



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

First Grade, General Studies - Ms. Erika Ramsey

## Announcements

Our class will begin taking home their work plans at the end of each week. That way, parents will have a snapshot of what assignments students have been given, which assignments were completed each day. Please be sure to encourage students to complete 3-4 work choices each day

## Reminders

- Please take out any completed work from their blue folder, and send the empty folder back with your child on Monday
- Students get their homework for the week on Monday; they need to return their completed homework by the following Monday, at the latest, but can turn it in earlier if they finish early.
- Don't forget to send your child to school with a water bottle and a mask
- If your child needs a spoon or fork for lunch, please make sure you include it.
- Please label all outerwear

In December, we continued our unit on Folktales and Fables. Students have been analyzing the hidden messages in stories such as *MingLo Moves the Mountain* and *The Empty Pot*. I am so impressed with the inferences that they are making and their ability to relate the messages to their everyday lives. We have also been working on sight word memorization and narrative writing and storytelling.

After the completion of the Fables and Folktales unit, we will be moving to Unit 3, Same Story, Different Version. In this unit, students will focus on comparing and contrasting key details and character changes.

In Writing, students have been working to complete narrative stories about their family's Hanukkah traditions and their Winter Break. If you see spelling errors, that's okay- it's just them learning & growing! You can help your child by practicing sounding out words with them at home too; the more they know their letter sounds, the easier it becomes to sound out words in both reading & writing.

## Reading & Writing



In December, we reintroduced addition and subtraction facts, we have started practicing two-digit addition, and addition with regrouping. We are continuing to practice with addition and subtraction in order for students to master the facts before moving into multiplication and division. For Science, we have been learning about land and water forms. In Cultural Studies, students have learning the capitals of each state and continuing their practice with labeling and assembling the U.S. Map.

## Math, Science & Social Studies



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

First Grade, Judaic Studies - Morah Mushkie, Morah Kaila and Morah Becky

Dear Parents,

We are so happy to see all of our friends thriving in the new First Grade setup. Morah Kaila and Morah Mushkie have arranged a new Judaics only classroom. We are enjoying our new space very much. We now have a lot more space to set up our kriah and k'siva games. We have added about ten new learning, Kriah and Ksiva activities in the form of games to continue our learning in fun, interactive and educational ways.

## Kriah / Kesiva



This coming week we will start preparing for our Siddur Party! The children are so excited about this great milestone. We will practice our reading, davening and all our fun songs. We will be confident and ready when that special day arrives! Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 9th! We look forward to “seeing” you all there!

Please remember to send a water bottle and enough snacks every day!!!!

## Parsha / Yahadus



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Second & Third Grade, General Studies - Ms. Lombardi & Ms. Mckenzie

## Class News

Hello! We have continued to practice team building in our girls' class. They had a great time singing Chanukah songs to the old age home and worked well together when performing.

## Reminders

- Please make sure your child does 45 minutes of iready every week in both ELA and Math.
- Please make sure to have your child bring a mask and water bottle to school everyday.
- Please try to have your child study at home for their spelling tests that are given at the end of the week.(Thursday or Friday depending on the week.)

Second graders have been practicing their writing skills by planning 2 paragraph essays. We have done opinion and fact based essays using proper punctuation and spelling. We have been emphasizing lessons on when to use commas and apostrophes to help their writing skills as well. Third graders have also been going over proper punctuation to have a better base for the 5 paragraph essays we have been doing.

In social studies the second graders have been learning about the Creek and Cherokee Native Americans in Georgia. Third graders discussed different explorers of North America like Christopher Columbus and John Cabot.

## ELA & Social Studies



For the months of November and December, second grade students have been learning about how to subtract one digit numbers and add two digit numbers in multiple ways. Third grade students have been learning how to multiply numbers from 0-9 using arrays.

In science second grade learned about the sun and the moon, as well as natural resources. They have conducted a few experiments, one being that they collected natural resources from nature. Third grade has learned about fossils and forces in motion. For forces in motion, students have done experiments like playing tug-a-war to see pull forces. This also allowed them to see how a pull force can be balanced or unbalanced.

## Math & Science





# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Second & Third Grade Girls, Judaic Studies - Morah Freida and Morah Adelman

## Class News

Happy Birthday to:  
Eliana Antopolsky  
Mila Segal  
Eden Azulay  
Devorah New  
Chana Wolf

In honor on 20 teves, the day the Rambam passed away, we introduced the learning of the daily Mitzva of the Rambam in class.

We learnt the Bracha of Asher Yatzar- Thanking Hashem for our amazing body.

We continued with the next bracha, Elokai Neshama, where we thank Hashem for our Neshama, a part of Hashem that He put into us. Ask your child what makes each of us unique, our body or our Neshama? What are 3 different actions Hashem does to our Neshama?

## Biurei Tefilo



After spending some time becoming experts at familiarizing ourselves with the way the chumash is divided up, by parasha, perek, and pasuk, it is finally time to start learning from inside! We are learning Chumash, starting from Parashas Lech lecha! We learnt about Avraham Avinu's family and his 1st test- "Lech lecha" Hashem asked Avraham to leave everything, his land, his family and his friends and go to a unknown place.

In class while we learn the Pessukim, we find find different Shorashim and prefixes and some words from our Vocab list, by using our color coding system.

It is so amazing to see the girls already being able to translate some of the words by themselves!

Please take a few minutes each day to review with your daughter the Pasuk we learned that day, you will get lots of Nachas!

## Chumash - 2nd Grade



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Second & Third Grade Girls , Judaic Studies - Morah Freida & Morah Shterny

Dec/Jan - Teves

## Middos

We are focusing on working on our Middot, treating our friends in a kind and respectful way. Like a traffic light, we remind ourselves to **stop,(red) think(yellow) and act (green)**

A “Certificate for great Middot”, is awarded every Friday to one or two girls that demonstrates good middot.

Chanukah was definitely the highlight of this month! We started with the story of Chanuka, heard the story of Yehudis and Holofern, and the story of the long chanukah candles that saved a Jews life in Russia.

We learn all the different Halachos (laws) of Lighting the Menorah. We also learnt about the different tefilos and different minhagim (customs) during chanukah.

And, oh! Lets not forget how much fun we had celebrating Chanuka at CMCH! Donuts, Chanukah gelt, grand dreidel game ,pass the parcel, pin the shamash, edible dreidel craft ,Chanukah breakfast... These memories will stay with us forever!

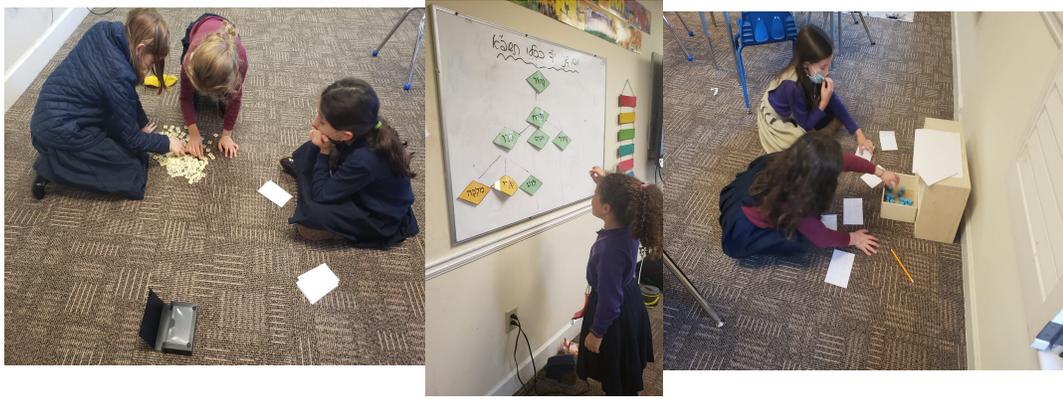
## Yahadus

## Reminders

Remember to check homework folders daily.

Remember to send water bottles, enough healthy snacks and masks daily.

Please label all your childrens sweaters/jackets.



We’re working hard in Chumash class, building up incredible skills. In the past month we learned the suffixes ו, י, and ה. We practiced them by coloring them in, playing with kinetic sand and colored blocks and making pictures that help us remember their meaning.

In Parshas Vayera we learned how Hashem saved Lot and destroyed the cities Sedom and Amarah. Then Yitzchak was born and when he grew up, Sarah told Avraham to send Yishmael away. What did Yishmael do wrong? See if your daughter remembers what we learned. We learned 44 vocab words so far and we know them all perfectly. We plan to finish the Parsha soon and celebrate with a grand siyum!!



## Chumash - 3rd Grade

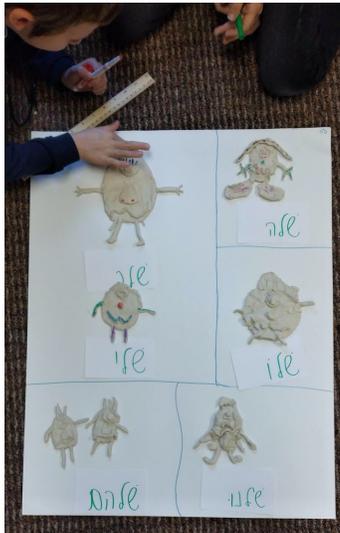


# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Second & Third Grade Boys, Judaic Studies - Rabbi Freeman & Rabbi Adelman

## Class News



Rabbi Freeman (3rd) - Each day, we spend ten minutes reading and twenty minutes writing. Students are now learning very specific Kriah rules, like when a Yud and Alef are silenced by a nekudah that comes before it.

Rabbi Adelman (2nd)- Each day, we spend ten minutes reading and twenty minutes writing. The boys have been mastering their nekudos and we will soon be moving on to reading entire words! We time ourselves to see how fast we can finish pages and love finding the letters and vowels that sound like English words.

## Kriah & Ksiva

## Tefilah

**Tefillah:** Learning all the 15 Morning Brochois.

We have learned all the 15 morning Berochois. So much to thank Hashem for! Time to make a big poster with all of the 15 Berochois. We will be moving on to Yehi Ratzon.

Rabbi Freeman-3rd

**Chumash:** Story of Sarah giving birth to Yitzchock (21:1)  
**Skills:** Rashis.

We will be learning Rashi reading and learning Rashis for the first time!

Rabbi Adelman- 2nd

We have completed the world within a word workbook and have begun doing the pesukim. We color in the prefixes, shorashim, and foundation words. We play review games like kahoots, Torah baseball, around the world, and torah races.

## Chumash



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Fourth & Fifth Grade, General Studies - Ms. Ragland & Ms. Kihlstadius

## Class News

Our newsletter is a great place to see what the students have been learning and get a peek into the classroom. Feel free to reach out to us any time with questions.

Mrs. Ragland

[mragland@chayamushka.org](mailto:mragland@chayamushka.org)

Mrs. Kihlstadius

[jkihlstadius@chayamushka.org](mailto:jkihlstadius@chayamushka.org)

Within our literature studies (*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*--4th and *Survival Stories* such as *Julie of the Wolves*--5th) studying vocabulary is a crucial part of reading and comprehension. Focusing on "Tier 2" words that appear with high frequency and across a variety of domains are the words to study when we want to expand students' speaking and writing skills with mature, academic language. Some of the vocabulary words the students are currently learning are: *predicament*, *weariness*, *monotony* and *versatile*. One strategy is to have the students searching for clipart images (see below!) that show the meaning of the words. We then add the images to our wall to help with remembering the meanings.

## Literature Studies & Reading



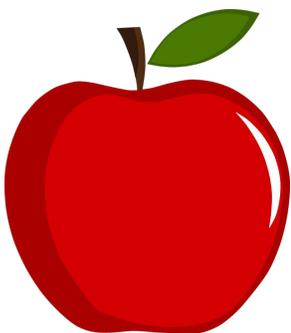
## Reminders

Send a water bottle, healthy snack, and a book for silent reading with your child every day.

Please label your child's sweaters and jackets.

In both 4th and 5th grades, we are beginning a unit on informational/explanatory writing. The students will have a series of writing lessons that include the skills of organizing paragraphs to give information, including one main idea with central ideas and supporting details and using transition words. At the end of this unit, much like the personal narrative essay, students will work through the writing process to write their own informational/explanatory piece.

## Writing / Language





# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Fourth & Fifth Grade, General Studies - Mrs. Ragland & Mrs. Kihlstadius

## Class News

Our newsletter is a great place to see what the students have been learning and get a peek into the classroom. Feel free to reach out to us any time with questions.

Mrs. Ragland

[mragland@chayamushka.org](mailto:mragland@chayamushka.org)

Mrs. Kihlstadius

[jkihlstadius@chayamushka.org](mailto:jkihlstadius@chayamushka.org)

Fourth grade students have finished their unit on operations. They have worked hard understanding multiplication as a comparison, the difference between multiples and factors, number and shape patterns, and multiplication and division in word problems with multi-steps. Looking ahead they will begin multiplication of 2 digits and division of 3 to 4 digits.

Fifth grade students have been working on their unit on decimals and fractions. They have been working hard understanding decimal place value, powers of 10, reading and writing decimals, comparing and rounding decimals, along with adding and subtracting decimals. Looking ahead we will dive into adding and subtracting fractions.

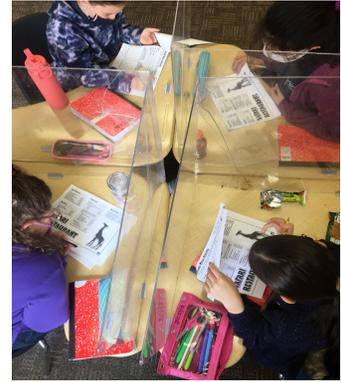
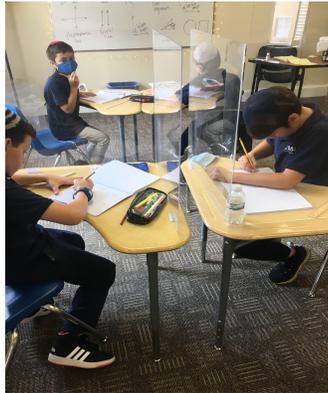
## Math

## Reminders

\*Send a water bottle, healthy snack, and a book for silent reading with your child every day.

\*Take a look at your child's homework binder everyday.

\*Emails are sent at the end of each week with details about our classes.



**Science** We have begun a unit on natural disasters. We are learning the science behind the disasters with an emphasis on how they happen. They have been learning about the plate boundaries of the earth and how the plate movements can cause earthquakes. They did a great job with the Jello Earthquake Challenge. They worked in groups to build a structure from toothpicks and marshmallows to withstand a jello earthquake. Looking ahead we will explore volcanoes.

**Social Studies** While learning about the California migrant farm workers' fight for justice led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, students learn to make connections and think about cause and effect. Ask your child to tell you about Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and new vocabulary such as *activism* and *discrimination*.

## Science/Social Studies



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Fourth & Fifth Grade Girls, Judaic Studies - Mrs. Adelman & Mrs. Freeman

## Class News

Kislev was a really packed month! We learned about speaking kind words for 19 Kislev and made our own images out of kind words. We learned the history and halachos of Chanukah and had so much fun with all the activities and crafts all 8 days! For 10 Teves we learned about the Beis Hamikdash and used oil pastels to create our own beautiful pictures.

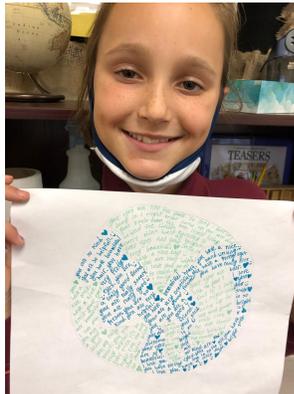


Finally Yaakov agrees to let Binyomin go down to Mitzrayim so that they can get food, Yehuda promises that he will bring him back alive. The master in Mitzrayim treats them well but then frames Binyomin for stealing his goblet! Yehuda begs the master to take him as a slave instead of Binyomin. Finally Yosef can't take it anymore and reveals himself to his brothers. What a relief!

We finished our first Parsha this month and will celebrate with our Siyum this Tuesday!

We have mastered 88 vocabulary words, we use Quizlet games to help us practice them. We also play iSpy to practice finding shorashim and prefixes and suffixes in each posuk.

## Chumash - 5th



## Navi

We're up to Perek Yud now and boy is the story getting exciting. After Yehoshua conquered the city of Ai, the other nations start to panic. The Givonim came up with a tricky plan... did they succeed? Ask your daughter! We enjoy starting class with a creative thinking assignment to see what bright ideas we can come up with.

The girls are thrilled! We've just completed a pretty long Parsha, Vayetze. We joined Yaacov as he very devotedly cared for Lavan's sheep. We stressed with him for the hundred times (Rashi) Lavan tricked him, we rejoiced because Hashem always helped Yaacov and we empathized with Rochel and Lea, as they felt their father mistreated them.

We held our breath when Lavan chased after them and relaxed with relief as Yaacov and Lavan made a peace treaty.

All this while also working on Rashi reading fluency, shorashim and vocabulary. We made our own review questions and we're super excited for our Siyum party next week!

## Chumash - 4th



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Fourth & Fifth Grade Boys, Judaic Studies - R. Freeman and R. Adelman

Dec/Jan - Teves

## Class News



**Tefillah:** Will be learning Brocho 11 & 12 of Shemoneh Esreh.

**Yahadus:** Will be learning Mitzvah of Kiddush Hashem (Mitzvah #4)

It is a great mitzvah to sacrifice your life for Hashem's honor, but when must you give up your life and when not? What if you are being forced to convert! What about if someone tell you to kill someone else or you'll be killed?

## Tefilla/ Halacha

**Chumash:** Learning the story of Yaakov's Marriage (29:24)

**Skills:** learning Rashis.

**Mishna:** Shortest possible walls (Sukkah 1:9)

Yaakov gets tricked by Lavan to marry a different sister!

What now?

In Mishna we are building Sukkahs using blueprints. 3 week project.

## Chumash - 4th

We alternate days studying Chumash and Mishnayos. In Chumash, we read at least four lines of Rashi to increase our familiarity with Rashi script. We then practice key words, and read the pesukim and attempt to translate them ourselves. In Mishnayos, we have begun Maseches Taanis. We discuss the Mishnah outside, read it inside, and play review games.

## Chumash / Mishnayos - 5th

## Navi

**Novi:** Will learn the story of Gidon (Sefer Shoftim)

The Midyanim have trampled all over the Yiddens crops and left everything desolate! Who will save them now?



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Middle School Boys General Studies - Ms. Branham, Mr. Wes & Ms. Holbrook



The 6th grade boys completed the first Earth Science Unit. Our closing chapter was Weathering and Erosion.

The boys also worked on an engineering project where the students designed and produced their own cardboard arcade games. The 8th grade boys assisted us by trying out all all the games!

We are ready to go onto to our Weather unit.

The 7th/8th grade boys recently started the Structure of Life Unit. This is a thought-provoking a unit that starts out with cells and concludes with inherited traits. We will be discussing the recessive and the dominant traits of our families.

## Science



## Social Studies

The 6th grade boys have been learning about North America. We watched informative videos about Canada, Mexico, and the United States. During these videos, I challenged the students to practice their note taking skills. They compared notes and learned about what was important to write down and what was not. They will begin a research project about one of the three countries we have studied. This project will be due on Friday, March 12th.

The students have been working very hard to improve their math skills. The 6th graders are beginning their ratios unit, 7th is working with rational numbers, and 8th is working with linear equations. The students received their math project: Math Board Game! The students will be creating a board game about a selected math topic we've learned so far. This project is due May 6th. Extensive guidelines for this project will be sent home with your child.

## Math



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Dec/Jan - Teves

Middle School Girls General Studies - Ms. Branham,  
Mr. Wes & Ms. Holbrook

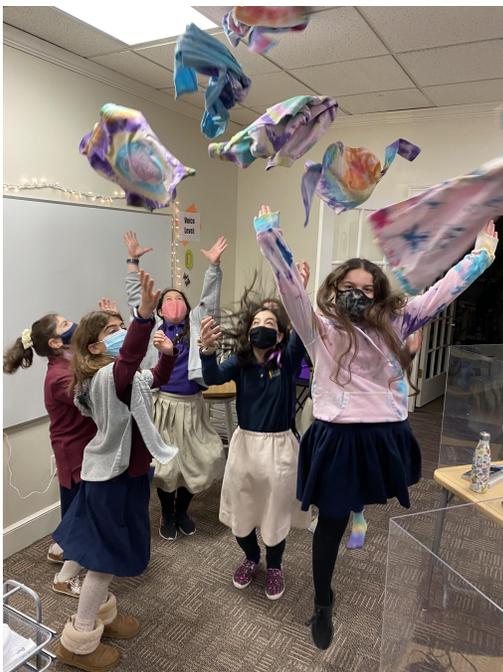
## Science

The middle school girls are wrapping up the first Earth Science Unit. It was a delight to see the girls get excited when they talked about the possible causes of the changes we see in rocks and landscapes.

We will be starting our Weather and Water Cycle. I know the girls will enjoy this unit as it includes several hands-on activities.

## Social Studies

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## Math



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Middle School Boys Judaic Studies - Rabbi Adelman & Rabbi Jacobson

In Gemara class, we have been continuing to master our key Gemara words. We use an online program called Memrise to practice review and master the words.

We concluded the section of Gemara that discusses the case of a watchman who offers to pay for an object that was stolen while under his guardianship. We explored the various financial rights that stem from this offer, and the implications this has on purchasing future rights in general.

Ask your son: According to R' Zeira, which financial rights does the watchman receive and which rights does he not receive? And how is this Talmudic law paralleled in modern real estate law?

We then began a new section of Gemara that explores many different cases, all focused on the same question -- does the law of receiving the kofel (double) payment apply? We assigned cases to each student, and then the students used an online storytelling website to tell the story of their case and build their own argument. Finally, we practiced the skill of exploring conflicting rationales, encouraging the students to find logical arguments for both sides of the case.

## Gemorah 6-7th

We learned the halachas of Chanukah and tried making it as practical as possible.

We also took a look at מגילת אנטיוכוס to help us re-learn the story. It reminded us that as much as we know, there is so much more to learn.

Currently we have been learning Halacha by looking at modern day שאלות- ותשובות

## Halacha

## Chumash

We used the time to practice the skills of taking learned words and using them to understand context.

We also use the time to learn commentaries and deeper aspects of the Parsha.

Removing manhole covers, oil spills, thornbushes, and more factor in to our discussions in Gemara. We are learning about the halachic category called pit, or forms of damage that are stationary. This leads into discussions about negligence, liability, and where the line is between public and private property.

We focus a lot on our translation sheets. Many of the students are progressing towards filling out larger portions of it by themselves. Next, we will be moving on to discuss the limits of permitted use of public space. We will also be focusing more on reading Rashi inside.

## Gemorah 7-8th



# THE CMCH ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan - Teves

Middle School Girls Judaic Studies - Ms. Mentz &  
Mrs. Freeman

We have completed our second Parsha! The girls are quite proud to have learned both Bamidvar and Naso in what goes of the year.

Do you know why all the Nesiym (Leaders of the tribes) brought exactly the same gifts for the inauguration of the Mishkan?

And since they all brought exactly the same gifts, why does the Tora write it all in full detail, again and again... twelve times!? Ask your daughter!

This week we started Behaloscha and were introduced to Ramban.

## Chumash

In Navi we have reached the point where Yehoshua is dividing up the land in Eretz Yisrael for the Bnei Yisrael. It took 7 years to conquer (most of) the land. And now it will take 7 years to divide it up. We are excited to launch our screenwriting project in conjunction with ELA class on women in Tanach.

## Novie

In Yahadus, we have completed 3 of the 4 categories in the 39 Melachos, and are ready to begin the 4th category, Seder Habinyan. We love exploring practical examples in our homes of how to apply the 39 Av Melachos and the Toldos. We keep reminding ourselves that however much we learn, there is always more and to always ask a Rav when in doubt.

## Yahadus