



## **Student Dvar Torah - Parashat Toldot**

### **By Max Shalom - Grade 8**

The Sefer "Growth Through Torah offers a nice insight into this week's Parashah. When Yitzchak finds out that he gave the blessing to Yaakov and not Eisav. The Pasuk states "ויחרד יצחק חרדה ויגדלה עד מאד" - "Yitzchak trembled a great trembling, extremely much". Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz, the late Rosh Hayeshivah of Mir, cited the sages who stated that Yitzchak experienced greater fear and anxiety at this moment than he did at the *akeidah*. At the *akeidah* he was bound and ready to be killed with a sharp blade. From here we see said Rav Chaim, that, the realization that one made a mistake is the greatest of pains. This was not a onetime mistake. Rather, Yitzchak realized that all the years he thought Eisav was more deserving than Yaakov he was in error. Admitting a mistake can be extremely painful. For this reason, there is a strong tendency for people to deny their mistakes. If you sincerely want to help someone improve, it is crucial to be as tactful as possible. Do all that you can do to decrease the amount of pain the person will experience. Refrain from saying it outright, "You are wrong. Admit it!" Start out by saying something like "It seems to me..." or "I might be mistaken but perhaps..." The more sensitive you are to the feelings of the person you are trying to influence, the more effective you will be. We learn from this to be as sensitive as possible when you are trying to show someone that he made a mistake.