

## **HARRISON'S CORNER**

By: Harrison Termotto, Teaching Assistant

We should all strive to become better people, and to perform more mitzvot, but what exactly makes someone a good or bad person? What distinguishes the good from the evil? There is a Yiddish saying, "A good person won't be made bad by a tavern, and a bad one won't be reformed by a synagogue." Whether or not someone is a good or bad person is often determined by their deeds and their character. One with good moral values and who performs mitzvot cannot be called a bad person. Even if they have made mistakes or have made wrong decisions, as we all have, they cannot be called evil. They will not be turned evil by the "tavern," which in this case would be their wrong choices. Just as a good person won't be made evil by one wrong doing, a bad one won't be changed through the act of one mitzvah. Someone may be considered a bad person if they constantly show selfish, uncaring, and unkind traits. If an evil person who shuns his neighbor shows up for Shabbat services one Friday night, he is not automatically a person of good stature. Just because he performed the mitzvah of observing Shabbat, that doesn't mean he's an ethical being. Although, whether someone is good or evil is often debatable and up to interpretation, one cannot really change unless they are determined and devoted to that change. They must put forth all their effort to perform mitzvot, show kinder traits, and change themselves if they wish to become a better person.

**Let us all start by doing one extra mitzvah!**