

BALTIMORE

First-Graders At Bais Yaakov Of Baltimore Receive Customized Chumash

There is an aura of excitement at Bais Yaakov of Baltimore Lower Elementary School, as the first-graders have just begun learning *Chumash*. While *has'chalas Chumash* is always a very exciting time, this year, the occasion included a unique element, as the girls received a custom-printed, specialized *Chumash* — created just for them.

Rabbi Yitzchok Sanders, *Menahel* of the Bais Yaakov Lower Elementary School, explained, “We used to give out a soft-covered, school-made *Chumash*, with coil binding, to the first graders. These included the *parshiyos* of *Bereishis* and *Noach*, typeset in a manner that was easy to follow. The pages contained only the words of the *Chumash*, with no *meforshim* and plenty of white space. There was no need to turn the page in the middle of a *passuk*, and the line breaks were consistent with the way the *pesukim* were translated.”

The first-grade *Moros* always wanted the introduction to learning *Chumash* to be clear and easy to learn. Their *talmidos* had just learned to read and, with this *Chumash*, it was easier for them to read the *pesukim* fluently. The only problem was that the girls wanted a real *sefer*, a “real” *Chumash*, and they would ask their *Moros* when would they receive one.

This dilemma bothered Mrs. Rivky Brecher, *limudei kodesh* coordinator, who discussed the matter with Rabbi Sanders. “Why not create our own *Chumash*?” Rabbi Sanders responded.

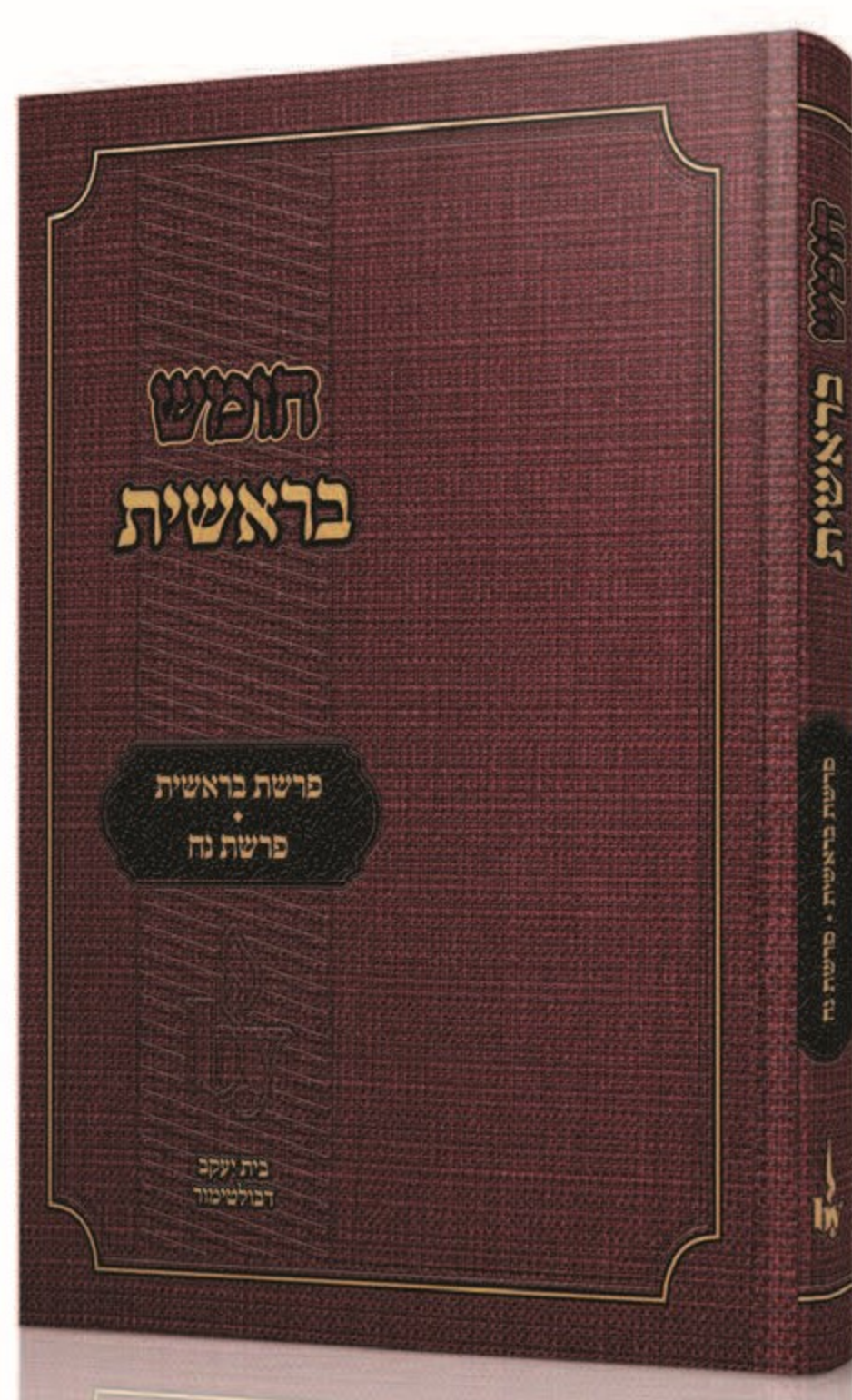
Mrs. Brecher began doing some research, and ultimately, contacted the Machon Tiferes division of BP Print Group in Lakewood, where Rabbi Meilech Nussbaum, director, eagerly undertook the project.

Rabbi Aaron Gross, director of development, reached out to grandparents to help sponsor the *Chumashim* for their granddaughters’ classes and received a very enthusiastic response. “Bais Yaakov is a trailblazer for this brand new, exciting project.” Rabbi Gross noted. “People jumped at the opportunity to dedicate the *Chumash* in memory of their loved ones.”

Bais Yaakov worked together with Rabbi Nussbaum to develop a *Chumash* customized to their specifications, with a beautifully designed cover, embossed with the Bais Yaakov of Baltimore logo on both the cover and the spine.

“The *Chumash* is *mamash* magnificent,” enthused Rabbi Sanders. “This is something the children will keep and cherish for a long time. We are very excited about this project and are eager to share this concept with other schools, *l'shem u'l'tiferes*, so that they can do the same.”

Rabbi Meilech Nussbaum shared his perspective. “When Bais Yaakov approached me to help them print this *Chumash*, I thought it was a brilliant idea. I am often asked to compile booklets with spiral binding for various *mosdos*, and while these *sefarim* are functional, they are not very pretty. If other *mosdos* would copy this concept, and print customized *sefarim* with their school logo, it would be a great source of pride for the students and for the schools, and the *sefarim* will be treated with much more *kavod*. I am impressed with Bais Yaakov of Baltimore and the time and effort they are willing to invest into their curriculum and the success of their students. I can only imagine that the girls will learn well from their new *Chumashim*.”



Beautiful cover of Bais Yaakov of Baltimore's new *Chumash*.