



# NACHAS + NEWS

from

## Our Classrooms & Beyond

December 17, 2009  
ל כסלו תש"ע

## נס חנוכה: What's the Miracle?

By: Rabbi Eidlitz

When we think of Chanukah and what it is that we are celebrating, we almost automatically answer that we are celebrating the nes that Hashem did for us by making the flame of the menorah last for eight days when in fact it only had enough to last for one. The proof to back this up is the fact that we light the menorah to commemorate this miracle.

There are a few questions with this understanding of what Chanukah is about. First of all if this were the p'shat then why is the nes of the menorah not mentioned in Al Hanisim? Another question is that usually when we celebrate a nes; it is a nes that had significance on some national level. K'rias yam suf, for example was a nes

that had an impact that saved klal Yisroel and destroyed the Mitzrim with lessons for us to learn and study about hashgacha and emuna. The nes of the menorah in contrast seems to be both insignificant and unnecessary. We know that if one is prepared and willing to do a mitzvah but is unable to due to circumstances that are out of his control, he is patur from that mitzvah. That means that if the oil would have lasted only one day and they would have had to wait another seven days to get more pure oil then that would have been a situation of ones and they would have been patur. Why was this nes necessary and why do we celebrate it?

The answer is that the nes of the menorah was a mirrored reflection of the greater more significant and necessary nes and what merited that nes. The greater nes was the war against the yevanim, as we say in al hanisim "rabbim biyad miatim giborim biyad chalashim" the significance of the nes of the menorah was to serve as a symbol and reminder of where the merit to win the war came from. The light of the menorah represents Torah. Just as a lit menorah illuminates its surroundings, one who keeps the torch of pure unadulterated Torah in his hand will be able to navigate through the darkness of galus.

Chanukah is not only the yom tov of Torah it is the yom tov of purity of Torah "shemen zayis zach". The yom tov of Torah does not only mean that it is a time when we tell ourselves "be good and learn more Torah". It is a time when we submit our thoughts and will to that of the Torah not the other way around. It represents the battle against influence from both outside surroundings and from the gaiva driven sheker from within. We learn from the lessons of Chanukah that undeviated submissiveness to the Torah is the only effective battle weapon as it says "barasi yetzer horah ubarasi Torah tavlin.

### Morah Chaya

This week, Yossi and his Morah had an awesome time at **Chuck E. Cheese's!** Yossi even won nearly 200 tickets.

Yossi earned this trip by reading **20 pages of Kriah** with very few mistakes. It wasn't easy for him, but he was determined to meet this goal. Along the way, Yossi made his Morah proud, brought nachas to Hashem, and strengthened his skills in the crucial realm of Kriah.





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### Morah Rivky

Our class had so much fun producing a Chanuka fun book for the whole school. *Yaakov Meir* contributed **recipes** and the **mazes**. *Zorach* worked very hard making different **Dot-to-Dots** for every level. *Zev Tzvi* created the Chanuka-themed **Word Finds** on his own! *Yaakov Meir* also made the gorgeous **cover** for the booklet. On Friday, *Yaakov Meir*, *Zorach* and *Zev Tzvi*, with the help of *Chaim* and *Yosef Tzvi*, collated and distributed the booklets to the entire school. They cheerfully wished everyone a **Happy Chanuka** as they went from room to room. A Feilichen Chanuka to all, and enjoy the booklets!



### Morah Ruchy

*Shua* knows the **story of Chanuka** by heart, so if you want to know anything about Chanuka, he's your go-to man. His favorite part is the story about the brave woman, **Yehudis**. Here is the story in short:

*Yehudis, a Jewish woman, gave wine and salty cheese to Eliphorni, a general in the enemy army. The food made him tired, and when we was fast asleep, she knocked off his head. When his soldiers saw him dead, they all ran away in fear. This was a major tuning point in the war.*



The most exciting part of Chanuka was making our own **Menorahs!** Each child in our group painted and glued his own Menorah, and took it home to light. We also light a menorah every day at school. We love Chanuka!

### Morah Yides



Our very own *Yaakov*, *Zev Tzvi*, and *Zorach* are becoming real **authors!** Their stories titled "The Day I went to the Moon" are really out of this world!

*Yehoshua* is moving along nicely in Kriah. He is a hard worker and is learning how to use his "**toolbox**" of tricks to help him remember the sounds of the more challenging **Aleph Bais** letters and Nekudos.



### Morah Rivka Leah



Chanuka has finally arrived! *Nosson Tzvi*, *Chaim*, *Shuey* and *Yosef Tzvi* made **doughnuts** as a special treat for working so conscientiously on improving their **writing skills**. With catchy titles, exciting characters and settings, and realistic emotions, their paragraphs make some very interesting reading.