



DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

In the first Posuk of ספר דברים, the Torah outlines the geographical location where Moshe Rabbeinu made his final farewell speech to בני ישראל. Many landmarks are listed in the Posuk. Rashi makes the point that these are not actual locations. They were all references to different mistakes that the Jewish people made in the desert. "לבן" was alluding to the complaints about the מן, which was white in color. "די הזהב" alluded to the sin of the Eigel Hazahav, etc. Rashi goes on to explain that this final message was going to be a difficult one; Moshe was going to highlight our missteps in the hope that we would improve our ways. But instead of mentioning every mistake overtly, the Torah uses hints, in order to protect our dignity.

Think about it! This was משה's final speech to his beloved nation! One might think he would go all in on the intensity, "fire and brimstone," the heavier the blow, the more we would get the memo. This was his last opportunity! Hit us over the head, leave no room for excuses! But this is not the path that Moshe took. Because our great leader understood a fascinating dynamic in human nature. We are lofty, but extremely fragile. If the Torah would have belittled us for our mistakes, it would have had the adverse effect. One who does not believe in their ability to surpass life's challenges has lost the fight before it even began. Correcting a person's behavior is important, but it is critical to do it in a manner that leaves their self-esteem intact. Moshe knew this, and in his last opportunity to impart a message, he was firm, but gentle.

To our utter dismay, we are already halfway through the summer, it's impossible to believe! But Boruch Hashem, I think we have succeeded in this area. We have tried to create a culture of positivity in which the campers are comfortable and happy. Inevitably behavior needs to be corrected, but we strive to do it in a way that does not Chas VeShalom belittle our campers. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to my founding colleague Rabbi Kaye, who will be taking a step back as division head in the second half (although we still benefit from his talents as a learning Rebbe!) Rabbi Kaye personifies this ideal, and we will greatly miss his firm but gentle guidance. We also have a bit of turnover with our staff. Thank you so much Shua, Hillel, Shiloh, Dani and Yeshaya for all your incredible efforts and positivity! You will be missed!

Have an amazing Shabbos, looking forward to our second half on Monday!

Rabbi Glatt

THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

The first half of camp has officially come to a close, and what a week it was! As always, our days began with davening and learning before campers headed off for another week packed with activities, trips, and plenty of memorable moments.

Monday and Tuesday featured our regular activities. Shoutout to Aviv Sussman for an incredible touchdown throw that, of course, happened immediately after R' Friedler stopped recording... And while all eyes were on the action on the field, a fiercely competitive game of Duck, Duck, Goose quietly unfolded on the sidelines. Friday marked the conclusion of another exciting league season, with champions crowned and trophies presented. Congratulations to all of our winners! The standings have officially been reset, and a brand new season begins on Monday. Additionally, before the Nine Days began, we squeezed in a couple final swims. Special recognition goes to corkscrew dive masters Meir Levy and Shmuel Kramer.

Our Intermediate Division wrapped up their final hockey clinic with Coach Craig and their last magic workshop with Dani Goldman, while the Junior Division put their engineering skills to the test by building popsicle stick towers. Meanwhile, the Senior Division completed their Tisha B'Av chairs! Baruch Hashem, there was just enough stain left for the chairs after approximately 99% of it had already been used to stain the parking lot.

This week's trip took us to Thrillz, where campers enjoyed virtual reality roller coasters, laser tag, the climbing gym, giant slides, trampolines, and, of course, the long bus rides. Everyone returned home with all of their belongings... except Johnee, who misplaced his tooth.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly BLOCK WARS! The Estate Agents and the Free Agents faced off in an action-packed competition that began at Jake's Place with relay races, field events, and a popsicle stick hunt. The teams then prepared for the afternoon by creating signs and learning their cheers before heading to the gym for an unforgettable finale. Events included a massive dodgeball game featuring the legendary showdown of Epic Ezzy (what a shot!) versus Resilient Rafi, an exciting game of Newcomb, a back-and-forth basketball battle, and cheer and banner presentations. Major props to Avi Goldstein for that unexpected, EPIC, and inspirational D'var Torah about Ahavas Chinam, loving each other for free, that left me dumbstruck; you knew it was good when both teams cheered for him at the end... Both teams competed with tremendous enthusiasm and outstanding sportsmanship, but in the end, the Estate Agents claimed this year's Block Wars crown!

As we wrap up the first half of camp, we would like to thank all of our incredible counselors for the enthusiasm and genuine care they show to your children. We'd also like to welcome Rabbi Teichman, who will be taking over as Intermediate Division Head for the second half. It has been a privilege serving as Intermediate DH these past few weeks; I'll still be around for the second half, just in a different capacity, and I'm looking forward to another great few weeks.

Have a wonderful Shabbos, and have a relaxing, meaningful, and enjoyable rest of the summer! Signing off...

Rabbi Kaye

LEAGUE STANDINGS

INTERMEDIATE

Legends 8-1
Death Metal 7-2
Jackuars 3-6
Flames 1-8

SENIOR

Himothy Hamsters 6-4-1
Cookie Crumblers 6-4-1
Chocolate Chip Cannonballs 5-5-1
Blasting Bullets 3-7-1

SPORTSMANSHIP SHOUTOUTS

Avner Glatt

for wishing a "good game" to the opposing team after beating them

Eliyahu Baum

for relentless positivity in every game he plays!

THE EESHAY BLAST

