

DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

As we are obviously on the verge of the historical and difficult day of Tisha B'Av, I had a thought that I would like to share. Our learning group in camp is learning Makkos, and we came across a very interesting line recently. The Posuk says by Eidim Zommemin, a certain kind of false witness, the following words. "עַל פִּי שְׁנַיִם עֵדִים אוֹ" וְשִׁלְשָׁה עֵדִים יוּמָת הַמֵּת, on the mouth of two witnesses, or three, we should execute." The question is clear. If two witnesses, thoroughly corroborated, provide sufficient evidence to carry out such a significant penalty, is it not obvious that three could do the same thing? Why even mention three at all?

Says Rebbe Akiva in the final answer, we are talking about false witnesses, who themselves get punished for trying to harm someone unlawfully. So by two witnesses, of course they would both get punished, as they are both integral to the testimony. But by the third one, one might think he should be off the hook, as he was an add-on, the "third wheel," so to speak. Could he not make the argument "why penalize me at all? I was immaterial to the case!" So the Torah tells us no, just like by two, also by three. Even the insignificant party gets penalized for doing the wrong thing.

But then the Mishna concludes with some interesting words. It says if this is the penalty to an "add-on" by an Aveira, imagine the reward to an "add-on" by a Mitzvah! We know Hashem rewards five hundred times more powerful than He punishes. This Posuk tells us it is not just the headliners who receive all the accolades. Every person who plays a role in something good, no matter how minor it is, the reward in Shomayim is beyond our comprehension!

We know the second Beis Hamikdash was destroyed because of Sinas Chinam, baseless hatred. We sometimes get fixated on the Chessed champions, the movers and shakers, and assume surely they are the antidote who will pave the way for Moshiach. But Hashem notices and cherishes every single act of goodwill between his children! Looking around camp, this is what we see on a daily basis. Honest genuine friendship. Laughing together, competing together, supporting together, sharing good times together. All of it is significant, and no doubt we are doing our part to BeEzras Hashem bring the final Geulah! Keep It up, Eeshay!

Have a wonderful Shabbos, and a meaningful Tisha B'Av.

Rabbi Glatt



THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

Dear Parents, To say that this week in camp was insanely fun and action packed to the max and beyond, would be the literal understatement of the century Nay Millenium! Think about it! When in the history of the universe has a camp been able to fit epic trips, a daring hike in the woods, Olympic level sport competitions, professionally run crafts and woodworking, dynamic learning Rebbeim that moonlight (or rather sunlight) as crazy crowd motivators, prizes, raffles, knock-your-socks-off late activities, and an up and down staircase, all in 1 week?! Right here at Camp Eeshay is the only answer.

The week started out as it always does with a proverbial BANG! Kol Torah and and Tefilla followed by dodgeball, football, whiffle ball and wait...what's this?! Ahavas Chinam Deliveries? That's right folks, being that we are in the midst of the 9 days in which we shift our focus inwards and attempt to improve our Midos and relationship towards others, we at Camp Eeshay have decided to take concrete steps towards re-building the 3rd Beis Hamikdosh...1 postcard note at a time. At approximately 12:00 post meridian on the 28th of July, 3 unmarked vehicles left the parking lot of camp heading straight for their target points. Stated Mission: spreading free unconditional Ahava throughout the neighborhood. Each camper chose a person to whom they felt they wanted to express their appreciation towards and communicated that Ahava in a tastefully prepared postcard conveniently dropped into the receivers mailbox. No postage necessary. The trip concluded with all campers descending upon an unsuspecting 711 like a swarm of Mid-Western Aetherial Scythed Xyloctomus Killer Bees, with the sole purpose of raiding every last vestige of coke slurpee left in the machines. A well deserved treat after such a noble and selfless endeavor.

The Bein Adam Lacheveiro exercises did not end there though, for on Tuesday, we were treated to an entertaining and thought provoking presentation regarding the importance of greeting everyone and making every person feel included. And how is a serious lesson about how to treat others, complete, without an oversized bag of hot buttery popcorn washed down with a cool glass of freshly squeezed instant lemonade? Thank you to Rabbi Glatt for making this event happen and for providing the popcorn and drinks!

Spotlight on the upper echelons of camp, Senior division has upped their level of divisiveness, dividing upper and lower for two different sets of leagues. The games are fun and intense, with each team keeping track of their respective records. Kudos to both groups for powering through a swimless week by packing in sports, woodworking, 7/11 runs and indoor skiing to stay busy. One thing to keep an eye on is their current infatuation with kickball. No one could figure this one out. Somehow this has become a top level sport, despite the average age for a kickball player in America being well North of 70.

It was also a tremendous thrill getting back our sleepaway group this week! They are really hitting their stride, despite their bewilderment at our canteen not having made to order hot steaks. But they add an older element to our camp, which everyone benefits from.

Crafts this week included decorative ice cream cone making, cookie dough shaping and decorating, and a beautiful Im Eshkocheich Yerushalayim project which of course is on brand with our heightened focus this week on thinking about the Beis Hamikdosh. Seniors have their hearts and minds on the Beis Hamikdosh as well, as they began their woodworking project this week starting to create epic Esrogim boxes which they obviously intend to use this coming Succos in the brand new rebuilt 3rd Beis Hamikdosh (BB"A) to which they naturally plan to be Oleh Regel, making their way to Yerushalayim on an Egged bus (driven by Rabbi Kramer of course).

Late activities this week I daresay were a smashing success. Beginning with the majorly hyped up Eeshay Rush!!! campers eagerly were distributing their well earned tickets into the prizes. Congratulations to all the lucky winners! Moving on to a camp classic, Tuesday afternoon featured SWITCH! In what can only be described as a frenzy of focus and energy, campers were trying their hardest to get the most points for their team by completing specific athletic goals and then BAM! SWITCHEROO their way over to the next station for more rounds. Capping off the week was one of the greatest pull offs since Neil Armstrong landed on the moon! That was of course the pilot launch of the most epic late activity known to man...WHO'S LINE!!! In a series of comedic set ups campers and staff alike were challenged to produce hilarious skits and sketches that were completely improvised and unrehearsed. Many laughs were had at this wonderful experience we all shared together.

Trip day this week was split between the divisions. Those that were daring, bold and intrepid ventured into the wilds of the arcadian wilderness known to civilization by its code name, Chuck E. Cheese. Whilst dodging poorly aimed ski balls and skidding across accidentally spilled caffeinated beverages, the juniors bravely battled aliens and zombies and dared to ride the death defying merry-go-round of doom! The rest of the camp opted for the more tame and less accident prone activity of indoor skiing at American Dream mall. Once again, Shmuel Max reportedly pulled off another heroic yet humble feat of spinning 540 degrees in the air before gracefully launching into the "Phantom Drop" maneuver. Also worthy to note is that the video clip of Yochanan Greenwald and Avrumi Leib Gore leading the campers in a rousing rendition of "Od Yoter Tov" as the bus was speeding down the turnpike, has supposedly gone viral!

With half of the second session already in the books we are eagerly awaiting to unleash even more excitement and fun.
Have a Good Shabbos and a meaningful fast!

Rabbi Friedler



LEAGUE STANDINGS

INTERMEDIATE

SENIOR

TEAM 1- 5-8

HAWKS 4-1

TEAM 2- 9-5

GLADIATORS 3-2

TEAM 3- 7-6

BELMONT BUBS 1-4

TEAM 4- 8-5

RED HENS 2-3