



## DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

This week's Parsha is in the middle of משה's final address to his beloved people. It is filled with different directives and warnings that we would use to fortify ourselves as we were on the cusp of entering our homeland. Embedded in these instructions, there are a number of Pesukim that talk about our ability to eat and enjoy meat when we are in our territory. And then comes the warning. פרק יב פסוק כג states "רק חזק לבלתי אכל הדם", only strengthen yourselves to abstain from consuming the blood of the animal. The תורה is telling us that while we are allowed to enjoy eating meat, we are not allowed to drink the blood. It first must be extracted from our food before we partake.

But Rashi comments on one interesting word in the posuk, "חזק strengthen yourself." In quoting Rebbe Shimon Ben Aizai, he makes an interesting point. By imploring us to strengthen ourselves in the performance of this מצוה, it just goes to show how much we constantly have to work and focus on our עבודת ה'. Because this is a מצוה that should be absurdly easy to observe! Blood is disgusting! Even people who don't have a religious mandate to do so strive to cleanse their meat from blood! Why must we pump ourselves up for the performance of this מצוה? One would think basic human nature would dictate we do so anyway!

But the תורה is telling us, this is the power of our יצר הרע. We have implanted within us a counterforce to our service of Hashem. And he is good at his job! Even those things that we would naturally do require focus and resolve to fulfill. And how much more so when it comes to true challenges in life! If we need strength for the easy ones, then of course it is all the more so by the hard ones.

As we are heading into our last week, there is so much to look back on over the course of these past few months. But I could think of numerous concrete examples of our campers, your children, strengthening themselves to do what is right. Whether it was encouraging an opponent on the basketball court, or Davening with enthusiasm, or cleaning up after a mess, we saw so many beautiful moments of these young men rising up to meet a challenge head on. It is a testament to the homes they find themselves in, and forecasts a bright future in their עבודת ה'!

Have a great Shabbos!

*Rabbi Glatt*

## THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

This week's adventures brought campers into the rugged wilderness of Wissahickon Valley Park, where they conquered winding trails, towering hills, and treacherous inclines that allegedly caused Christopher Columbus to consider turning his ship around back to terrain-friendlier Spain. The intrepid hikers reward? A refreshing creek and beautiful waterfall that made every step worthwhile.

Meanwhile, the Senior trip was incredible! Camping out in the wilderness, a heartfelt kumzitz around the camp fire, navigating the rapids on the Lehigh river, and splashing in the beautiful water fall were some notable highlights. The boys had a fantastic time!

League play continued across camp with exciting competition, teamwork, and plenty of unforgettable moments. Intermediate also staged a thrilling come-from-behind victory during an Eeshay Family Feud Classic, though campers continue to deny falling for this year's legendary Color War Fake-Out, which ended with the dramatic reveal of...a coloring book.

Late activities kept the laughs coming as Junior Division enjoyed Name That Baby: Encore Edition, featuring the surprise additions of Name That Zeidy and Future Eeshay. Meanwhile, Senior Division introduced a brand-new pool game of standing in a circle, throwing a ball back and forth whilst jumping, an action packed, heart throbbing activity that could only be described as... "Ring Around the Rosie"...for MEN!!

Campers also stayed busy creating thoughtful Mother's gifts, colorful slap bracelets, beautiful Tefillas Haderech cards & intricate Perler bead creations. As for Senior clinics under the able leadership of our very own Rabbi Laster, the Shabbos Lamps are really starting to come together, with the group experiencing that euphoric Thomas Edison moment of turning it on for the first time!

As for those persistent rumors that Camp Eeshay may soon enter a week where lifelong friendships mysteriously dissolve into fierce rivalries over completely arbitrary color assignments...camp officials can neither confirm nor deny such reports.

Learning remained a tremendous highlight of the week.

Rabbi Teichman and Rabbi Rhodes continued leading incredible learning groups. These kids are taking more Gemara notes in the summer than the whole school year combined!

Another unforgettable week has come and gone, filled with adventure, creativity, competition, laughter, and growth. As Camp Eeshay enters its final stretch, one thing remains certain: the memories made this summer will last long after the last team scores its final point...regardless of what color that team may or may not be.

*Rabbi Friedler*

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

### INTERMEDIATE

Titans: 3-1-1  
Bears: 3-2-0  
Seahawks: 2-2-1  
Eagles: 1-4-0

### LOWER SENIOR

Team Yaakov: 3-1  
Team Ezzy: 1-3  
Team Shmuel: 1-3  
Team Moshe: 1-3

### UPPER SENIOR:

Team Ahron: 2-0  
Team Menachem: 1-1  
Team Yissachar: 1-1  
Team Mendy: 0-2

## SPORTSMANSHIP SHOUTOUTS

**Noam Paris**  
for being more chilled during leagues than a double big gulp slurpee!

**Baruch Aryeh Laster**  
for bravely navigating the hike taking it step by step.

**Shlomo Moskowitz**  
for being a prime example of what it means to have good sportsmanship

**Shraga Feivel Friedler**  
for earning the Joey Newcomb Award by falling down and getting back up, while on the hike.

**Shaul Glatt**  
for being a good hiker, camper and sportsmanship maintainer!

# THE EESHAY BLAST



 **POCONO WHITEWATER**