



# CTA Weekly Communicator

Weekly Newsletter with Important News & Updates from Columbus Torah Academy

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## Message from Head of School



### Shabbat Shalom D'var Torah

By Rabbi Avrohom Drandoff, Head of School

The history of the Jewish people over the last 2,000 years has been defined by not having the benefit of living in unification in one land, with a common language and strong numbers. Instead, we have been dispersed throughout the world, and forced to rise above the challenges presented to us in our host countries. We have always prevailed. We have been able to accomplish what no other nation in the history of the world has been able to do. We are one of the oldest nations in the world and the only to survive despite the difficult challenges and hurdles thrown our way.

The burning question is, what has been the secret of our survival? How is it possible that we have prevailed in the face of all the trials and tribulations we faced as a nation. How were we able to remain a cohesive nation with more people learning Torah today since the destruction of the Bais Hamikdash while separated and spread throughout the world? I believe the secret to our survival is our unyielding commitment to the teachings of the Torah, Jewish values, and our unconditional commitment to each other. Regardless of how far apart two Jews might live from one another they will read the same Torah portion each Shabbat. Each day, the Daf Yomi learners are studying the same page of Talmud even though it is being taught in a myriad of different languages. Lastly, the hallmark of almost every Jewish community is the amount of chessed that is done for one another. The Jewish people have always taken care of each other. The amount of money raised on an annual basis for chessed organizations is simply remarkable. How often do we find ourselves giving to individuals visiting from Israel who need financial assistance to pay medical bills or marry off a child. It doesn't make a difference that we do not know their name or if we will ever see them again. It is simply in our DNA to take care of each other's needs.

The CTA community is no different. This week, I have been in touch in some form or another with almost every family in our school community. It has been so inspiring to hear how positive and kind my interactions with parents have been. Many families asked what they could do to help others or myself and the school faculty. The theme of many of the conversations were about the well-being of our school community and not themselves. It has also been fun to talk about educational strategies with parents who are now "classroom" teachers. Several conversations had to come to an abrupt end because it was time for recess. I want to give a shout out to all our parents for having a growth mindset and creating magical moments for our children. You are doing a great job instilling our Jewish values in our children.

I am confident the CTA community is going to thrive and only get stronger through this challenge. We might be physically separated but our shared values, convictions and kindness will propel us to be an even closer community. Our commitment to learning and taking care of one another will only make us an even stronger school community. G-d willing, everyone should stay healthy. We got this! Go Lions!

Shabbat Shalom

THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS CLOSED, BUT AT-HOME LEARNING CONTINUES.

## Preview of the Week: March 23-27, 2020



### Important School Information

#### UPPER SCHOOL AT-HOME LEARNING

Students in grades 7-12 are receiving their assignments via [Alma](#) and teachers are using tools from teleconferencing, Google Classroom and more to communicate with their students. The weekly class schedule can be viewed at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/12Ox439ax1H3DEQwvsOqR11TLZ\\_YoC3RtstjYLnZ0EQw/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12Ox439ax1H3DEQwvsOqR11TLZ_YoC3RtstjYLnZ0EQw/edit) Any questions can be directed to teachers or to [Mr. Staffilino](mailto:Mr.Staffilino).

Teachers are having a virtual faculty meeting on Friday afternoon to review the week, share experiences, and fine tune to improve our systems. Parents or students who need help with Alma should contact Mrs. Delman at [edelman@torahacademy.org](mailto:edelman@torahacademy.org).

#### LOWER SCHOOL WEEKLY LESSONS

Students in grades K-6 will be receiving Weekly Lessons for at-home learning. Mrs. Miller will send an email to parents with links to grade level HyperDocs that include daily activities in each subject area. The email will be sent on Sunday night for the coming week. If you have any questions about the work, contact teachers directly or [Mrs. Miller](mailto:Mrs.Miller). Sixth graders should also check their [Alma](#) account where assignments are being posted.

The HyperDocs are also posted on the CTA website at <https://www.torahacademy.org/lower-school-weekly-lessons-hyperdocs/>

You can review the HyperDocs Parent Tutorial led by Mrs. Miller at <https://youtu.be/lmqkaqPv8HMk>

You can review a parent tutorial on how to get on Brain Pop: <https://youtu.be/Si2vSTJveLo>

**Class Zoom Gathering Links** for Social Emotional Learning (SEL), teacher office hours and Shabbat parties will be sent by email to parents.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

April 1: Tuition Assistance Forms Due for 2020-2021

April 7-17: Passover Break

PTO Here are some snapshots from this week taken from the PTO Facebook Group and more!



### Share



Let's keep our community strong! While learning isn't happening in our building, there are many ways we can share what we are doing to stay busy, active and engaged.

Join the Columbus Torah Academy PTO Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502100903515212/>. Anyone can post there and share thoughts, pictures, musings or ask the "hive" what to make for dinner!

Send us pictures, thoughts, student work, videos, audios and more by email ([info@torahacademy.org](mailto:info@torahacademy.org)), text (614-561-1335) or upload to <https://forms.gle/gUw3Uht0VknXM9PU9>

Your submission could be featured in an upcoming CTA communication!

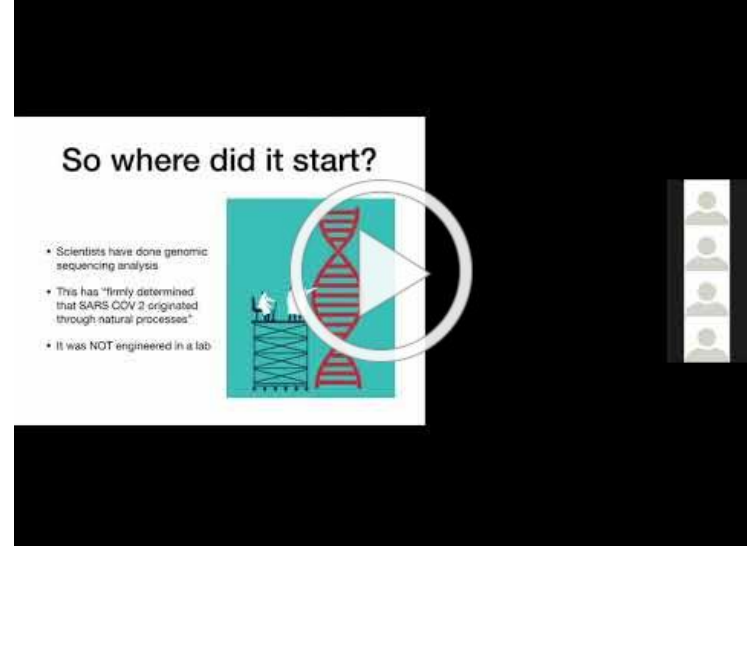
### Need Help?

**Need Help?** In these very uncertain times, there are people who want to help. Please reach out to Rabbi Drandoff if your family is encountering any financial or emotional challenges. Rabbi Drandoff is working with community Rabbis and JewishColumbus to provide support. If you are in a position to help out, contact Rabbi Drandoff. It is important that efforts be coordinated so that everyone's needs are met.

### CTA Events & Links

#### Ask the Doc - COVID-19 Q&A

View a recording of the Q&A session that Dr. Yaffa Gewirtz did with Upper School students the other day at [https://youtu.be/Y4hVp\\_3DPeQ](https://youtu.be/Y4hVp_3DPeQ) Dr. Gewirtz, mother of CTA students Boaz and Rena Harow, is an attending physician in the Emergency Room at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.



Students who were live on the Zoom were Arianna, Ariel, Billie, Mordechai Areah, Eilezer, Akiva, Brooklyn, Sam, Ranan, Avraham, Seth, Ayala, Bina, Aryeh, CeCe, Koby, Nosson, Avigdor and Talia.



#### 2020-2021 CTA School Calendar

The preliminary calendar for the 2020-2021 school year is now available. You can [click here](#) to download it. It is a PDF.

Kroger, Box Tops for Education, Shoparoo logos and text: HELP CTA EARN KROGER REWARDS, Start saving those Box Tops. Lots of promotions! Click here for more information: Box Tops Back to School, Promotions - Earn Points. Fundraiser Links: <http://www.torahacademy.org/school-wide-fundraisers/>

Sponsor a Day of Learning logo and text: We will continue Days of Learning during the At-Home learning. Consider sponsoring a Day of Learning in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, b'nai mitzvah or other life cycle event. A Day of Learning is a \$180 donation and dedications are listed on Fridays in the CTA Weekly Communicator and each month in the CTA Dateline. All proceeds directly support CTA.

To choose your Day of Learning, contact Shari at [sherszage@torahacademy.org](mailto:sherszage@torahacademy.org).

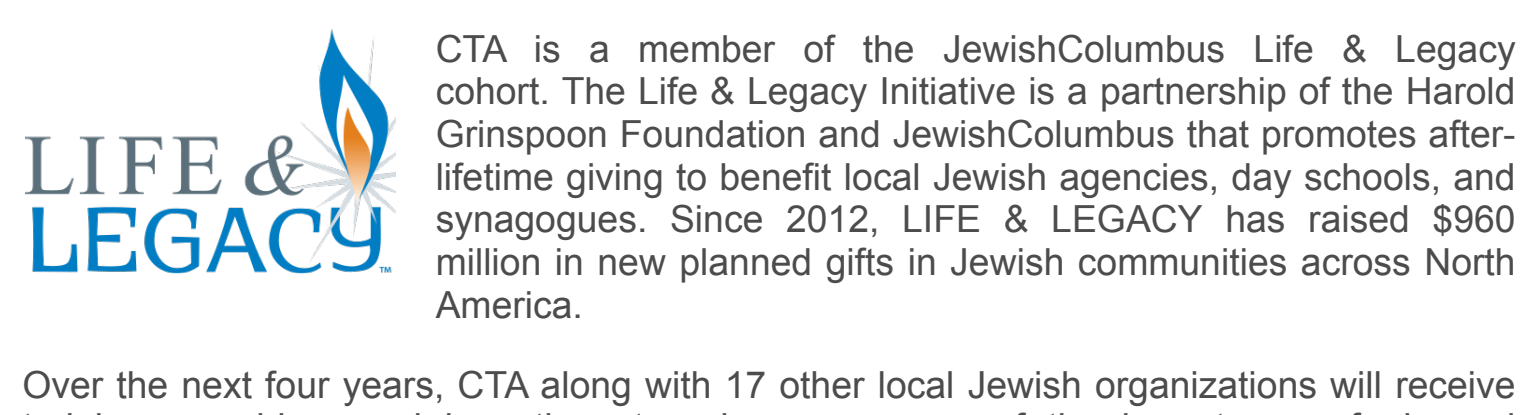
### Give to CTA



CTA accepts donations to our Annual Fund or Scholarship Fund throughout the year. We also accept Tribute Donations in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Donations can be made through the school office at 614-864-0299 or online by clicking [here](#).

Donations are listed in our monthly CTA Dateline. Check [here](#) to see our most recent issue.

### Life & Legacy



CTA is a member of the JewishColumbus Life & Legacy cohort. The Life & Legacy Initiative is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and JewishColumbus that promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit local Jewish agencies, day schools, and synagogues. Since 2012, LIFE & LEGACY has raised \$960 million in new planned gifts in Jewish communities across North America.

Over the next four years, CTA along with 17 other local Jewish organizations will receive training, coaching, and incentives to raise awareness of the importance of planned giving. Expect to see more information in the next few months about the Life & Legacy Initiative and how you can make your planned gift to CTA.

Questions about Life & Legacy can be directed to Rabbi Drandoff or Shari Herszage or Board President, Bob Wolf.

Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter with text: FOLLOW US ON, Like us on Facebook!, Follow us on Twitter!

