous conversation between בלעם and his donkey. As Hashem opens this donkey's mouth, his first words to בלעם are "מַה-עָשִׂיתִי לָךְ, כִּי הִכִּיתָנִי זֶה שָׁלֹשׁ רָגְלִים, what have I done to you that you have struck me three times?" Rashi points out that the word the Torah uses for "times- רָגְלִים," is unusual. The reason the Torah picks this word is that the donkey is delivering a hidden message to בלעם. "Good luck trying to best the nation that has the distinction of connecting to Hashem during the שְׁלֹשׁ רָגְלִים of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Not a chance Hashem will let that happen."

Asks the שַׁפְתֵי חֲכָמִים, what is unique about this מִצְוָה that guaranteed בלעם would fail? Why is this our superpower? We very easily could come up with many more that seem more glamorous, couldn't we? He gives a beautiful answer. Quoting a גמרא in חגיגה, the Posuk that commands we visit the Beis Hamikdash during these Holidays uses the word "יֵרָאָה, we should see Hashem." But it could also be understood as "we should BE SEEN by Hashem." In other words, there is a dual purpose in our being עוֹלָה רַגְלִים as a nation. Not only is it to see Hashem, and gain inspiration from His presence, but it is also to be seen; Hashem wants to see us as well! This is what the donkey was alluding to. "Are you serious?" You want to take out a nation that has this legacy? That three times a year the creator of the universe yearns to be in their presence?! Not a chance!! This is our superpower as a people. We have a relationship with Hashem that goes both ways. We want to be with our creator, but thankfully, the feeling is mutual!

We are so blessed to have every Eeshay learning group run by an experienced Rebbe. The sessions are fire, all our campers are growing! Before we get to the sports, fun, swimming, trips, and crafts, we start the day right. We Daven, and we learn Torah. We talk to Hashem, and Hashem talks back to us, strengthening our relationship, and perpetuating a legacy that is the secret to our continuity.

Keep it up Eeshay, looking forward to week four!
Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Glatt

THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

Rabbi Glatt is renowned, even infamous, for his elaborate emails, making sure to use verbose vocabulary words, measured metaphors, allegorical alliteration, and extreme hyperbole. Al does not yet know who Rabbi Glatt is, though, so I will have to suffice.

This week was a marathon of non-stop action beginning with an ice skating trip for the Junior and Intermediate Divisions, highlighted by Skating Walkers, Air Hockey, and lots and lots of quarters... Not to be outdone, the Senior Division decided to join the remainder of the Jewish male population at Camelbeach Water Park. An anonymous source reported that his favorite part was the delectable pastrami sandwiches on the bus, Rabbi Kramer claimed the water rides were "next level," and not a single parent was awake when the boys returned.

Kudos to those who came ready to learn the following morning! Each learning group has gotten into a rhythm and they are gaining ground in their respective shiurim, while the competitive sports activities and splashy swim sessions continue to be the anchors of our daily schedule. However, Junior Division decided they should go on another mini trip to Laurel Acres Park the NEXT day, where the boys zipped around the playground, traversed the trails, and rolled down "Har Sinai."

Moving on to crafts this week, I'm sure many of you were duly impressed by the lovely laminated Shma cards. I'm also sure that you were just as excited when those adorable children came home and showed you their equally elegant, detergent-scented slime. And don't worry, the Seniors have graduated from sanding to gluing and staining their shtenders (as well as the tables underneath the shtenders) and they are looking fantastic! The shtenders - not the boys. Though your sons also look great, assuming they haven't had blue ices from the canteen.

The late activities this week were thoroughly enjoyable, from the suspenseful Off Track Betting, where the boys got to predict the outcomes of various competitions, to the "Awwwww" inspiring Name That Baby. Rabbi Glatt and Rabbi Kramer weren't on speaking terms after their basketball battle during Off Track Betting, so R' Friedman and I had to mediate. I am happy to announce that they are friends again. But the highlight had to be the Senior-led carnival! Did I mention Senior went on a secret trip of their own to Walmart where they stealthily packed their shopping carts with twizzlers, fluff, and chocolate chips, while simultaneously trying on matching hats to complete a scavenger hunt? Anyways, they ran a fantastic carnival that the rest of camp delighted in. To top it all off, Senior returned later that night to learn about the Parsha (what is up with Bilaam's reaction to a talking donkey?!), eat some pizza, and play some ball in the gym!

I'm exhausted just reading all of this... and it's not even Friday yet

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Kaye



FLYERS TRAINING CENTER



CAMEL BEACH

LEAGUE STANDINGS

INTERMEDIATE

SENIOR

SWEATY SHIRTS- 2-4-2
EESHAY LEADERS- 4-2-2
LEAGUE KINGS- 3-3-2
TEAM 3 3-3-2

DOMINATORS 5-8
CREAM CHEESERS 9-4
MISSILES 4-9
STOP SIGNS 8-5

