



# THE EESHAY BLAST

## DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

We have an interesting episode at the end of פרשת מסות The Shvatim of גד and ראובן approach משה רבינו as we are on the cusp of entering into ארץ ישראל with a proposal. They ask, given the fact that they have a lot of cattle, if they could settle their families on the other side of the ירדן so they would get bigger plots of land. משה, after getting them to commit to help us conquer our homeland, allows them to do so.

But Rashi pulls a lesson from the words they use in their request. In פרק לב פסוק טו, they say "גִּדְרַת צֶאֱן וְנִבְנָה לְמִקְנֵינוּ פֶּה" , allow us to build pens for our flock, and cities for our children." It seems their first order of business is to take care of their possessions, and only afterwards, their families. משה רבינו picks up on this, and when he agrees to their request, he switches the order, saying (פסוק כד) "בְּנֵי־לֶכֶם עֵרִים לְטַפְכֶם וְגִדְרַת לְצִנְאָכֶם" putting the children first, to reorient their priorities.

Rav Henschel Leibowitz points out that we are dealing with tremendous Tzadikkim. To even suggest that they actually cared more about their material wealth than their own flesh and blood would be absurd. Of course, the whole reason they were involved in the material world was to provide for their families! But sometimes, we get so caught up in what we are doing, we lose sight of the reason we are doing it. Accumulating wealth might start as a means to an end, but it runs the risk of becoming the end itself. Their possessions became too much the focus, so they required a course correction from their leader.

Here at camp, we have a ton going on daily. Sports, trips, swimming, activities, Boruch Hashem, the kids are having a blast! And it could create a challenge in which campers might feel it is all about the fun, the games, the league championships. But every once in a while, we get a glimpse that our group has their priorities in order. On Thursday, we got rained out from swim. A bunch of guys in our senior division used their extra time to help out moving some furniture in the school library. An efficient assembly line was set up, and the job was done in no time! What a Chessed, and what a beautiful example of keeping the focus on what is truly important in our lives!

Good Shabbos!

*Rabbi Glatt*

## THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

How are we already three quarters of the way through Session One?? The sounds of davening and learning continue to start each day throughout camp. Some boys have been learning about the Three Weeks, while others continue advancing through Mishnayot or Gemara. Although they receive rewards on Fridays, we know the greatest reward can't fit inside the canteen!

Sports continue to be the heartbeat of camp, with new Intermediate and Senior leagues already reaching the halfway point of their seasons. Congratulations to our Intermediate champions, the Eeshay Champs, and our Senior champions, the Vicious Vampires, for taking home this week's titles! We were even treated to Jack Shulman proudly leading us in the National Anthem before the Intermediate Championship game.

Now it's stuck in the head of a certain counselor whose name rhymes with Ronnie. Also, shoutout to the Cookers and Flaming Bull Dogs for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship even after tough losses. Junior Division stayed just as active with Capture the Flag, Kickball, Dodgeball, and the inaugural U.S. Eeshay Open Newcomb Tournament. Credit goes to our remarkably resourceful counselor, Yeshaya Jungreis, who somehow transformed a thousand pieces of scrap metal into a fully functional Newcomb net.

Junior Division's new EPIC PLAY TIME has become a staple, with Magna-Tiles, toy cars, Stratego, Mastermind, Chess, Settlers of Catan, audio stories, and plenty of imagination filling the room each day. Dani's lunchtime interviews have also become must-see entertainment; he is even fluent in "fish stick." Meanwhile, Senior has somehow turned Connect-Four into an action sport.

This week's trip to Clementon Water Park had campers floating down the lazy river, racing down the water slides, and voluntarily standing beneath a giant bucket of water waiting to be drenched. Not to mention that twirly ride that made me nauseous just watching people spin on it. But, hey, it's not a camp trip if Ezzy doesn't win a giant, colorful ball.

Crafts this week featured MEGA (Make Eeshay Great Again) Phone decorating, along with Vohavta L'Reiacha Kamocha bracelets. Coach Craig and Coach Meir returned for another popular hockey clinic with Intermediate Division, while Dani also amazed campers with his best card trick that unfortunately involved math (sorry boys; no matter how hard we try to avoid it, math always finds us). In woodworking, the Senior Division chairs are really taking shape. Campers have already begun lobbying for seat cushions, only to be told by our fearless director that "I think you're missing the point of a Tisha B'Av chair..." Shoutout to Netanel Kamienny, who sanded his chair so much, it devolved into a doll chair. The Seniors have also been making the most of pool time, showing off some impressive dives and tricks off the bouncy diving board.

Late activities wrapped up each day with plenty of excitement. Off Track Betting had bunks predicting the outcomes of entertaining camp challenges, leading to the discovery that R' Glatt can blow a whistle longer than any division head. Congratulations to Bunk Vov for getting 50% of the predictions correct! Campers also tested their observation skills during Photophobia, identifying extremely zoomed-in camp photos, and What Happens Next?, where bunks competed to predict the endings of videos filmed around camp.

Senior Division capped off their week with a Mishmar with Rabbi Kramer where they ate pizza, played an intense game of Jewish Numbers Boggle, made use of the gym, and learned about having Hakaras Hatov (gratitude) from Moshe Rabbeinu and the Midyanites.

Looking forward to the final week of Session One!

Have a great Shabbos,

*Rabbi Kaye*

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

### INTERMEDIATE

Death Metal 4-0-1  
Legends 4-0-1  
Flames 1-4  
Jackuars 1-4

### SENIOR

Cookie Crumblers 4-1-1  
Chocolate Chip Cannonballs 3-2-1  
Himothy Hamsters 3-2-1  
Blasting Bullets 0-5-1

## SPORTSMANSHIP SHOUTOUTS

### Jonah Shulman

for being traded off the best team to make leagues more fair, and handling it like a champ!!

### Menachem Chaitoff

for graciously accepting being traded off of the team with the best record.

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